

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Article

A Glimpse of two Myanmar Sar Texts for Matric Students (1968-69 to 1985-86) and current Grade XII students

By Dr Myint Zan

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Mandalay to investigate oil tanker traffic violations

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Myanmar ships over 71,000 tonnes of rice to external markets in May



Aerial panorama of the Industrial Zone's promising areas.

Myanmar border trade with China surpasses US\$400M in April-May

THE border trade value between Myanmar and China hit US\$416.867 million in the past two months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, which declined from \$640.43 million recorded in the corresponding period last year, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed. The figures reflected a significant decrease of \$223.564 million this FY compared to that of the year-ago period.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with neighbouring China via Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti, and Kengtung. The Muse border registered the highest trade figure of \$215.668 million. The trade values stood at \$92.796 million via Kampaiti, \$1.214 million via Lweje and \$107.189 million via Kengtung. Myanmar has been carrying out border trade with the four neighbouring countries – China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. Export items are agricultural produce, livestock products, fisheries products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and other goods. Myanmar imports capital goods, intermediate goods, manufacturing goods and raw materials for CMP enterprises. — NN/KK



The Lweje border trade post: A hub for export and import trade activities on the Myanmar-China border.

Ministry of Industry to lease land for MSMEs at reduced rates

The Ministry of Industry will grant public land at reduced land lease rates for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) across the country.

The ministry is coordinating with regional MSME agencies and Industrial Zone Supervisory Committees to lease lands at reduced rates for the MSMEs engaged in manufacturing, service, sales and other industries.

Additionally, plans are underway to develop industrial zones inside and outside of the industrial complex. A central committee, regional committees and executive committees are formed under the Industrial Zone Law, and new industrial zones will be developed systematically. Upgrading industrial zones, organizing industries located in different wards, townships and districts and integrating them into the industrial zones will lead to the sustainable development of the zones, with a view to creating jobs for locals and stimulating the State's economic growth.

There are currently 28 established industrial zones, five industrial estates, and two ongoing industrial projects in the country. These facilities support a total of 7,972 MSMEs, employing over 500,000 locals. — ASH/KK

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NATIONAL

6th Myanmar-India Army to Army Staff Talks held in Nay Pyi Taw

LT-GEN Ko Ko Oo of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior military officers and a delegation led by India's Joint Director-General of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Charanjeet Singh Dewgun, YSM, ADG MI (A), attended the Sixth Myanmar-India Army to Army Staff Talks held at Park Royal Hotel in Nay

pleted undertakings.

The two leaders also exchanged gifts and had a documentary photo taken.

Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) hosted a dinner for the delegates of the Indian Armed Forces.

During the visit to Myanmar, the



The Indian Army delegation visits the Maravijaya Buddha Image yesterday.

Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and India's Joint Director-General of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Charanjeet Singh Dewgun, YSM, ADG MI (A), first made greeting speeches, respectively. The two sides then continued the discussion, read out decisions made at the meeting and com-

pleted undertakings. The Indian Armed Forces delegation visited Up-patasanti Pagoda, Maravijaya Buddha Image, and Memorial to Fallen Hero and Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

Moreover, they paid a visit to the Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South), Bogyoke Aung San Market and Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar, ReCAAP discuss boosting anti-piracy, anti-armed robbery cooperation

A discussion on collaboration between the Myanmar Coast Guard and the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combatting Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) was held on 12 June 2024 at the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore.

The discussion took place between Myanmar Chargé d'Affaires U Zaw Zaw Soe and Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of ReCAAP and former Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on promoting cooperation between the Myanmar Coast Guard and ReCAAP, sharing information, and providing training to enhance the capacity of their respective coast guards. ReCAAP is the first regional government-to-government agreement aimed at promoting and enhancing cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. — ASH/TMT



Myanmar Charge' d' Affaires U Zaw Zaw Soe and ReCAAP Executive Director Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan seen in talks.

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC), exercising authority under Section 6 (e) of the Forest Law enacted in 2018, declared 1,206 acres of land in Ywangan Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, Shan State, as the "Kaylatha Hill

MoNREC designates "Kaylatha Hill Protected Forest" to preserve biodiversity

Protected Forest" through Order No 46/2024 (6 June 2024).

The designation aims to preserve biodiversity, protect prohibited and other valuable trees long-term,

maintain a green environment, regulate climate, and conserve spring water. MoNREC designates these public forests to achieve these goals.

The Kaylatha Hill Protected Forest designation

will safeguard and enhance populations of significant tree species like Sal, Myanmar Ironwood, Indian laurel, gum-kino, Tamalan, Beechwood, Dahat teak, Salicaceae, and Eugenia. It will also protect endangered

species such as Shortridge's langur and diverse wildlife, including muntjacs, sambar deer, wild boar, rhesus monkey, jungle cat, red jungle fowl, peacock, various birds, and other fauna. Additionally, it will ensure that the water resources are sustainable and crucial for monks, missionaries, urban dwellers, and villagers alike. — MNA/TMT



Myanmar opens National Disease Control and Medical Training Centre in Nay Pyi Taw

The opening ceremony of the Myanmar National Centre for Disease Control and Medical Training Centre was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event was attended by State Administration Council Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, on behalf of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, SAC members, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers, departmental officials, rectors and professors, central-level medical superintendents, medical experts, the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar, officials of China CDC, representatives of ASEAN countries and invitees.

Speaking at the event, the SAC Secretary, on behalf of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, said the government adds “to elevate the health and sports sectors crucial for all the people, thus improving the nation’s life expectancy and health in social affairs objectives and is now implementing that objective. Public healthcare services offered by the Ministry of Health should be performed by qualified health workers who meet international standards.

The world countries faced natural disasters and pandemics, and Myanmar also encountered the COVID-19 pandemic that started in December 2019 and Cyclone Mocha in May 2023.



On behalf of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, State Administration Council Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe views round the Myanmar National Centre for Disease Control and Medical Training Centre in Nay Pyi Taw at yesterday’s opening event.

He also highlighted the need to prepare for zoonotic diseases, including new diseases and existing diseases, to enhance the capacity of health workers to conduct preventive measures and responses and to apply modern techniques.

He continued that the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were established in the world countries. In Myanmar, the Chinese government assisted in establishing the centre for conducting international-standard disease control, research and human resources development activities as a symbol of bilateral relations. The Myanmar National Centre for Disease Control and Medical

Training Centre project was undertaken using 330 million yuan in Nay Pyi Taw. The establishment of the Myanmar CDC Centre can upgrade the health standard of the country, keeping abreast with other countries and implementing international health regulations and global health security more effectively.

He then talked about the benefits of the China-aided CDC and medical training centre, including the application of GIS and GPS as central public health emergency response unit based on that CDC and medical training centre, research on food security, nutrition, occupational and environmental health and development activities.

He continued that the Myanmar CDC is accompanied by a medical training centre so that qualified human resources can be produced. Officials of the Ministry of Health made observation trips to the Jiangsu Provincial Centre for Disease Control and Prevention to be able to establish Myanmar CDC and medical training centre that includes biosafety level 1, 2 and 3 laboratories, international standard laboratories, disease prevention and control systems, and a facility that can accommodate about 200 trainees, while another one training hall that can accommodate 200 trainees, one training hall that has capacity for 100 trainees and four halls

for 50 trainees each.

Moreover, 35 lab experts were also sent to Jiangsu CDC for six months for theoretical and practical sessions. The practical sessions will also be made with the Chinese experts after opening this centre. The centre will showcase historical records of Myanmar’s health sector for the health workers, people and students so as to know historical evidence.

