

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



PyinOoLwin: Myanmar's blossoming hub for diverse flowers

IN addition to domestic species, foreign flower species compatible with the climate are grown in PyinOoLwin, which is the place where the most significant number of flowers are cultivated. Most of these flowers are grown there and sold throughout the country.

Flowers from PyinOoLwin are used for offerings at pagodas, ceremonies, charity events,

weddings, decorations, and daily life. Foreign flowers are traded better than domestic ones and are mostly distributed to the Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, and Taninthayi regions. Agricultural farms and flower gardens in PyinOoLwin import flower seeds and seedlings from Japan, China, and Thailand, with an 80 per cent survival rate for these seeds. It is expected to use soil from the country of origin for cultivating seedlings, and if the necessary technology is available, the

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Enchanting flowerbeds at December Garden in PyinOoLwin.

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The Legacy of Friendship and Learning

By Min Zan

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Thai buyers acquire Taninthayi area nuts

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Myanmar gems traders invited to IIJS Premiere 2024



The photo shows some Irrawaddy dolphins grazing on the Ayeyawady River.

18 Irrawaddy dolphins spotted in Ayeyawady River near Mingun, Mandalay

The Irrawaddy Dolphin Protected Area near Mandalay and Mingun is home to up to 18 Irrawaddy dolphins during the high water of Ayeyawady River, according to U Maung Maung Lay, leader of the Irrawaddy Dolphin Protection Group of the Fisheries Department (Mandalay Region).

The Irrawaddy dolphins are grazing in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung area, and they are observed and recorded three times a month.

“During the high water level of the Ayeyawady River, the Irrawaddy dolphins move from one place to another. Before the rainy season, the Irrawaddy dolphins used to live and graze in flocks near Myaysun village of Madaya Township. Now, when the river is high, Irrawaddy dolphins have moved to Mandalay and Mingun because there is plenty of feeds for them. Local travellers who want to see the Irrawaddy dolphins can come and observe them.

During this period, no deaths or births of dolphins have been recorded. We have also instructed fishermen and villagers in the surrounding area to inform our team if they see baby dolphins,” said U Maung Maung Lay.

According to field observations made by the Irrawaddy Dolphin Conservation Group in the second week of June, up to 18 Irrawaddy dolphins are living and grazing in the Mingun area. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Unauthorized imports prohibited at ports and airports

THE Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce has released Newsletter 3/2024 on 30 May 2024, stating that actions will be taken under the Export and Import Law if it is found that the imports have arrived at ports and airports before receiving import licences or permits, starting from 1 July 2024.

Notification No 50/2020 was issued on 8 July 2020, saying that the import items, except for those that are allowed to be stored in the Customs Warehouse, are not to arrive at the ports and airports without any permission. If the early arrival of goods without permission is found, the companies that import these goods will face legal action in accordance with the Export and Import Law. However, people fail to follow the regulations, and the goods arrive at the ports and airports in advance without permission.

The Customs Department is permitted to store the essential products for local manufacturing and health sectors in the Customs Warehouse in accordance with the procedures.

Therefore, it is announced here that individuals and companies should follow the enacted laws and regulations without fail and should not import the goods to the ports and airports without import licences or permits. — MNA/KTZH

Application for political party establishment rights ongoing

ACCORDING to Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, Socio-Economic Promotion Party, which wants to establish a political party in order to compete in the multiparty democratic general election, applied yesterday to the Union Election Commission for the right to develop a political party under the law and regulations.

To date, 17 parties have applied under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, and 50 parties have applied for the right to continue as political parties and registration under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, bringing the total to 67 parties.

The Union Election Commission continues to verify the right to establish and register these parties. — MNA/KZL

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.

Artist Gallery Café to host artist Kyaw Ohn's solo art exhibition

THE solo art exhibition of artist Kyaw Ohn will be displayed at the Artist Gallery Café, situated in Sangyoung Township, Yangon, from 21 to 23 June.

“The solo art exhibition of Sayagyi U Kyaw Ohn will be held for three days. Therefore, we would like to invite all art lovers to enjoy his creations at the Artist Gallery Café,” said the gallery in-charge.

The experienced artist

Kyaw Ohn was an assistant lecturer at the National University of Arts and Culture and the principal of the State School of Fine Arts. It is also known that he has showcased more than 120 art exhibitions at home and abroad. The paintings, created using various mediums such as watercolour, oil colour, and acrylic, will be reportedly displayed at the solo art exhibition. — ASH/TRKM



The image shows an invitation letter from artist Kyaw Ohn's solo art exhibition.



28,745 domestic tourists visit Omadanti Beach in May

ACCORDING to U Soe Win, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Ayeyawady Region), 28,745 domestic tourists visited Omadanti Beach in Ayeyawady Region in May.

Most of the travellers to Omadanti Beach in Danubyu Township, Ayeyawady Region, reportedly come from Yangon Region for a day trip.

“Within the Ayeyawady Region, the shore near Danubyu Township has the highest number of daily visitors from Yangon Region. It is not an sea beach but a sandy shore along the Ayeyawady River. During

the Thingyan Festival, 21,155 domestic tourists visited the shore on day trips. In March, 16,775 domestic tourists visited, and 26,755 visited in April. The number of tourists visiting the shore is increasing every month,” said U Soe Win.



Photos show travellers at the Omadanti Beach during the Thingyan Festival period.

At present, travellers are provided with services to ensure a safe and peaceful visit. These services include bicycle rental, motorbike rental, and horse rental. Additionally, market stalls have been set up to

sell local food, accessories, and souvenirs.

The beach was opened in 2011 and is popular among locals due to its proximity to the pagoda built by Princess Ohn-madanti. — ASH/TKO

NATIONAL

NSPNC holds 2nd day meeting with political parties' working group

THE second day of the meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the working group of political parties continued at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Border Affairs NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, committee members, Dr Aung Myat Oo, leader of the political parties' working group and CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party and representatives attended the meeting.

During the meeting, participants considered points from the Constitution (2008) that

should be amended, which was not completed on the first day of the meeting. General discussions and mutual negotiations on the building of a union based on democracy and federalism followed. The opinions obtained from the two-day discussions of both sides were then collected and recorded.

Dr Aung Myat Oo, the leader of the working group of the political parties and the Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, gave words of thanks. Afterwards, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung concluded the meeting. — MNA/TS



The second-day meeting of the NSPNC and political parties' working group underway yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar envisages long-term strategic green energy

MYANMAR has incorporated ecological protection, increasing renewable energy generation and green investment, protecting biodiversity and improving waste management into its long-term strategy, said Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant at the 15th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (15th IIICF) yesterday.

He continued that green

innovation is essential for the sustainable development of all countries as it includes various innovative things and different subjects.

He also mentioned the implementation of green innovation projects for the transport sector, urban planning and housing sector in Myanmar.

He then talked about digital connectivity, which is known as the "digital economy" or 4IR. He called on par-

ticipants to promote transparency and mutual benefits by cooperating in the construction sector via green innovation and digital connectivity.

Senior construction officials and representatives of Macao, international countries, the China International Contractors Association and the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute attended the forum. — MNA/KTZH



Union Construction Minister U Myo Thant addresses the 15th IIICF yesterday in Macao, China.

