

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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EDITION**

**NATIONAL**

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Mawlamyine's Union National Races Cultural Centre to feature traditional homes of Mon, Kayin, Pa-O, and Bamar

**BUSINESS**

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27 freighters serve Mandalay trade routes in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> week



An aerial panoramic view of ancient Ketumati City in Toungoo Township, Bago Region – an enchanting destination for both international and domestic tourists.

## Ancient Ketumati City preserves walls, moats, and original gateway style

The walls, moats, and entrance to ancient Ketumati City in Toungoo Township, Bago Region, are preserved in their original style for public observation, as reported by U Nyo Myint Tun, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

The ancient walls near Sin Gate,

on the western side of ancient Toungoo Ketumati City, has been re-excavated and preserved with funding from the Bago Region government.

U Nyo Myint Tun mentioned that the Yodaya gateway near the ancient city wall and Pachi Gate of ancient Toungoo Ketumati, including the moats and city walls built by King Mingyi Nyo, will be

renovated and preserved in their original style, just as they were over 500 years ago.

In addition, the ancient city walls, moats, and buildings of Toungoo Ketumati, constructed by King Maha Thiri Zeyathura Mingyi Nyo (AD 1486-1531), will be preserved as cultural heritage.

— ASH/MKKS

## Myanmar's agricultural exports surpass US\$1.1 bln by 14 June

MYANMAR'S agricultural exports have jumped to US\$1.19 billion as of 14 June in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures reflected a significant increase of over \$460 million compared with that (\$731.9 million) recorded in the corresponding period last FY2023-2024. Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods through maritime and border trade channels. At the same time, it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises



Workers organize export rice bags in the warehouse.

and consumer goods. Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order to boost exports. The priority sectors of the NES include agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/KK

**Pwe Gauk (BE.FALLS) Waterfalls Resort**

Note, Sky Cable car has been just opened, you can see and enjoy the beauty of Pwin Oo Lwin Oo (Lower City) while riding the Sky Cable car.

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar Embassy clerk in France absent without leave due to personal matter

DAW Htay Htay Win, a clerk at the Myanmar Embassy in Paris, France, was absent from work starting on 20 June 2024.

She received an order from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to serve her duties in Myanmar after completing her services in the foreign country.

She submitted her family list and proposed to allow her son to keep studying in France, and she served her duties until 18 June as usual.

On the same day, she sought permission to grant a leave day on 19 June as she

had to make enquires regarding the university for further study of her son and to take the passports of her family. Therefore, the ambassador granted permission.

She did not make any report to the embassy until 10 am on 20 June, and embassy officials scrutinized her house. It was found that there were no more of her belongings, and they seemed to leave for good.

Daw Htay Htay Win carried out her duties actively during her service at the Myanmar Embassy in Paris, and she is one of the staff mem-



Daw Htay Htay Win.

bers who will return to Myanmar upon the completion of their overseas services.

She was absent from her duties without permission, together with her husband, son, and daughter, as she did not want to return to Myanmar because of family matters, such as further study of her son and medical treatment of her daughter in France.

However, local and foreign malicious groups spread propaganda in political ways in reference to that case.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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News and Periodicals  
Enterprise



## Traditional spirit propitiation ceremony declines despite new blood

MANY of the new generation have joined the spirit propitiation ceremonies, one of Myanmar's traditions, but the quality is on a downward trend, and some rituals are disappearing, a famous spirit medium in Yangon told The Global News Light of Myanmar.

The spirit propitiation ceremony attracts public interest in Myanmar, and its ancient traditional agenda includes dancing for spirits and appeasing the spirits.

"Nats (spirits) are not meant to be worshipped. People pay respects to Nats for their good fortune and health. There are many ceremonies. Throughout Myanmar, many people from different classes, whether rich or poor, traders or brokers, love Nats and want to make offerings to the spirits," he said. Despite the involvement of many young people from the new generation in the trade to uphold the tradition, quality is a compromise, he added.

"Many young people are interested in becoming spirit mediums. But their qualifications have faded compared to the old days. With the successive changes of masters over the ages, the protocol of seniority and the traditional rites have slightly disappeared. Still, more and more people are becoming interested, and it is good from the aspect of preserving the culture," he said.

With changing social patterns, the U Shingyi festival, an offering to the lord of the salty sea, is gradually disappearing, he added.

"Spirit mediums are used to organize and supervise the U Shingyi offering festival. There were specially trained mediums for this festival because it was a kind of hereditary profession. Nowadays, people live in seven- or eight-storey buildings, so they no longer hold U Shingyi festivals due to the space. You can say that this tradition is slightly fading out," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

## Myanmar student youths to attend BRIDGE Summer Camp-2024 in Japan

THE Myanmar Japan Association provides training to four basic education students as junior ambassadors to attend the BRIDGE Summer Camp-2024, which is organized by Japan's Fukuoka-based Asian-Pacific Children's Convention-APCC.

Those students are Maung Lin Htet Paing, Grade 6 of Dagon Basic Education High School No 1 in Yangon, Maung Phone Zay Hein, Grade 5 of Kamayut Practising Training School of Yangon, Ma Thoon Thet Htar Aung, Grade 5 of Dagon BEHS No 1 of Yangon and Ma Shin Thant Phyu, Grade 5 of Mingaladon BEHS No 2 (Aung San Thuriya Hla Thuang School) of Yangon.

Yesterday, a ceremony to present the certificate of junior ambassador to four students took place at Nay Pyi Taw Thinhgaha Hotel.



Awarding ceremony in progress for four basic education students as junior ambassadors who will attend the BRIDGE Summer Camp-2024 in Fukuoka of Japan.

The Chair of the Myanmar Japan Association presented recognition certificates and necessary accessories for their trip to summer camp to the students.

The secretary of the association will head the four-stu-

dent team to Fukuoka, Japan, in the first week of July. During the 10-day camping trip, they will meet with student youths from 48 Asia-Pacific countries, visit schools in Japan and join the homestay at the houses of Japanese students. — GNLM



## MoTC holds rainy season tree-planting ceremony

THE 2024 rainy season tree-growing event of the Ministry of Transport and Communications was held in the courtyard of the Nay Pyi Taw Central Railway Station yesterday.

During the event, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo and his wife, deputy ministers and officials planted a total of 1,000 shade trees with those attending the ceremony and encouraged the employees.

Similarly, the tree-planting festival was held at the same time, departments and organizations from the ministry in the States and Regions, and a total of 23,793 trees were planted for shade trees. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo and officials from the Ministry of Transport and Communications grow trees at the rainy season tree-planting event in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## MoI Union Minister inspects paddy husk gasifier power generation facility



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than visits the construction site of the paddy husk gasification power plant in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than and officials inspected the construction of the power generation facility utilizing a paddy husk gasifier by the Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Company Limited in Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning. The managing director explained the project's process, after which the Union minister called for its expedited construction and issued necessary instructions. Subsequently, he inspected the power generation status, machine and boiler installations, and the construction progress of the refrigeration plant.

Additionally, the Union minister attended a coordinating meeting for industrial development and industrial zones. This meeting took place at the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection Office in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, on 21 June.

During the meeting, the Union minister emphasized the importance of understanding the law, stressing that employees must grasp its essence and objectives for effective implementation, espe-

cially concerning the establishment of industrial zones and collaboration with businesses attracted to these zones. Detailed information about Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is crucial to meeting their needs and fostering increased manufacturing activities. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of environmental protection, ensuring that industrial activities do not adversely affect people's lives or property. To achieve sustainable development in industrial zones, he underscored the necessity of collaboration with regional technological universities and vocational education schools.