Then, he expressed gratitude to the Chinese government and its people, officials of the China Communications Construction Company – Third Harbour Engineering Co Ltd, experts of Jiangsu CDC and officials of the Ministry of Health for their support and assistance in establishing Myanmar CDC and medical training centre on behalf of the government and the people.

Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai then clarified the Myanmar CDC and Medical Training Centre and played a video clip of the centre.

The Chinese ambassador handed over the documents for the centre to the Union minister, and the latter gave a certificate of gratitude and appreciation in return.

The construction of the Myanmar CDC and Medical Training Centre started in 2021 as a symbol of Myanmar-China friendship. It was completed in May 2024 and inaugurated on 13 June. — MNA/KTZH

Bangladeshi Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister

U THAN SWE, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they cor-

dially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further consolidation of friendship and expansion of multi-sectoral cooperation between the two countries, continued collaboration to maintain peace and stability in the border area, as well as promotion of people-to-people exchanges between Myanmar and Bangladesh. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe receives Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh, yesterday.

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NATIONAL

2024 Inter-State & Region Swimming Championship concludes

A final game plus awarding ceremony of the 2024 Inter-State and Region Swimming Championship was held at the Wunna Theikdhi swimming pool in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, joined by State Administration Council members.

The State Administration Council members enjoyed the men's 200-metre final match. After the game, an awarding ceremony was held. Winners of the women's 50-metre and men's 50-metre swimming events grabbed their prizes.

The Yangon Region team won the men's 200-metre swimming event, while the Mandalay Region team secured second place and the Ayeyawady Region



SAC members and dignitaries watch the final match of the 2024 ISR Swimming Championship yesterday.

team claimed third, respectively. In turn, the Yangon Region team won the women's 200-metre event while the Ayeyawady Region team earned the second and

the Bago Region team picked the third prize, respectively. The athletes representing the winning teams achieved the medals respectively. State Administration

Council members also presented championship trophies to Yangon Region teams, winners of the men's and women's swimming events. The 2024 Inter-State

and Regions Swimming Championship was successfully held on 12 and 13 June with the aim of promoting swimming sports across the nation. — MNA/KZL

MoALI Union Minister meets Ambassadors of Pakistan and UAE



Union Minister U Min Naung shakes hands with the UAE ambassador yesterday.

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation U Min Naung separately received Mr Imran Haider, Ambassador of Pakistan, and Mr Mutaz Abdullah Abduljaleel Muhamed Al Faheem, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), yesterday

in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meetings, discussions with Ambassador Haider focused on enhancing cooperation in textile and cotton production, adopting technology for dairy cattle breeding, advancing paddy research, and intro-

ducing new crop varieties. With Ambassador Al Faheem, the talks centred on strengthening collaboration in agriculture and food production, as well as exploring investment opportunities in fisheries and agriculture sectors. — MNA/TS

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation surrounding arrests and actions in Hsihseng Township clarified

MALICIOUS media outlets are spreading fake stories alleging that security forces arrested 59 locals from Htiwvar village who were returning home after seeking temporary refuge due to fighting incidents in Hsihseng Township, Shan State (South).

The actual situation is that residents of Hsihseng Township fled their homes due to violent acts committed by PNLA terrorists in the area. In response, local Tatmadaw members, in collaboration with local militia and residents, conducted necessary security operations to restore peace and stability. Consequently, indigenous people have been able to return, and relevant officials have reportedly supported efforts for their rehabilitation. The claim that security forces arrest local people is entirely false, as confirmed by a security official in the region.

The houses of Hsihseng's locals were burnt down due to terror acts by

PNLA terrorists, disrupting their peaceful daily lives. Residents are known to be protesting against PNLA's terrorist actions, while subversive media outlets continue to circulate false claims to serve their propaganda purposes. — MNA/TRKM



The screenshot shows fake claims of subversive media.

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NATIONAL

UAE Ambassador calls on MoL Union Minister

UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Naung met UAE Ambassador Mr Mutaz Abdullah Abduljaleel Mohamed Al Faheem in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed expanding foreign employment opportunities for Myanmar workers, improving socioeconomic conditions for workers and their families, and increasing access

to the labour market in countries like the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Jordan.

They also addressed procedures for sending workers to countries with which Myanmar has signed MoU and those with which it has not, including the protection of over 4,000 Myanmar workers in the UAE. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister U Myint Naung receives the UAE ambassador yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



The Sri Lankan ambassador calls on Union Minister Dr Charlie Than yesterday.

Union Industry Minister receives Sri Lankan Ambassador

UNION Industry Minister Dr Charlie Than received Sri Lankan Ambassador Mrs Ponnampere Arachige Prabashini Ponnampere in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed the turning out of industrial, skilled work-

ers required for Myanmar's industries, pharmaceutical production, and the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as iron, steel, cement, and garment manufacturing. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar joins ASEAN Secretary-General at Washington Committee Meeting



Attendees at the meeting between the ASEAN Secretary-General and ACW.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar's Chargé d'Affaires U Thet Win participated in a meeting between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the ASEAN Committee in Washington (ACW) on 10 June.

The ACW hosted a lunch for ASEAN Secretary-Gen-

eral Dr Kao Kim Hourn at the Embassy of Malaysia in Washington. U Thet Win, along with ASEAN ambassadors and chargés d'affaires from other ASEAN embassies, attended the working lunch.

During the lunch, the Malaysian ambassador provided an overview of ACW activities.

The ASEAN Secretary-General also discussed ASEAN's developments, unity, centrality, and priorities. Participants then exchanged views on the ASEAN-US Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, its future prospects, ways to enhance relations and ASEAN-US cooperation. — ASH/TMT

Corrigendum

Please read "Deputy CTO" instead of "Deputy CEO" in the third line of the first paragraph of the third column of the story with the headline "MPT launches pilot 5G network in select locations this June", expressed on page 5 of this newspaper issued on 12 June 2024. Error is regretted. — Ed.

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NATIONAL

Hlinethaya's 500 kV substation project 75% complete



Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun, along with departmental officials, inspects the construction of the 500 kV Hlinethaya (Western University) substation in Yangon Region on 11 June 2024.

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Electricity Transmission and Control Department, 75 per cent of the project to build a substation with a 500 kV system has been completed in Hlinethaya Township.

Currently, the 230 kV voltage will start transmitting power this July, even though the 500 kV substation is still under construction. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by April 2025. Additionally, the installation of transformers and shunt reactors, the installation

of Hybrid Gas Insulated Switchgear (HGIS), and the construction of the Control Building are also underway.

After the completion of the 500 kV Kankaung (Meiktila)-Sabakywe (Toungoo) grid, electricity will be able to be transmitted and distributed to the Yangon Region and the southern regions of Myanmar through the 230 kV Thabyaywa-Taungwingyi and 230 kV Thabyaywa-Thazi-Shwe Myo-Pyinmana-Thaephyu-Toungoo grid via the 230 kV Thabyaywa substation. — TWA/MKKS

Mandalay to investigate oil tanker traffic violations

ACCORDING to the Mandalay City Development Committee, officials will investigate violations of traffic rules by oil tankers in six townships within the committee's boundaries.

The six townships in which inspections will be made this month include Aungmyaythazan, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun, Chanayethazan, Maha Aungmyay and Amarapura Townships.

The Mandalay City Development Committee, the revenue department and the Mandalay City

Development Committee Police Force will collaboratively inspect and take action against violations of rules such as parking to cause traffic jams and double-parking, as well as blocking roads by fuel trucks that are travelling with fuel in the township.

If violations of the traffic rules are found during inspections by such combined forces, a fine of up to K50,000 will be imposed, as stated by the Mandalay City Development Committee. — TWA/KZL



An oil truck is seen parking beside the road.

