

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the group documentary photo together with participating dignitaries at the inaugural event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Education: A light that dispels darkness and ignorance

Individuals need to complete middle school education at minimum for their lives according to the global landscape.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing pointed out that as Myanmar emphasizes agriculture and livestock farming, a large number of skilful persons are required to produce systematic agricultural and livestock products.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the opening of the Myanmar National Education Conference 2024 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that everybody can see that **the most developed countries have many educated citizens. Hence, Myanmar needs to have many educated citizens.**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pointed out that as **Myanmar emphasizes agriculture and livestock farming, a large number of skilful persons are required to produce systematic agricultural and livestock products.**

Thus, 85 basic education plus industrial, agricultural and livestock breeding schools were opened in 84 districts in 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years, he added.

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Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Myanmar National Education Conference 2024

- Individuals need to complete middle school education at minimum for their lives according to the global landscape.
- Everybody can see that most developed countries have many educated citizens. Hence, Myanmar needs to have many educated citizens.
- Education is similar to light, which can remove darkness and ignorance.
- Students follow school disciplines in line with the saying that school is the birthplace of national character.
- Learning higher education aims to help citizens emerge as well-versed citizens by improving their socioeconomy in addition to obtaining relevant degrees.

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Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits campaign launched in PyinOoLwin

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People's military servants training No 3 begins across various commands

BUSINESS

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DICA blocks 8 palm oil importers for misconduct

NATIONAL

Myanmar's Response to the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict

THE report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict for 2023, containing country-specific descriptions of over two dozen countries, including Myanmar, was released on 13 June 2024.

It is observed that the country-specific descriptions of Myanmar in the report contain groundless accusations and distorted figures based on the information received from unverified sources and anti-government groups. The alleged perpetrators of violations mentioned in the report are ambiguous, and the violations committed by various terrorist armed groups are listed under the accused violations of Tatmadaw.

Although the Myanmar Government has provided factual descriptions of accounts as a response to the communication of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict prior to the report, they are not reflected in the report.

Myanmar is protecting the fundamental rights of children enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Child Rights Law (2019), which repealed the Child Law (1993), ensures zero tolerance towards severe violations against children in armed conflict. Under the guidance of the National Committee for Prevention of Grave Violations against Children in Armed

Conflict, various efforts have been made to safeguard children from grave violations in armed conflict. The 4-Digit Helpline (1566) was launched in October 2022 as a National Complaint Mechanism.

With regard to the alleged recruitment of underage children, the Committee on Prevention of Underage Recruitment has been cooperating with CTFMR, and a total of 58 meetings have been held since 2012. Myanmar has been responding to each and every enquiry made by CTFMR with facts and evidence. Although CTFMR shared only nine suspected underage recruitments with the Committee in 2023, the report mentions an exaggerated figure of 1,102 alleged underage recruitments by Tatmadaw in 2023.

Therefore, Myanmar registers its objection to the unfounded allegations contained in the report and calls for the United Nations to present balanced and credible reports by applying a constructive approach.

*Committee on Prevention of Grave Violations
against Children in Armed Conflict
Myanmar
25 June 2024*

Myanmar kicks off education conference



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe speaks on the inaugural occasion of the Myanmar Education Conference 2024 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Myanmar Education Conference 2024, which was themed 'To Further Promote Education for the development of Human Resources', took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II) in Nay Pyi Taw from 25 to 27 June.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, deputy ministers, senior military officers, experts, the permanent secretaries, directors-general, rectors, principals, pro-rectors, region/state educational officers, faculty members and students attended the conference.

Speaking at the event,

the Union minister said 11 ministries will conduct negotiations to implement the plan while the ministry mainly carries out the education development activities and the affiliated ministries conduct occupational training for human resource development.

This year, the ministry and its affiliated ministries will read out papers. The ministry is offering inclusive learning opportunities for the primary students to the youths who are ready for the working environment, and the conference will fulfil the needs if there are some requirements and weaknesses.

He then urged participation in discussions to turn out good citizens and skilled citizens for the country.

Attendees participated in the discussions on different topics.

The teachers and students of basic education schools observed the educational booths displayed by the Ministry of Education and the ministries concerned in the evening.

The Myanmar Education Conference will continue at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II) in Nay Pyi Taw until 27 June. — MNA/KTZH

MAI inaugurates direct Yangon-Vientiane flight

THE opening ceremony for the new direct Yangon-Vientiane flight, starting on 25 June 2024 by Myanmar Airways International (MAI), was held at Yangon International Airport Terminal 1 at 2:30 pm yesterday.