Myanmar, China's Dazu District discuss enhancing bilateral trade, tourism



U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin, Myanmar Consul-General of the Consulate-General in Chongqing, meets Mr Zhang Ming, a Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Dazu District Committee and Head of the Organization Department at the Myanmar Consulate-General in Chongqing.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin, Myanmar Consul-General in Chongqing, met Mr Zhang Ming, a Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Dazu District Committee, at the Myanmar Consulate-General in Chongqing on 17 June and exchanged views on enhancing bilateral trade and investment, tourism and cultural exchange. — ASH/TMT

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegates tour Kunming, Yuxi, arrive back



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn (2L) is pictured on the arrival at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who attended the 5th Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Week, arrived back in Yangon yesterday after visiting the iconic sites in Kunming and Yuxi of Yunnan Province on 19 June, together with the delegations of LMC countries and Southeast Asia countries.

On 19 June, the delegates visited the museum of Yunnan Maoduoli Food Group Co Ltd, established in 1991, and observed the production processes from raw materials to finished products.

Then, they observed the work processes of Yunnan Gongrunxiang Tea Industry Company.

The industry was established in 2007 and recognized as a national high-tech industry in 2015. It won an innovative and research

award in 2017 and is now the leading company in the tea industry.

At noon, they proceeded to Tain ward in Hongta district. It is 26 square kilometres in area and home to 5,742 houses, and won village prizes.

On arrival at Yuxi Walvax Biological Technology Co Ltd, they studied the production processes.

It is a branch of Yunnan Walvax biological technology established in 2005 and it produces 39,000 dozen vaccines per year.

The Union Minister met with officials of Kunming-based Yunnan M Time Culture and Communication Co Ltd yesterday and discussed broadcasting programmes on Online Media in cooperation with M Time Myanmar Micro Video Production and Release Centre and MRTV. At noon, the Union Minister left Kunming, China, and arrived back in Yangon by flight. — MNA/KTZH

CBM discusses AML/CFT implementations

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe, who is also Chair of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism, addressed the coordination meeting of the committee yesterday.

In her speech, she said the observers of APJG appreciated the progress and implementation of Myanmar. As a result of the good outcomes, Myanmar has been promoted to largely compliant (LC), attaining five immediate outcomes in total from 2021 to 2024. Although there are such positive outcomes and progress, there are media attacks that affect the interest of the public.



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe chairs the coordination meeting of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism yesterday.

Therefore, the statements were issued to the public regarding AML/CFT implementations.

She also stressed the need to scope the significant facts to be discussed at the preliminary meeting of FATF and the workgroups of the meeting of ICRG in Singapore. She then talked about the actions to be taken against those who run illegal digital currency trading, foreign currency and hundi services as per the Anti-Money Laundering Law and Financial Institutions Law.

The vice-chairperson, secretary and members of the committee coordinated the discussion, and the governor concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

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PyinOoLwin: Myanmar's blossoming hub for diverse flowers

FROM PAGE 1

success rate increases. Currently, foreign flower seeds that are compatible with the region's soil are being grown.

"In the past, we planted tulips using seeds from England. Now we buy them from China and plant many more. Most of the flower species grown in PyinOoLwin are imported from Japan, Thailand, and China. If we cross-breed local and foreign varieties to create new flower varieties, we will need significant technical support. Since PyinOoLwin distributes a variety of flowers nationwide, if we cooperate in developing and enhancing the flower capital's botanical system, we can earn foreign income by exporting various flowers to countries such as China. The world will recognize PyinOoLwin as a city that grows

diverse flowers. In PyinOoLwin, flowers are grown year-round, in summer, rain, and winter, for the country. PyinOoLwin is the pride of our nation," said Daw Shwe Yee Tun, who is in charge of agriculture at December Flower Garden in PyinOoLwin.

A flower trade centre has been opened in China, supporting flower quality, researching new flower species, and increasing flower varieties. It provides flower market information services, technical support, finance, and transport. As the second-largest flower trade centre in the world and the largest in Asia, flowers are exported and sold to more than 40 countries every day. PyinOoLwin Township, where flowers are grown extensively, has many opportunities to export flowers and various orchid species to ASE-



Pots of flower seedlings destined for thriving future flowerbeds. PHOTO: msyt

AN countries.

In PyinOoLwin Township, the flower capital, the following flowers are most commonly planted during the rainy season: saffron, Chitti, Mawlamyine, basil (red/blue), dahlia, cock's comb, kimono cock's comb, myolong, peacock motif, Taunggyi daisy, dandelion, sunflower, spider

flower, ball flower, alum, asparagus, rudbeckia, and torenia. During winter, flowers such as snow white, snow yellow, silver snow dust, mangosteen, sandalwood, carnation, basil (red/blue), dahlia, Chitti, rooster flower, legend, a ball of gold, six moonflower, tiger's mouth, worthy of the king, platycodon, torenia, and

rudbeckia are planted. In summer, flowers such as dry flowers, dahlia, aster, verbena, vinca, torenia, stock, pentas, lobelia, osteospermum, viola, cuphea, digitalis, pansy, gazania, geranium, gerbera, and gypsophila are cultivated and distributed throughout the season. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/TKO

Thai buyers acquire Taninthayi areca nuts



Areca palms and areca nuts from the Taninthayi Region.

THAILAND has made orders for areca nuts produced from Taninthayi Region, and currently, the price has been high with domestic purchases.

The areca nut market made losses in 2023, though the price has bounced back, and traders have expected this is a year that they can make profits.

"We have received orders from Thailand this month. The domestic retail market has been doing well. But we mainly rely on exports. Most

of the traders suffered losses last year. This year, the buying price is lower than last year's, and the selling price is a little higher, so there is a likelihood of making profits. This is an overall estimate for the whole region," said an official from U Thwe areca nut distribution in Myeik township.

In Myanmar, areca nut palms are mainly grown in Toungoo in the eastern Bago Region, Thaton, Dawei, Myeik, Pyapon, Mandalay, Kyai-

kkhami, and Sittway. Areca nuts are harvested in Thadingyut, Tazaungmon and Nat-taw (Myanmar lunar months).

"Areca nut is a best-seller item in Myanmar. However, the actual market demand has been low because supply is quite large. But this year, we have expected to make profits. In the domestic market, retail trading is better, at present," said U Maung Maung, who trades areca nuts in Yangon. — Thit Taw/ZS

Second-hand motorcycles popular in Mandalay

SECOND-HAND, rather than new motorcycles have been more marketable in Mandalay's three-wheel passenger motorcycle market.

Price is not much different between new and second-hand India-made three-wheel motorcycles. However, buyers prefer second-hand rather than new due to financial difficulty.

"The second-hand market is more active, although the price is not much different between new and second-hand, it is not a problem for some who can afford it, but for some who don't have enough money can't find it, so they prefer to buy the second-hand. Second-hand motorcycles are sold every day. Last month, only a new motorcycle was sold, but more than 40 second-hand motorcycles were sold out. The sale is also good this month," Ko Zaw Phyoo, a second-hand India made three-wheeled motorcycle dealer in Mahaangmyay Township.

However, sales of new prod-

ucts have been moderate.

"Mandalay is a big city, so loads of visitors come, and three-wheel motorcycles are widely used to carry passengers, not freight. There are plenty of hotels and guesthouses in Mandalay, with a lot of visitors from other towns. So, these motorcycles are specifically used for carrying passengers, and they are fuel-saving," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS



The image showcases a three-wheeled passenger motorcycle being used in Mandalay.

NATIONAL

K100B allocated for small-scale power systems in regions/states

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development said that K100 billion will be spend on local development activities, including small-scale power systems.

The plan will start in Nay Pyi Taw and 15 regions and states during the 2024-25 financial year. These local development projects include 40 agricultural water supply projects using solar systems, 756 rural water supply projects, 47,000 households using private solar systems, and 11 small power systems and businesses.