YCDC reports 377 dengue cases, one death; expands prevention efforts



Officials of the Yangon City Development Committee and the Public Health Department are seen during a dengue prevention consultation.

ACCORDING to the dengue fever prevention coordination meeting of the Public Health Department under the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) held on 12 June, there were 377 dengue cases and one death between January and May 2024.

In 2023, preventive meas-

ures for dengue fever were systematically implemented in 74 staff buildings. Dr Ngwe San, a member of the Yangon City Development Committee, emphasized the necessity of combating mosquitoes and mosquito larvae and taking systematic disease prevention measures.

In the Yangon Region, Da-

gon Myothit (South) Township has the highest incidence of the disease, followed by Mayangon Township.

Dr Ngwe San also stated that dengue fever prevention activities are expanded to schools and housing estates in various townships. — TWA/TKO

Academy actor donates over K30 million for birthday

ACADEMY Khant Si Thu donated over K30 million to charitable causes in Mandalay, Bago, and Yangon regions to mark his birthday.

He said, "I've been busy all year round, so I haven't been able to do good deeds all the time. But

I take special notice of my birthday and always spend it doing good deeds for the sake of myself and others."

Currently, Khant Si Thu is starring in MRTV's series and various films. He not only worked as the art director but also played

a supporting role in the movie 'Yenantha Khin Khin Gyi', which is broadcast on MRTV-4. — ASH/TRKM

The photo depicts Academy Khant Si Thu making donations.



Myanmar ships over 71,000 tonnes of rice to external markets in May



Export rice bags being loaded onto the overseas merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

MYANMAR'S rice and broken rice exports hit over 71,000 tonnes in May 2024, comprising over 70,751 tonnes by seaborne trade and 528 tonnes at the border, statistics released by the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) showed.

Myanmar exported over 111,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice in April, with over 111,460 tonnes through maritime trade channels and 400 tonnes at border posts.

The rice exports reached 183,141.5 tonnes in the past two months of the current financial year 2024-2025.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March), bagging one million US dollars.

The Ministry of Commerce has

been cooperating with departments and institutions concerned to achieve export targets and beyond depending on the supply volume of rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, rubber and fisheries from the respective companies.

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate

exports.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the FY 2023-2024, generating earnings of one billion dollars. However, rice exports fell short of the target with 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the chairperson of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. — NN/EM

Russia's premier agribusiness trade fairs welcome Myanmar business participation

THE co-located trade fairs, Agros 2025 Expo and Potato Horti AgriTech 2025 Expo that will take place on 22-24 January 2025 in Moscow, Russia, invites the participation of Myanmar businesspeople engaged in the agricultural industry to bring together international manufacturers and suppliers of modern solutions for production and processing of potatoes, vegetables and fruits, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Exhibiting sectors are related to seeds, varieties, agricultural machinery for potato and vegetable production and forage production, plant protection and nutrition inputs, equipment for primary processing, equipment for industrial processing, feed mill and grain tech, equipment and genetics for poultry, pig, dairy and beef cattle production, milking equipment, feed and components, veterinary and disinfection products, and miscellaneous. — NN/KK

High-quality Japanese used toys and model cars attract customers

THE selling of high-quality Japanese-used toys and model cars has been increasing, and public attention in this market has mounted, according to sellers and collectors.

Japan's used product market, such as electronic devices and consumer goods, has already developed in the country because they are of good quality and can be reused. Now, Japanese used toys and model cars have caught the attention of a lot of people.

"There are many enthusiastic buyers. Most sellers trade them online.



These are good-quality toys, and even if some have errors, they have buyers. The price of new toys is high, but used toys are cheaper and of good quality. There are model car collectors, and some buy them because they enjoy



Japan's used toys and model cars.

them. Some items are as good as new," said a Japan-used products seller from Yangon.

Japan's used toys and items can't be available abundantly in the market. Therefore, some people search for these products in the market, said Ma Aye Yeik Cho, who runs a Japa-

nese-used toy trading business.

"There are various kinds of Japanese-used products. In the toy market, there are stuffed toys and hard toys such as cars and motorcycles. Some thought second-hand items were not good, but those who use them know the quality," she said. — Thit Taw/ZS

OPINION

ARTICLE Weather Report

Thank you, blood donors, for noble contributions

WORLD Blood Donor Day (WBDD), observed annually, honours the altruistic spirit of blood donors worldwide. This event aims to raise awareness about the necessity for safe blood and blood products and to express gratitude to the voluntary, unpaid donors who generously provide life-saving blood.

A healthcare system's effectiveness heavily relies on a blood service that ensures patients have access to safe and sufficient blood and blood products. On 14 June 2024, communities worldwide, along with the World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners, will come together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of World Blood Donor Day with the theme: "20 Years of Celebrating Giving: Thank You, Blood Donors!"

The WHO has outlined several objectives for this year's campaign. These include thanking and recognizing the millions of voluntary blood donors who have contributed to the health and well-being of millions of people around the world, showcasing the achievements and challenges of national blood programmes and sharing best practices and lessons learned, highlighting the continuous need for regular, unpaid blood donation to achieve universal access to safe blood transfusion, and promote a culture of regular blood donation among young people and the general public and increase the diversity and sustainability of the blood donor pool.

In Myanmar, the blood donation infrastructure is well-developed, with the National Blood Centre and seven blood banks associated with general hospitals in Mandalay, Magway, Mawlamyine, Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Patheingyi, and Nay Pyi Taw. These centres ensure an adequate blood supply for patients. Furthermore, general hospitals facilitated with 200-bed and 100-bed capacities operate laboratories equipped with blood management system software, ensuring the safety of blood for patients.

The generous contributions of blood donors make it possible to perform essential surgeries and medical treatments. In 2023, Myanmar welcomed 9,625 new blood donors, while 29,866 regular donors continued their invaluable practice of donating blood. These donations are crucial for saving lives and enabling successful medical procedures and surgical operations.

The ongoing commitment of blood donors is a testament to human compassion and community spirit. As individuals mark World Blood Donor Day, let us celebrate and express our heartfelt gratitude to these heroes. Their noble donations not only save lives but also contribute significantly to the overall health and well-being of society. Such a performance of donating blood is seldom a noble act. If everyone maintains such noble-mindedness, society will be filled with happiness, smiles, peace, and prosperity.

SCHOOLS throughout the country have reopened for the new academic year. And the 'inaugural' new Matric (Grade XII) results have been issued on 11 June 2024.

'The Compulsory Burmese Prose Text' (ပင်ရှင်းစကားပြေလက်ရွေးစင် (hereafter ပင်ရှင်း or old Matric text) was one of the two main texts that were used for Matriculation students from the academic year 1968-69 to 1985-86. The other text is အထက်တန်း ကဗျာလက်ရွေးစင် ('Selected Poems for High School Texts') used during the same academic years.

I have also read the မြန်မာစာ (ရွှေသမ တန်း), which the Grade XII students who sat for the Matriculation exams in March 2024 and current Grade XII students have had to study. This article narrates a few of my thoughts about these two textbooks, which were taught to Matriculation students up to 55 years apart.

Glimpses of old Matric Text ပင်ရှင်း and brief juxtapositions with current Grade XII Matric Myanmar Sar Text

There are 61 (mainly essays) that are reproduced in this old Matric text. Not all of these essays are taught to the 9th and 10th standard students of those yesteryears. Some of the essays are excerpts from books and magazines; some are full-fledged, relatively short essays from magazines, mainly published from the 1920s to about the 1960s. The sixty-one essays were written by about 45 different writers- all of whom had passed away by now. When this text ceased to be a မြန်မာစာ Myanmar text starting from the 1986-87 high school academic year, the writers whose essays were reproduced in this text *Sayas* Maung Htin, Zawgyi, Min Thu Wun, Tin Moe, Aung Thin were still alive, but alas they are no more now.