The deputy director-general of the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection explained the decisions made at the meeting 1/2024 of the Central Committee for Industry and Industrial Zone Development. Subsequently, other relevant departmental officials discussed details regarding industrial zones, and the Union minister responded to the issues presented. — MNA/TRKM

## MoEP Union Minister inspects HED installation at Paunglaung Dam

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun, along with Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw and officials from the ministry, visited the Paunglaung dam yesterday morning to inspect the installation of the hydraulic elevator dam (HED) at the spillway of the hydroelectric power plant in Zeyathiri Township.

Upon arrival at the Paunglaung Hydroelectric Power Plant, the Union minister and officials were briefed by officials from the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management. They explained that the installation of the hydraulic elevator dam (HED) at the spillway of the Paunglaung Dam is 80 per cent complete, with ongoing efforts to ensure timely completion within the specified period.

According to the presentations, the Union minister emphasized the need for comprehensive efforts to complete the installa-

tion of the hydraulic elevator dam (HED) within the specified time-frame while also stressing the importance of workplace safety during working hours and meeting the project's quality standards. Additionally, he inspected the condition of the dam.

The installation of a hydraulic elevator dam (HED), measuring 140.5 metres in length and 1.5 metres in height, at the spillway of the Paunglaung Dam has increased the water storage capacity from the original 549,000 acre-feet to 570,000 acre-feet, allowing for an additional storage of approximately 21,000 acre-feet of water. The annual electricity production capacity will increase from 911 million units to 919 million units, enabling a further eight million units of electricity to be generated. Efforts are underway to complete the entire project by the end of July. — MNA/TKO



Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun observes the installation of the hydraulic elevator dam (HED) at the spillway of the hydroelectric power plant in Zeyathiri Township.

# NATIONAL

## Weekly Roundup

**18 June**

### Military cooperation

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur discussed the enhancement of cooperation between the two Tatmadaws of Myanmar and India.

**19 June**

### Chinese special envoy meets MoFA Union Minister



U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, to talk about peace and stability along the border between the two countries.

**20 June**

### Price stability meeting

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Chairman of the Union Price Stability Committee, presided over the 2/2024 committee meeting.

### NSPNC meets political parties

The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) met with the Working Group of Political Parties yesterday morning at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Venerable Sayadaw dead in attack

Former member of SSMNC Bago's Win Neinmitayon Sayadaw died in the attacks, whereas former member of SSMNC Kanthonhsint Sayadaw and driver were injured in the incident between Myotha Town and Kamma Village in Mandalay Region

**21 June**

### CBM discusses AML/CFT implementation

The Central Bank of Myanmar Governor said the observers of APJG appreciated the progress and implementation of Myanmar, which has been promoted to largely compliant (LC), attaining five immediate outcomes in total from 2021 to 2024 at the meeting of Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism.

**22 June**

### 10<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day marked

The Embassy of India in Yangon marked the



10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna of Yangon with a yoga session on the theme of Yoga for self and society.

### Investigation underway

An investigation is underway to uncover the truth regarding the incident in which Win Neinmitayon Monastery Sayadaw from Bago passed away. — GNLN/TTA

## Illegal goods seized in various states/regions

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

“On June 20, during inspections, the Customs Department’s on-duty teams impounded 24,750 kilogrammes of LLDPE plastic resin valued at K36.382 million. These were submitted by the owner for abandonment from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port. Additionally, 350 bottles of Powerflor from India, valued at K3.5 million, were seized from luggage at Yangon International Airport due to lack of official document. The action was taken under Customs pro-

cedures.

On 21 June, the combined teams captured 212 rolls of Tape and 8,028 sticks of hollow pipe worth K170.1 million from China without official documents in Sagaing township and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (approximately K25 million) carrying four kinds of goods valued at K7.4 million including 90 sets of keyboards (used) without official documents at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) combined checkpoint (Tayothla side). The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and Customs procedures.

On the same day, the combined team seized illegal teak

weighing 8.569 tonnes worth K4,115,400 in Bago and Pyay districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 10 arrests (es-

timated value of K246 million) were made on 20 and 21 June, according to the committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal teak logs in Bago Region and LLDPE plastic resin and Powerflor in Yangon.



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



## Research continues for preservation of ancient complexes

**L**IKE the Hsin Phyu Shin monastic complex, research will be continued to discover the rest of the complexes for preservation in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone, said the Department of Archaeology and National Museum's director for the Bagan Branch, U Kyaw Myo Win.

The restoration of pagodas and temples and the repair of ancient lakes are now underway, he said.

"With this year's budget, repair of pagodas and renovation of exhibition halls at Htidawmindaw and Culamani temples have been carried out. Restoration of lakes made of ancient tombs used in the Bagan Period has been carried out at the same time. At present, our department is carrying out regular work. And we have planned to discover the remaining ancient complexes, like the Hsin Phyu Shin monastic complex, through research," he said.

In Bagan, there are a lot of cactuses; because of this, cleaning works have been carried out by diving into 11 areas and clearing banyan trees, naturally grown around pagodas and inside and on top of cave temples, has been carried out.

Currently, Bagan is not seeing a massive influx of visitors from around the country like Thadingyut and



Hsin Phyu Shin monastic complex in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone and restoration work underway.

Thingyan. However, there are still visitors to some extent, such as family vacations and student excursions, as the rain level is low in the ancient cultural region, he said.

"This is school season, so visitor arrival has still been low. But there are family vacations and excursion

groups," he said.

In the last Thadingyut period, visitor arrival to Bagan was enormously significant. Even hotels were full. Therefore, it is expected that the visitor arrival will be prominent in the coming Thadingyut. — MT/ZS

## Mandalay releases over 217M gallons of wastewater daily

THE nine pumping stations in Mandalay Region pump out nearly 217.92 million gallons of wastewater per day in order to prevent flooding in Mandalay, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC).

Pumping stations are constructed in downtown areas, adjacent regions, and at confluences and drains through

out the city to prevent flooding in residential areas of Mandalay during the rainy season.

The system operates by lowering the water level in the main sewer, allowing rainwater from the roads to flow into it before being discharged into the river by the pumping stations.

The nine pumping stations include Station No 1

near Shwetachaung Kakkyaw Pagoda, Station No 2 at Shwekenamkatinn, Station No 3 near Sangha Hospital, Station No 4 and 7 at Zaungkalay, Station No 5 at Thingaza Canal on 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Station No 6 at Nagani, Station No 9 at 64<sup>th</sup> Street Detention Pond, and the New Pumping Station near Shweke Village. — TWA/TKO



The image shows the Shweke pumping station in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region.

## Permission needed for mobile lottery ticket vendors



A mobile lottery ticket seller.

THOSE who want to run mobile lottery ticket selling in municipal area under the management of the Mandalay City Development Committee must apply for a permit, according to MCDC's Revenue Department.

MCDC will allow mobile lottery ticket selling in six downtown townships such as Aungmyaythazan, Chanayethazan,

Mahaangmyay, Pyigyidagun, Chanmyathazi and Amarapura, but prohibit it in areas which tend to traffic congestion and those who would be granted permit have to work in compliance with rules.

If there is any violation of rules, fines will be imposed, it said. — TWA/ZS

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar hosts ASEAN Committee Meeting in Canada

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Hau Khan Sum, Myanmar's Ambassador to Canada and current Chair of the ASEAN Committee in Ottawa (ACO), hosted the 285<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Committee in Ottawa's Heads of Missions (ACO HOMs) and a handover ceremony, followed by a working lunch on 20 June.

