

Free coffee seedlings to be delivered to Taninthayi Region

ACCORDING to Taninthayi Region Agriculture Department, a total of 800,000 coffee seedlings will be delivered free of charge within Taninthayi Region this

financial year.

Approximately 400 coffee seedlings are designated to provide per acre in Dawei, Myeik, Kawthoung and Bokpyin

districts free. There are over 1,000 acres of coffee plantations in Taninthayi Region for the time being and therefore, it is expected to expand up to more than 2,000

acres after this project within the region.

A total of 800,000 seedlings: 352,000 to Dawei District; 278,000 to Myeik District; **SEE PAGE 6**

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Potato plantation in Naungtaya of Shan State (above) and potato baskets which arrived at wholesale trading centre (lower).

Potato quality improves in June, demand on the rise

Quality of potato harvested in June has improved and its market demand has increased, said an official from Naungtaya potato association. Potato production was vast nationwide in April and May, led to excess supply and quality declined due to El Nino effect. But the quality of potato yielded recently is better, he said.

“Production and market demand has about 300-400 tonnes a day. In April and May, potato production was enormously large and we don’t have cold storage facilities so farmers rampantly sold their seecrop. In April, the weather was extremely hot that caused decline in quality of potato. But the potato quality is pretty good now without having damage, so they are marketable,” he said.

Potato is being harvested from June to July in Naungtaya

of southern Shan State but the supply is normally short in August, because of it, potatoes are imported from China, he said.

“Potato is usually short around August. Due to risks and weather changes, farmers don’t grow much potato in May, and it is also hard to find raw material. In the past, Chinese potatoes were imported,” he said.

In Naungtaya of Shan State, potato is grown in January, May and August. But, local farmers do not prefer to use such strain of potato to be planted in May due to infection of pests in addition to some challenges in cultivation. Further cropping of potato resumes in August and its harvesting in October and November, despite the production is not much large like April and May. But, it can support the market demand. — MT/ZS



NATIONAL



An official made a brief of the progress of Taunggale extended urban housing project to Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo on 22 June 2024. **PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)**

Taunggale extended urban housing project under implementation in Hpa-an Township

KAYIN State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo inspected progress of Taunggale extended urban housing project on 928.93 acres of land comprising over 5,400 land plots in Hpa-an township on 22 June.

Currently, over 310 houses have been constructed in the project areas that included departmental offices, staff housings, school, market, park, highway station, sports ground and cemetery.

First, the Chief Minister heard the reports presented by Hpa-an District Administrator U Aung Lwin and relevant officials regarding the action plans conducted in different financial years, construction of road, culverts, facilities of power system and access to water.

The Chief Minister made proper instruc-

tions, and proceed to the construction site of Government Technical Institute (Hpa-an).

At the school hall, the Principal of GTI (Hpa-an) reported on completion of school buildings, hostels, school enrollments and categories of certificate.

Then, the Chief Minister went to Htoo Myat Thitsar self-reliant library that features over 3,000 copies of books in Htoogon model village at the foot of Taungwine Hill, and the founder of library U Saw Tin Maung Sein explained the history of library, and the Chief Minister highlighted the key role of reading habit.

Then, the Chief Minister provided K300,000, books and publications to the library. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/KTZH

Re-examination process announced for 2023-2024 matriculation marks

IF students are not satisfied with their marks in the 2023-2024 matriculation, they can request to re-examine their papers by spending K25,000 per paper, as stated by the Department of Myanmar Examinations.

Matriculation marks for the 2023-2024 academic year have been issued since 17 June at the Department of

Myanmar Examinations head office in Nay Pyi Taw and the Yangon branch office in Hline Township, during office hours from Monday to Friday, except public holidays.

After the re-examination, students will be notified by the official letter whether their marks are correct and accurate.

However, they will not be

allowed to view their answer sheets. The exam results and marks will be corrected if necessary.

The department does not have any plan to release the mark list to the students from countryside as well as will not use the online system for releasing the mark list. — ASH/KZL



Baby White Elephant Rattha Nandaka thrives in happy, healthy bond with Mother

A 33-year-old female elephant called Zar Nan Hla kept by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of Rakhine State gave birth to one white male elephant at 6:30 am on 23 July 2022. When it was born, the baby elephant was two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth and weighed 180 pounds.

The white elephant's name is Rattha Nandaka. It has pearl-coloured eyes, a plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail with a tuft of hair at its end, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or

pinkish skin, five claws on the front legs, four claws on the back legs and big ears. Therefore, these features conform with seven out of eight characteristics.

At one year and eleven months old, the baby white elephant is four feet and six inches in height, seven feet and four inches in circumference and weighs about 1,370 pounds. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, he stays healthy and happy with his mother elephant under the peace human and elephant interaction training system. — MNA/KZL



At one year and eleven months old, the baby white elephant Rattha Nandaka, thrives happily.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



DPM MoFA Union Minister meets Acting Foreign Minister of Iran on the sidelines of 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe who is now in Tehran to attend the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting met Dr Ali Bagheri Kani, Acting Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the current Chair of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) at 10 am Iran Standard Time on 23 June 2024 in Tehran.

During the meeting with the Acting Foreign Minister of Iran, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs appraised the Myanmar Government's efforts to ensure



The ACD Senior Officials' Meeting in progress on 23 June 2024 in Tehran.

peace, development and democracy in the country and the latest developments of Myanmar.

Furthermore, the two Foreign Ministers cordially

exchanged views on further strengthening of friendly relations between Myanmar and Iran as well as closer collaboration in the regional and interna-

national fora including cooperation in the ACD.



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe shakes hands with Dr Ali Bagheri Kani, Acting Foreign Minister of Iran on 23 June 2024 in Tehran.

Myanmar Ambassador to Iran U Moe Kyaw Aung and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Energy were also present at the meeting.

The ACD Senior Officials' Meeting was held on the morning of 23 June 2024 and Myanmar delegation led by U Than Htwe, Director General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the said meeting. — MNA

Union Construction Minister participates in 15th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum



Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Myo Thant visits the galleries showcasing Green Innovation and Digital Connectivity at the IICF.

A Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant, attended the 15th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IICF), co-hosted by the China International Contractors Association (CHINCA) and the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), held under the theme "Green Innovation and Digital Connectivity" on 20 June. They

returned to Yangon yesterday evening.

During the forum, the Union minister also held separate meetings with representatives from Chinese state-owned construction companies operating in Myanmar. Discussions focused on promoting green innovation and digital connectivity in infrastructure projects developed through bilateral cooperation. Senior officials and

representatives from Myanmar's state-owned companies participated, with an emphasis on accelerating infrastructure development through continuous feasibility studies. Both sides stressed effective collaboration, including technology transfer for human resource development and infrastructure enhancement. They also explored potential collaboration areas and investment opportunities in infrastructure projects.

Additionally, the Union minister observed ongoing recycling energy facilities and a road widening project in Macao. These projects were planned to minimize social disruption, underscoring the region's commitment to sustainable development.