In addition, the plan features 197 rural production roads and

365 production bridges, 194 units of the Greening Project, 40 model villages, 60 units of rural business fund establishment, 1,671 units of village development projects, and 247 vocational trainings.

Not only the Department of Rural Development but also its related departments are working together to achieve harmony between the countryside and the city, narrow the gap between urban and rural areas, provide employment opportunities for the rural people, and develop the socio-economic life of the rural people. — TWA/KZL



An aerial view of the agricultural water supply by solar system in Pindaya Township.

Yangon strengthens trade, investment ties with Heilongjiang Province



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and a delegation led by Mr Li Shengbin, deputy director-general of Heilongjiang Province MoFA, are seen discussing to enhance bilateral relations.

YANGON City and Heilongjiang Province are committed to bolstering bilateral trade and investment when the Yangon Region chief minister met with a delegation led by the deputy director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Yangon City is the commercial hub and the main port of Myanmar, handling the majority of export and import activities. Rice and various pulses are also grown in the region. The Yangon Region chief

minister said that Myanmar wants to export rice and multiple pulses to the province. There are 29 industrial zones in the area, and Chinese investors primarily invest in the manufacturing sector.

Mr Li Shengbin, deputy director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Heilongjiang Province, discussed investment and trade promotion matters between the two countries and cooperation in business and other fields.

Myanmar and China deepened the Swemyo Pauk

Phaw friendship and nurtured the community with a shared future, sticking up for each other through thick and thin. Yangon Region Chief Minister expressed appreciation for China's assistance in need during the Coronavirus pandemic and Cyclone Mocha, in addition to China's contributions to the education sector. He also reiterated that the city would like to collaborate with Heilongjiang province to boost bilateral trade, investments and economic cooperation. — TWA/EM

Paunglaung Dam project to add 8M units of electricity underway

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, a project is underway to install a hydraulic elevator dam (HED) at the Paunglaung Dam, aimed at increasing its hydroelectric generating capacity to 919 million units.

According to a proposal by the Ministry of Electric Power's Department of Hydropower Implementation, a hydraulic elevator dam (HED) measuring 140.5 metres in length and 1.5 metres in height has been installed in the spillway of the Paunglaung Dam. The dam currently produces 911 million units of hydroelectric power annually, and the installation aims to increase annual production by eight million units. This will be achieved



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation U Min Naung and officials are inspecting the installation project of the hydraulic elevator dam at Paunglaung Dam in Zeyathiri Township.

by raising the water storage capacity from the original 0.549 million acre-feet to 0.570 million acre-feet, allowing for the additional storage of approximately 21,000 acre-feet of water.

Arrangements are underway to enable the Nay Pyi Taw head office to monitor the construction of the hydraulic elevator dam (HED) at the spillway of the Paunglaung Dam, Zeyathiri Township. This oversight aims to ensure that the project is completed within the specified timeframe and includes assigning rotating duties at the dam.

The ministry is implementing the project with the aim of completing it in the 2024-2025 financial year. — TWA/TH

Myanmar pulse exports cross 530,000+ tonnes worth US\$485M in 2 months

MYANMAR bagged more than US\$485 million from over 530,000 tonnes of pulses over the past two months of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's pulse exports by sea totalled over 510,650 tonnes of pulses worth \$440.6 million. In contrast, over 21,060 tonnes of pulses worth \$17.97 million were sent to the neighbouring countries between 1 April and 7 June this FY.

The value of Myanmar's

pulses exports hit over US\$1.484 billion from over 1.76 million tonnes in the previous FY 2023-2024 (April-March), comprising 1.6 million tonnes worth \$1.34 billion through maritime trade and 157,400 tonnes worth \$141.38 through border posts, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are

exported to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are



Beans and pulses are well-organized for market sale.

also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

Myanmar's black gram output is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year, whereas pigeon pea production crosses 50,000 tonnes.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds

Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

Myanmar gems traders invited to IIJS Premiere 2024

INDIA International Jewellery Show (IIJS Premiere 2024) will take place on 8-12 August 2024 at the Jio World Convention Centre and on 9-13 August 2024 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai, inviting the participation of Myanmar gems traders, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (JGEPC), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, will organize the 40th edition of the gem trade shows in two places.

Along with the IIJS Premiere 2024, the India Gem & Jewellery Machinery Expo (IGJME) will be simultaneously held on 9-13 August 2024 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre.

This trade show is the world's second-largest jewellery B2B trade fair, displaying



Gem merchants are evaluating jade at the previous Gems Emporium.

gem and jewellery machinery and diamond, gold, platinum, silver jewellery and gemstones. As it is an exclusive pavilion for jewellery manufacturers, Myanmar, which is a precious gemstone company, should showcase its products at the trade fair. Individuals can visit the web portal

www.gjepc.org/iijs-premiere for further details.

Interested businesspeople can enquire about the details through the contact numbers of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 and 067 408623 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/EM

Kawthoung border to hit US\$18M trade target for June

THE Kawthoung border for Myanmar-Thailand trade is set to achieve a trade target of US\$18 million for June, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The trade value as of mid-June was estimated at \$10.247 million, which accounts for 56.9 per cent of the target.

Fisheries exports at Kawthoung are operating with a free onboard system (FOB). There is always a trade surplus at the Kawthoung border post.

Myanmar sent 318.954 tonnes of fisheries worth \$0.36 million, 7,192.967 tonnes of agricultural produce worth \$1.696 million and 273.7 tonnes of oth-

er goods worth \$0.098 million to Thailand between 11 and 15 June, totalling \$2.155 million.

The Ministry of Commerce has been prioritizing trade promotion. Thailand grants zero tariffs for maize imports between 1 February and 31 August yearly. Myanmar conveys maize directly from Yangon Port to Ranong Port. Some are exported through the Kawthoung border as well.

As of 15 June, 46,709.856 tonnes of maize valued at \$10.596 million were exported to Thailand through the Kawthoung-Ranong border. — NN/EM



A fishing boat at the Kawthoung coast.

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OPINION

Benefit the society with of telecommunication and information facilities

IN today's world, the rapid advancement of communication technology is evident. These technologies are increasingly applied across social and economic sectors, effectively shrinking the world by bridging geographical gaps and connecting people globally.

In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly designated 17 May as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, highlighting the critical role of information and communication technology (ICT). This date also commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which was established following the International Telegraph Convention signed by global leaders. A 2023 ITU press release revealed that approximately 5.4 billion people, or 67 per cent of the global population, are using the internet in various capacities. Additionally, about three-quarters of individuals over ten years old own mobile phones, facilitating daily communication.

As such, sustaining the communications sector's crucial role is imperative for continued progress. Governments of global countries must support and invest in ICT development to foster growth across all industries and ensure their countries do not fall behind. As the improvement of ICT benefits generations to generations as well as era to era, all participants from society need to catch up with such advancements and apply such technologies in measures that benefit themselves as well as society.

Businesses reliant on communication technologies are experiencing significant growth. Information and communication technology brought excellent changes to society with technological advancements that improved a variety of sectors and affected the Industrial Revolution.

To remain competitive, countries worldwide must enhance their communication technologies. Governments should prioritize the development of ICT to ensure their nations keep pace with global advancements. Failure to do so could result in lower development indices compared to more technologically advanced countries.

As such, sustaining the communications sector's crucial role is imperative for continued progress. Governments of global countries must support and invest in ICT development to foster growth across all industries and ensure their countries do not fall behind. As the improvement of ICT benefits generations to generations as well as era to era, all participants from society need to catch up with such advancements and apply such technologies in measures that benefit themselves as well as society.