The event took place at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club and was attended by ASEAN heads of missions and members of the ACO working group. During the meeting, the ASEAN heads of missions discussed activities carried out during Myanmar's ACO Chairmanship and outlined future plans. They also exchanged views on promoting ASEAN's interests and identity



Attendees at the transferring event of alternate chairmanship and the 285<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASEAN Committee (Ottawa).

in the host country, as well as shared updated information on ASEAN's external relations with dialogue partners.

U Hau Khan Sum expressed his gratitude to the ASEAN heads of missions for their continued support and cooperation during his chairmanship. He then handed over the alternating chairmanship of the ACO to Ms Maria Andrelita S Austria, Ambassador of the Philippines to Canada.

The meeting was followed by a working lunch, during which the Russian Ambassador to Canada, Mr Oleg Stepanov, was also in attendance. Discussions focused on further strengthening the ASEAN-Russia strategic partnership and exchanging views on regional and international issues. — ASH/TMT

## Myanmar participates in commemoration of G-77's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Vienna

THE 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Group of 77 (G-77) was celebrated at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) on 20 June in Vienna, Austria. Myanmar's Ambassador U Min Thein, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna, attended the event, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The current chairperson of the G-77 (Vienna Chapter) Ms Laura Gil, Ambassador

and Permanent Representative of Colombia and former chairperson Mr Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco, Executive Secretary Mr Robert Floyd of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), representatives of the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations

Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) expressed words of honour at the event.

Food festival and cultural performances were also arranged where the Permanent Mission of Myanmar in Vienna served Myanmar traditional foods and presented a Myanmar Thingyan choral dance performance at the event. — ASH/TMT



The image shows participants at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of G-77.



The photo shows the entrance to the Union National Races Cultural Centre in Mawlamyine.

## Mawlamyine's Union National Races Cultural Centre to feature traditional homes of Mon, Kayin, Pa-O, and Bamar

ACCORDING to the Mon State government, the Union National Races Cultural Centre, currently under construction in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State, will feature traditional homes representing the Mon, Kayin, Pa-O, and Bamar races.

The centre is built with the purpose of preserving the languages, literature, fine arts, cultures, traditions, national identities, and historical heritage of the indigenous peoples living in Mon State, as well as promoting unity, friendship, and mutual support among different races.

UHM Company, along with members of literature and cultural associations representing various races, including the state chief minister, discussed the construction of traditional homes and buildings representing four races at the centre. The discussion took place on 19 June at the office of the Mon State government.

During the discussion, they talked about the processes involved in constructing each traditional home, iconic landmarks and the promotion of cultural heritage. — ASH/TKO



## Myanmar exports 218,000+ tonnes of black gram worth US\$213M in 2 months

MYANMAR'S black gram export reached over 218,000 tonnes over the past two months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, generating earnings of over US\$213 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's black gram export by sea hit over 218,833 tonnes of pulses worth \$213.25 million. In contrast, over 66 tonnes of pulses worth \$0.062 million were shipped to the neighbouring countries between 1 April and 14 June this FY.

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

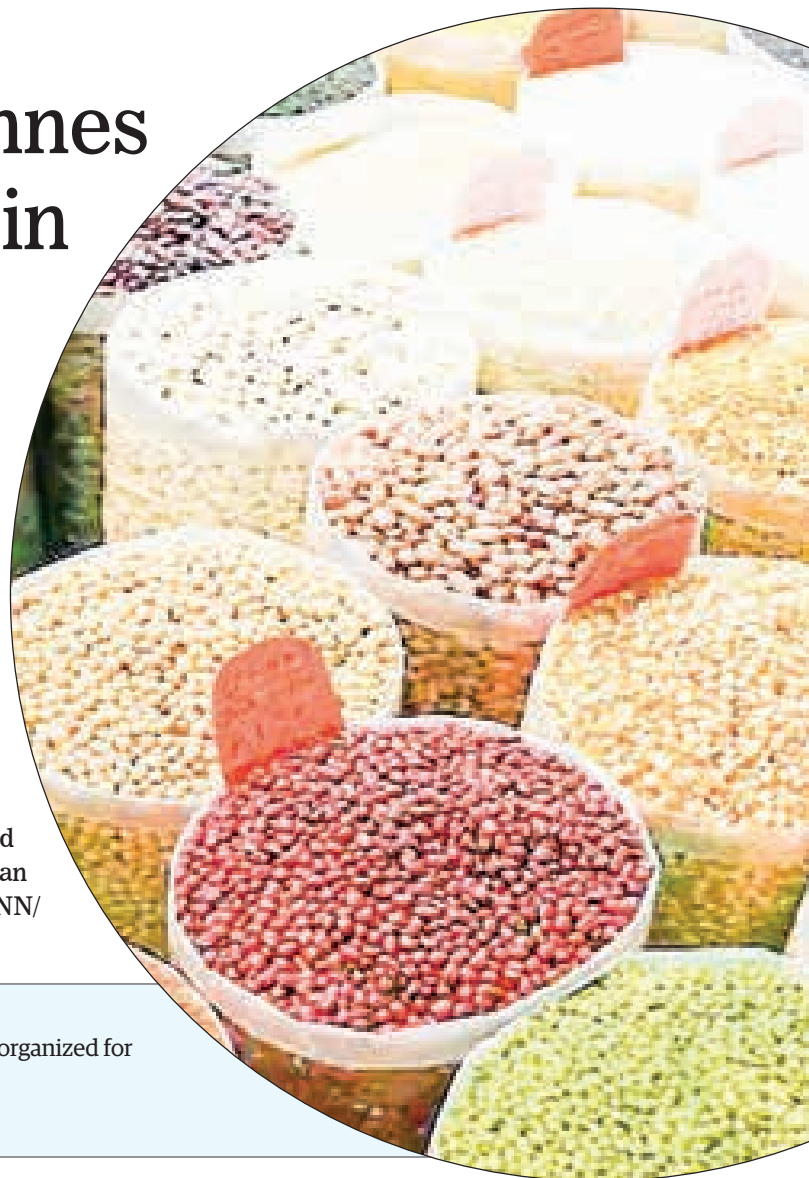
to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

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

Myanmar's black gram out-

put 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



Beans and pulses are well-organized for market sale.

## 27 freighters serve Mandalay trade routes in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> week

THE statistics of Mandalay's Department of Marine Administration showed that 27 cargo vessels sailed to Yangon, Bhamo and other cities between 10 and 19 June, with loads of over 7,170 tonnes of cement, over 12,590 tonnes of maize, 350 cubic feet of peb-

ble bags of lime.

Last month, 93 freighters were reported to depart Mandalay Port to transport the goods, the department's statistics indicated.

The Department of Marine Administration warned the vessel operators of over-

loading as the eddies have been formed in first Ayeyawady defile from the second week of June. They urged them to tailor marine safety management based on size and cargo and navigate with extreme caution. — TWA/KK



Workers are loading cargo bags onto the vessel at Mandalay Port.

## MLF to hold dairy dialogue to promote milk consumption on 28 June

THE Myanmar Livestock Federation will organize a Dairy Dialogue: Improve Small Dairy Farming — Promote Milk Consumption on 28 June at the Yangon Convention Centre inside the Inya Lake hotel compound.

Myanmar Dairy Association under Myanmar Livestock Federation will hold co-located trade fairs, AgriTech2024 and Food and Beverage Myanmar/HoReCa Myanmar on 28-30 June at YCC and set up the Dairy Dialogue, with a view to reporting the situation and outlook on Myanmar's dairy farming sector, improving small dairy farming and inviting suggestions for the

development of the industry, raising awareness on food safety in dairy chain and promote milk and dairy products to consumers after realizing its nutrient value.