Furthermore, the Myanmar delegation visited the galleries showcasing Green Innovation and Digital Connectivity at the IICF, along with invited special guests. — MNA/ TRKM

Union Industry Minister meets garment manufacturers, departmental staff

GARMENT manufacturers involved in joint venture with the Ministry of Industry attended a meeting in Yangon yesterday. The meeting took place at the Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department Office attended by Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, the Managing Director of No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise, and departmental staff.

Initially, the Union minister emphasized that manufacturers would achieve greater profitability and create local employment opportunities by shifting from simply exporting domestically produced cotton to instead engaging in cotton ginning and fabric production.

The Union minister also directed that significant efforts should focus on improving product quality and increasing production volumes to replace foreign imports and foster local employment.

Subsequently, officials from companies leasing fac-

ilities, lands, and buildings from the Ministry of Industry outlined their respective operational strategies and highlighted challenges faced during their operations.

In the afternoon, the Union minister convened a meeting with Ministry of Industry officials working in Yangon Region at a pharmaceutical factory in Insein, Yangon. During this session, the Union minister underscored the importance of adhering to strict guidelines for orderly industrial development within the departments of the ministry.

The Union minister further instructed employees to study international systems and stressed that successful manufacturing operations are essential for distributing and selling products in the market.

Later, managing directors awarded employees working in Yangon Region on behalf of the Ministry of Industry. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

PDF terrorists open fire on vehicle on Myingyan-Magyithamyar road, leaving one monk dead, innocent civilian wounded

PDF terrorists fired at a vehicle on Myingyan-Magyithamyar road, north of Magyithamyar Village of Myingyan Township, two miles southeast of Myingyan at about 00:15 am on 23 June 2024.

In the incident, Assistant Abbot of YwaU Monastery in Sakhama Village of Myingyan Bhaddanta Uttama, aged 50, vasa 12, was dead with an injury at the left side of body, one more injury at the left side of skull and two more injuries at the right back together with U Aung Myo Thaung, 40, son of U Aung Thaung, injured with one bullet-shot at the upper part of left knee and one injury at the part behind the left ear.

A combined team comprising Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force and people's militia inspected the scene at about 00:50 am on 23 June.

Reportedly, the vehicle might be shot wrongly as a security vehicle due to bearing a security light on its roof.

In scrutinizing the incident, Bhaddanta Uttama drove the vehicle from Myat Ponnya Parahita Association of

the village, accompanied by U Aung Myo Thaung, sent Ma Wint Wah Aye, 28, daughter of U Aye Thaung, from Sakhama Village suffered from stomachache to the house of her father U Aye Thaung



Assistant Abbot of YwaU Monastery Bhaddanta Uttama of Sakhama Village in Myingyan Township who passed away in small arm attacks of PDF terrorists.

in Ward 7 of Myingyan at about 10 pm on 22 June 2024. On the return to Sakhama

Village, the vehicle was attacked by PDF terrorists with the use of small arms near the site of incident on Myingyan-Magyithamyar road, according to U Aung Myo Thaung.

Security force members sent the dead body of the Sayadaw and the injured



The vehicle from Myat Ponnya Parahita Association.

person to Myingyan District People's Hospital at about 1:30 am yesterday and they are taking necessary security measures. — MNA/TTA



A map shows a scene where Assistant Abbot of YwaU Monastery Bhaddanta Uttama of Sakhama Village in Myingyan Township and U Aung Myo Thaung were shot by PDF terrorists with small arms.

Stimulant tablets seized in Pyigyidagun, Tachilek townships

MYANMAR Police Force announced the seizure of stimulant tablets in Pyigyidagun and Tachilek townships.

A combined team comprising members of Drug Enforcement Division searched a motorbike driven by Win Aung accompanied by Kyaw Toe Aung and a motorbike driven by Khin Zaw in Pyigyidagun Township at night on 20 June. Police seized 12,600 stimulant tablets and 0.666 kilogramme of pieces of stimulant tablets.

The police examined Aye Min (aka) Wam Aye in Weinkyaug Ward of Tachilek at 4:30 pm on 21 June and captured



Photo shows offenders with the seized drugs.

2,000 stimulant tablets.

Action was taken against those offenders under the Nar-

cotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

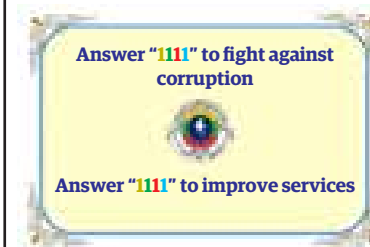
The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via

SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission



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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.

Specialist medical teams provide treatment to residents in Kawthoung in Taninthayi Region

MEDICAL specialist teams, including professors and physicians from Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw, are providing medical treatments in various states and regions. Teams from North Okkalapa and Thingangyun General Hospitals, and Yangon Children's Hospital (550-bed), travelled to Kawthoung in the Taninthayi Region on 22 and 23 June 2024 to offer medical treatment to local residents.

During these medical trips, a total of 625 patients from Kawthoung and Bokpyin townships and surrounding areas received treatment for a range of medical conditions. These conditions included cardiac diseases, gastrointestinal issues, paediatric cardiac diseases, neurological ailments, and neurosurgery, among others. Six heart disease patients, one child with a heart condition, and three gastrointestinal patients were transferred to relevant hospitals in Yangon for further treatments.

The medical check-ups included various procedures such as echocardiography, X-ray examinations, glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) tests, ultrasound scans, and electrocardiograms (ECG).

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and officials provided comfort and nutritional support to the patients. They also greeted the specialists and gave them local products as gifts.

These medical specialist teams have conducted 13 field trips in 2024. — MNA/KZL



The specialist medical team examines a child patient at Kawthoung District People's Hospital.



Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein and officials encourage the patients during the medical trip at Muiyitkalay Station Hospital in Chaungzon Township on 22 June. PHOTO: KO KYAW (CHAUNGZON)

Specialists offer medical treatments to residents in Mon State

MON State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein and state government ministers visited Muiyitkalay Station Hospital in Chaungzon Township on 22 June, to encourage the field medical treatment programme conducted by specialists under the leadership of the Mon State Government, aimed at providing comprehensive healthcare to both urban and rural residents of the state.

The chief minister viewed the treatment being provided by specialists and then distributed nutritional supplements and gifts to the patients.

They also met with and encouraged the patients, coordinating any additional needs

they might have.

In the medical treatment programme led by Dr Aung Myint Oo, Head of Mon State Medical Services Department, a total of 534 patients received treatment for various medical conditions.

These conditions included orthopaedic, eye, ear, nose, throat, skin, dental, obstetrics and gynaecology, as well as head and neck issues. Patients with general health, mental health, and paediatric medicine issues, including surgical cases, were also treated. The team also performed teleradiography and fusion procedures. — Ko Kyaw (Chaungzon)/ TH

Illegal trade activities cracked down across Myanmar

IN compliance with the law and under the guidance of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, customs officials are actively engaged in preventing illegal trade activities.

On 22 June, customs officers at Yangon International Airport intercepted a shipment containing 6 undisclosed items, valued at approximately K24 million, during a routine inspection.

The shipment included 30 bullet proof vests (without iron plates). Authorities are

proceeding with further action in accordance with customs regulations.