It is my strong opinion that this text, eclectic as it is (in Burmese ကောင်းမွန်ရာရာ), is better than the Matric text that preceded it viz ဦးညိုဝတ္ထုလေးပုဒ် ('Four Novels of U Ponnya') which perhaps was the main textbook from the early 1960s to the academic year 1967-68. It is also better than the subsequent *Myanmar Sar* texts from 1986-87 for the next 20 years or so where -again- U Ponnya's ရေသည်ပြတော် ('Water Seller' Play) was in the text.

Yours truly has heard that sometime in the late 1980s, the then paramount leader U Ne Win (6 July 1910-5 December 2002) laid down his 'necessary guidelines' or rather imprimatur that only the literary outputs of those authors who have been dead for at least 20 years should be included in the *Matric Myanmar Sar* texts. Thankfully, this anomalous situation is no longer the case nowadays. In the current Grade

A Glimpse of two Myanmar Sar Texts for Matric Students (1968-69 to 1985-86) and current Grade XII students

By Dr Myint Zan

XII *Myanmar Sar* text, there are seven (!) essays both in the literary genre and linguistics genre written by Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) (born 24 January 1940) and one poem by Tekkatho Taw Thar (U Aung Thuang) (born 5 October 1941). There is an essay by the late Min Yu Way (26 September 1928-29 July 2021), who passed away perhaps just a year or so before the Grade XII *Myanmar Sar* text was published. The poem by the late Bhamo Nyo Nwe (27 December 1922-12 November 2009) is also included in the Grade XII text. (The poem လက်



The Compulsory Burmese Prose Text

ဘက်ရည်ကြမ်းပိုင်း - 'Group Discussion while drinking tea' is also in the selected poems ကဗျာလက်ရွေးစင် over 50 years earlier).

Most of the essays in Pinn Yin can be considered as falling within the field of literature. There are no essays which specifically discuss linguistics and language issues. This is in contrast to the current Grade XII *Myanmar Sar* text, where 43 pages (out of 125) are language and linguistic lessons.

In the general knowledge category (သုတ), there are 18 essays. For space reasons, I will mention only one here, probably written in the late 1930s to early 1940s, which is အိုင်စတိုင်း၏တရား

('Einstein's doctrine') by Deedok U Ba Cho (24 April 1893-19 July 1947). The article provides elementary, inchoate knowledge of modern physics vis-à-vis Einstein's Relativity theory.

In the category of သုတ-ရော (knowledge-aesthetics), the brief narration in the form of a short story *cum* essay is ဆေးဆရာ ('Medicine Man') by Maung Htin (21 March 1909-29 January 2006). ဆေးဆရာ is, to me the most enigmatic in the text when I re-read it a few years ago.

Under the category of ရတနာ (Aesthetics), there are quite a few remarkable essays.

ပုဂံဈေး ('Pagan Market') by Saya Zawgyi (12 April 1907-26 September 1990) is a philosophical piece written in mellifluous prose. This short story is, in the complimentary sense, written enigmatically, but notwithstanding such an enigma, it is an inspiring literary product. Perhaps it is one of the very few essays- maybe the only one- in this matric text that has been translated into English. The translation apparently was made soon after it appeared in the vernacular in the late 1930s. From my recall, the translation was probably done by G H Luce (20 January 1889-3 May 1979).

အမေ (Mother) by Thein Pe Myint (10 July 1914-15 January 1978) is another esthetic presentation of note in this Matric text.

The essays Pi Teit ('Joy') by the late Min Shin, ချိုတကူး နှင့် ဂုဏ်ရည်မတူ ('Cho Ta Gu and the movie *Goan Yi Ma Thi*') by Aung Thin (17 April 1927-25 October 2014) and သင်္ချိုင်းကုန်းမှာ ('At the cemetery') by Tin Moe (19 November 1933-22 January 2007) are also affecting pieces that were reproduced in this Matric text of yore. None of them made their way into the Grade XII current Matric text.

Glimpses of current Grade XII Myanmar Sar Text juxtaposing with ပင်ရှင်းစကားပြေလက်ရွေးစင်

The current Myanmar Sar text has three main parts. The first part is အပြောသင်ခန်းစာ ('Lesson on Spoken Burmese language'). The second part

is အဖတ် အရွတ် သင်ခန်းစာ ('Lessons on reading and recitation'), and the third part is about အရေးသင်ခန်းစာ ('Lesson on Writing').

The first and second parts can be considered as mainly linguistic or language-based. There is, one can presume, a direct translation of an article from a website (the link is stated) on the topic of the low and high pitch in speaking (အသံနိမ့်မြင့် သဘောတရား). There were no linguistic lessons in the old Matric *Myanmar Sar* text of 55 years to 38 years ago, which, as stated above, is mainly literature-oriented.

I will focus on the second part of the current Grade XII *Myanmar Sar* text (pages 23 to 124), which constitutes the bulk of the text.

There are seven essays and one short story under the sub-genre 'Selected Myanmar Prose'. The earliest prose piece is from the Pagan era, which was over 750 years ago and is from a stone inscription (perhaps rewritten in contemporary prose for easier understanding). The most recent piece is by the late psychologist Dr Kyaw Sein. The literary pieces spanned the works of eight different writers from Pagan, Inwa, and the colonial and post-colonial eras. Likewise, eight poems composed by eight different personages from the Toungoo, Nyaungyan, Konbaung, colonial and independence eras are reproduced with a glossary of terms at the end of each lesson.

One notable feature in the prose and poetry selection in the Grade XII current text is brief biographical information provided about the eight writers and eight poets. This addendum is missing in the prose text in the old Matric text ပင်ရှင်း.

Another feature which was missing in the old text but is present in Grade XII text is the genre of drama. A single play is included in the text. And guess what? It is the play ရေသည်ပြတော် ('Water Seller Play') by Salay U Ponnya (1807/1816?-1867). Since the early 1960s and over the past sixty years, the drama of the 'Water Seller' may well have been taught for much more than one generation of matriculation

students for about 50 years! (The main exception being the academic years 1968-69 to 1985-86 no play was taught in the *Myanmar Sar* text).

It is good that in Part I of the Grade XII text, methods for effective speaking in Burmese and other language-related issues are discussed. This may count towards evaluation in school-held exams (ကျောင်းစစ် စာမေးပွဲ), but how would it work for the government-sponsored common exams for the whole country (အစိုးရစစ် စာမေးပွဲ)? Perhaps since the bulk of the Grade XII text is on what can be considered as the literature 'genre', the bulk of the exam questions would be on the literature category. Only a select few of the 61 prose pieces in the Matric text of 38 to 55 years ago had to be studied by the then students. Current Grade XII students may have to study the whole prose selection: 7 essays, one short story and eight poems, in addition to the language and linguistic lessons.

Comments on the essay questions for the Myanmar Sar Matric Exams

In the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, in the Compulsory Burmese Matriculation papers, the (unseen) essay (စာစိစာကုံး) constitutes 25 per cent of the marks for the exam. There are three topics, and candidates have to choose one of the topics and write about it. And there are no prompts as to what to write in the essays. Starting from at least ten or maybe 15 or so years ago, the Matric *Myanmar Sar* exam questions have only one or two (unseen) essay topic(s) (which constitute 10 per cent of the examination marks), and there are prompts! Is this an (unfortunate?) reversal of the trend for several decades of not giving prompts or outlines for Burmese language Matric essay papers?