Moderator Dr Thet Khaing will facilitate the dialogue in which experts (Dr Khin Hlaing, chair of Myanmar Dairy Association and Dr Yan Naing Soe, dairy nutritionist, and Dr Win Htun Shein, a founder of Lifestyle Clinic Myanmar) will present their views.

Dairy farmers, producers, consumers and interested individuals are also encouraged to participate in the dialogue. — NN/KK

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# OPINION

## Provide compassionate support to orphans

**T**HE number of orphans is increasing annually as conflicts and wars continue to displace people worldwide. Various factors, including military, political, and territorial disputes, bullying, abuse, and narcotics drive these conflicts.

Records indicate that 27 conflicts and wars are ongoing globally, predominantly in Africa and Asia. These regions are plagued by internal armed conflicts and territorial disputes, which invariably result in negative societal impacts, leaving behind orphans and individuals with disabilities.

Children often become orphans due to various circumstances during wars. Without care and support, these orphans endure severe hardships, living as the poorest among war refugees. UNICEF estimates that out of the world's 2.2 billion children, approximately 150 million are orphans due to political crises, with 17.6 million having lost both parents.

That is why it is necessary to avoid conflicts, wars and racial disputes, which produce millions of orphans worldwide. These wars and conflicts disintegrate families, leaving the children with disabilities. Hence, the world loses the human resources of new generations. As such, everybody needs to give loving-kindness and warmth to all children who lost their futures in the wars and conflicts.

for 40 per cent of all deaths in the region.

In summary, the rise in the number of orphans due to conflicts and wars calls for immediate attention and action. Ensuring their basic needs and providing educational opportunities are essential steps towards giving them a hopeful future. Governments and relevant authorities must prioritize health and social care for these vulnerable children, as they are innocent victims of circumstances beyond their control. By extending loving-kindness and support, society can help orphans navigate through their hardships and work towards a better future.

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In Myanmar, children under 18 are typically under parental care, receiving food, clothing, and shelter as basic necessities. While death is a natural part of life, wartime losses are particularly tragic. Orphans, in such situations, face significant challenges, including disrupted education and daily struggles for food, clothing, and shelter. Many also suffer from physical disabilities due to the conflicts.

These orphans, deprived of educational opportunities, are left without future aspirations. It is crucial for authorities to address their basic needs and ensure they have access to education. Children or orphans do not cause wars, yet they bear the brunt of the consequences. Therefore, governments must implement plans to provide health and social care for children from war-affected areas. UNICEF reports that by late November last year, over 5,300 children had died in Gaza, accounting



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### Ma Hla Bemai Hlabadai Hnint Lekywezin Wuthtudomya

SAYAMA Mya Thae (Research) is a columnist for The Global New Light of Myanmar, who is not only contributing articles to the newspaper but also composing poems. Her mother is Shwe Myaing Thabyay Nyo, who contributed the articles to the newspapers in those days. With the proper guidance of her mother, she started with the ornate pieces of aesthetic writing in her youth. Her first work was published in the well-known magazine called Sandar in 1985. This short story is titled 'Pyonethuhmar Myet-yayzadwenai'. Encouraged by the editor of Sandar Magazine, she continued to write research articles under the pen name, 'Mya Thiri'. When she tried her pen to

write the novels, she used another pen name called Htake Htar Oo. This book under review is a collection of 10 short stories, which are said to be based on true stories. Some of her stories deal with parental love, while some depict the sacrificing spirit of the noble teachers. Additionally, there are love stories that involve affection, passion, and romance, which the partners keep towards each other.

The first story is titled 'Mi Oo Pha Oo'. This is a tragic story in which the members of the family neglected the ailing mother who was suffering from a chronic disease. The whole family ate first, and only after everybody had eaten did they feed the sick mother

the remnants. Matter-of-factly, family members could afford the good food. As the ill mom had to take the medicines after meals as prescribed by the physician, she had to wait for a long time very often with the result that she could not swallow the tablets at regular intervals. Obviously, this is not good for the improvement of her health. When the family members dined out, she was left at home, and when they brought the fried chicken from the food shop, they did not leave any piece of fried chicken behind for her. They thought that she only deserved the sour soup cooked at home. There was another family whose members did not eat until their parents returned home. Two

sisters in that family always waited for the return of their parents. Only when all the members were there did they eat. One day, when their home coach arrived at lunchtime, her students did not eat, waiting for their parents to return. The teacher insisted on them eating, but they did not eat, saying that it was the teacher who had told them not to eat before the parents. The writer has compared the two families. Another story worth reading is the story titled, 'Ma Hla Bemai Hlabadai'. This story is about the relationship between the teacher and her students from a village school in Mingaladon in Yangon. She is from downtown Yangon, but she takes the trouble of walking in the mud to reach the school. She is welcomed by her pupils with the flowers laid on her table. Naturally, she chooses only one from among the flowers to wear on her head, only saddening the rest of the students because their flowers are not worn by their new teacher.

At last, she wears all the flowers to please all the students. This story depicts the love shown by the teacher and her pupils towards one another. As the title suggests, although the teacher is not beautiful, she keeps a beautiful mind.



Book Title - Short Stories of Somerset Maugham  
Translator - Kyaw Aung  
Publishing House - Mahar  
Publication Date - April 2024 (4th Edition)  
Price - K12,000

### Short Stories of Somerset Maugham

IT is said that Edgar Allan Poe, an American writer, first started the short stories. He was born on 19 January 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts, in the United States of America and died on 7 October 1849 in Baltimore, Maryland. He is an American short-story writer, poet, critic and editor who is famous for his cultivation of mystery and macabre. According to him, a short story must be short enough for one to finish reading in a sitting, and there must be only one topic of focus. He said the events do not count. What matters is the point the writer would like to make. Additionally, his presentation is essential. Based on the message he would

like to give, the writer creates the storyline.

The writer also quoted a Russian writer named Anton Chekhov, who was born on 29 January 1860 and died on 15 July 1904. He is not only a short-story writer but also a playwright. According to Chekhov, there is no beginning or ending in a short story. We cannot make a rule that there must be a commencement and a finish in a short story. However, there is a rule, he said. If a gun is hung on the wall in the sitting room at the beginning of a story, the story should not end with the weapon unused.

William Somerset Maugham is different. He said,

"Should the character of a person be peculiar, and should I feel that it would be good to create a story based on his characters, I write a story about him. Sometimes, an unexpected event arises in a special circumstance because of a person's mindset. His mentality has stimulated me to write because such a mindset is not usual, and such an event is unprecedented. As long as an event is exceptional, I will be inspired to write about the mentality that caused such an unusual event."

The book under review is a collection of 15 comedies and tragedies translated by a great translator named Saya Kyaw Aung. The stories of Somerset

Maugham are always the best throughout the history of literature, providing examples for those who would try their pen to imitate or follow his line of writing. The story titled 'Shwe Pyitzone' is always a good story in which the islanders were salvaged and sent before God. There was another character who helped human beings express their will and desire. And the ending of the story is rather thrilling.

Another story worth reading is Pa-ywetseik Ne Hnan Gaung. That is a satirical story that goes against traditional thinking. The story is about two German soldiers who have arrived at a village where they meet with a French school teacher. They ask for some liquor, and under the influence of liquor, one of them rapes the French school teacher. When she is pregnant, the rapist German says that he will marry her to be the father of the child. Nevertheless, the French woman rejects his responsible offer, saying that the rapist can do only physical harm to her, but he will never be able to conquer her undaunted spirit. This story has a tragic ending.