Continuing their efforts, authorities seized another shipment on 22 and 23 June near the intersection of Kauhmutaw Road in Sagaing.

This shipment lacked official documentation and contained a total of 41 items valued at over K425 million.

The items seized included 33 bags of black sesame seeds, 266 pieces of thin iron plates, 92 thick iron plates, 9,743 iron

pipes, 10 copper pipes, and one excavator. Legal action is being pursued under export and import laws.

Furthermore, separate operations conducted on 22 and 23 June resulted in the seizure of illegal timber in the districts of Bago, Toungoo, and Thayawaday.

The confiscated wood comprised 0.741 tonne of illegal timber and 0.553 tonne of hardwood, with a combined estimated value exceeding K1.4 million. Action is being



Confiscated illegal teak doors in Bago Region.

taken in accordance with the forest law.

In total, 15 cases were recorded on 22 and 23 June, involving illegal trade activities

valued at over K450 million, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/ TRKM

NATIONAL

Free coffee seedlings to be delivered to Taninthayi Region



Officials inspect coffee seedlings to be provided FOC to the local farmers in Dawei District, Taninthayi Region.

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80,000 to Kawthoung District; and 90,000 to Bokebyin District respectively will be delivered. The Agriculture Department of Taninthayi Region has provided more than 400,000 coffee seedlings within Taninthayi Region in previous financial year.

Arabica highland coffee and Robusta lowland coffee are primarily grown in Myanmar. Robusta lowland coffee is grown in Taninthayi Region.

There are a total of 1,148 acres of coffee plantations in Taninthayi Region.

It is expected to have approximately 2,674 acres after delivering coffee seedlings in Taninthayi Region, from which,

many job opportunities will be created for locals.

Myanmar produces from 8,000 to 10,000 tonnes of coffee annually. Seventy-five per cent of total production is exported.

This year is expected to export approximately 2,000 tonnes of coffee, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association.

Coffee produced by Myanmar fetch US\$5,500-8,300 per tonne in the international market depending on quality and types.

This year, it is planned to export to the United States, Netherlands, Australia, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, France, Germany, Switzerland, Thailand and China. — TWA/TMT

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 23 June 2024)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 24 June 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions and Kayah State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, fairly widespread in Bago Region, widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Rakhine and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, (Northern and Southern) Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 - 40 mph. Wave height will be about 9 - 11 feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 6 - 8 feet in off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 June 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

Myanmar community in Malaysia cremate unclaimed body of Myanmar woman

A Myanmar woman died from a traffic accident and her body remained unclaimed due to financial difficulty in Malaysia, however Myanmar nationals assisted in cremating the body with their collection, Myanmar Free Funeral Service (Malaysia) chair U San Win told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

She was a 37-year-old woman and undocumented migrant worker in Langkawi, Malaysia, and she was severely injured after her motorcycle was hit by a car from back on 2 June and died on 8 June while she was receiving medical treatments at Langkawi hospital.

“The car driver run away. She has no relatives here and can’t contact her family in Myanmar. She had been here for long. She owed the hospital over 7,000 ringgits for medical expenditure and nobody was unable to pay, so it made dif-



Myanmar community helped in the cremation of unclaimed body of Myanmar woman.

ficult for cremation,” he said.

A monk from Bawdi Oo Yin Myanmar Buddhist monastery from Seremban, Negeri Sembilan district heard it and he collected money from Myanmar nationals and residents in Langkawi to pay off her medical cost.

They cremated the body

on 21 June at the island.

“Her friends from Langkawi gave contribution but it could receive for medical cost and 3,500 ringgits still needed for cremation, so we explained it to the funeral service company and they helped with free of charge,” said U San Win. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

Discussion held on conveyance of Buddha's tooth relic from China to Myanmar

THE conveyance of the sacred Buddha tooth relic from China to Myanmar for the fifth time was discussed during the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the completion of the Buddha's tooth pagoda in Beijing.

As per an invitation from the Buddhist Association of China, a Myanmar delegation, including Chairperson of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association Chair of the Yangon Region Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Dr Aggasami, and three members of the Sangha attended the opening ceremony of the Buddha's tooth pagoda in Lingguang Temple from 18 to 22 June.

Approximately 70 individuals, including Sayadaws, monks, and Buddhists from Cambodia, Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lan-

ka, Thailand, and Vietnam, and 500 individuals from China, attended the event.

Most Venerable Yanjue, the chair of the Buddhist Association of China, cordially greeted the visitors, provided Dhamma gifts, and urged collaboration to preserve the Buddha Sasana among nations.

The opening ceremony was convened by the vice chair of the Buddhist Association of China Sayadaw Mahasaddhamma Jotikadhaja Most Venerable Zhan Chan. Buddhist monks from the attending countries consecrated the sacred Buddha's tooth pagoda and prayed for global peace.

The sacred Buddha's tooth relic from China was first conveyed to Myanmar in 1955, and subsequently in 1994, 1996, and 2011. — ASH/TMT

Myanmar delegation attends commemoration of Buddha's tooth pagoda in Beijing



The opening ceremony of the 60th Anniversary of Buddha's tooth pagoda in progress.



Myanmar's ambassador to Bangladesh U Kyaw Soe Moe offers the title of Mahasaddhamma Jotikadhaja to Venerable Bhaddanta Pañnavamsa.

SAC honours a monk from Bangladesh with Mahasaddhamma Jotikadhaja title this year

THE State Administration Council honoured Venerable Bhaddanta Pañnavamsa of Sakya Muni Missionary Monastery in Khagrachari District, Bangladesh, with the title of Mahasaddhamma Jotikadhaja this year, and Myanmar's ambassador to Bangladesh U Kyaw Soe

Moe, offered the title and its insignia to the monk at the Myanmar Embassy in Dhaka on 21 June.

Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Moe and his wife, Myanmar's Military Attaché to Bangladesh (Army, Navy, Air) Brig-Gen Soe Nyunt and his wife, staff of the embassy

and the office of the military attaché and their family members, as well as five members of the Sangha from Dhaka and Chittagong attended the ceremony, during which the embassy donated day meals to members of the Sangha. — ASH/TH

MMPO honours outstanding students for 2024-2025 academic year

ACCORDING to Vice Chairperson U Aye Kyu Lay, the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) held the 2024-2025 prize-giving ceremony to honour outstanding students and to provide financial aid at the MMPO building in Yangon on 22 June.

It is noted that, in addition to financial aid, school uniforms and stationery were provided to the school-age children of MMPO members. "A total of 178 students received supports, with K55,000 given to each student. We also provided them with books, um-

brellas, stationeries, and school uniforms. Furthermore, we have been awarding outstanding students every year since the 2005-2006 academic year. For the 2024-2025 academic year, the organization honoured students with K100,000 for each distinction, Mingalar company K100,000 and actor Swam Soe San K100,000 to winners," said U Aye Kyu Lay.

The organization provided rice, cooking oil and foodstuffs to organization members for the tenth time in April. — ASH/TRKM



Photo features awarding outstanding students of MMPO members.