Apparently, providing outlines and requiring the students to adhere to them is to obviate students cramming by heart several essay topics if their crammed topics come up in the exams, *viola!* They would regurgitate what they have crammed. By providing outlines, the authorities apparently hope, students cannot willy-nilly reproduce what they have learned 'by heart' but have to

follow the prompts. If they do not do so or do so clumsily, then the examiners may notice that these candidates have 'crammed' their essay topics. This may or may not be a good solution to this problem, but it can be said that perhaps in essays in the English papers, many students, including quite a few students who obtained distinctions in the subject, also regurgitate what they have learned by heart. From 1974 to 1986, there were prompts in the English language papers for essay topics, such as 'Why I like dogs better than cats' with prompts (1974 Matric English exam essay topic). Should there be an essay question in Burmese on the same topic with prompts? If the candidates like dogs better than cats, they still have to 'toe the line' and write that they like cats better than dogs!

Apparently, since 1987, no prompts or outlines have been provided for the Matric English essay questions. I raise these points to ponder, though I realise that 'cramming,' by heart for exams mainly but not only for the language papers is - to revert to the French language - a problematique of some intricacy.


Suggestions for research on Myanmar Sar texts past and present

In my article on English language texts in the GNLM, I suggested that a



Grade-12 Myanmar Sar

Master's thesis can be written about the contents, pedagogy, teaching aims, methodologies, and teaching outcomes of various English texts, say, starting from about 1965 to current times. One hopes that this article provides some rudimentary information and 'prompts' for such an undertaking of the Matric Myanmar Sar texts of the past fifty years or so.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 13 June 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14 June 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and eastern Shan, Kayah States, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine State.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40 mph. Wave height will be about 9-12 feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 mph. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet in in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 June 2024: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 June 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 June 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

NATIONAL



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan and delegation are seen before departing for Thailand.

Union Sports Minister heads to Thailand for 33rd SEA Games meeting

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who is also the chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, departed for Thailand yesterday to attend the first Southeast Asian Games Federation (SEAGF) meeting, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 14 and 15 June. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar CDC, China CDC sign MoU for enhanced health cooperation

THE signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Myanmar Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the China Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) took place at the Myanmar CDC Centre and Training School in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony,

Dr Myint Myint Than, Director-General of the Public Health Department representing Myanmar CDC, and Prof Li Qun, Deputy Director-General of China CDC, signed the MoU. This agreement outlines cooperation between Myanmar and China in various fields, including infectious disease control and prevention such as TB, HIV, dengue fever, and other

communicable diseases. Additionally, it covers non-communicable disease prevention and treatment like diabetes and hypertension, enhancing laboratory capabilities, developing healthcare professionals, arranging study tours for health personnel, conducting joint research, and facilitating rapid responses to public health emergencies.

The MoU signing ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun, Mr Ouyang Daobing, the commercial attaché of the Chinese Embassy in Yangon, along with officials from Myanmar CDC, China CDC, Yunnan Disease Control and Prevention Administration, and the National Institute of Parasite Disease (China CDC).

Following the ceremony, it was reported that the 8th Myanmar-China Bilateral Workshop on Infectious Diseases and Malaria Control proceeded as planned. — MNA/TKO



Officials from both sides pose for the group documentary photo at yesterday's MoU-signing ceremony.

First ceremony honouring elderly Deva experts held in Myanmar

FOR the first time in Myanmar, a ceremony to pay respect to elderly Deva experts was held in Yangon, according to the organizers.

It was held with many participants at the Sein Yaung Gyi monastery between Thamaing Myothit station and Gyogone station in Insein Township, Yangon, at 9 am on 12 June, with large participants, and similar events will be held in the future.

“As most of the elderly Deva experts are not in good health, we thought only 50 to 60 out of 80 would attend the ceremony. In fact, more than 70 experts were able to attend it. Only about 10 of them could not join due to health problems. There were about 180 people in the audience. Our objective is that as these experts get older, they cannot work as usual, and the support they receive will also be reduced. Some young experts are willing to support their teachers,

but some aren't. So, this event will lend a hand where needed,” said a Deva expert among the organizers.

The ceremony offered K150,000 to each of the elderly experts, and the organizers will deposit a surplus donation of K6 million in a bank for such events in the coming years.

“We have a surplus donation of over K6 million. We have formed a committee today. It cost a total of over K13 million. The surplus will be deposited in the bank. And the committee will hold this puja every year after hiring a hall,” he said.

Deva experts are spirit mediums who communicate with spirits (Nat). Since they used to work with a Myanmar traditional orchestra, they were classified under the dramatic arts and elderly spirit experts received obeisance along with other people from various dramatic arts. — Thit Taw/ZN



The photo shows the first ceremony of paying respect to elderly Deva experts.

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar govt repatriates Myanmar citizen facing adversity in UAE

THE government has been exerting concerted efforts to repatriate Myanmar nationals facing hardships in foreign countries, so it brought a Myanmar woman called Ma Thet Thet Lin back to Myanmar after the Myanmar Consulate-General in Dubai negotiated with the officials concerned from the UAE Ministry of Interior, relevant police force and Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization.

Ma Thet Thet Lin departed from Dubai at 2 pm local time on 12 January and arrived at Yangon at 10:15 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

The government ensures consular protection for Myanmar citizens abroad who are encountering adversities and arranges to bring them home safe and sound by connecting with the Myanmar embassy and consulate in the respective countries and the relevant embassies.

Ma Thet Thet Lin, a do-

mestic worker in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, suffered extreme health conditions and wanted to go back home. She informed her recruitment agency in Myanmar, yet her employer wanted her to pay back 23,000 Dirham (US\$6,500) that they gave to the agency to hire her, including the cost of processing her passport, flight ticket, travel, and food.

The Myanmar agent ignored her case. The Myanmar Consulate-General negotiated with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and provided her with an air ticket (K3.3 million).

Ma Thet Thet Lin explained how she decided to work overseas and faced hardships.

“I am from Latpan village, Pathein Township in Ayeyawady Region. I happened to work in Dubai in June 2023 with the help of a friend of mine, and when I was working in a private hospital in Myanmar, I couldn’t cover my living costs.” She had a good re-



Ma Thet Thet Lin. PHOTO: KANU

lationship with the homeowner. Nonetheless, sleep deprivation from only 2.5 hours of sleep affected her physical and mental health to keep working. She had permission to use her mobile phone once every two weeks. She talked about her condition to her family, in which they asked for help from an anti-human trafficking task force.

“I’m so grateful to the Myanmar Consulate-General in Dubai for bringing me back home. I encountered difficulties due to cultural shock, food culture and language barriers. I want those who want to work abroad to reconsider. Myanmar families and relatives should also ask for information about what is going on. They must enquire about things

before working abroad, not just for making money. I want to express my genuine thanks to all the government personnel and staff for helping me to return home, especially the government and officials from the Myanmar Consulate General,” she appreciated.

“Myanmar Consulate-General is helping repatriate Myanmar nationals facing hardships in the UAE. Myanmar recruitment agencies are found to have no responsibility to resolve conflicts between employers and employees. Instead, they even seized the workers’ passports, and some brokers transferred workers to new employers by violating labour rights.”

Workers and their parents and relatives showed appreciation for the efforts of the Myanmar embassy and government officials in repatriating citizens facing difficulties abroad. — Nye-in Thu (MNA)/EM

5,253 Rakhine students pass matric exam despite challenges

IN Rakhine State, where the AA started fighting, 5,253 students passed the matriculation examination, and 22 of them passed with six distinctions, according to sources close to the Rakhine State government.