### Flowers and Literature

By Zaw Gyi  
Translated by Myint Zan

variety of flowers  
the buds blossom  
when they are ready  
as they would and in time

ပန်းမျိုးရယ်စုံ ငုံ့ရာမှပွင့်ဖူး  
အချိန်တန် အရန်သင့်  
လန်းပွင့်ဘို့ဖူး။

likewise  
'tis the case with life and literature  
based on a good heart and thoughts  
awareness, concentration and knowledge  
only thru imaginative creativity  
will the synchronicity between life  
and literature be achieved

ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်မှာစာပေနှင့်ဘဝ  
စိတ်ကောင်းအခြေခံ၍  
အတွေးအခြေခံ၍  
သတိအခြေခံ၍  
အသိအခြေခံ၍  
စိတ်ကူးညွှတ်မွမ်းမံတတ်ပါမှ  
ဟပ်မိမည်ပဲ။

Composed in the vernacular on 15 March 1979  
Translated on 15 June 2024

ဇော်ဂျီ  
၁၅-၃-၁၉၇၉

### MAN AND FISH

By Thu Ya Zaw

Baiting a fish hook with a worm,  
In a pond at the edge of the farm.  
Firmly holding the fishing rod,  
The sitting angler is feeling hot.

ဧရာ နို့ ဇါး  
ငါးဖျားချိတ် အစာတပ်  
လယ်ကွင်းစပ် ရေအိုင်။  
ကိုင်းတံကို ကိုင်ကာမြ  
ခွဲလို သူလိုင်း။

Which fish will come to snap  
Vying with perseverance and zest  
Dreaming a haul of fish to get.

ဘယ်ငါး ဘယ်လိုဟပ်မလဲ  
စွဲကပ်လို့ အားဖြင့်  
ငါးတစ်နိုင် ရမည်မှတ်။

Even the dusk has fallen  
Till the darkness comes, then  
But the water is solely still  
No fish has come for the lure of thrill.

တစ်နေ ညှိုးပါလို့  
မှူးချုပ်ရယ် နေဝင်ထိ  
ရေပြင်မှာ ငြိမ်ပေသား  
ငါးကမဟာ။

သူရဇော်  
'ကဗျာစိန်ပွင့်' စာအုပ်မှ

Translated by Maung Swe Ngae

### Body without soul

By Chit Ko Pe

Getting firmly anchored,  
my body is where  
I work here or there.

နာမ်မဲ့ရုပ်  
သွားလာခြေကုပ်  
အလုပ်လုပ်  
ငါ၏အရုပ် ဒီမှာငုပ်။

My soul is quietly absent  
dwelling on someone else  
without being invited.

လှမ်းခေါ်မဖိတ်  
သို့သို့သိပ်  
ငါ၏နာမ်စိတ် သူ့ဆီချိတ်။

ချစ်ကိုဇေ

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The image shows artistes of 'Atta Kanbar'.

## Production process of new movie 'Atta Kanbar' launched

THE launching ceremony of the 'Atta Kanbar (at the Edge of Ego) movie made by Mya Nan Taw Win Film Production was organized at Shwephonepwint pagoda in Pazundaung Township, Yangon, on 20 June, according to Academy May Myint Mo.


The story and plot were created by Nya Hmway Pan and Ngwe Sin Thoon, and director Hein Soe will direct the movie.

"This is my very first movie with Saya Hein Soe. In this movie, I will partake in an egocentric girl character and take revenge on those I am not satisfied with. I have never starred in such a kind of movie. I think that it might be a cool character," said academy May Myint Mo.

The stars are Shin Mway La, academy May Myint Mo, Wai Larri, Khine Hnin Wai and other artistes. — ASH/KTZH


**Chit San Maung**

CHIT SAN MAUNG, a key player of the Iron Cross band, established his own studio in addition to playing guitar. In regard to the studio, on 20 June, he posted on his Facebook that the recording studio made profits only in the 1990s, like U Ba Thein, Lynn, May, Oasis and Studio D. "I think we should suspend it except for essential bands. We don't want to ask for a large amount of service fees. It is suitable to be a mixing engineer by playing guitar."




**Naw Naw**

SINGER Naw Naw and Blaze Band organized a fundraising entertainment event for the rehabilitation of young drug abusers. Famous singers, such as Htoo L Lin, Thar Dee Lu, Sein Lin, Nya Lin Htel, and others, participated in the event. Singer Naw Naw said, "The youths should do religious activities and heed their parents if they want to succeed in their lives. Children become spoilt due to their parents."



**Htoo Mon**

ACADEMY HTOO MON took Daw Thu Zar's character in the 'Yenantha Khin Khin Gyi' movie currently being broadcast on MRTV 4. The actress also made positive comments to other artistes regarding their costumes and makeup looks.



**Soe Myat Thu Zar**

Actress Soe Myat Thu Zar starred in the 'Shel Awlan' movie directed by director Ko Zaw (Aryon Oo), taking the role of a taxi driver and single mother of two children. She sang a Rap song. "The director and colleagues wanted me to sing Rap songs, so I sang the song composed by Nay Win. I feel satisfied if female drivers get motivated by seeing the movie in which I drive a taxi," said the actress.



### Khine Hnin Wai

FAMOUS supporting actress Khine Hnin Wai made comments regarding the 'Mi Tin Sein' movie, saying all artistes starring in the film due to their love for the arts regardless of their roles. "I feel sad as the scenes I starred in were deleted. If we have a good chance to show off our skills, we can expect an Academy Award," she said. She also made positive comments about Moe Hay Ko, who took Mi Tin Sein's character.

## Celebrity Brief



### Wine Su Khine Thein

SINGER and actress Wine Su Khine Thein organized her 'One Lady Show' at the Square Theatre Bar in Mandalay on 15 June. The event was featured by the Hi Bird band and famous singers He Lay, Snare (Nay Win & Phyo Lay), A Lin Yang, Thar Thar, Zwe Pyae and Sai Sai Kham Leng as special guest. The singer also thanked her fans for their full support and participation. — Htun Htun/KTZH

## SUMMARIES: WORLD

### Ecuador starts building prison for narco bosses

ECUADOR on Friday began building an 800-person maximum security prison that will house the most dangerous drug lords in the country which has declared war against organized crime.

Once-peaceful Ecuador has been brought to its knees by transnational cartels that use its ports to ship cocaine to the United States and Europe, and have spread shocking levels of violence in the country.

The country's prisons have become the nerve centre for the gangs, with more than 460 inmates killed in three years in bloody narco wars. The January jailbreak of a major drug lord, who is still on the run, led to a spasm of violence that prompted President Daniel Noboa to declare a state of "internal armed conflict". — AFP

### Moscow pledges 'adequate' response if US closes Russian visa centre

MOSCOW will undertake relevant responsive measures if the United States implements a decision on closing the Russian visa centre in the US, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova told Sputnik on Saturday.

"In case such measures are implemented, the Russian side will give an adequate response," Zakharova said, commenting on the US decision to close the Russian visa centre. Earlier in the day, Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov told reporters that the US had notified Russian diplomats that both offices of the Russian visa center in the US — in Washington and New York — were closing. — SPUTNIK

### Australian authorities arrest 15 over alleged illegal fishing on Indonesian vessels

AUSTRALIAN authorities have arrested 15 foreign fishers and seized two Indonesian vessels over alleged illegal fishing activity off the country's north coast.

The Australian Border Force (ABF) and Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) on Saturday said it detected and apprehended the Indonesian vessels allegedly fishing illegally on Tuesday in the vicinity of Deliverance Island in the Torres Strait between Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG). The crews were transported to Darwin, capital of Australia's Northern Territory (NT), and placed in detention while the matter is being investigated and prosecution considered. — Xinhua

## IAEA will be informed about new Ukrainian attack on Energodar

*Yevgenia Yashina, spokesperson for the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), informed that Ukrainian troops have launched a new attack on key energy infrastructure in Energodar, a satellite city of Zaporozhye.*

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will be informed about a new attack by Ukrainian troops on the key energy infrastructure of Energodar, a satellite city of the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, ZNPP spokeswoman Yevgenia Yashina told Sputnik.