OPINION

Aspire to a peaceful nation in the future

ARMED conflicts have devastating effects on infrastructure, including roads and bridges built with public funds, and cause significant harm to the lives and property of people in conflict zones by disrupting the regular flow of goods. Even those in peaceful areas suffer from high commodity prices and disturbances caused by rumours, misinformation, disinformation, and fake news. Without nationwide peace, the entire population faces hardships, and development stagnates. True peace will allow all national race groups to benefit from development and pursue the democratic aspirations they share.

However, Myanmar has been caught in a vicious cycle of armed conflicts since the post-independence era. This historical legacy of conflict has left all national race groups yearning for peace. Many countries that have experienced similar conflicts have successfully achieved peace and development. The key to peace lies in overcoming racism, dogmatism, and selfishness. When individuals reduce their pride and attachments, the entire nation can move towards peace.

Myanmar's diverse population, consisting of over a hundred national race groups, and its challenging geography complicate efforts to achieve unity. Although successive governments have made efforts to restore peace, opportunities have been missed due to ongoing conflicts. The nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA) laid a strong foundation for peace, but some signatory ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and others who agreed to a temporary ceasefire have violated the NCA, especially after political changes in 2021. Despite this, the Myanmar Tatmadaw remains committed to the NCA, as stated in

the third point of the State's five-point roadmap.

Currently, Myanmar stands at a critical juncture. The government is preparing to hold peace talks with political parties and NCA signatory EAOs. The outcomes of these talks could lead the country into a new era, providing a fresh start for its people. To achieve durable peace, it is essential for all citizens to collaborate with the government, setting aside instigations and working together towards this common goal.

A peaceful Myanmar will not only alleviate the hardships faced by its people but also pave the way for economic and social development. By fostering unity and reducing conflicts, Myanmar can aspire to become a stable and prosperous nation where all its citizens can thrive. The journey to peace requires collective effort and a commitment to overcoming historical divisions. Only then can Myanmar achieve the peace and development its people deserve.

MOST Myanmar people have heard the saying, "Kamma - deeds, words, and thoughts -, mind, season, and nutrition (ကံ၊ စိတ်၊ ဥတု၊ အဟာရ)." These factors are essential for maintaining good health, with nutrition being the most important. If any of these factors are imbalanced, it can affect one's health and even lead to death. The saying, "Physical form is guarded by nutrition," emphasizes the crucial role of nutrition.

In today's information age, nutrition knowledge is widely accessible. You can find information on nutrition through radio, TV, newspapers, magazines, and the internet. A person who pays attention can gain nearly as much knowledge about nutrition as a medical professional.

Food can be categorized in various ways: liked or disliked, proper or improper, and seasonal or unseasonal. These categories are easy to understand even without medical training. Most people know their likes and dislikes; they tend to eat more of what they like and less of what they dislike. For example, someone might eat more cake if they enjoy sweets

while avoiding vegetables they dislike. Seasonal food refers to what is naturally available in the current season, and everyone should consume it in moderation for its medicinal benefits. For instance, certain fruits are more nutritious and beneficial during their natural season.

Advancements in technology have allowed for the production of crops and parthenocarpic fruits year-round. In large cities like Yangon and Mandalay, a wide variety of foods are available at all times. This accessibility makes it easy for people to get the nutrients they need, but it also poses the risk of overconsumption and unhealthy eating habits.

Understanding Proper and Improper Food

It's crucial to distinguish between proper and improper food. Proper food keeps the body healthy, while improper food can pose severe health risks or even be life-threatening. For example, placing salt on normal skin causes no pain, but placing it on a cut result in excruciating pain. Similarly, eating improper food can cause significant harm. Unfortunately, some people's favourite foods might be improper for their

health.

Indigenous Medicine classifies food into six tastes: sweet, sour, salty, hot, acrid, and bitter (ချို၊ ချဉ်၊ ငန်၊ စပ်၊ ဖန်၊ ခါး). Western medicine, on the other hand, categorizes food as carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals, water, and fibres. The concept of nutrition suggests that one should consume all tastes in moderation, not favouring one taste excessively. For example, someone who likes sweets should not eat only sweet foods; they should also consume other tastes. Similarly, in Western nutrition, one should not eat only meat but also include vitamins, minerals, and fibres in their diet.

The role of nutrition in health is profound. Good food is essential for average growth and development, promoting health and preventing diseases. The human body is like a machine that needs food to generate energy. The discovery of vitamins revolutionized the science of nutrition, leading to significant advances in understanding their importance.

Global Nutrition Concerns

Nutrition is becoming increasingly important globally, with malnutrition affecting many regions and influencing various clinical disorders. In developed countries, overnutrition is more common than undernutrition, leading to health hazards such as increased mortality and higher disease incidence. Thus, global nutrition is a major international concern.

The terms "food" and "nutrition" are sometimes used interchangeably, but they are different. Food comprises various substances in different quantities, while nutrition is the process by which the body utilizes food for nourishment. Despite these differences, there is a Myanmar saying, "Food is also medicine; medicine is also food (အစာလည်း ဆေး၊ ဆေးလည်းအစာ)", reflecting the belief that food and medicine are interconnected. This saying has been passed down through generations and is still relevant today.

Practical Advice for Healthy Eating

To summarize, it is essential to consider both modern nutritional knowledge and traditional wisdom. One of my favourite pieces of advice about food comes

THE KEY TO LIFELONG HEALTH

By Yin Nwe Ko

from Sayagyi U Htut, a former headmaster and member of the Council of Indigenous Medicine in Myanmar. At over 80 years old, he remains healthy and active, attending annual ceremonies at our school. On the 25th anniversary of the ex-teachers hom-age ceremony, he shared valuable advice:

"My students, you are also getting old."

Take good care of your health. I'll give you all a present associated with the food you eat. I've been practising it up to now. It is nothing, but if you are going to eat food, eat only when you are hungry; eat what is proper with your health and eat less of what you wish for."

This advice emphasizes three simple yet profound principles for maintaining good health: eat only when hungry, eat what is proper, and eat less. These guidelines can help individuals make better food choices and improve their overall well-being.

Delving Deeper into Nutritional Knowledge

It's essential to understand the specific roles and benefits of different food categories to delve deeper into nutritional knowl-

edge. Carbohydrates are the body's primary energy

Fats, often misunderstood, are necessary for the

that includes a variety of fruits and vegetables can provide the necessary vitamins and minerals.

Water is another crucial component of nutrition. It makes up a significant portion of the human body and is essential for maintaining bodily functions. Staying hydrated helps digestion, nutrient absorption, and

regulating body temperature.

Fiber in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains is important for digestive health. It helps prevent constipation and reduces the risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, and colorectal cancer.

The Importance of Balanced Diet and Portion Control

A balanced diet that includes a variety of foods from all these categories is essential for maintaining good health. It's not just about what you eat but also about how much you eat. Portion control is crucial in preventing overnutrition, which can lead to obesity and other health problems. Moderate eating ensures you get the necessary nutrients without consuming excess calories.



where individuals eat in response to emotions rather than hunger, is a common issue that can lead to unhealthy eating patterns and weight gain. Stress, boredom, sadness, and other emotions can trigger overeating or the consumption of unhealthy comfort foods.