A total of 18,934 students in Rakhine State registered for the examination, but only 8,644 actually sat for it, and since 5,253 of them passed the examination, the pass rate is 60.77 per cent. Among those who passed with flying colours, 22 got six distinctions, 52 got five distinctions, 75 got four distinctions, 106 got three distinctions, 186 got two distinctions, and 862 got one distinction.

Among the successful students, 1,379 are from Sittway, 20 from Ponnagyun, 22 from Pauktaw, 49 from Rathedaung, 14 from MraukU, seven from Kyauktaw, seven from Minbya, 196 from Myebon, 241 from Maungtaw,

331 from Buthidaung, 697 from Kyaukpyu, 66 from Yanbye, 555 from Thandwe, 202 from Gwa, 710 from Taungup, 308 from Manaung, 377 from An, and 72 from special programme (Sittway), making a total of 5,253.

The Rakhine State Government managed to hold this examination for the benefit of the state’s education amidst various situations, such as the storm and local instability, with the cooperation and coordination between education departments and security personnel.

“The state government has managed to hold the examination for the students. We are sorry for those who could not sit for this examination. We have seen for ourselves that they tried to do the best for the students amidst many issues. We are happy for those who passed the examination,” said Ko Htun Mra, a local from Sittway. — MT/ZN

Illegal trade eradication task force seizes smuggled timber, vehicles, and goods worth K262 million

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

On 11 June, the on-duty teams managed by the Bago Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 5.922 tonne of illegal teak, 0.390 tonne of illegal hardwood, and 7.128 tonnes of unlawful timber valued at K4.196 million in Bago and Toungoo districts. This action was taken under the Forest Law.

On the same day, combined teams confiscated 0.422 tonne of illegal teak worth K150,000 in Ingapu Township, and two vehicles (estimated value K80 million) carrying nine types of goods worth K18.47 million, including 240 Uniqlo men’s trousers without official documents, at the exit checkpoint of Yangon In-

ternational Airport. Additionally, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (worth approximately K32 million) heading to Yangon from Mongpyin was seized at the Ywathagyi Dry Port for carrying 4,500 kilogrammes of chainsaw blades not declared in the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

During inspections on 12 June, combined teams impounded three unregistered vehicles (estimated value K18 million) and five unregistered motorbikes (estimated value K2 million) in Myitkyina Township, an unregistered Honda Fit (worth approximately K15 million) in Dekkhinathiri Township, and illegal teak weighing 12.457 tonnes and illegal timber weighing 33.709 tonnes valued at K8.338 million in Lewe Town-

ship. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law.

On the same day, combined teams seized 9,550 visses of garlic from China valued at K46.814 million without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge checkpoint in Sagaing Township and a Toyota light truck (estimated value of K18 million) carrying 1,260 gallons of illegal crude oil and a Kawa engine valued at K4.51 million near the Thayet-Aunglan River Bridge in Thayet Township. The action was conducted under the Export and Import Law and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Therefore, 17 arrests (estimated value K262 million) were made on 11 and 12 June, according to the committee. — MNA/MKKS

ECONOMY WORLD

China's trade promotion body strongly opposes EU's plan to impose additional EV duties

CHINA'S trade promotion body has expressed strong opposition to the plan of the European Union (EU) to add duties on imports of Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), describing it as "notably unfair" and "typical double standards".

The European Commission (EC) on Wednesday proposed the provisional additional tariffs ranging from 17.4 to 38.1 per cent in its preliminary ruling on anti-subsidy probe into Chinese EVs.

A spokesperson with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade said Thursday the EC persisted in imposing the tariffs in disregard of the fact that the European EV industry actually came to no harm, did not ask for any investigation, and has even repeatedly voiced objections.

The investigation blatantly violated rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as its unfair

The investigation is said to violate WTO rules as it prevented Chinese carmakers from participating, and Chinese industries vow to defend their rights under WTO regulations.



This photo taken on 15 February 2023 shows a workshop of Chinese electric vehicle (EV) maker Li Auto Inc in Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: LI BO/XINHUA**

procedure prevented the participation of Chinese carmakers, the spokesperson said, adding that Chinese industries and businesses would defend their legal rights under WTO regulations.

The spokesperson accused the EU of having double standards as it has provided substantial subsidies to its own EV and battery industries.

Moreover, China's EV industry, deeply integrated into the global supply chain, has contributed significantly to the world's EV development, carbon emission reduction and green development through international cooperation and technological innovation, the spokesperson said.

The EC's abuse of WTO trade remedy rules undermined market principles and disrupted global supply chain stability and security, the spokesperson said. — Xinhua

IEA sees 'major' oil supply surplus emerging by 2030

THE world is likely to have a "major surplus" of oil by 2030 as production is ramped up while the clean energy transition tempers demand, the International Energy Agency said in an annual report published Wednesday.

Global demand is expected to "level off" at 106 million barrels per day (bpd) towards the end of this decade while

overall supply capacity could reach 114 million bpd — resulting in a "staggering" surplus of eight million bpd that oil markets should prepare for, the IEA said.

The forecast comes days after the OPEC+ group of major crude producers signalled they would start to unwind output cuts this autumn, implemented in a bid to support

prices against fears of weakening worldwide demand.

In its report, the IEA noted that fast-developing Asian countries like China along with the aviation and petrochemical sectors would still drive oil demand, which stood at 102 million bpd in 2023.

But the shift towards electric cars along with fuel efficiency gains for conventional vehicles, and declining use of oil by Middle Eastern countries for electricity production, would help limit the overall demand increase to around two per cent by 2030.

At the same time, oil production capacity appears set to surge, led by the United States and other countries in the Americas, leading to the forecast of an eight-million-barrel surplus — a level reached only during the Covid-19 lockdowns of 2020. — AFP



Global demand is expected to plateau at around 106 million barrels per day (bpd) by the end of the decade. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ OPEC**

NEWS SUMMARIES: ECON

UK economy stagnates heading into general election

BRITAIN'S economy stagnated in April after emerging from recession in the first quarter of the year, official data showed Wednesday ahead of the country's general election next month.

The zero growth in April followed an expansion of 0.4 per cent in March, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Britain votes on 4 July in an election widely expected to be won by the main opposition Labour party, a victory that would end 14 years of rule by the Conservatives, currently led by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

"The stagnation in GDP in April doesn't mean the economic recovery has been extinguished, but it's hardly great news for the prime minister three weeks ahead of the election," noted Paul Dales, chief UK economist at Capital Economics research group. — AFP

Kenya to present budget with new tax hikes

KENYA'S finance minister is due to present Thursday the East African economic powerhouse's biggest ever budget, alongside a contentious finance bill that contains a raft of new or increased taxes.

President William Ruto's government has drawn up a four-trillion-shilling (\$31.1-billion) budget for 2024/25, up from 3.75 trillion shillings it approved last June for the current fiscal year.

Parliament has already approved the proposed spending plan, but the separate finance bill aimed at filling the coffers of the cash-strapped government could lead to an acrimonious session. — AFP

Thailand's consumer confidence reaches 7-month low in May

The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey with 2,245 participants, revealing a decrease in the consumer confidence index from 62.1 in April to 60.5 in May, with all index components showing decline.

THAILAND'S consumer confidence index dropped for the third straight month in May, reaching the lowest level in seven months, due to concerns over political uncertainty and a sluggish economic recovery, a survey showed on Thursday.

According to the survey of 2,245 respondents conducted by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the index fell to 60.5 last month from 62.1 in April as all components of the index decreased.