The presence of Lao Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Heuang seng Khamdalavong, MAI CEO Mr Tanes Kumar, and Director-General U Kyaw Soe of the Department of Civil Aviation Myanmar graced the event. They

inaugurated the ceremony by cutting the ribbon.

The new air service between Yangon and Vientiane will operate every Tuesday and Thursday, with ticket prices starting from US \$159.

MAI launched flights to Chiang Mai and Dhaka in April and May. By the end of 2024, MAI aims to offer a comprehensive network of 21 international and 20 domestic flights. — Arkar Linn/TRKM



The photo showcases an aircraft from Myanmar Airways International (MAI).

COVID-19 report, 25 June 2024

NEW TESTS	32,320
NEW CASES	66
CASUALTIES	0

NATIONAL

Education: A light that dispels darkness and ignorance



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries watch the performance during the opening ceremony of the Myanmar National Education Conference 2024 yesterday.

FROM PAGE 1

He continued that as the infrastructure of a country is abundant in educated human resources, the Myanmar National Education Conference 2024 will be held in accord with the objective: **To further promote education for the development of human resources.**

The Senior General highlighted that **education is similar to light, which can excise darkness and ignorance. As such, the Lord Buddha preached that there is no light like education.**

He underscored that **those who have knowledge from the higher education level can grasp the jobs to earn increased incomes. Those who have initiative and a high capability of creativity are successful in relevant arenas.**

The Senior General emphasized that **the strength of a country depends on education. The students with five capabilities are the strength of the nation as well as the future of the State. Apart from parents, student youths acquire knowledge from teachers as second parents,** he added.

In Myanmar society, he noted that all people keep teachers at the fore forever. As such, teachers have to give guidelines to students to help them become educated and polite.

He stressed that **most of the people earning incomes at the middle class rely on the school education of the State. As such, teachers need to give training to students to become**

well-rounded students.

The Senior General recounted that in the post-COVID-19 period, 5.3 million students attended the schools in the 2021-22 academic year compared with more than eight million in the 2023-24 academic year and 7.3 million on 21 June of the 2024-25 academic year.

He instructed that **education officers, school heads, parents, teachers and students have to enhance the prestige of their schools.**

He urged students to **follow school disciplines in line with the saying that school**

is the birthplace of national character, adding teachers have to teach their students to abide by laws and disciplines as the practice of responsible citizens.

The Senior General underlined that **learning higher education aims to help citizens emerge as well-versed citizens with the improvement of their socioeconomy in addition to obtaining relevant degrees.** If so, those educated persons will benefit the country.

He outlined that Myanmar's universities need to revivify curriculums so that stu-

dents can learn education that attains global standards.

The Senior General noted that it is necessary to exercise the student-centred learning system to create active learning among students.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council Member General Mya Tun Oo, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw cut the ribbon to launch the conference.

The Senior General un-

veiled the archway of the conference.

The Senior General and dignitaries enjoyed the song and opera presentations of artists from the MRTV, Myawady TV and Fine Arts Department.

The Union minister for Education presented a gift for the conference to the Senior General.

The Senior General and the party visited booths at the conference exhibition.

The conference organized by the Ministry of Education and relevant ministries continues till 27 June. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General looks into the display at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

NATIONAL

A Message from Member of the State Administration Council, Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae during 2024 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June 2024

MAY all the citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar be filled with happiness and joy.

Since the United Nations General Assembly designated 26 June as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (World Drug Day), it has been the 37th occasion that the celebrations have been commemorated in various countries around the world to promote cooperation and elimination of drug abuse.

The drug problem is emerging as a complicated challenge that is seriously affecting the lives of millions of people around the world. The production and trafficking of drugs is somehow related to transnational crimes of money laundering, arms smuggling and terrorism, which is seriously affecting the national security, stability and law and order. Drug use also greatly affects physical and mental health and is causing a loss of human resources around the world.

The State Administration Council is accelerating the development of the country, while efforts are also being made by all sides to control the drug problem that hinders the development of the country.

Myanmar is severely facing challenges related to opium poppy cultivation, synthetic drug production and drug abuse. To address these issues, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control systematically established various working groups and took its role as a national duty.

After evaluating the existing 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law to be in line with international standards and norms, it was amended and enacted on 14 February 2018. Similarly, the amendment of 1995 Rules relating to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was also announced on 13 December 2023. In addition, the National Drug Control Policy, which includes a multipronged approach, was adopted and announced on 20 February 2018, and the National Drug Control Strategic Plan is also being developed.