To address emotional eating, it's important to develop healthy coping mechanisms for dealing with emotions. This might include engaging in physical activity, practising mindfulness and meditation, or seeking support from friends, family, or a mental health professional.

The Role of Traditional Foods in Modern Nutrition

Incorporating traditional foods into a modern diet can offer numerous health benefits. Traditional diets often include a variety of whole, unprocessed foods that are rich in nutrients. For instance, traditional Myanmar dishes often feature a variety of vegetables, herbs, and spices, which are packed with vitamins and antioxidants.

Moreover, traditional eating practices, such as eating seasonally and locally, can enhance the nutritional value of the diet. Seasonal foods are often fresher and more nutritious, while local foods support the local economy and reduce the carbon footprint associated with transporting food over long distances.

Addressing Common Nutritional Myths

There are many myths and misconceptions about nutrition that can lead to unhealthy eating habits. One common myth is that all fats are bad. As mentioned earlier, healthy fats are essential for the body and should be included in a balanced diet.

Another myth is that carbohydrates should be completely avoided for weight loss. While it's true that reducing the intake of refined carbohydrates can aid in weight loss, whole grains and other complex carbohydrates are important sources of energy and should not be entirely eliminated.

It's also a misconception that skipping meals can help with weight loss. In reality, skipping meals can lead to overeating later in the day and can disrupt the body's metabolism. It's better to eat regular, balanced meals throughout the day to maintain energy levels and promote a healthy metabolism.

The Psychological Aspect of Eating

Eating is not just a physical act; it also has a psychological component. Emotional eating,

Nutrition for Special Populations

Different populations have unique nutritional needs. For example, children and adolescents require more nutrients to support growth and development. Pregnant women need additional nutrients to support the health of both the mother and the developing fetus. Older adults may need fewer calories but more of certain nutrients like calcium and vitamin D to maintain bone health.

Athletes have higher energy and protein requirements to support their intense physical activity and muscle repair. People with certain medical conditions, such as diabetes or heart disease, may need to follow specific dietary guidelines to manage their conditions effectively.

The Role of Nutrition Education

Nutrition education is crucial for helping people make informed food choices. Schools, community programs, and healthcare providers play an important role in teaching individuals about the importance of nutrition and how to create a balanced diet. Providing practical tips and resources can empower people to make healthier choices and improve their overall well-being.

All in all, good nutrition is fundamental to maintaining health and well-being. By eating only when hungry, eating what is proper, and eating less, individuals can develop healthier eating habits and improve their overall quality of life. It's important to consider.

(This article is dedicated to the memory of my esteemed late teacher, Sayagyi U Htut)

NATIONAL



PyinOoLwin

hosts visitors for relaxation at parks, waterfalls



Many travellers visit parks and waterfalls in PyinOoLwin Township especially during vacations. PyinOoLwin is attractive for those foreigners especially who are enthusiastic to observe the flowers, orchids and botanical gardens.

PyinOoLwin, literally known as “Maymyo or the City of Flowers”, is a well-known place for its flourishing varieties of flowers of local and foreign species, bamboo, roses, orchids, cherries, medicinal herbs and different species of butterflies. Having a moderate weather and good earthen lands, the city was firstly established in 1915 as a botanical garden by a British forestry officer Alex Roger inspiring the Kew Royal Botanical Garden from England. Nowadays, PyinOoLwin is famous for its National Botanical Garden which is one of the tourist attractions in Myanmar.

Both locals and foreigners visit the botanical gardens and waterfalls in PyinOoLwin, especially on holidays from Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. The BE Waterfall which was formerly known as Hampshire Fall hosts



Flocks of visitors seen in Kandawgyi Botanical Garden in PyinOoLwin (above) and BE Fall (lower). **PHOTO: KANU**

many visitors in summer but few in the rainy season.

Other destinations in PyinOoLwin are Maymyo Rose

Garden, Japan Village, YGN Garden and December Garden.

What is more, ancient buildings and coffee plantations are also

attractive for the visitors.

“Since PyinOoLwin locates 44 miles away from Mandalay City, it is convenient to visit for

the travellers of both locals and foreigners. BE Waterfall and Kandawgyi Botanical Garden are most attractive places for them. Many visitors enjoy their holidays especially in summer in the waterfalls. It is cool to see families and groups visit there and taking photos happily at the parks and waterfalls. There are approximately 300 travellers on holidays in the rainy season while there are more than 1,000 visitors in summer and opening seasons,” Daw Hla Hla, an in-charge of the December Garden said.

PyinOoLwin hosts a lot of visitors especially in Thingyan Festival, Thadingyut Festival, Tazaungdine Festival, December winter and New Year. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TMT



Apple delays rollout of AI features in Europe

The tech giant recently launched "Apple Intelligence," a suite of AI capabilities intended to demonstrate its commitment to keeping pace with advancements in artificial intelligence.

APPLE on Friday said it would delay the rollout of its recently announced AI features in Europe because of "regulatory uncertainties" linked to the EU's new landmark legislation to curb the power of big tech.

Citing the European Union's Digital Markets Act (DMA), a spokesperson for the iPhone-making juggernaut said "we do not believe that we will be able to roll out these features to our EU users this year."

Apple earlier this month unveiled "Apple Intelligence," its suite of AI features for its coveted devices as it looks to reassure users that it is not falling behind on the AI frenzy.

The announcement included a partnership with OpenAI that would make ChatGPT available to iPhone users on request.

Apple said the feature, as well as its iPhone Mirroring and SharePlay Screen Sharing enhancements, were put on hold over concern "that the interoperability requirements of the DMA could force us to compromise the integrity of our products in ways that risk user privacy and data security." Apple Intelligence, which runs only on the company's in-house technology, will enable users to create their own emojis based on a description in everyday language, or to generate brief summaries of emails in the mailbox. — AFP



Apple has decided to postpone the introduction of its new AI features in Europe due to uncertainties surrounding the EU's Digital Markets Act (DMA). **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE / PIXABAY**

India sets up high-level panel to recommend exams process reforms

Setting up a high-level committee of experts indicates that the Indian government aims to enhance the transparency, smoothness, and fairness of examinations for admissions in colleges, universities, and recruitments.



This initiative reflects a commitment to ensuring merit-based admissions and recruitments while maintaining public trust in the integrity of the examination systems. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE / ANI**

THE Indian government on Saturday set up a high-level committee of experts to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations for admissions in colleges, universities and recruitments, said an official announcement.

The move was the second successive step by the federal government to check corruption in conduct of examinations, amid intense protests by students across the country against repeated question paper leaks.

On Friday, The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 was implemented with immediate effect. The new law entailed penal provisions like 10 years of imprisonment and a monetary fine of 10 million Indian Rupees (around US\$119,674) for those found involved in irregularities or corrupt practices.

The seven-member high level committee was tasked to make recommendations on reforms in mechanism of

examination process, improvement in data security protocols, and structure and functioning of the National Testing Agency, which has been facing flak over repeated question paper leaks of leading examinations. Set up by the federal Ministry of Education, the high-level committee would be headed by former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization K. Radhakrishnan, said the official announcement by the federal Ministry of Education. — Xinhua

Madagascar president opens new cable car in capital

MADAGASCAR'S president Andry Rajoelina on Friday took a ride on a new cable car that the government says will help reduce traffic in the capital, Antananarivo.