The proliferation of communication technologies has significant economic impacts. It enhances the trading of goods and services online, creates job opportunities, and boosts productivity. The rise of e-commerce and digital marketing further drives economic growth, allowing many countries to sustain their development. A December 2023 report by the World Economic Forum highlighted Southeast Asia's potential in the digital economy, projecting it could reach a value of \$1 trillion by 2030. However, this projection excludes countries facing internet access restrictions and those unable to leverage information and communication technology effectively.

The communications sector is a cornerstone for the development of other industries, underscoring its indispensable role. With many nations now recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses

IN a time when the world was transitioning through rapid scientific, cultural, and political changes, a group of young individuals in Myanmar (then Burma) found solace and purpose within the walls of Bassein Arts and Science College. This photograph, taken 50 years ago, captures a moment in the lives of these students majoring in Zoology, along with their assistant lecturer. It is a snapshot of camaraderie, intellectual curiosity, and the formative experiences that shaped their futures.

The Context of the Times

The early 1970s was a period of significant transformation globally and within Myanmar. The country was navigating post-independence identity and governance under a socialist regime, which emphasized education as a pillar for national development. In this setting, Bassein Arts and Science College emerged as a beacon of learning in the Irrawaddy Delta region, offering higher education in various disciplines, including Zoology.

The Department of Zoology

The Zoology Department at Bassein Arts and Science College was renowned for its rigorous curriculum and dedicated faculty. The students in the photograph, clad in traditional longyi and crisp shirts, represent a generation committed to understanding the biological complexities of animal life. Their assistant lecturer, distinguishable in his professional attire and demeanour, played a pivotal role in nurturing their academic pursuits.

The relationship between students and lecturers in those days was marked by respect and mutual aspiration for knowledge. Lecturers were not merely educators; they were mentors who guided their students through the labyrinth of scientific inquiry. For many students, their academic journey in Zoology was a path to discovering their potential and contributing to the broader field of science.

Bonds Beyond the Classroom

The camaraderie evident in the photograph speaks volumes about the bonds formed beyond the academic realm. These students, united by their major, shared countless hours in labs and classrooms, studying everything from the anatomy of vertebrates to the ecological dynamics of the Irrawaddy Delta.

Their interactions were not limited to academic discussions; they extended to shared lunches, study groups, and social gatherings, fostering lifelong friendships.

For the students of Bassein Arts and Science College, the journey through their Zoology major was also a journey of personal growth. They learned to balance the rigours of academic life with the joys of youthful camaraderie. These relationships provided a support system, helping them navigate the pressures of exams and the challenges of research projects.

The Role of the Assistant Lecturer

In the photograph, Saya U Win Aung, assistant lecturer, stands out not only by his central position but also by his role as a bridge between the students and the vast world of zoological sciences. His presence was integral to their academic experience. As a relatively younger member of the faculty, he was approachable, often acting as a liaison between the more senior professors and the students.

His mentorship extended beyond formal lectures. He was known to engage students in thought-provoking discussions, encourage their participation in field research, and assist them in developing their scientific inquiries. This dynamic created a nurturing environment where students felt valued and motivated to excel.

The Impact of Zoology Studies on Their Lives

The rigorous training in Zoology equipped these students with critical thinking skills, a thorough understanding of biological processes, and an appreciation for the natural world. Many of them pursued careers in teaching, research, environmental conservation, and even medicine. Their education at Bassein Arts and Science College laid a strong foundation for their professional endeavours.

Moreover, the ethical considerations and ecological awareness instilled during their studies influenced their contributions to society. As Myanmar grapples with environmental challenges, the insights and expertise of these alumni have proven invaluable. Some have become advocates for biodiversity conservation, while others have contributed to scientific research and education,



The Legacy of Friendship and Learning

By Min Zan

shaping the next generation of scientists.

Reflections from Alumni

Reconnecting with some of these alumni provides a poignant reflection on their journey. A former student reminisces, "Our time at Bassein Arts and Science College was transformative. The friendships we formed, the knowledge we gained, and the guidance from our lecturers shaped who we are today. We were not just students; we were a family."

Another alumna adds, "The Zoology Department was a place of discovery. We explored the intricacies of life forms, from the microscopic to the majestic. Our assistant lecturer was a beacon of knowledge and kindness, always encouraging us to push our boundaries."

Their recollections highlight the enduring impact of their education and the bonds they formed. Even after five decades, the spirit of their time together continues to influence their lives.

The Changing Landscape of Education

Over the past 50 years, the

landscape of education in Myanmar has undergone significant changes. Advances in technology, shifts in political climates, and evolving educational policies have reshaped how institutions operate and how students learn. Despite these changes, the core values of mentorship, camaraderie, and intellectual curiosity remain timeless. Bassein Arts and Science College has also evolved, incorporating modern pedagogical methods and expanding its academic offerings. However, the Zoology Department's legacy and its alumni's memorable experiences continue to inspire current students.

The Legacy Continues

The photograph is more than just a memory; it is a testament to the lasting impact of education and friendship. The Zoology majors of Bassein Arts and Science College, along with their assistant lecturer, created a legacy that transcends time. Their journey reflects the universal themes of learning, growth, and the unbreakable bonds of friendship.

As the college continues to

educate future generations, the story of these students serves as a reminder of the importance of nurturing both academic and personal development. It underscores the idea that education is not just about acquiring knowledge but also about building relationships that enrich our lives.

The Journey of Life

Time has a way of weaving intricate patterns into the tapestry of human lives. The students in the photograph have each followed their unique paths, leading to diverse outcomes in terms of career, wealth, and personal fulfilment. Some have ascended to heights of success and affluence, while others have lived contentedly within the middle class. Their experiences reflect a broad spectrum of human endeavour and resilience.

The Affluent and Successful

Among the group, a few individuals managed to harness the opportunities and resources available to them, rising to prominence and financial success. These alumni often pursued advanced studies, leveraging their knowl-

edge in Zoology into lucrative careers in academia, research, and industry. Some ventured into entrepreneurship, using their scientific background to innovate in fields such as biotechnology and environmental consulting.

One such individual, after completing his studies, earned a scholarship to further his education abroad. With dedication and hard work, he became a renowned biologist, contributing significantly to environmental conservation projects globally. His success allowed him to amass considerable wealth, which he used to support educational initiatives in Myanmar, ensuring that future generations could access quality education.

A Life of Contentment

For many others in the photograph, life unfolded with a steady, albeit less spectacular, rhythm. These individuals found stability and satisfaction within the middle class, balancing careers in education, government service, and private sectors. Their lives were marked by the typical challenges and rewards of raising families,

contributing to their communities, and enjoying the simple pleasures of life.

Ma Kyin Aye, for instance, became a high school teacher, dedicating her life to educating young minds in the very field that once inspired her. Though she did not attain great wealth, she found immense satisfaction in her work, shaping the futures of countless students. Her modest lifestyle reflects a deep-seated contentment and fulfilment derived from a life of service and intellectual engagement.

The Unseen Struggles and Quiet Resilience

However, not all stories from the group are tales of success and contentment. Some faced significant hardships and challenges, navigating life's adversities with quiet resilience. Economic downturns, health issues, and personal losses have tested their strength and resolve. Despite these difficulties, they have shown remarkable fortitude, embodying the spirit of perseverance.

Ko Win Maung (Darkie), once a promising student, faced a series of unfortunate events that derailed his career ambitions. Health issues prevented him from pursuing advanced studies, and he struggled to maintain stable employment. Yet, his resilience and positive outlook allowed him to find peace and dignity in a life filled with unforeseen challenges.