In order to effectively carry out our drug law enforcement activities, we have purchased and installed advanced modern detection equipment and are taking action to identify drug trafficking activities effectively. The Drug Enforcement Division under the Myanmar Police Force has 11 sub-divisions and 71 task forces, and they are being deployed all over the country to carry out effective drug control measures.

In 2023, Myanmar saw a slight increase in illegal opium poppy cultivation. Therefore, the persuasion by the Myanmar Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, and various departments to local ethnic communities in drug prevention efforts through educational activities has led to the destruction of a total of 6,181 acres of poppy fields during the 2023-2024 opium poppy cultivation season. The alternative development management sector is continuously carrying out the implementation of opium alternative development activities, the crop substitution sector, and the livestock breeding sector.

Even though opium cultivation and production were a major problem in Myanmar, now, like any other

country in the world, Myanmar is also severely faced with the production, trafficking and distribution of synthetic drugs. In order to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, Synthetic Drug Production reduction can only be achieved by effectively controlling the illegal entry of controlled precursors and non-controlled chemicals.

Therefore, Myanmar has prescribed 39 types of chemicals as controlled substances and is conducting strict inspections to prevent any diversion of these chemicals. Likewise, we communicate with foreign countries through the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) system to export precursors and ensure that the chemicals don't get diverted anyway.

Since Myanmar cannot produce chemicals, but geographically, it is located among industrialized countries that produce chemicals, and these precursors are illegally flowing into drug production sites from the border areas with various means. Even though some ethnic armed organizations in Myanmar have denied their involvement in drug activities, in reality, they illegally import chemicals across the border into the areas they control by working together with foreign chemists to produce drugs.

While the State Administration Council is accelerating its fight against drugs activities, it has been found that the terrorist insurgents are taking advantage of the current political instability to burn down towns and villages, expanding their force, destabilizing the areas where their ethnic groups live by carrying out destructive activities to cause economic decline. People are being denied access to education in cities and villages.

To ensure uninterrupted transportation and regional stability, to prevent and suppress illegal drug trafficking by terrorist insurgents and to prevent the smuggling of arms and ammunition, ethnic armed organizations that want peace, military personnel, and the Myanmar Police Force are working together with concerted efforts on security measures.

In terms of law enforcement measures, the country overall carried out 40 drug special operations from 2013 to 2024. In 2023, "Operation 39" was carried out on a nationwide scale, and since huge quantities of narcotic drugs and essential precursors used in the drug production process were successfully seized, Operation 39/24 is also currently being carried out.

Despite the success of the prevention and suppression activities, effective punishments are set to be imposed on the main culprits caught, and since some of the offenders have been found to be committing more crimes after being released from punishment, assets obtained from the defendants' drug offences will be effectively confiscated as public funds.

As every seized drug and its related substances are burned during the commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June each year, over K936 billion worth of narcotic drugs and its related substances were burned

in various places of Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi on 26 June 2023.

Recognizing that "prevention is better than cure". Drug risk prevention awareness activities were implemented for young students in high and elementary schools and out-of-school camps. In order for the entire public to be fully aware of the danger of drugs, awareness-raising activities are being carried out by the five working groups of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Myanmar Radio and Television News, press agency, Printing and Publishing, Public Relations and Psychological Operations Directorate with oriented approaches.

To provide treatment for individuals addicted to drugs and reduce subsequent risks, Myanmar has established 29 major clinics, 56 minor medical clinics and 90 methadone clinics across the country. They have given treatment to 26,595 drug addiction patients, and 23,875 individuals were given methadone treatment in 2023. In order for the drug addicts to reintegrate back into the community, the Ministry of Relief and Resettlement has established 14 rehabilitation centres and is continuously developing them as well.

Myanmar has been actively engaged in fighting against drug activities in collaboration with neighbouring countries, including the United Nations, ASEAN member states, Mekong regional countries, BIMSTEC member countries and international drug control agencies. The country has close ties with UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) based in Yangon, AFP (Australian Federal Police), DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), NNCC (National Narcotics Control Commission) and ONCB (Office of Narcotics Control Board) by enhancing its existing cooperation mechanism.

Furthermore, in 2023, the country successfully hosted the 24th Myanmar-Thai Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation, the 44th ASEAN Senior Official Meeting on Drug Matters, and likewise in 2024, the country also hosted the 7th Myanmar-India DG Level Talks on Drug Control Cooperation, ASEAN Development Action Plans Workshop for ASOD Focal Points and 16th ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network Meeting. Thus, Myanmar itself is accelerating its concerted efforts on drug law enforcement activities with the international community as well.