Re-elected for a third term last year in a vote boycotted by most opposition candidates, Rajoelina, 50, boarded the gondola lift with the prime minister and other government members for a maiden tour celebrated with great pomp. "Antananarivo was built for 300,000 inhabitants. Now there

are three million of us. This is going to reduce traffic jams and it's also a non-polluting form of transport," the head of state told AFP.

The inauguration came just days before Independence Day celebrations. Only the first section of two planned lines has been finished and it might take months before it is fully operational. Two French companies are currently in the running to be awarded the management of technical and commercial operations. — AFP

S Leone MPs approve law banning child marriage

SIERRA Leone's parliament has approved a new law banning child marriage, hailed as a "historic" step by the international charity Save The Children.

Lawmakers on Thursday passed a bill criminalizing marrying girls below 18 with jail terms of up to 15 years or a stiff fine of over \$2,000.

Patrick Analo, Save the Children Sierra Leone country head, said: "This is a historic moment and an extraordinary achievement for children across Sierra Leone who have campaigned for their rights. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD



Visitors interact with an AI robot at the 2024 World Intelligence Expo held in Tianjin Municipality, north China, 22 June 2024. **PHOTO: SUN FANYUE/XINHUA**

At China expo, AI robots take center stage

The expo features a diverse range of robots, from humanoid models to specialized machines like chess-playing and coffee-making robots. Each demonstrates sophisticated capabilities that blur the line between human and machine tasks.

“PLEASE make a coffee for me,” a visitor asked a cute, white robot at the ongoing 2024 World Intelligence Expo held in Tianjin Municipality, north China.

The robot barista promptly responded, waving its arms to perform each step: taking beans, grinding, steeping and brewing. In no time, a fragrant cup of coffee was presented to the delight-

ed attendee.

A variety of robots are on display at the expo, including humanoid robots, chess-playing robots, and coffee-making robots. These robots are demonstrating how smart technology could shape our future lives and work, drawing lots of interest and interaction from attendees. — Xinhua

Japan’s century-old bank faces mounting crisis over high US, European rates

CENTURY-OLD Japanese financial institution Norinchukin Bank has announced plans to sell approximately 10 trillion yen (about US\$63 billion) in overseas bonds, primarily US and European government bonds, by the end of the current fiscal year in March 2025, as it faces massive losses.

The move aims to miti-

gate the risks associated with holding low-yield bonds amidst high interest rates in the United States and Europe, and this decision is expected to convert the bank’s on-paper losses into actual losses, potentially increasing its net losses for the fiscal year to 1.5 trillion yen, according to local media reports.

— Xinhua

NEWS DIGEST: ECON

Vietnam faces challenges in achieving growth target in 2024: report

VIETNAM’S 2024 economic growth target of 6.5 per cent is challenging, local media reported Friday, citing the Annual Economic Report 2024.

Researchers project a baseline gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.85 per cent this year and inflation at 4.5 per cent, said the report conducted by Vietnam National University. The report pointed out that if economic policies are adjusted, such as reducing interest rates and exports remain robust and there is increased public investment spending, GDP growth is expected to hit 6.01 per cent. — Xinhua

Spain to eliminate tax on olive oil to ease price jump

SPAIN’S leftist government said Friday it will remove the value-added tax on olive oil, a staple of Spanish cuisine which has soared in price due to a severe drought that has caused a sharp drop in the country’s olive harvest. Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez’s government will from July “permanently” include olive oil in the list of “basic necessities” which are exempt from the tax, the budget ministry said in a statement. — AFP

Rasht-Caspian railway: How could it help Iran negate isolation from global trade?

The railway, recently unveiled in Iran, holds strategic economic importance for the Islamic Republic.



Tarasov noted that the Rasht-Caspian railway forms a critical component of the International North-South Transport Corridor, linking the Persian Gulf with the Caspian Sea region. **PHOTO: X/SPUTNIK**

IRAN’S Minister of Transport Mehrdad Bazrpash touted the opening of the Rasht-Caspian railway as a historic development, which he said will significantly boost the country’s cargo transit capacities.

The Rasht-Caspian railway line, which was recently unveiled in Iran, is a vital project for the Islamic Republic, especially in terms of its economic significance, Stanislav Tarasov, political scientist and expert on the Middle East and the Caucasus, told Sputnik.

“Currently, the Rasht-Caspian project is the main part of the International North-South Transport Corridor” that connects the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea, the expert recalled.

“The project is the most effective railway route with a direct link to Russia, which can add to a significant rise in trade turnover between Tehran and Moscow,” Tarasov said.

“Russia is directly interested in Iran turning into ‘the

number one power in the Middle East’ [not least thanks to the project], because Moscow is developing reliable relations with Tehran,” he noted.

One can perceive the Rasht-Caspian project as an international transit route, which could be of interest to such countries as China and India, according to the pundit.

The 37-km railway line, which connects the Iranian city of Rasht to the Caspian Sea, was launched in northern Iran on 20 June. — SPUTNIK



A worker is busy at the Dinson Iron and Steel Company (DISCO) in Manhize, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe, 20 June 2024. PHOTO: SHAUN JUSA/XINHUA

Chinese firm starts production of pig iron in Zimbabwe

This marks a significant milestone in the rejuvenation of Zimbabwe's iron and steel industry.

THE Dinson Iron and Steel Company (DISCO), a subsidiary of the private company Tsingshan Holding Group in east China's Zhejiang Province, has started production of pig iron in Manhize, a town in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe, marking a milestone in the revival of the country's iron and steel industry.

"This really is a very joyous occasion to see the first stage of production of iron from Manhize," said Mines and Mining Development Minister Winston Chitando in an interview with Xinhua after touring DISCO's plant

Thursday.

Pig iron, also known as crude iron, is the direct product of the blast furnace and yields steel, wrought iron, or high-purity iron when refined.

The production of pig iron, which commenced last week, sets the stage for steel billet production, which is expected to begin next month. Chitando said DISCO is expected to produce 600,000 metric tonnes of carbon steel in the first phase of the project, rising to 1.2 million, then 3.2 million, and ultimately 5 million metric tonnes per year in the final phase. — Xinhua

Italy's Capri lifts tourist ban as water shortage resolved

The ban, which had been implemented earlier on Saturday, led to several ferries returning to port as they attempted to transport tourists from Naples and Sorrento in southern Italy to Capri.

THE Italian island of Capri lifted a ban on tourists Saturday after problems with the water supply to the holiday hotspot were resolved.

Capri's mayor, Paolo

Falco, said the ban was "revoked" after a technical issue preventing the arrival of water from the mainland was fixed.

The ban was announced early Saturday,

forcing several morning ferries on their way to the island from Naples and Sorrento in southern Italy to return to port.

In justifying the ban, Falco warned of "a real

emergency" and said that while there was still water on most of the island on Friday, local tanks early Saturday were "running out".