The downward trend stemmed from a plunge in political sentiment among consumers, who were less optimistic about the current and future political climate owing to politically

sensitive court cases, said the university's President Thanavath Phonvichai.

Several pending cases, including one that seeks to remove Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin

from office over his cabinet appointment, could potentially lead to political uncertainty, Thanavath told a news conference.

However, the acceleration of the government's

budget disbursement and the implementation of stimulus measures could restore consumer optimism in the second half of the year, he noted. — Xinhua



Two customers walk into an express service outlet in Bangkok, Thailand. PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA/FILE



The package, valued at up to \$56 billion, had been a focal point of Tesla's efforts to secure shareholder approval ahead of the company's annual meeting. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Musk says Tesla shareholders voting for his pay package by 'wide margins'

TESLA CEO Elon Musk said late Wednesday that the electric vehicle company's shareholders were voting to approve his multibillion-dollar pay package by "wide margins" before the ballot had been concluded.

The firm has campaigned to convince shareholders to approve Musk's giant compensation package — worth as much as \$56 billion — ahead of Tesla's annual

shareholder meeting, which is slated for Thursday afternoon. "Both Tesla shareholder resolutions are currently passing by wide margins!" Musk wrote on his social media platform X, referring to the resolutions to approve his pay package as well as a plan to shift Tesla's place of incorporation from Delaware to Texas.

"Thanks for your support!" the billionaire businessman added. — AFP

Japan Post to raise postage rates from 1 Oct amid fewer deliveries

JAPAN Post Co on Thursday said it will raise the price of a standard-size letter stamp to 110 yen (\$0.7) from 84 yen starting 1 October, among other postage rate hikes, to improve profitability amid declining letter usage replaced by

email and messaging apps.

It will mark Japan's first postal rate hike for letters in 30 years, excluding adjustments related to consumption tax increases.

While mail deliveries have decreased significantly since their peak in

2001, Japan Post, an arm of Japan Post Holdings Co, needs to secure funds to cover rising labour, fuel and other costs, it said in a press release.

The price hike to 110 yen will apply to standard-size letters weighing

25 grammes or less. For letters weighing over 25 grammes to 50 grammes, the price will also increase to 110 yen from the current 94 yen, while the cost for a standard postcard will rise to 85 yen from 63 yen. — Kyodo

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the **18th June 2024 (Qurbani Eid)**, Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2408S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2408S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-6-2024** 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

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by **Shandong Kangqiao Bio-Technology Co., Ltd** is changing from **Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd.** to **Arvis Cropscience Co.,Ltd.** Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number
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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Deforestation in the Amazon rainforest decreased by 50% compared to 2022. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Brazil's Lula defends oil exploration near Amazon River

Lula emphasized the importance of legality and environmental respect but affirmed the government's commitment to seizing opportunities for national development.

BRAZIL'S President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Wednesday that a controversial offshore oil exploration plan near the mouth of the Amazon River was a key opportunity for the country's growth. "We want everything to be legal, re-

specting the environment. But we are not going to let any opportunity to promote the growth of this country pass us by," Lula said in Rio de Janeiro to investors from Saudi Arabia — one of the world's leading oil producers.

Plans to explore for oil in an offshore basin near the mouth of the Amazon River have angered environmentalists and divided the Lula administration.

His own environment minister, Marina Silva, is openly opposed to the plan, and the IBAMA environmental protection agency denied the oil giant Petrobras an exploration licence in May last year.

However, newly-appointed Petrobras boss Magda Chambriard stated last month that she wanted to "accelerate" oil exploration, including in the controversial area near the mouth of the Amazon River, known as the Equatorial Margin.

Environmentalists highlight the contradiction in Lula's defense of fossil fuel exploration while he positions himself as a leading figure in the fight against global warming. Under his leadership, deforestation in the Amazon rainforest halved last year compared to 2022.

Brazil will host the UN climate conference COP30 next year in Belem, a city in northern Brazil seen as the gateway to the Amazon. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

India to re-conduct medical entrance exam over scam

THE Supreme Court of India on Thursday directed the National Testing Agency (NTA) to re-conduct the medical entrance examination (undergraduate) for as many as 1,563 students on doubts about a "scam".

THE re-examination would be conducted on 23 June, and the result would be declared within a week.

More than 2.3 million students had appeared for the medical entrance examination (undergraduate), or the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG), held on 5 May. The direction came after a petition was filed before the apex court alleging irregularities in the way "grace marks" were given to a section of students. —Xinhua

Deaf lawyer elected to UN panel on rights of disabled

HIROSHI Tamon, a deaf Japanese civil rights lawyer, was elected Tuesday to serve as an independent expert on the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

"I'm feeling very happy that I won, however burdened with this very large undertaking," Tamon, 57, told Kyodo News after the vote through a sign language interpreter.

Tamon is one of nine experts newly elected to serve on the 18-member committee for a term of four years starting in January 2025. —Kyodo

Earliest-ever heatwave in Greece closes Athens Acropolis

The heatwave, anticipated to be the earliest on record, prompted school closures and health warnings across the country.



The UNESCO-listed archaeological site shut its doors from midday until 5:00 pm (0900 to 1400 GMT). PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

THE Athens Acropolis, Greece's most visited tourist site, was closed to the public during the hottest hours of Wednesday as the season's earliest-ever heatwave swept the country, prompting school closures and health warn-

ings. The UNESCO-listed archaeological site closed from midday to 5:00 pm (0900 to 1400 GMT), with temperatures topping 43 degrees Celsius (109 degrees Fahrenheit) in central Greece.

Temperatures of up to 44 degrees Celsius are expected on Thursday as the phenomenon peaks, with up to 43 degrees forecast in the capital.

Meteorologists have noted this is the earliest heatwave — which for Greece is temperatures exceeding 38 degrees Celsius for at least three days — on record.

"This heatwave will go down in history," meteorologist Panos Giannopoulos said on state TV ERT.

"In the 20th century we never had a heatwave before 19 June. We have had several in the 21st century, but none before 15 June," he said.

The climate crisis and civil protection ministry has warned of a very high risk of fires in the Attica region around Athens. — AFP

SPORTS



Myanmar placed in Group 1 for Asian Qualifiers 2025

BOTH Myanmar U-17 and U-20 football teams compose Group 1 separately for the Asian Qualifiers 2025, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation. Myanmar U-17 will face Yemen, Vietnam and Kyrgyzstan in Group 1, which will be held in Vietnam from 19 to 27 October 2024. The U-17 Asian Qualifiers 2025 will be organized into ten groups, and the top 10 teams in each group and the best five second-placed teams in each group will advance to the next stage. Saudi Arabia will host the final tournament.



Meanwhile, the Myanmar U-19 team is facing Japan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in Group 1 of the U-19 Asian Qualifiers 2025. Group 1 will be hosted by Kyrgyzstan and is scheduled to be held from 21 to 29 September 2024.

The U-20 Asian Qualifiers 2025 will be organized into ten groups, and the top 10 teams in each group and the best five second-placed teams in each group will qualify for the next round. China will host the final tournament. — KZL



The French Alps offer a breathtaking backdrop for the Winter Olympics, combining majestic peaks with world-class sporting venues. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

IOC EB proposes French Alps, Salt Lake City to host 2030, 2034 Winter Olympics

Lausanne, Switzerland, on Wednesday, recommending these two cities for the respective

before the EB decision. Consequently, the French government must submit the Games Delivery Guarantee and confirmation of public partnership contributions to the Games organization budget from the regions of Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes and Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur before the IOC Session, the IOC stated.