Therefore, to mark this year's 37th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, all countries are entitled to carry out comprehensive preventive measures according to the theme "The Evidence is clear: invest in Prevention", sent by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

As the national government is trying to increase its momentum in various ways to prevent the danger of drugs that hinder the peace and stability of the Union, the rule of law, modern development, safe and smooth road communication, and I also urge all ethnic people to cooperate with goal-oriented and balanced approach and assist with the strength of unity.

NATIONAL

DPM MoFA Union Minister holds separate talks with Heads of Delegation of Thailand, Nepal and Qatar on sidelines of 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting in Tehran

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 separately met Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand at 8 am, Mr Narayan Kaji Shrestha Prakash, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal at 3:30 pm and Mr Soltan Saad S K Al-Moraikhi, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar at 4:30 pm Iran Standard Time on 24 June 2024 at the Parsian Azadi Hotel in Tehran.

At the meeting with the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs, both sides cordially exchanged views on strengthening the existing friendly relations between Myanmar and Thailand, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation,



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe presents a souvenir to the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar on 24 June 2024.

and further cooperating closely with ACD, ASEAN, and BIMSTEC. The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also welcomed Thailand for its important new role as the upcoming ACD Chair for the year 2025.

At the meeting with the Nepali counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe congratulated his counterpart on assuming new charge as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal. Moreover, both sides cordially exchanged views on strengthening the existing friendly relations between Myanmar and Nepal, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of culture, tourism, trade, and investment, and collaborating more closely

in the international field.

During the meeting with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs apprised him of the Myanmar Government's efforts to ensure peace, development, and democracy in the country and the latest developments in Myanmar. Furthermore, they cordially exchanged views and discussed matters pertaining to the further strengthening of friendly relations between Myanmar and Qatar as well as closer collaboration in the regional and international fora, including cooperation in the ACD.

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

Union Constitutional Tribunal Chair embarks on International Legal Forum in St Petersburg

AT the invitation of President Mr Valery D Zorkin of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the delegation led by Chairman U Aung Zaw Thein of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union left for St Petersburg, the

Russian Federation, yesterday to attend the International Conference and the XII St Petersburg International Legal Forum on the topic of "Protection of Rights and Constitutional Supervision". — MNA/TS



Chairman U Aung Zaw Thein of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union is seen before departing for the Russian Federation.

MoH Union Minister departs for China to attend Traditional Medicine Forum

DR Thet Khaing Win, Myanmar's Union Minister for Health, departed for China yesterday to attend the 2024 Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Traditional Medicine in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, on 26-28 June. The Myanmar delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Health and Chinese Embassy's Commercial Attaché Mr Ouyang Daobing.

The forum, themed "Inheritance, Integration, and Development", will feature participants from SCO member countries, observer countries, dialogue partners, and traditional medicine experts. The



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win (C) is pictured before leaving for China.

event aims to foster the mutual study of traditional medicine, address copyright issues, enhance university cooperation,

promote sector development, and support the establishment of the global health community. — MNA/TS

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NATIONAL

Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits campaign launched in PyinOoLwin

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, attended a ceremony to launch the “Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits” campaign at No 1 BEHS in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, said the development of nations depends significantly on their human resource capacities. Thus, all should work together to mentor the students and youths for the development of the country.

He then highlighted the efforts of the Prime Minister to create learning opportunities



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the display at yesterday's launching ceremony in PyinOoLwin.

and improve reading habits.

Afterwards, he handed over K255 million to construct 17 new

libraries and 12,000 books and publications for 600 libraries to the region's chief minister, seven

DTH dishes and seven DVB T2-set top boxes for basic high and middle schools to the headmas-

ters and headmistresses.

The region chief minister expressed gratitude, and author U Aung Thin (Ko Shwe Aung Thin) presented books and publications to district education officer Daw Shwe Sin Ei.

After the entertainment programmes of famous singers, comedians and students, the Union minister gave cash awards to performers and observed the displayed books, journals, departmental booths, photo exhibition, story-telling competition, essay competition, painting, quizzes, impromptu talks and fun game competitions.

A total of 4,000 students of basic education schools and private high schools in PyinOoLwin participated in the event. — MNA/KTZH

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects arrivals of consumer goods

REHABILITATION materials are being shipped to Rakhine State under the guidance of the Department of Disaster Management, as directed by the Rakhine State government and the transport and communication committee.

Yesterday morning, Rakhine Chief Minister U Htein Linn, along with government members and departmental officials, inspected the arrival of consumer goods and construction materials delivered by MV Royal Venus cargo ship at Sittway jetty.

MV Royal Venus carried a total of 2,083.44 tonnes of rice, fuel oil, foodstuffs, construction materials, and related items ordered by the Rakhine State

government.