"The emergency would be worsened by the arrival of the thousands of tourists who arrive on Capri daily," he said.

Locals, not targeted by the ban, were permitted to collect up to 25 litres (6.6 gallons) of drinking water per household from a supply tanker.

Capri, in the Bay of Naples, is famed for its white villas, cove-studded coastline and upscale hotels. It has around 13,000 permanent residents but attracts huge numbers of day-trippers in summer months. — AFP



Capri, an island in Italy's Bay of Naples, draws vast numbers of day-trippers in summer months. PHOTO: PIXABAY

Merchant ship damaged by drone attack in Red Sea: UK agency

A merchant ship was damaged by a drone attack in the Red Sea near Yemen early Sunday morning, though no injuries were reported, according to a British

maritime security agency.

Vessels in and around the Red Sea have come under repeated attack for months by Iran-backed Huthi rebels in

Yemen who say they are acting in support of Palestinians during the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The attack occurred about 65 nautical miles

(120 kilometres) west of the Yemeni port city of Hodeida, said the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, which is run by the British navy. — AFP

Power outage in Manchester airport causes massive delays, cancellation

IN the early morning of Sunday, Manchester Airport recorded massive disruption and flight delays due to a power outage.

According to the airport's press release, the power cut caused significant disruption, leading to the cancellation of flights from Terminals 1 and 2. Passengers scheduled to travel from these terminals to-

day are advised not to come to the airport until further notice.

As of 11:30 GMT on Sunday, over 15 flights were cancelled, according to the airport's departure board.

Sunday's delay has drawn complaints from many travellers. A user named "itzaaron_69" commented under the airport's bullet on social media platform X, say-

ing they had been standing in the same spot for over an hour and a half.

Another user "Suzanne Shrewsbury" said her son had landed in Manchester but was told it would be hours before they could get off the plane.

Till press time, power has been restored and the international airport said it was working to get passengers waiting

inside the airport on flights as soon as possible.

As Britain's global gateway in the north of England, Manchester Airport served over 25 million passengers in 2023. It is undergoing the final phase of a transformation program worth 1.3 billion pounds (US\$1.64 billion), which is set for completion in 2025. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1170)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1170) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-6-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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.

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Okinawa marks 79th anniversary of end of WWII ground battle



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida lays flowers at the Peace Memorial Park in Itoman, Okinawa Prefecture, on 23 June 2024, the 79th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa in World War II. **PHOTO: KYODO**

OKINAWA on Sunday marked the 79th anniversary of the end of a fierce World War II ground battle between Japanese and US troops that claimed over 200,000 lives.

A memorial service, attended by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, was held at the Peace

Following the war, Okinawa remained under US administration until 1972 and continues to host a significant portion of US forces in Japan.

Memorial Park in Itoman, the site of the final stage of the battle, where the names of 181 people were added to the list of the war dead inscribed on monuments, bringing the total to 242,225.

The fighting from March through June 1945 took a heavy toll on the local civilian population, with one in four of the Japanese southern island prefecture's residents killed.

Okinawa remained under US administration until 1972 and has continued to host the bulk of US forces in Japan.

In his address at the ceremony, Kishida acknowledged that Okinawa's residents "bear the heavy burden of having a concentration of US bases" in their prefecture, pledging to do his best "to ease that burden".

But Kishida's remarks come as the central government pushes ahead with its plan to move US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from a densely populated area in Ginowan to the coastal area of Henoko in Nago, both on Okinawa's main island.

In January, the state began construction work on a part of the relocation site despite strong local opposition. Anti-base sentiment runs deep due to noise, pollution, and a number of high-profile crimes committed by American service members. — Kyodo

NEWS ROUNDUPS: WORLD

Macron may trigger France's exit from EU, says EU's Barnier

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron's decision to dissolve the country's parliament and hold snap elections could trigger France's exit from the European Union, Barnier said.

Barnier said in an interview with The Telegraph newspaper that Macron's hopes of beating the right-wing National Rally (RN) party in the elections are very risky, the report read on Saturday.

"I don't think Ms [the leader of the RN's parliamentary faction, Marine] Le Pen and Mr [president of RN party, Jordan] Bardella changed their minds. They are still anti-European," Barnier said.

On 9 June, Macron announced the dissolution of the French parliament's lower house and holding of two-round snap parliamentary elections on 30 June and 7 July. The decision was made in the wake of the European Parliament elections in which the National Rally party emerged victorious, finishing with over 15 percentage points ahead of Macron's centrist coalition. — SPUTNIK

Egypt cracks down on travel agencies over Hajj trip frauds

THE Egyptian government is set to ban the operation of 16 travel agencies for arranging "fraudulent" Hajj trips to Saudi Arabia for unregistered pilgrims.

At a Hajj deaths crisis unit meeting held on Saturday, Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said he has ordered the license of these agencies to be revoked and those involved persons and entities transferred to public prosecution, according to an Egyptian cabinet statement. The statement did not detail which agencies or concerned persons were behind organizing such trips through fraudulence or other illicit means for unregistered pilgrims to Mecca. Madbouly updated that among more than 50,000 registered Egyptian pilgrims, a total of 31 people with "chronic diseases" were confirmed dead. —Xinhua

Nearly 2 million Bangladeshis stranded after second wave of floods

ABOUT 1.8 million people in northeast Bangladesh are stranded due to extensive flooding after weeks of heavy rains that have submerged homes and devastated farmland, CNN reported citing state media and humanitarian agencies.

The video clip shows large areas of Sylhet city and nearby Sunamganj are underwater, marking the second wave of flooding in less than a month, state-run news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) reported Saturday.

Prolonged torrential rains and runoff from upstream hilly regions on the Indian border caused four rivers to swell beyond their danger levels, the Water Development Board said last week.

The deluge is attributed to continuous heavy rains and runoff from hilly regions along the Indian border, causing four major rivers to exceed their danger levels.



The flooding has particularly affected areas like Sylhet city and nearby Sunamganj, where extensive inundation is visible. **PHOTO: ANI**

Villagers in the hardest-hit low-lying areas of Sylhet could be seen wading through chest-deep water and heaping their belongings into piles to protect them from the muddy waters.

According to Bangladeshi local media, there is concern for those trapped by floodwaters who now face food shortages and a lack of clean water. About 964,000 people in Sylhet and 792,000 in Sunamganj have been affected by the flooding, with authorities setting up over 6,000 shelters for the displaced, BSS reported. UNICEF reported on 21 June that 772,000 children are in urgent need of assistance. Over 800 schools have been flooded, and 500 more are being used as flood shelters, as per CNN. — ANI

SPORTS

Shan United to face Brunei football club in ASEAN Club Championship

MYANMAR club Shan United is allowed to compete in the 2024-2025 ASEAN Club Championship and will compete against Brunei football club in the qualifying play-off stage.

The qualifying play-off matches will be held in mid-July, and Shan United will take on Brunei's Kasuka FC. Shan will play away match on 17 July and home match on 24 July.

The Shan United team will only be allowed to advance to the final stage if they can overcome the Kasuka FC.