"We will bring information about the new attack on the substation and the city to the IAEA inspectors. We will also invite them to assess the scale and extent of destruction themselves, as soon as it is safe," Yashina said.

She further noticed there are chances to restore the transformer at the Raduga substation in Energodar, which was attacked by the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

"Specialists went to the site to assess the damage. There are chances to restore the damaged transformer at the substation, but it will take time," Yashina said.

Earlier reports said that on Friday evening the Armed Forces of Ukraine carried out a drone strike on the Raduga



An aerial view shows the spray pounds at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

substation, the only one supplying Energodar; a transformer was damaged. Most of the city was left without electricity and water. Prior to this, the Ukrainian army used drones to completely destroy the Luch substation.

The Zaporozhye Nuclear Power

Plant is located on the left bank of the Dneper near the city of Energodar. This is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe in terms of the number of units and installed capacity - the station has six power units with a capacity of 1 gigawatt each. — SPUTNIK

## NASA faces \$80,000 claim after space debris hit family home

*The incident underscores the growing issue of space debris alongside increasing space traffic, with implications for future claims.*



NASA's science programmes encompass a diverse array of missions aimed at studying Earth, the solar system, and the universe beyond. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO/ PIXABAY**

AN American family is claiming more than \$80,000 from NASA after a small piece of debris fell from space and smashed through the roof of their Florida home, a law firm said Friday.

The problem of space trash has risen in tandem with

increased spatial traffic, and NASA's response could set a precedent for how future claims are handled, law firm Cranfill Sumner said in a statement.

On 8 March, the object weighing just 700 grammes hit Alejandro Otero's home in Naples, Florida, making a hole in the roof.

NASA later confirmed it was part of a cargo pallet of used batteries that was released from the International Space Station as waste in 2021.

Instead of fully disintegrating before falling to Earth, a section remained intact when it reentered the atmosphere, the US space agency said.

Otero's son was at the house at the moment of impact, according to the law firm, which said that NASA has six months to respond to its claim.

"My clients are seeking adequate compensation to account for the stress and impact that this event had on their lives," said lawyer Mica Nguyen Worthy.

"They are grateful that no one sustained physical injuries from this incident, but a 'near miss' situation such as this could have been catastrophic. — AFP



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Japan PM says new inflation-relief steps to be drawn up around fall

*As part of the relief plan, the government intends to reinstate support to help households manage electricity and gas expenses from August to October, a period typically marked by increased summer energy demand.*



Tokyo Gas Co, Ltd, founded in 1885, is the primary provider of natural gas to the main cities of Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Yamanashi, and Nagano. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/TOKYO GAS**

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida said Friday that the government will compile fresh inflation relief steps around this fall, providing cash handouts to low-income households struggling to weather the cost-of-living crisis.

The aid will come on top of government subsidies that Kishida also vowed to retain to cut household utility bills.

Rising prices have weighed heavily on consumers despite his emphasis on wealth redistribution via pay hikes.

The announcement came as Kishida has been scrambling to shore up public support for his Cabinet amid growing voter frustration over his handling of a political funds scandal and the inflation-hit economy.

The premier, who also heads the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, has so far dismissed speculation that he will soon dissolve the lower house for a snap election.

Under the plan unveiled by Kishida, the government will reinstate support to curb electricity and gas bills for households between August and October, when summer-related energy demand tends to increase.

Government subsidies provided to oil wholesalers to limit the rise in retail gasoline prices will remain until the end of the year.

Kishida stressed the need for government support to reach the vulnerable, such as households living on pensions and small firms.

He did not specify how the envisaged cash handouts and other measures will be funded, but a government source said it will consider compiling a supplementary budget for the current business year ending next March. — Kyodo

## Germany's coalition in impasse over 2025 budget

THE three parties in the German government are locked in a bitter dispute over the 2025 budget, with experts warning the stalemate could be the final straw for the uneasy coalition.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD), the Greens and the liberal FDP, who came to power in 2021, have until 3 July, the end of the current parliamentary term, to reach a compromise.

FDP Finance Minister Christian Lindner, a fiscal hawk, is demanding close to 30 billion euros (\$32 billion) in savings — which the Greens and SPD have balked at.

The coalition has faced many rows in the past but some pundits believe this could be the one that finally blows the government apart.

"These talks will decide the coalition's continued presence in office," said the Sueddeutsche Zeitung daily this week.

While budget discussions have been difficult before, they have never lasted this long.

"It's much more difficult than usual," Jacques-Pierre Gougeon, an expert on German politics at the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs, told AFP. — AFP

## Peru nearly doubles top port's capacity with Emirati investment

PERU'S president on Thursday hailed a \$400 million investment by Emirati logistics firm DP World that will see the country's main port, El Callao near the capital Lima, nearly double its capacity.

"This work demonstrates that Peru is a reliable country for foreign investment," President Dina Boluarte said at a ceremony inaugurating the upgraded port.

Callao, which will be able to simultaneously receive two ships up to 400 metres (1,300 feet) long, will have the largest capacity on the western coast of the South Pacific, DP World's Peru and Ecuador chief executive Carlos Merino told AFP at the ceremony. "This investment will create opportunities for new trade routes. We want to connect all markets in the world in faster and smarter ways," company CEO Ahmed Bin Sulayem said at Thursday's event. — AFP

## Russia's Kazan hosts BRICS+ Cities Forum

*Scheduled over three days, the forum aims to address various mutual interests, primarily focusing on the establishment of the Association of Cities and Municipalities of the BRICS+ countries.*

PARTICIPANTS will deal with a raft of issues of mutual interest, including work of the Association of Cities and Municipalities of the BRICS+ members, a new organization established within the forum's framework.

At least 200 mayors from 21 countries will take part in the International Forum of Cities of the BRICS+ countries, which opens on Friday in Kazan, the capital of the Russian Republic of Tatarstan.

The opening ceremony will see Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov address participants via a video link.

The three-day forum will be

attended by the heads of city governments from such countries as China, India, South Africa, Brazil, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Türkiye, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Argentina, Chile, Morocco, Indonesia, and Mexico.

The agenda includes a discussion on the creation of a new international organization, the Association of Cities and Municipalities of the BRICS+ countries. Participants will hold its Founding Assembly, elect a leader, determine the location of the headquarters, and outline a work plan. — SPUTNIK



The Kazanka Park of Farmers in Kazan, viewed from the observation point at the Kremlin, will be the backdrop for the International Economic Forum hosted in Kazan. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

## 200 mln tonnes of rare metal rocks found in seabed off Japan island

A Japanese survey team, including the Nippon Foundation and the University of Tokyo, announced the discovery of over 200 million tonnes of manganese nodules in the deep sea near Japan's easternmost island within its exclusive economic zone.

OVER 200 million tonnes of manganese nodules, seabed mineral concretions rich in rare metals, have been found densely packed in the deep sea off the coast of Japan's easternmost island within its exclusive economic zone, a Japanese survey team said Friday.

The team involving the Nippon Foundation and the University of Tokyo plans to begin trial mining of the nodules found off Minamitori Island, which also contain significant quantities of cobalt and nickel, from 2025 with the aim of commercialization.

"These resources are crucial for economic security. We aim to lift three million tonnes annually, proceeding with development while minimizing the impact on the marine environment," Yasuhiro Kato, a professor specializing in resource geology at the university, said at a press conference.