During the visit to the port, the chief minister and accompanying officials oversaw the cargo handling operations using mechanized equipment. They emphasized the importance of careful handling to prevent damage to the goods.

Additionally, the chief minister and party inspected the handling operations of rice bags and food products from MV Ye Tun Aung and MV Aung Yadanar cargo ships.

Furthermore, the chief minister reviewed the handling operations of consumer goods from MV Shwe Yee Wutt Hmone cargo ship at Phaungtawgyi jetty in Sittway. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/TRKM

MoHT Deputy Minister heads for Philippines to attend 36th CAP-CSA Joint Meeting



Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe is seen leaving for the Philippines yesterday.

AT the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Tourism Organization and the Secretary of the Department of Tourism of the Philippines, Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe left for the Philippines yesterday to attend the 36th Joint Meeting of the UN Tourism Commission for East

Asia and the Pacific and the UN Tourism Commission for South Asia (36th CAP-CSA) and First UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Asia and the Pacific which will be held from 26 to 28 June 2024 in Cebu, the Philippines.

The tourism forum will include networking with fellow members of the United Nations Tourism Organization, a minis-

terial dialogue and a discussion on when gastronomy meets the territory Insights by Asia Pacific Destinations.

The forum will also feature discussions on the FAO Mountain Partnership project, reducing food waste and using more local produce, and the successes of food tourism in Asia and the Pacific. — MNA/KZL



The photo shows the operations handled at the Sittway Port. PHOTO: WIN MIN SOE

NATIONAL

People's military servants training No 3 begins across various commands

AS every citizen is under a duty to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, Training No 1 and 2 for people military servants was successfully conducted in regions and states.

Eligible citizens for Training No 3 arrived at the respective military stations, and the opening ceremonies were organized yesterday.

The principals of respective military training schools made opening speeches, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, regional and state chief ministers, commanders and relevant officials attended the opening ceremonies and cordially met with the trainees.

They also provided cash assistance to the trainees.

Training No 3 trainees talk about their experiences:



"I voluntarily joined the training here as I am in conformity with the requirement for military training and also as a duty of a citizen. After the training, I will keep fit and stay disciplined and will serve the duties at the designated duty areas," said a trainee.



"I registered for Training No 2. But I could not join as the limit was full. I voluntarily joined the training course No 3. The military conscription law is enacted in international countries, and our country has also enacted the law, which brings a lot of benefits to our country. Every citizen is responsible for protecting race and religion. Therefore, I came here, and I also would like to invite youths to come to training," said a trainee.



"I was very pleased when I arrived here. I envy my seniors and also respect them. All the instructors take care of us like their relatives. What I want to say is that I don't believe the rumours, and everything is OK here. I want all to know that we are happy. We also warmly welcome all," said a trainee. — MNA/KTZH



Photos showcase the activities of the people's military servants training 3 in different commands and the state/region and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman ministers reached out to them.

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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.

OPINION

Successfully eradicate drug abuse and trafficking

THE government is accelerating the development of the country to render from all sides to control the drug problem that hinders the development of the country as the country is severely facing challenges related to poppy cultivation, synthetic drug production and drug abuse.

Authorities concerned are implementing the alternative development management sector, crops substitution sector and livestock breeding sector. Even though poppy cultivation and production were a major problem in Myanmar, now, Myanmar is also severely faced with the production, trafficking and distribution of synthetic drugs.

In order to effectively carry out drug law enforcement activities, the country has purchased and installed advanced modern detection equipment and is taking action to identify drug trafficking activities effectively. The Drug Enforcement Division under the Myanmar Police Force has 11 sub-divisions and 71 task forces, and they are being deployed all over the country to carry out effective drug control measures.

In 2023, Myanmar saw a slight increase in illegal poppy cultivation. Therefore, the persuasion by Tatmadaw, MPF, and various departments to local ethnic communities in drug prevention efforts through educational activities has led to the destruction of 6,181 acres of poppy fields in the 2023-2024 season.

In order to reduce the production of synthetic drugs, Synthetic Drug Production reduction can only be achieved by effectively controlling the illegal entry of controlled precursors and non-controlled chemicals. Therefore, Myanmar has prescribed 39 types of chemicals as controlled substances and is conducting strict inspections to prevent any diversion of these chemicals. Likewise, the government communicates with foreign countries through the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) system for the export of precursors and to ensure that the chemicals don't get diverted anyway.

While the government is fighting against Drugs activities, it has been found that terrorists are taking advantage of the current political instability to burn down towns and villages, expanding their force, destabilizing the areas where their ethnic groups live by carrying out destructive activities to cause economic decline, and people are being denied access to education in cities and villages.