The Final Chapter

As these individuals approach the final chapter of their lives, they are acutely aware of the inevitability of death. This awareness brings with it a profound sense of reflection and acceptance. The experiences of the past 50 years have given them a rich perspective on life, one that embraces both the joys and sorrows that come with the human condition.

For many, the enduring friendships formed during their college years have provided a source of comfort and connection. Regular reunions, phone calls, and letters have kept the bonds strong, allowing them to reminisce about their shared past and offer support in times of need.

Legacy and Contribution

The legacy of these individuals is not solely measured by their professional achievements or financial success. It is also reflected in the intangible contributions they have made to society and the lasting impact they have had on

those around them. Their commitment to education, community service, and environmental conservation has left an indelible mark, ensuring that their efforts will be remembered long after they are gone.

The assistant lecturer, U Win Aung, whose guidance and mentorship shaped the lives of his students, has been fondly remembered by many. His dedication to fostering a love of learning and curiosity in his students laid the groundwork for their future successes and personal growth. His influence is a testament to the profound impact that educators can have on their students' lives.

A Shared Reflection

Looking back, the alumni of Bassein Arts and Science College's Zoology Department recognize the value of the education they received and the friendships they formed. Their time at the college was not just about acquiring knowledge; it was also about developing a sense of identity, purpose, and community. These experiences provided a strong foundation that helped them navigate the complexities of life.

The photograph serves as a poignant reminder of their shared past and the enduring power of friendship. It captures a moment of youthful hope and ambition, a moment that has resonated throughout their lives, influencing their decisions and shaping their destinies.

The lives of the Zoology majors from Bassein Arts and Science College, captured in a photograph from over 50 years ago, have taken diverse and fascinating paths. While some have achieved significant success and wealth, others have led fulfilling lives within the middle class, and a few have faced considerable hardships. Despite these differences, they are united by the shared experiences of their youth and the enduring friendships they formed.

As they approach the end of their journeys, they reflect on a life well-lived, full of challenges, triumphs, and meaningful contributions. Their stories remind us of the unpredictable nature of life and the importance of resilience, community, and the lasting impact of education. The photograph is not just a record of the past; it is a testament to the enduring bonds of friendship and the profound influence of shared experiences.



NATIONAL

Ottwin Township cracks down on undocumented donation-seekers for purification of Sasana



Inspecting alms-seekers entering Ottwin Township recently to see if they had complete documents.

AS those asking for donation without legal permission and complete documents and some wearing robes are disgracing Buddhism, the Ottwin Township Sasana Preservation Group is giving warnings and taking supervisory action against them, Sayadaw U Tejasiri, a member of the group, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

If donation recipients with false references and incomplete documents are identified, they will be warned the first time, and if they are found again, action will be taken against them, including

those who do not comply with the monk's code of conduct.

"Our Township Sangha Committee decided at its meeting. If an donation-seeker enters the township, they must show the recommendation letter from the respective ward/village Sangha Nayaka committees. If they ask for donation on the roadside for one month, they need permission from the township Sangha Nayaka committees. We have distributed this official resolution to the management committee. We check each group collecting donation to see if they have permission. We also trace these persons. Some bought rice from the shops near Kabaung Bridge. Some bought and drank alcohol. Some gave what they received to their families," the Sayadaw said.

If those receiving donation don't have the required documents, they are told to leave the township. If a single monk without a serene look is asking for donation the first time, he will be given a warning, and the second time, he will be disrobed, and a case will be filed for tarnishing the Sasana if the inspectors smell alcohol, he said.

"Sasana is originally clean. We arrest those who exploit the situation. Some get drunk inside the monastery. If we get concrete information, we go and catch the person, and seal the monastery," he added. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Counter-argument to false information

False claims of cash collection by Tatmadaw and PNO debunked by officials

FAKE news is spreading on social media, claiming that Tatmadaw and PNO were collecting K500,000 to K800,000 per house for military expenses on 17 June in Hsihseng Township, Shan State.

According to a security official from the relevant area and a representative of the PNO, no cash is collected from the houses; this is false

news. The report further affirmed that they are only conducting security operations to maintain peace and tranquillity, protect the lives and property of local people, and ensure the rule of law.

Therefore, this is merely fake stories intentionally spread by subversive media outlets to create misunderstanding between the public and the security forces. — MNA/TRKM

Misinformation: Security forces blaze Pyithaaye Village

MALICIOUS news media are spreading false news that security forces in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, burned down Pyithaaye Village on 18 June.

A responsible citizen who does not want violence said that terrorists are hiding themselves near the village. According to the report, the combined security forces carried out the

necessary security measures in the area when the terrorists started attacking when they arrived near Pyithaaye Village. As a result, security forces returned fire, and the terrorists were killed, and some of them retreated and ran away from the village. The security forces continued to search and inspect some houses in the vil-

lage where the terrorists took cover and launched attacks. According to a security official, two hand-made mortar, six hand-made mines, five hand-made grenades and explosive-related materials were seized.

Subversive media outlets purposefully circulate propaganda by breaking news in and around the places where the security forces arrive, aiming to mislead the public about the security forces working to safeguard the area. — MNA/KZL

Pinlaung IDPs move to original residence

A total of 85 people from 29 households from the IDP camp based at Mya Theintan Monastery in Yinmi Ward, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Pinlaung Township, Shan State, returned to their

original residence by their own arrangement on 13 June.

The General Administration Department stated that the temporary camp was closed. — Maung Zaw/KZL



IDPs are seen being arranged for their return to home.

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.

The on-duty team managed by the Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force impounded a Nissan diesel truck (worth approximately K55 million), travelling from Myawady to Mawlamyine, carrying two kinds of goods worth K92.3 million, including 1,700 jerrycans of Star Oil brand vegetable oil without official documents, near Kyungon village in Kyaikmaraw township on 18 June. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the combined teams seized a ToyoAce light truck (estimated value of K23 million) carrying 690 gallons of illegal premium diesel worth K8,735,400 at the Yadanabon bridge (Mandalay) combined checkpoint and a Howo tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K71 million) carrying 644 gallons of illegal premium diesel valued at K8,153,040 at the Shwegyin checkpoint. The action was taken under the Petroleum and the Petroleum Products Law.

During inspections on 18

and 19 June, the combined teams captured a Scania bus (estimated value of K25 million) heading to Yangon from Kawthoung, carrying four kinds of goods worth K13.08 million, including 432 bags of MSG from Thailand without official documents, at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station, illegal teak weighing 3.038 tonnes, illegal hardwoods weighing 1.182 tonnes and other illegal timbers weighing 0.63 tonne in Toungoo and Pyay districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On 19 and 20 June, the combined team seized a Mitsubishi canter (estimated value of K55 million) carrying 17,200 bottles of LipoVitan-D from Thailand worth K13.76 million on the outskirts of Kengtung township and an unregistered Honda Fit (estimated value of K4.5 million) in Bahan township. The action was conducted under Customs procedures and the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 14 arrests (estimated value of K370.9 million) were made on three consecutive days from 18 to 20 June, according to the committee. — MNA/MKKS

Music platform CEO says AI is not the enemy

BandLab, a prominent online music platform headquartered in Singapore with over 100 million users, has introduced an AI-driven music creation tool called SongStarter. This tool generates song ideas based on parameters such as genre, key, tempo, and lyrics.

MUSICIANS around the world have described artificial intelligence as a threat to creativity, but the CEO of one popular platform told AFP he thinks critics are looking at it all wrong.

BandLab, a mostly free online music workstation and distribution platform based in Singapore, has more than 100 million registered users.