In November 2023, the IOC began Targeted Dialogues with the French Olympic and Paralympic Committees for the French Alps 2030 bid, as well as with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee for the Salt Lake City-Utah 2034 bid.

The EB also proposed seven sports for the initial sports program for the 2030 Olympic Winter Games, including biathlon, bobsleigh, curling, ice hockey, luge, skating, and skiing. — Xinhua

This proposal follows a recommendation from the Future Host Commission for the Olympic Winter Games.

THE Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) proposed the French Alps and Salt Lake City as the hosts of the 2030 and 2034 Winter Olympic Games and Paralympic Games respectively, on Wednesday.

The Future Host Commission for the Olympic Winter Games delivered a report to the IOC EB meeting in

Games.

The IOC Members will attend a virtual in-camera briefing on 26 June, with the IOC Session scheduled to vote on 24 July, provided all requirements are met by the Preferred Hosts, according to the IOC.

Due to the current political situation, the French Alps 2030 project has not finalized the necessary documents

Messi wants to end career at Inter Miami

LIONEL Messi has expressed a desire to end his career at Inter Miami, all but sinking hopes of a swansong with Argentina's Newell's Old Boys.

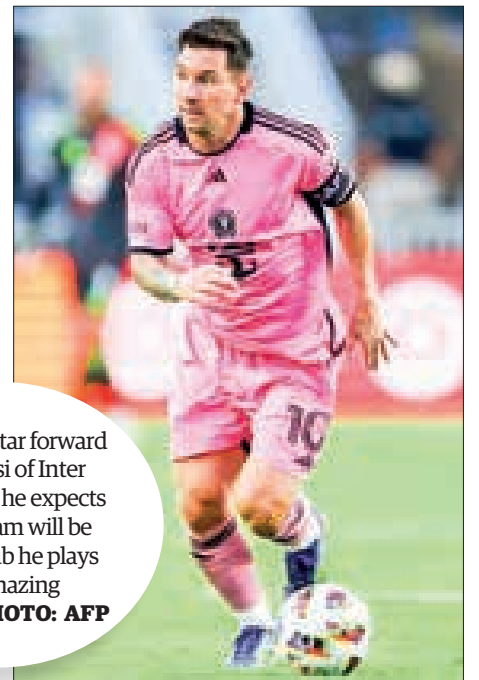
The 36-year-old, who joined Inter Miami last July, is contracted to the Major League Soccer club until December 2025 with the option of another year. "As of today, I think it's going to be my last club," the Argentine World Cup-winning captain told ESPN.

Messi has previously suggested that he would like to end his career at Newell's Old Boys, where he began playing as an eight-year-old.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner admitted that he views retirement with a sense of dread.

"I'm not ready to leave football either," he said. "I love playing football. I enjoy the training, every day of the matches. (I am) a little afraid that everything will end. That's why I enjoy everything much more, because I'm aware that there's less and less to go and I have a good time at the club". —Xinhua

Argentine star forward Lionel Messi of Inter Miami says he expects the MLS team will be the final club he plays for in his amazing career. **PHOTO: AFP**



Italy tops European Athletics Championships tally with 24 medals

HOST Italy won the men's 4x100m relay, the last race at the European Athletics Championships, here on Thursday, topping the tally with 24 medals.

The five-day championships in Rome's Stadio Olimpico, the last major European athletics competition before the start of the Paris Olympics next month, marked

50 years since the last time Rome hosted the prestigious event.

The Italian team claimed the 4x100m relay title in 37.82 seconds, only 0.32 seconds slower than its winning time at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago. Three of the four Italian sprinters had been crowned at Tokyo 2020, including Marcell Jacobs,

who earlier took the men's 100m gold in a season-best 10.02 seconds.

In the medal standings, Italy was followed by France with 16 medals and Britain with 13. In the middle distances, 23-year-old Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway won his third consecutive double victory at the European Championships in the

1,500m and the 5,000m. In Rome, he won the 1,500m in a championship record of 3 minutes 31.95 seconds.

Ingebrigtsen, the defending Olympic champion in the 1,500m and the two-time defending world champion at 5,000m, is expected to compete in both events at Paris 2024. — Xinhua



China, New Zealand pledge to expand trade scope, deepen personnel exchanges

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang met New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon here on Thursday, agreeing to expand the scope of bilateral trade and investment and deepen personnel exchanges.

During their talks, Li said his visit coincides with the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's official visit to New Zealand and the establishment of China-New Zealand comprehensive strategic partnership.

Over the past 10 years, no matter how the international landscape changes, China and New Zealand have consistently adhered to mutual respect, inclusiveness, cooperation and joint development, promoting bilateral relations to achieve substantial progress, and creating multiple "firsts" in bilateral cooperation, he said.

China is willing to work with New Zealand to continue their traditional friendship, enhance the spirit of "striving to be the first", jointly stimulate growth, and make efforts to upgrade the China-New Zealand compre-

Li highlighted the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's visit to New Zealand and the establishment of the China-New Zealand comprehensive strategic partnership.



Chinese Premier Li Qiang arrives in Wellington, New Zealand, 13 June 2024 for an official visit to New Zealand. Li will also pay official visits to Australia and Malaysia, and will co-chair the ninth China-Australia Annual Leaders' Meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. **LI TAO/XINHUA**

hensive strategic partnership to bring more benefits to their people, Li added.

Li said that the respective development of China and New Zealand is an opportunity for each other rather than a challenge, calling on the two countries to continue as partners of mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual benefit that learn from each other and foster unity and coordination.

China stands ready to work with New Zealand in continuously expanding trade, exploring cooperation potential in sectors including digital economy, green economy, new energy vehicles and creative industry, and jointly promoting regional economic cooperation, said the Chinese premier.

He also called on New Zealand and China to eliminate non-economic disruptions in their economic and trade relations to provide businesses with stable expectations and a favorable business environment, adding that China welcomes more investment from New Zealand enterprises. — Xinhua

Venezuela enters WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

VENEZUELA has entered the World Trade Organization (WTO) International Trade Facilitation Agreement, which leads to reduced costs in the nation's trade transactions, said Vice-President Delcy Rodriguez on Wednesday.

"Despite the resistance of ... the United States and some satellite countries, the WTO has just formally announced that Venezuela is entering the International Trade Facilitation Agreement," Rodriguez said at an event led by President Nicolas Maduro in southwest Apure state. — Xinhua

Any hostile shift in Canada's Arctic strategy will harm its security

RUSSIA does not see Canada as a threat in the Arctic but if the Trudeau cabinet shifts to a confrontational stance in the region, it will harm Canada's security, Russian Ambassador in Ottawa Oleg Stepanov told Sputnik on Wednesday.

The Canadian government is readying to release a new Arctic strategy to address what it perceives to be a growing Russian threat in the region, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly told Bloomberg on Tuesday.

The announcement came two months after National Defence released its defence pol-

icy update in which it emphasized that the most pressing task for Canada was to assert its sovereignty in its northern regions and the Arctic.

"We don't see Canada as a threat there [Arctic], but obviously will have to take into account both a possible change in Ottawa's policy, as well as its coordination and joint planning with the US and within NATO in this regard," Stepanov said. "Obviously, if Trudeau's cabinet takes a confrontational stance versus Russia in the Arctic, it will be, first of all, detrimental to Canada's security." — SPUTNIK



The Arctic Utrenneye port in Russia's Gydan Peninsula plays a vital role in the Northern Sea Route, serving as a key hub for shipping and energy exports, notably liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the nearby Yamal Peninsula. Its strategic positioning grants access to Arctic resources, bolstering Russia's influence in global energy markets. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ CHRISTOPHER MICHEL / FLICKR / MOSCOW TIMES**