The country carried out 40 drug special operations from 2013 to 2024 overall. In 2023, "Operation 39" was conducted on a nationwide scale, and since vast quantities of narcotic drugs and essential precursors used in the drug production process were successfully seized, Operation 39/24 is also currently underway. While reunifying drug addicts who have completed medical treatment in society, the government is striving to successfully eradicate narcotic drugs by all means for the sake of new generations.

Casualties of War

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Where are the people

For people with resources or contacts, war will force them to move onto greener pastures as economic migrants in other countries. Almost every day, we hear news of illegal Myanmar workers being detained and captured in Thailand. Malaysia is clamping down further on illegals, and they have stopped the intake of overseas workers in the foreseeable future. Myanmar's next generation is caught in a dilemma between staying at home in a war-torn country or becoming an illegal migrant and possibly an enslaved person in one of the neighbouring realms.

Going back to the mid-East, out of 3.1 million West Bank residents, 200,000 factory workers commute to work in Israel every day. They are all out of work now after Israel removed their permits. In Myanmar, too, employers are having to cherry-pick among the scarce supply of labour, limiting the selection to those who were neither involved in CDM nor terror activities. In addition to that, there is a recent outflow of youth amid fake news on military call-ups and forced enlistments, and businesses are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea, especially relating to IT personnel. Based on the

hind side, the government could have killed two birds with one stone by excluding IT personnel from enlistment. Potential development of the digital economy while retaining IT talent at home!

Moribund Patient

WWI came as a shock. Until one week beforehand, prices in bond, currency, stock and money markets barely budged. Thus, everyone is caught unprepared for the worst to come. Right now, Russia-Ukraine, Hamas-Israeli, and other Middle East conflicts are keeping all the military powers occupied and their resources committed to these fronts. If China does decide to take advantage of and settle the Taiwan issue once and for all, America could go for three salient at once. WWII then becomes a distinct possibility.

By U AC

Even if investors expect a war, there is little that they can do to profit from it. How do you divest and unload your holdings within days or weeks, with the sudden closure of exchange banks and regulations changing for the worse? Think about the banking crisis of 2022 here. All depositors are caught with billions in local banks, having to fork out percentages in under-table fees in return for withdrawing their own money. Yet, no two crises are alike. Different wars have dif-

ferent winning and losing financial and investment combinations. Unscrupulous people in business adapt to taking advantage of shortages of essential commodities such as fuel, which ends up making the average Joe poorer through exorbitant pricing of indispensable goods. Hence, government action on gold, currency, edible oil traders and brokers for their exploitative behaviours seemed well justified.

The fog of war is thicker for investors than it is for military generals. Only in hindsight, future historians might wonder about the seeming insouciance of today's investors because the fog would have been cleared by then. From 11 January, the US-UK warships started attacking Houthi strongholds in Yemen. Five days later, Israel fired a targeted barrage into Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah, backed by Iran. Neither the US nor Iran wants a full-blown war. Yet, actions are leading towards it. Before the Hamas attack, 1/5 of average Middle Eastern country exports, from Israeli technology to Gulf oil, were sent to somewhere else in the region. Now, routes that transport more than half of all goods are blocked. Intra-regional trade has collapsed. Myanmar is facing

the collapse of a similar nature. The cost of shipping has risen because of continued attacks, sending many exporters operating on razor-thin margins out of business in months to come. The Red Sea used to handle 10 per cent of global shipping. Since Houthi began launching missiles and drones, shipping volumes have dropped to just 30 per cent of normal levels. The oil giant Shell has been staying away from the Red Sea since 16 January.

Because of continuing clashes, border trade routes got blocked, disrupting cross-border shipments and devastating local economies. Most productive industries are being battered. Growing hardship threatens to spark even more violence, corruption and abuse of power within fledgling civil service. This year, economic growth is likely to be negative, with a significantly reduced volume of official trade. Manufacturers no longer have the raw materials (imported) needed to operate their factories. Inadequacy in electricity supply has caused many to run at losses or cease production totally to avoid losses.

Those who rely on aid also suffer during war. Case in point – for crisis-stricken Sudan, the Red Sea is the sole entry point for aid, none of which has reached 25 million people in need since

January of this year. Egypt is in financial ruin as it's in danger of losing most of the US\$9 billion revenue from tolls on the Suez Canal. Jordan suffering from forgone tourism, which contributes 15 per cent of GDP. Other Gulf states have seen tourist numbers dip. In the month after the Hamas attacks, international arrivals to Jordan fell by more than 50 per cent.