It recently incorporated an AI music creation tool dubbed SongStarter, which generates song ideas from genre, key, tempo and lyric prompts.

For BandLab founder and CEO Meng Ru Kwok, whose company bought music magazine NME in 2019, AI is no substitute for a real musician.

“It’s not called SongFinisher. It’s called SongStarter. It’s not trying to replace people’s creativity... (with) a vending machine approach of a magic button where you press and a song comes out,” Meng said in an interview with AFP.

“You still need to use your human creativity to build on that, to turn it into something.” — AFP



Despite concerns from musicians worldwide about AI threatening creativity, BandLab’s CEO Meng Ru Kwok disagrees with this perspective. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE / PIXABAY**



An examinee claps hands with a person dressed as a mascot sending best wishes at a national college entrance examination site in Nanjing, east China’s Jiangsu Province, 7 June 2024. **PHOTO: LI BO / XINHUA**

China’s education ministry offers online college application guidance after gaokao

This initiative aims to streamline the application process and ensure students have access to essential information when making crucial decisions about their higher education paths.

CHINA’S Ministry of Education has launched a website offering free guidance for high school graduates in applying for universities and colleges after the recently concluded annual national college entrance exam, also known as the gaokao, the ministry said in a news release on Wednesday.

Results of this year’s gaokao, which started on 7 June nationwide and lasted two to four days depending on the different regions, are scheduled to be released around 25 June in most parts of the country.

After receiving their results, students will need to complete a list detailing their intended institutions of study in order of preference, and submit it online. College admissions will be based on both test scores and application lists.

The ministry website provides information about over 2,800 institutions across the country

and details of more than 130 popular majors, including their core courses and possible career options.

Students can also input test scores on the website and receive recommendations concerning the choice of institutions and majors, based on big data analysis of college admissions in past years.

The ministry said it would later provide an online platform for universities and colleges to respond to inquiries from students via text chats and live-streaming.

College admission will start in early July and conclude before the end of August in most parts of the country.

A record number of 13.42 million individuals participated in this year’s gaokao, an increase of 510,000 people compared to last year. — Xinhua

Thailand passes landmark bill, to become first country in Southeast Asia to recognize same-sex marriage

AS Thailand’s Senate passed a marriage equality bill, the move has now paved the way for the country to become the first nation in Southeast Asia to recognize same-sex marriages, reported Al Jazeera.

In its final reading on Tuesday, the

upper house passed the bill with 130 votes in favour, four against, and 18 abstentions from the 152 members present.

The measure will now go to King Maha Vajiralongkorn for formal approval, which is most likely to be approved.

120 days after it is published in the royal gazette, it will become operative, according to Al Jazeera.

After Taiwan and Nepal, Thailand will be the third Asian country to allow homosexual marriage if the law goes into effect.

Gay rights activists hailed the action as a “monumental step forward”.

Legislation renames “men”, “women”, “husbands”, and “wives” to gender-neutral words and defines marriage as a partnership between two people. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD



File photo provided by the Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE) shows an outside view of the SSE in Shanghai, east China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China unveils new measures to deepen reform of STAR market

The CSRC aims to improve trading mechanisms on the STAR market to enhance liquidity and efficiency.

CHINA'S top securities regulator on Wednesday rolled out new measures to deepen the reform of the Science and Technology Innovation Board (STAR) market to better serve sci-tech innovation and promote the development of new quality productive forces.

The measures include further supporting the listing of enterprises making breakthroughs in new industries,

new business patterns and new technologies, and improving the pricing mechanisms for initial public offerings (IPOs), according to the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC).

Efforts will also be made to improve the financing of listed companies on the STAR board, optimize the trading mechanisms, strengthen monitoring, forestall market risks, as well

as encourage merger, acquisition and restructuring, the CSRC said. Since its launch in 2019, the STAR market has become the preferred listing destination for "hard-tech" companies, with its magnetic appeal continuing to grow.

As of 31 May, a total of 572 companies have been listed on the STAR market, with a combined market capitalization of 5.17 trillion yuan (about US\$726.5 billion dollars). The total amount raised through IPOs has reached 909.1 billion yuan. — Xinhua

Conservative candidate Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, also Iran's parliament speaker, highlighted plans to stabilize the economy and advocated for lifting US sanctions imposed after the US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal.

THE six candidates vying to succeed ultraconservative president Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash, focused on revitalizing Iran's sanctions-hit economy in their first debate ahead of next week's election. The contenders — five conservatives and a sole reformer — faced off in a four-hour live debate, vowing to address the financial challenges affecting the country's 85 million people.

Originally slated for 2025, the election was moved forward after Raisi's death on 19 May in a helicopter crash in northern Iran.

Long before the 28 June election, Iran had been grappling with mounting economic pressures, including international sanctions and soaring inflation.

"We will strengthen the economy so that the government can pay salaries according to inflation and maintain their purchasing power," conservative presidential hopeful Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said. Ghalibaf, Iran's parliament speaker, also pledged to work towards removing crippling US sanctions reimposed after then US president Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal. — AFP

Iran presidential hopefuls debate economy ahead of election



The contenders, consisting of five conservatives and one reformer, emphasized their plans to tackle economic challenges affecting Iran's 85 million people. Snow mountains are seen from Tehran, Iran. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

EU to warn France, Italy over unruly budgets

THE European Union is expected on Wednesday to rebuke nearly 10 governments, including France and Italy, over their excessive spending after new budget rules entered into force this year.

It comes at a particularly difficult moment for France, where both the far left and far right are piling up spending promises ahead of snap polls triggered by President Emmanuel Macron's crushing EU election defeat.

This will be the first time

Brussels reprimands nations since the EU suspended the rules after the 2020 Covid pandemic and the energy crisis triggered by the Ukraine war, as states propped up businesses and households with public money.

The EU spent two years during the suspension overhauling the budget rules to make them more workable and give greater leeway for investment in critical areas like defence. — AFP

SUMMARY : ECON

IMF Shanghai Regional Centre officially opens

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) Shanghai Regional Centre was officially opened on Wednesday, according to a statement published on the official website of the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

The centre in Shanghai is one of the regional centres set up by the IMF around the world. It has been established to strengthen the IMF's engagement and cooperation with Asia Pacific economies and conduct relevant research in areas of interest to emerging markets and middle-income countries, the document said. It also aims to provide targeted capacity-building support for these economies and safeguard regional and global financial stability, according to the statement. — Xinhua

S Korea's working single-person households hit record high in 2023

In 2023, the proportion of dual-income households among married couples in South Korea rose to a new high of 48.2%, marking a 2.1 percentage point increase from the previous year.

SOUTH Korea's working single-person households hit a record high last year, affected by a rapid increase in the working elderly, statistical office data showed Tuesday.

The number of working one-person households totalled 4,675,000 in 2023, up 120,000 compared with the previous year, according to Statistics Korea.

It accounted for 63.3 per cent of the total single households last year, marking the highest since relevant data began to

be compiled in 2015. The proportion was up 0.2 percentage points from a year earlier.

The proportion of working single households to the total single households among those aged 60 or older gained 1.7 percentage points over the year to 39.5 per cent in 2023. The figure for those in their 50s advanced 1.4 percentage points to 74.7 per cent, but the reading for those in their 30s retreated 0.6 percentage points to 87.4 per cent. —Xinhua

THE Tea Association of India has raised an alarm over the drastic reduction in tea production across North India, attributing the crisis to the severe lack of rainfall and excessive heat that has plagued the region throughout the current cropping season.