Similarly, Lao club Young Elephant team will take on Cambodian club Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng as a knockout match.

If the Shan United team succeeds in qualifying, they will place in Group A with football clubs from Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Since Shan United won the championship in the Myanmar National League Cup title, the first domestic competition this season, they will have to compete in two foreign competitions including AFC Challenge League. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Shan United player is vying with his opponent in MNL. PHOTO: THAW GYI



A pitch invader takes a selfie with Cristiano Ronaldo. PHOTO: KENZO TRIBOUILLARD / AFP

Portugal coach bemoans risk to player safety as pitch invaders chase Ronaldo selfies

PORTUGAL coach Roberto Martinez said it was lucky that none of the multiple fans who invaded the pitch during his team's Euro 2024 game against Türkiye on Saturday had ill intentions after several supporters ran on looking for a selfie with Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Group F match in Dortmund, which Portugal won 3-0, was interrupted on several occasions in the second half as pitch invaders got away from security in an attempt to take a

photograph with the 39-year-old superstar.

The first fan, a young boy wearing a red tracksuit top, emerged from the stand behind the benches midway through the second half and made his way towards the Portugal skipper.

Ronaldo posed smiling for a photo before the pitch invader ran off trying to escape stewards.

They eventually caught up with him and escorted him away to applause from the stands.

At least five other fans managed to get onto the pitch attempting to pull off the same stunt, either during the match or after the final whistle, but Ronaldo grew increasingly exasperated with the unwanted attention.

"It is a concern because today we were lucky that the intentions of the fans were good," Martinez told reporters following the match, after Portugal secured qualification for the last 16. — AFP

Kalinskaya reaches Berlin final as injury list grows

ANNA Kalinskaya beat Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 6-7 (3/7), 6-1 in a see-saw semi-final Saturday in the Berlin WTA tournament.

Kalinskaya raced through the first set in 26 minutes. After Azarenka went 4-1 up in the second set, Kalinskaya fought back to force a tiebreak which she lost.

Kalinskaya again galloped through the third set, and was only slowed at 5-1 when Azarenka saved three match points from 40-0, but two unreturned serves sealed the victory.

The second semi-final was

suspended until Sunday with Jessica Pegula leading top seed and doubles partner Coco Gauff 7-5, 6-6.

The day had started with three quarter-finals delayed by rain from the day before, two were cut short as Aryna Sabalenka and Ons Jabeur joined the procession of injured stars limping off the grass in the Wimbledon warm-up event.

Kalinskaya was one of the beneficiaries as second-seeded Belarusian Sabalenka retired trailing 5-1 in the first set. — AFP

UEFA fines Croatia for fan trouble at Euro 2024



Supporters of Croatia cheer during the Uefa Euro 2024 Group B football match between Croatia and Albania at the Volksparkstadion in Hamburg on 19 June 2024. PHOTO: AFP

UEFA have fined the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) for the incidents that occurred in the stands during Croatia's 2-2 draw with Albania at Euro 2024, the national federation said on Saturday.

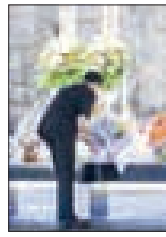
The HNS published a statement on its website saying that it will have to pay a fine of 28,000 euros (\$29,900) due to the "lighting of flares and throwing of objects by some Croatian fans during the match played on 19 June in Hamburg".

"The Croatian Football Federation thanks the Croatian fans for their excellent support and once again calls on them to refrain from lighting and throwing flares," the statement said.

The HNS was also fined after Croatia's first match in Group B, which they lost 3-0 to Spain.

The Croatian federation was fined 87,875 euros for fans throwing plastic cups onto the pitch and lighting flares.

Croatia are in danger of a group-stage exit from Euro 2024 after defeat to Spain and Wednesday's thrilling 2-2 draw in which Albania's Klaus Gjasula scored at both ends, including a dramatic injury-time equalizer. — AFP



THE NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA

Brunei financial institutions participate in river cleanup

THIRTEEN financial institutions in Brunei Darussalam participated in a river cleanup initiative and collected 685 kg of trash on Sunday, according to the Brunei Darussalam central bank.

The initiative was organized by the bank in partnership with Green Brunei, and nearly 150 representatives took part in the event at the riverside village Kampong Ayer, Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital city of Brunei.

The event aimed to strengthen collaboration between the bank and financial institutions and to encourage the financial industry to contribute to the national sustainability agenda.

Managing Director of the bank Hajah Rokiah emphasized the importance of creating initiatives that have a positive impact on the society and the environment for the future and the next generation. — Xinhua

Russia intends to prevent politicization of economic cooperation within G20

The main subjects selected by Brazil's G20 leadership for discussion include combating poverty and hunger, ensuring equitable energy transitions that do not hinder economic advancement, and reforming global governance bodies.



Hevel LLC, a Russian company specializing in solar technology, is driving forward its clean energy goals with its innovative solar module technology. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE /HEVEL**

RUSSIA intends to firmly suppress attempts to “artificially politicize” G20 economic cooperation at the forthcoming sherpa meeting in Brazil’s Rio de Janeiro, Russian Foreign Ministry Ambassador on G20 affairs and G20 Sous-Sherpa

Marat Berdyev said on Sunday.

The third G20 sherpa meeting will take place in Rio de Janeiro from July 3-5, opening a practical work on the draft project of the G20 Summit declaration. The G20 summit itself is scheduled for

18-19 November.

“Together with the like-minded countries we will express our opinion about a complicated situation in international relations, which led to constant conflicts, instability and trade wars. We will also firmly suppress any attempts to artificially politicize economic cooperation or the imposition by G7 of its false one-sided assessment of the developments on the international arena,” Berdyev said.

The key topics chosen by the Brazilian G20 presidency for the discussion are the fight against poverty, famine, implementing fair energy transitions with no damage for economic progress, and reforming global governing institutions, the official said. “Russia fully supports the agenda indicated,” he said.

The Russian delegation at the sherpa meeting will be led by G20 Sherpa and Deputy Chief of Presidential Experts’ Directorate, Svetlana Lukash, Berdyev said. Lukash will be accompanied by some officials from the Russian presidential administration and the economic cooperation department. — SPUTNIK

Great potential seen in China-Europe EV cooperation towards energy transition

IN a move towards a sustainable future, Chinese electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers are contributing to Europe’s green transformation, as revealed in a groundbreaking new report.

Unveiled in Brussels on Wednesday, the “Report on the Development of Chinese NEV Manufacturers in Europe” showcases the synergy between China and the European Union (EU) in their shared quest for carbon neutrality.

Chinese EV manufacturers are translating their expertise into tangible progress for Europe’s green transportation sector through equipment and technological support. By offering mature products and solutions, they act as catalysts for the development of local green travel systems.

With cutting-edge technology and robust products, Chinese EV companies are not just participating but are pivotal in driving Europe’s green transportation revolution, highlighted by agreements such as BYD’s deal with Swedish public transport leader Transdev AB. — Xinhua



People visit the booth of Chinese carmaker Xpeng during the 2023 International Motor Show in Munich, Germany, 5 September 2023. **PHOTO: REN PENGFEI/XINHUA**