A survey of over 100 seabed sites by the team conducted between April and June this year, using a remotely operated vehicle at a depth of 5,200 to 5,700 metres, confirmed the highly dense field of around 230 million tonnes of manganese nodules

over an area of approximately 10,000 square kilometres.

Manganese nodules,

which contain rare metals such as cobalt and nickel,

typically range from five to several tens of centimetres in diameter and are believed to have formed over millions of years as metals transported in the ocean attach themselves to nuclei such as fish bones on the seabed.

Based on an analysis of samples collected, the team estimates the deposit contains around 610,000 tonnes of cobalt, enough to support Japan's consumption for approximately 75 years, and around 740,000 tonnes of nickel, equivalent to around 11 years of domestic consumption. — Kyodo



Manganese nodules lifted from the deep seabed. PHOTO: THE NIPPON FOUNDATION / KYODO

## India's gold demand cools post-festival as prices surge and RBI hits record reserves

The World Gold Council has recently reported on India's gold market, noting a decline in demand after a period of increased buying during festivals.

THE World Gold Council has released its latest update on India's gold market, highlighting a period of subdued demand following the festival-driven surge in purchases.

According to WGC press release, despite this pause, the gold market remains robust with significant movements in prices, imports, and investor activity.

Global and domestic gold prices have shown remarkable resilience, extending their gains and posting a 12 per cent increase year-to-date.

After reaching an all-time high in mid-May, international gold prices saw a minor correction but still closed the month with a 1 per cent increase, settling at USD 2,343 per ounce.

This upward trend continued into early



Both global and domestic gold prices have demonstrated resilience, continuing to rise with a substantial 12 per cent increase year-to-date. PHOTO: ANI

June, with prices adjusting slightly to US\$ 2,317 per ounce due to a stronger-than-expected jobs report in the US and a pause in gold purchases by the People's Bank of China (PBoC).

In India, the demand

for gold experienced a surge during the Akshaya Tritiya festival on 10 May, traditionally an auspicious day for purchasing gold.

However, this momentum was short-lived as the market experi-

enced a significant drop in demand post-festival.

The rise in gold prices to record levels in mid-May further dampened interest, especially during the usual low-demand period from mid-May to July. — ANI

### SUMMARIES: BIZ

#### Boeing may avoid criminal charges over violations: report

THE US Department of Justice is considering a deal with Boeing that would avoid criminal prosecution of the aerospace giant but may appoint a federal supervisor to oversee company progress on safety improvements, The New York Times reported Friday.

People familiar with the discussions told the daily that the terms of the possible alternative settlement, known as a deferred prosecution agreement, or DPA, are still subject to change.

A DOJ official involved in the case, Glenn Leon, chief of the fraud section criminal division, said in an email to a civil party lawyer seen by AFP that the department "has not made a decision" on the path it will take with respect to Boeing. — AFP

#### Barcelona aims to become Airbnb-free zone by 2029

BARCELONA, one of Europe's most visited cities, said Friday it aims to ban apartment rentals to tourists by 2029 to ease the housing shortage in Spain's second largest city.

The licences for the 10,101 apartments currently approved as short-term rentals which are available on platforms such as Airbnb and Homeaway will not be renewed when they expire in November 2028, Barcelona's leftist mayor, Jaume Collboni, told a news conference. — AFP



# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

## India introduces e-medical visas

22 JUNE

**PRIME** Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will introduce e-medical visas for Bangladeshi nationals seeking medical treatment in India.

Additionally, a new Indian consulate will be established in Rangpur, Bangladesh, to serve the region's residents.

PM Modi and PM Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh addressed the media after their meeting at Hyderabad House,

highlighting the importance of their frequent engagements over the past year.

Modi emphasized Bangladesh's significance in India's neighbourhood and Act East policies, as well as collaborative developmental efforts.

He also extended best wishes to both countries' cricket teams ahead of their T20 World Cup Super 8 match. — ANI

ILLUSTRATION: LIFELINE HOSPITAL

21 JUNE

### Bridge the gap

**QATAR** is working to mediate between Israel and Hamas to establish a ceasefire in Gaza and secure the release of Israeli hostages.

Qatar said Friday it was pursuing efforts to "bridge the gap" between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and release Israeli hostages held there.

The Gulf emirate, the United States and Egypt, have been engaged in months of negotiations for a ceasefire in the Isra-

el-Hamas war that erupted on 7 October.

There has been one seven-day pause in November which led to the release of more than 100 hostages. Efforts since have been deadlocked.

"We have continued our efforts without interruption over the last few days," Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani told a news conference in Madrid with Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares. — AFP

20 JUNE

### Enhanced strategic partnership

**VIETNAM** and Russia signed multiple cooperation documents and agreed to further deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership on Thursday during Russian President Vladimir Putin's state visit to Vietnam, Vietnam News Agency reported.

During the visit, Putin talked with his Vietnamese counterpart To Lam and both witnessed the signing of the multiple bilateral cooperation documents in the fields including education and judiciary.

At a press briefing, Lam said both sides had agreed to further enhance high-level exchanges and promote bilateral trade and investment, according to the Vietnam News Agency.

On Thursday, Putin also met and talked with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, and Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam Tran Thanh Man, respectively. — Xinhua

19 JUNE

### Upholding physician training

**SOUTH** Korea's highest court rejected on Wednesday a request by medical students and doctors to halt a government plan to train more physicians, while senior medics have joined a months-long strike.

Thousands of trainee doctors stopped working on 20 February, protesting against government plans to increase medical school quotas.

The ongoing strike has caused disruptions in hospitals and forced delays or cancellations of key treatments, including chemotherapy.

Last month, the government finalized an admission quota hike of around 1,500 for medical schools for 2025, which it says will tackle shortages

of doctors and a rapidly ageing population.

Senior doctors at the country's key medical institution, the Seoul National University Hospital, as well as its branches, began an indefinite walkout on Monday in response to the plan.

A lower court ruled in favour of the government in May, and the Supreme Court upheld that decision and dismissed the doctors' and students' request on Wednesday.

If the reform is "halted in a situation where there is a forecast of a shortage of doctors in the future", it may cause "significant disruption to the increase in medical school quotas, which plays a crucial role in public health", the Supreme Court said. — AFP

18 JUNE

### Politically motivated crimes

A record number of politically motivated crimes occurred in Germany last year, fuelled partly by global events including the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, according to a report published on Tuesday.

Authorities registered 60,028 politically motivated offences in 2023, up from 58,916 the previous year, the report from Germany's domestic intelligence agency said. Around 25,660 of the crimes were committed by right-wing extremists, an increase of 22.4 per cent from 2022. Crimes committed by left-wing extremists rose by 10.4 per cent, though their number was much smaller at 4,248.

There was also a surge in anti-Semitic crimes, which jumped to 492 from just 33 the previous year.

The vast majority were committed after 7 October 2023, when an unprecedented Hamas attack on Israel triggered a relentless Israeli military offensive on Gaza. — AFP

17 JUNE

### Decreasing military footprint

**FRANCE** is planning to reduce its military presence in West and Central Africa to around 600 troops in line with President Emmanuel Macron's plans to limit the French military footprint in the region, three sources told AFP.

In February 2023, President Macron announced a significant reduction of French troops in Africa amidst rising anti-French sentiment in former colonies and increased competition from countries like Russia.

The plan, developed in consultation with African partners, aims to scale back French "pre-positioned" forces across several nations. For instance, troop numbers will drop to approximately 100 in Gabon and Senegal from current levels of 350 each, and to around 100 in Ivory Coast from 600, and 300 in Chad from 1,000. The decision reflects a shift in strategy following political changes in African nations previously hosting substantial French military presence. — AFP

16 JUNE

### Nuclear arms spending surge

**NUCLEAR-ARMED** countries hiked spending on atomic weapons arsenals by a third in the past five years as they modernized their stockpiles amid growing geopolitical tensions, two reports showed on Monday.