The rich may have resources and alternative income streams to persevere in the face of conflicts, but the poor, who are already on the floor of daily survival, cannot further downgrade their standards of living. Myanmar poor could end up having to survive on scavenging the trash in the worst-case scenario. Many people in the border regions have been displaced. Many people in industries such as tourism are out of jobs. Together with sanctions, foreign tourists have deserted Myanmar on the advice of their home governments. The inbound tourist figures remained at a minuscule percentage in neighbouring countries. Lack of international trade also means limited buyers even for the goods well demanded overseas. In Mandalay jade markets, local sellers have to accept rock bottom prices offered by the Chinese brokers with forced smiles.

Myanmar is becoming a weakening in the region in terms of infrastructure for years to come. Unending terrorist attacks on electricity towers, railroads and bridges resulted in the government having to defend against these attacks, prevent further

onslaught and repair the damage, all at the same time. Repairs do not come cheap, either. They could not have come at a more inopportune time, especially when the country is facing a US dollar crunch.

For Whom the Bell Tolls

Kyat has sunk to its lowest level against the US dollar. CBM kept on selling foreign currencies to pop up the kyat, but with limited resources, it may not be able to hold out for long. A few remaining and struggling firms have cut growth forecasts and downgraded business opportunities in coming years.

Already the lowest per capita GDP in ASEAN since 2017, this civil war is taking a toll on each of us, as we are all bound together in this beautiful land of ours. Never-ending conflicts have transformed Myanmar from being the most well-off nation in Southeast Asia to now the poorest of them all. Wars and disputes did pose a serious threat to the economy. As an example, in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the cost of weapons and drafting 200,000 reservists cost Israel 3.8 per cent of its GDP.

Essentially, the government has three vital challenges: employment, the collapse of private consumption and the financial cost of the conflict. With the whole armed forces on standby, plus calling upon young men who are the most productive workers of ideal ages, we are in uncharted territory where there are not enough skilled workers to fuel the economy. Hence, there is a

slope of the land that allows in more sea water, the study said. Scientific models need to be updated to take into account the element of melt to better predict the risk of sea-level rise in the future and prepare for it, Bradley said.

"And it really just stresses the need for urgent climate action in order to prevent these tipping points from being passed," he added.

SOURCE: AFP

Antarctic faces melting 'tipping point' as oceans warm: study

SCIENTISTS have discovered a new tipping point towards "runaway melting" of Antarctic ice sheets, caused by warm ocean water intruding between the ice and the land it sits on, according to a study published on Tuesday.

While this type of melting has been previously studied, models used by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to project the impact of global warming on the Antarctic have

yet to factor in this phenomenon. They have also systematically underestimated ice loss seen thus far, said the study, published in the journal Nature Geoscience.

As ocean temperatures rise due to human-caused global warming, Antarctic ice sheets are melting, threatening a rise in global sea levels and putting coastal communities at risk.

"Increases in ocean temperature can lead to a tipping point

being passed, beyond which ocean water intrudes in an unbounded manner beneath the ice sheet, via a process of runaway melting," the study said.

Antarctic ice sheets sit atop the bedrock and extend beyond the coast to float on the sea.

Previous studies have shown that warm seawater is seeping into the "grounding zone" — where land and ice meet — and further inland from under the floating ice.

As the water warms, even by a fraction, the intrusion accelerates from short distances of 100 metres (330 feet) to tens of kilometres (miles), melting ice along the way by heating it from below, explained the study's lead author Alexander Bradley.

"Every 10th of a degree (of warming) makes these kind of processes closer, these tipping points closer," said Bradley, a researcher with the British Antarctic Survey.

The risk to sea-level rise comes when the accelerated melting outpaces the formation of new ice on the continent.

Some areas of Antarctica are more vulnerable to this process than others due to the shape of the land mass, which has valleys and cavities where sea water can pool beneath the ice.

The Pine Island glacier, currently Antarctica's largest contributor to sea-level rise, is at high risk of melting due to the

tight labour market. Most of what we have left is extra low-skilled labour. For instance, most farm workers do not even know that they have to remove the plastic bag when transplanting the seedlings. Believe it or not!

The second challenge is the collapse of private consumption: Uncertainty, fear of repeated attacks, inflation, and increased cost of living have caused people to change their consumption patterns by staying at home, empty restaurants and shopping malls. Shops have few customers and lower spending. Tourism grinds to a halt. Border towns cleared out, putting a stop to many economic activities in border regions where terrorists camp especially. With more natural disasters expected during the rainy season, more handouts for families and displaced persons are expected, a further drain on government coffers.