According to a press release, the Tea Associ-



North India's tea industry faces crisis with production amid extreme weather

The Tea Association of India warns of a significant drop in tea production across North India due to severe drought and high temperatures this cropping season.

ation of India estimates that the cumulative drop in production will be around 60 million kilograms by the end of June 2024, compared to the same period last year.

The combination of these adverse weather conditions has not only

curtailed tea yields but also precipitated a significant liquidity crisis, potentially threatening the future viability of the industry.

The Tea Board of India's latest data paints a grim picture for the tea-growing states of

Assam and West Bengal.

Up to April 2024, production in Assam has plummeted by eight per cent compared to the same period last year, while West Bengal has experienced an even steeper decline of 13 per cent.

The situation deteriorated further in May, with

Recent data from the Tea Board of India further underscores the severity of the situation in key tea-producing states like Assam and West Bengal. **PHOTO: ANI**

tea estates in Assam and West Bengal reporting estimated production drops of 20 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, relative to the previous year.

The primary factor behind this decline is the severe deficit in rainfall during the crucial early growing season. — ANI



Societal shifts towards gender equality have encouraged more women to participate in the workforce alongside men, contributing equally to household income. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's advertisement industry maintains sound growth in 2023

CHINA'S advertisement industry registered rapid expansion in 2023, with the market scale continuing to rank the world's second, the State Administration for Market Regulation said Thursday.

The combined business revenue of major companies and public institutions in the sector gained 17.5 per cent year on year to approximately 1.31 trillion yuan (about US\$184 billion) last year, according to the administration. — Xinhua

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Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured by Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd and distributed by Myanmar Kete Co.,Ltd is changing trade Name as follow,

No	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No
1	SPR Top	Byter Top	P2023-4934
2	SPR Pendilor	Byter Pendilor	P2023-4933

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

Myanmar Kete Co.,Ltd.

No.125-127, Kha 11st, Myoe Thit (A+B) Quarter, Inn Sein Township, Yangon.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (228N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (228N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-6-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (427N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (427N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-6-2024** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Jun Azumi (centre R) of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan submits a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Cabinet to House of Representatives Speaker Fukushima Nukaga (centre L) in Tokyo on 20 June 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

PM Kishida Cabinet survives no-confidence motion over funds scandal

Despite opposition support, the motion was ultimately defeated by the ruling coalition led by Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party and its ally, the Komeito party.

JAPAN'S House of Representatives on Thursday voted down a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Cabinet following the enactment of a revised political funds control law criticized for failing to improve financial transparency in politics.

The motion was submitted by the Constitutional Demo-

cratic Party of Japan and also supported by the second-biggest opposition Japan Innovation Party and other minor parties. It was rejected by the ruling bloc consisting of Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner the Komeito party, which hold a majority of seats.

The CDPJ had demanded

more drastic changes to the law, including a ban on corporate donations to political parties, saying such steps were needed to restore public trust in politics undermined by a fundraising scandal involving Kishida's LDP.

The bill passed the Diet the previous day ahead of the end of the current ordinary parliamentary session on Sunday, weeks after Kishida was forced to make concessions to Komeito on the details of the legislation.

— Kyodo

Israel-Hezbollah tensions drive fears of widening Gaza war

FEARS of a regional war rose Thursday after Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement said none of Israel would be spared in a full-blown conflict, and Israel said it had approved plans for a Lebanon offensive.

Experts are divided on the prospect of wider war, almost nine months into Israel's vow to eradicate Hamas, the Palestinian militant group in the Gaza Strip. On Wednesday Israel's top army spokesman said Hamas, as an ideology, cannot be eliminated. Others, including US Secretary

of State Antony Blinken, have also pointed to the difficulty of destroying the Islamist group. In a televised address, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said "no place" in Israel would "be spared our rockets" if war began.

Nasrallah's Iran-backed group has exchanged near-daily fire with Israel since Hamas's 7 October attack on southern Israel, but the fire from Hezbollah rockets, Israeli warplanes and other weapons has escalated in the past few weeks. — AFP

West's agenda in South Caucasus often clashes with regional interests

AGENDA of the West in the South Caucasus region does not always meet the interests of regional nations, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin told Sputnik, commenting on growing military cooperation between Paris and Yerevan.

On Tuesday, French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu said Armenia had signed a contract with France for the purchase of French-made Caesar self-propelled howitzers, which Paris supplies to Kyiv.

"Extra-regional (countries) go to the South Caucasus with their own agenda, which, mildly

speaking, does not always meet the interests of regional states. Today, Western countries are coming to the South Caucasus with an openly confrontational agenda aimed against Russia. We believe it will not contribute to stability and security in Transcaucasia," Galuzin said.

"We believe regional security can be ensured more effectively through the efforts of nations of the said region. We advocate regional responsibility both in terms of security and in terms of economic integration in the South Caucasus and other regions," the diplomat added. — SPUTNIK



Servicemen take part in a flag-raising ceremony during an opening of the 2023 Combat Brotherhood joint strategic military exercise of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) member states at the Brest Hero Fortress memorial complex in Brest, Belarus. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nurses in US Oregon strike for better working conditions

OVER 3,000 nurses at six hospitals in the US state of Oregon continued their strike on Wednesday to demand fair wages and better staffing levels.

Nurses at six Providence medical facilities across the state from Portland to Medford started the strike on Tuesday, which was scheduled to last three days through Thursday.

Organizers said it's the largest nurses strike in the state's history, claiming that the nurses were overworked, understaffed, underpaid, and needed better healthcare benefits.

The strike was to protest Providence's illegal unfair labour practices and demand fair contracts that improve patient care, raise nurse staffing standards, make healthcare more affordable, and address Providence's growing staffing crisis, according to the organizers.

The strike comes after more than six months of contract bargaining between Providence and the nurses unions at each facility, including federal mediation to avoid a strike. —Xinhua

SPORTS

Germany's leader Toni Kroos says euphoria is flushing Euro 2024 hosts

TONI Kroos isn't known for getting easily taken away by emotions. The Real Madrid midfielder and six-time UEFA Champions League winner much more stands for a pragmatic approach when it comes to football.

This time the 34-year-old in the Stuttgart Arena seemed to throw all his natural reluctance overboard. "I feel there is something big growing; I feel something is happening," the tournament hosts' undisputed leader said after securing Germany's last-16 participation after two group victories.

As a fact, following a 2-0 over Hungary, a wave of euphoria is flushing through Germany as a tenth of thousands of fans celebrates. Packed fan zones in Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Cologne, and Leipzig give proof of a country having caught fire when it comes to the performance of its national team at the 2024 UEFA Euro tournament.

Never in its history, a German team has scored seven goals in the group stage.

After years of drought coming along with early group exits in

several major tournaments, the mood around the national team has been near to enthusiasm at present. The country's big cities might only be an example of various locations, experiencing football parties while fans start to dream about the big shot.

About 45,000 supporters among the crowd of 60,000 turned the Stuttgart Arena into a party zone. Loudspeakers spew out the song "Success isn't only luck" while Julian Nagelsmann's team went on celebrating round on the pitch.

Ahead of the remaining group encounter against Switzerland this Sunday in Frankfurt, team Germany has created the fundament for something getting close to the so-called summer fairytale of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, when the country experienced a meanwhile famous football festival. Sports magazine Kicker wrote about growing dreams around a team showing resilience. The country's leading media such as the Sueddeutsche, the FAZ, and Welt noted the apparent changes compared to previous tournaments. — Xinhua

Myanmar U-16 taking training in Indonesia to write new chapter

THE Myanmar U-16 boy's football team departed for Indonesia on the evening of 19 June to compete in the 2024 AFC U-16 Championship. They started training in Indonesia on 20 June with the spirit of winning the championship trophy.