The world's nine nuclear-armed states jointly spent \$91 billion on their arsenals last year, according to a new report from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

That report, and a separate one from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), indicated that nuclear weapons states are dramatically scaling up spending as they modernise and even deploy new nuclear-armed weapons.

"I think it is fair to say there is a nuclear arms race under way," ICAN chief Melissa Parke told AFP. — AFP

# SPORTS



The 2023-2024 Myanmar National League tournament in action. **PHOTO: MNL**

## 2024-25 MNL tourney to follow international calendar

THE 2024-2025 Myanmar National League will be held for the first time in accordance with the International Football Calendar, as stated by the MNL committee.

A total of 12 local football clubs will participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> Myanmar National League, which will be held for eight months from 6 July 2024 to 16 February 2025. The Myanmar National League Committee released the fixtures for the tourney on 20 June.

Yangon United will face Rakhine United, while Dagon Star United will take on Thitsa Arman United in the opening matches of the domestic tournament. — TWA/KZL

## New fixtures set for Myanmar, India friendly match



Myanmar women players are competing with U-15 and U-16 boys' teams from the National Football Academy (Yangon) on 21 June 2024. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE dates of the friendlies between the Myanmar women's national team and the Indian women's national team have been changed and will be held on 9 and 12 July.

The Myanmar Football Federation previously announced that the friendly match would be held on 10 and 13 July, but the first match was changed to 9 July, and the second match was moved to 12 July.

Both of the friendlies will be played at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. The Myanmar national women's team is made up of 30 preliminary players, managed by Japanese national Yuki as the head coach.

Team Myanmar also tested with U-15 and U-16 boys' teams from the National Football Academy (Yangon) on 21 June in preparation for the upcoming friendly matches against team India. The Myanmar women's squad played 30 minutes in four sections for the training matches against boy's squads. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Simons goal against France should have stood: Koeman

*In a highly anticipated Euro 2024 group stage match, Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman expressed that Xavi Simons' disallowed goal against France should have counted.*



Xavi Simons thought he had scored the winning goal for the Netherlands against France. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman said Xavi Simons' disallowed goal against France should have stood, but that a 0-0 draw in Leipzig was a fair result.

One of the most anticipated matches of the group stage at Euro 2024 failed to live up to expectation without the presence of Kylian Mbappe

on Friday.

The France captain sat out the entire match from the bench after breaking his nose in Monday's 1-0 win over Austria.

Les Bleus still enjoyed the better of the chances as Antoine Griezmann missed two great opportunities.

But the biggest talking

point came 18 minutes from time when Simons lashed in the rebound after Mike Maignan saved from Memphis Depay.

After a lengthy delay for a VAR check, the goal was ruled out for offside as Denzel Dumfries was adjudged to be interfering with Maignan's ability to stop the shot.

"I think the position of Dumfries is offside but he isn't disturbing the goalkeeper. When that happens it is a legal goal in my opponent," said Koeman.

"Also you need five minutes to check it? I don't understand this." A point edges both sides towards qualification for the last 16.

The Netherlands remain top of Group D on four points, ahead of France only on goals scored with one game remaining. — AFP

## Shibuno 2 shots off lead at Women's PGA Championship

JAPANESE golfer Hinako Shibuno shot her second consecutive 2-under 70 on Friday to sit two strokes off the pace in a three-way tie for third at the midway point of the Women's PGA Championship.

Shibuno, who finished alone in second behind Yuka Saso at the US Women's Open earlier this month, had four birdies and two bogeys at Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, just east of Seattle.

Sarah Schmelzel of the United States and South Korea's Amy Yang shared the lead at 6 under after rounds of 67 and 68, respectively.

Shibuno began her round with

three straight birdies from the 10<sup>th</sup> hole but was unable to keep things going.

"Today's score is a bit disappointing, especially after I started like a rocket," the 25-year-old said. "But I had some lucky moments, too. Things were quite dramatic throughout the 18 holes." — Kyodo







An Inuit hunter of polar bears displays a polar bear pelt outside his residence in Ittoqqortoormiit, Greenland. **PHOTO: OLIVIER MORIN / AFP**

## On thin ice: Greenland's last Inuit polar bear hunters

*What was once a year-round activity on solid winter ice has now been reduced to a brief hunting season during the summer months. This is because the ice is thinnest during this time, making hunting safer and more feasible.*

**I**N the remote Greenlandic village of Ittoqqortoormiit, nestled along the expansive Scoresby Sound, traditional Inuit hunting practices are both a way of life and a fading art.

Hjelmer Hammeken, a legendary figure among Green-

land's hunters, epitomizes this ancient way of survival in a changing world.

Hammeken's skill and prowess as a polar bear hunter, honed over five decades, once symbolized the prosperity of Ittoqqortoormiit's hunters during the

"golden age" when polar bear skins fetched high prices abroad.

However, since the imposition of hunting quotas in 2005 due to declining polar bear populations, life has become increasingly uncertain for the community.

Climate change exacerbates

their challenges, with Arctic ice retreating rapidly and altering traditional hunting patterns. What was once a year-round activity on solid winter ice has dwindled to a brief hunting season during the summer months when the ice is thinnest.

For younger hunters like Martin Madsen, the transition is stark. Raised in a lineage of hunters, Madsen reflects on how the quotas and international embargoes have reduced their once lucrative trade to a precarious livelihood. — AFP



A replica of the house where late Brazilian football legend Pele was born in the southeastern city of Tres Coracoes. **PHOTO: DOUGLAS MAGNO / AFP**

## Mother of Brazil's football giant Pele dies at 101

CELESTE ARANTES, the mother of Brazilian football legend Pele, has died aged 101, outliving her famous son by 18 months, the family announced Friday.

Arantes was 17 when she gave birth to her first child on 23 October 1940, a baby who would grow up to be the man widely considered the greatest footballer of all time.

"Rest in peace, grandma," Pele's eldest son Edinho wrote on Instagram, a message illustrated with a photo of him hugging his grandmother.

No details were given on the cause of

death. According to local media Arantes had been hospitalized for eight days and died on Friday.

At the time of her son's death, family members said Arantes had cognitive difficulties and was unaware her world-famous son had died.

Arantes, who married Pele's father, Joao Ramos do Nascimento, at the age of 16, also had another son, Jair, who died in 2020 of cancer, the same illness that claimed Pele's life.

A stay-at-home mother, she dedicated her life to caring for her children.—AFP

## New Zealanders seek stronger connections with Asia: survey

*The survey, conducted annually by the Asia New Zealand Foundation, highlights increasing interest in Asia among New Zealanders, particularly the younger demographic.*

**N**ew Zealanders see Asia a high-priority region for engagement, according to a survey released on Friday.

Asia remains the second most important region to New Zealand's future after Australia, said the Asia New Zealand Foundation's Perceptions of Asia and Asian Peoples survey, now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year.

New Zealanders' interests in Asia are growing year on year, particularly among young New Zealanders, it said, adding that New Zealanders' knowledge of the region is also at an all-time high.

About 59 per cent of New Zealanders say they feel reasonably knowledgeable about Asia, up from about 33 per cent a decade ago, said Suzannah Jessep, chief executive of the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

About 75 per cent of New Zealanders above 15 believe that having a strong relationship with Asia is important to New Zealand's future, according to the survey. — Xinhua



The kiwi bird is a beloved symbol of New Zealand, known for its unique appearance and endearing nature. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**