The AFC U-16 Championship, divided into three groups of four teams, will feature all 12 member countries of the ASEAN Football Federation. According to group allocation, host Indonesia will take on Laos, the Philippines and

Singapore in Group A, while Myanmar faces ASEAN powerhouse Vietnam, Cambodia and Brunei in Group B. Meanwhile, Group C sees Thailand, Malaysia, Timor-Leste and Australia.

Team Myanmar will play group matches against Cambodia on 22 June, Brunei on 25 June and Vietnam on 28 June. According to the format of the competition, the top team from each group and the best second-placed team will advance to the next round, resulting in a total of four semi-finalists. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Muchova set for return after injury with Wimbledon and Olympics on her mind



The Czech world number 34 enjoyed one of her best seasons in 2023, finishing runner-up to Iga Swiatek at Roland Garros before making the US Open semifinals in September, where she picked up the injury. **PHOTO: AFP**

LAST year's French Open runner-up Karolina Muchova will return to action after 10 months out with a right wrist injury at next week's Eastbourne International, the 27-year-old said as she builds match fitness for Wimbledon and the Olympic Games.

The Czech world number 34 enjoyed one of her best seasons in 2023, finishing runner-up to Iga Swiatek at Roland Garros before making the US Open semifinals in September, where she picked up the injury.

Muchova then pulled out of the season-ending WTA Finals in Cancun, Mexico after qualifying for the first time and withdrew from the Australian Open before having surgery in February. — AFP

Steve Cooper named manager of Premier League Leicester City

Leicester City have appointed Steve Cooper, former Nottingham Forest manager, as their new head coach for the upcoming 2024/25 Premier League season. Cooper, aged 44, has signed a three-year contract with the club.

LEICESTER City have appointed former Nottingham Forest boss Steve Cooper as their new manager, the newly-promoted Premier League club said on Thursday.

"Leicester City Football Club can today confirm the appointment of Steve Cooper as our new first-team manager ahead of the 2024/25 Premier League season. Steve, 44, has agreed a three-year contract," the club said in a statement. Cooper fills the vacuum

left by Enzo Maresca, who left for the vacant post at Chelsea earlier this month. Maresca, 44, had steered 2016 Premier League champions Leicester back to the top flight after just one season in the Championship.

Former Brighton and Chelsea manager Graham Potter, as well as West Brom's Carlos Corberan, were also linked with the Leicester role but it was Cooper who got the job.

"I am really excited and

proud to be appointed Leicester City's first-team manager," said Cooper. "This is a fantastic club with a rich history and passionate supporters. "I am excited to work with such a talented squad and I'm looking forward to the challenge of achieving our shared ambitions in the Premier League".

After congratulating Leicester on their promotion, the Welshman added: "Any person who loves football can only look with great respect upon how much this



Steve Cooper was sacked by Nottingham Forest last December but returns to the Premier League as Leicester manager. **PHOTO: AFP**

club has achieved in recent years.

"The Premier League title of 2016 and the FA Cup of 2021 have demonstrated what's possible for a united club. As the new manager, I don't take that legacy lightly".

Leicester chairman Aiyawatt

Srivaddhanaprabha welcomed Cooper's arrival by saying: "His vision for the team, including his ability to develop players and implement a dynamic style of play, is very much aligned with our aspirations for the club. — AFP



Russian-Vietnamese strategic partnership: Key takeaways from Putin-Lam talks

The growth in trade is largely supported by the implementation of the 2015 free trade agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and Vietnam.

VLADIMIR Putin's state visit to Vietnam began in the early hours of Thursday morning when his plane landed at Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport, shortly after the Russian president met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang.

Negotiations between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Vietnamese counterpart To Lam concluded in Hanoi on Thursday as part of the Russian head of state's two-day official visit to Vietnam.

Strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership with Vietnam remains one of Russia's priorities, Putin stressed during the talks, where the two leaders made the following statements.

Trade Turnover on Rise

"Last year, (bilateral) trade grew by eight per cent. The intergovernmental commission on both sides is working

closely on this. The growth of trade is, of course, facilitated by the implementation of the 2015 free trade agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and Vietnam," the Russian president added.

He recalled that in 2024 Moscow and Hanoi will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of a bilateral friendship treaty.

"All this time, we have maintained regular and meaningful political contacts, including through parliaments, ministries, agencies, parties, regional authorities and public organizations," Putin said.

According to him, Moscow and Hanoi coordinate their actions in the international arena.

"Russia attaches great importance to the development of dialogue with the



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Vietnamese President To Lam pose for photos at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Vietnam is one of the leading members," the Russian President said.

Separately, Putin said he would be glad to see the Vietnamese president at the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Victory in World War II (Great Patriotic War) of 1941-1945 in Moscow.

Friendly Ties

For his part, To Lam emphasized that Vietnam "will always remember with

gratitude the Russian people's selfless support for its struggle for independence".

The country pursues "an independent and self-sufficient peaceful foreign policy, but at the same time attaches great importance to the development of traditional friendship and a comprehensive strategic partnership with Russia". Hanoi sees Russia as one of Vietnam's foreign policy priorities, Lam added. — SPUTNIK

Greece aims at tenfold increase in electric taxis in Athens by 2026

Greece aims to drastically boost the presence of electric taxis in the Athens area.

GREECE aims to increase the number of electric taxis circulating in the Athens wider area tenfold by 2026, as part of efforts for a shift to climate-friendly electromobility, officials said here Wednesday.

Currently, only 100 out of 13,661 taxis in Athens are electric. The target of a program formally launched on Wednesday is to increase this number to at least over 1,000 within the next 18 months through the support of the state and the private sector.

Under the existing Green Taxi scheme which was announced last year and expires in 2025, taxi drivers can receive subsidies of up to 22,500 euros (US\$24,189), amounting to about 40 per cent of the cost of a new

electric taxi, said Christos Staikouras, infrastructure and transport minister.

"It is funded by the Recovery and Resilience Fund and the budget can cover the replacement of up to 1,770 old, polluting taxis with electric

ones. The precondition is the withdrawal of the old vehicle," he said.

A total of 40 million euros (42.8 million dollars) are available. So far just 100 applications have been submitted, he added. — Xinhua



From Athens airport to downtown city, take a yellow taxi for a convenient and direct journey. Taxi colours in Greece vary depending on the city. In Athens all taxis are bright yellow. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ATHENSAIRPORTTAXI.ORG

GLOBAL MARKET GROWTH

Bosch aims to become top software supplier for automakers

GERMAN company Bosch is aiming to become a leading global software supplier for automakers, it announced on Wednesday.

The global market for software and electronics is set to grow at a pace faster than automotive production by 2030, consultants said. "We want to be the number-one choice for automakers worldwide in this area as well," Stefan Hartung, chairman of the board of management of Robert Bosch GmbH, said at an address made at Bosch Tech Day 2024.

Citing a forecast by McKinsey, Hartung said the global market for automotive software and electronics could reach 462 billion US dollars by 2030, which is equivalent to a 5.5 per cent average annual growth from 2019.

As well as the software Bosch has developed to go with its hardware, the company has also been investing heavily in the so-called "standalone software".

"By the end of the decade, we want our software to generate sales running into the billions," Hartung said, stressing that software has become "one of the mainstays of success".

On Tuesday, President of Bosch China Xu Daquan said at a media briefing that the company is confident with China's prospects as the largest market outside Germany and reaffirmed the company's commitment to investing in new technologies and a range of smart mobility solutions. — Xinhua