Foreign governments have frozen millions in government accounts. So far, the government has found ways to rely less on the US dollar through settlements in currencies of neighbouring countries.

As Sun Tzu said, "Prolonged warfare drains the nation's resources, dulls your forces and blunts your edge." Finding enough people to keep the war effort going would become a challenge. The morale of the people and soldiers would become low. Specialist workers, IT, engineers and lawyers will become incredibly scarce. The only question would be how the general public maintains the living standards and how much the government has to fork out more to prop up whatever is left of the economy before finally handing over the ruins of the day to the next government after the elections in 2025!

Even the mighty Russia did not go unaffected. President Putin had said, "Illegitimate restrictions imposed on the Russian economy in the medium term may indeed have a negative im-

act on it." The casualties of war this time would have unprecedented consequences, including severe and long-lasting economic costs.

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act on it." The casualties of war this time would have unprecedented consequences, including severe and long-lasting economic costs.



The Collins glacier on King George Island has retreated in the last 10 years and shows signs of fragility, in the Antarctic on 2 February 2018. PHOTO: MATHILDE BELLENGER / AFP

NATIONAL



SSB increases penalties for lost/damaged cards starting July

THE Social Security Board (SSB) has announced an increase in penalties for the loss or damage of Social Security Benefit cards beginning in July.

Currently, the penalty for re-applying for SSB cards due to loss or damage is only K5,000. However, from 1st July onwards, the penalty will increase to K30,000 for the first occurrence, K50,000 for the second occurrence, and K100,000 for subsequent occur-

rences, according to the notification. The board will also issue a recommendation letter for medical treatment to individuals who have lost or damaged their card before receiving the new SSB card. Employers contribute two per cent of an employee's salary towards social security health insurance benefits, while employer contribute one per cent of their employees salary towards occupational injury benefits monthly.

According to statistics, there are currently almost 1.2 million workers registered with SSB. — TWA/TMT

A general view of the Hlinethaya SSB office (Shwelinpan Industrial Zone branch).

MSF donates blood marking Seafarers' Day 2024

THE Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) donated blood on 24 June in honour of International Seafarers' Day 2024.

In observance of International Seafarers' Day (Day of the Seafarer 2024) on 25 June, MSF donated blood at the National Blood Donation Centre.

"This type of blood donation benefits not only seafarers but everyone," said MSF Chair Captain Soe Min Aung.

The executive committee of the Myanmar Seafarers

Federation held its monthly meeting on 25 June 2024. The 6/2024 meeting addressed issues, including the budget, the sale of redundant items at the MSF office, challenges faced by seafarers regarding insurance, and other specific concerns.

The Myanmar Seafarers Federation is an organization that champions the rights and welfare of seafarers and also conducts training courses for them. — TWA/MKKS



The MSF Executive Committee's regular monthly meeting 6/2024 in progress on 25 June 2024.

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

Japanese companies to recruit about 700 Myanmar workers

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced on 27 June that more than 200 Japanese companies have sent job offers to recruit about 700 Myanmar workers.

The embassy is verifying information on 212 job offer letters sent by companies in

Japan. According to the statement, the labour inspection company in Japan and the factories and companies recruiting for jobs have checked the documents regarding whether or not they are legally established in Japan,

and they have offered jobs to recruit over 280 men and 400 women, totalling about 700 Myanmar workers.

The embassy announced on 14 June that more than 360 Japanese companies had recruited more than 1,500 Myanmar workers. — TWA/KZL

First-ever 'T-pop Star Challenge, Myanmar' announced

FOR the first time in Myanmar, a Thai music singing contest will be held under the theme 'T-pop Star Challenge, Myanmar,' sponsored by Thailand's most extensive entertainment companies - GMM Grammy and GMMTV, as stated by the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon.

In line with the government of Thailand's policy of "enhancing the soft power of Thailand abroad", T-pop Star Challenge aims to increase interest in the Thai language among Myanmar people as well as to entertain many Myanmar nationals living in Thailand, a neighbouring country of Myanmar, with their favourite Thai music, movies and series, said T-pop Star Challenge, Myanmar.

The winner's prize is US\$3,500 and a trophy. Participants must be Myanmar nationals aged 18 years and above. After choosing a licensed song they like under the GMM group, they need to record a video of themselves singing in their own voice and send the video with clear faces to www.tpopstar.com between 22 June and 31 July.

Twelve short-listed candidates will be announced on 10 August 2024, while the semi-

finals and final contest will be held at Junction City shopping centre on 28 and 29 September 2024. Event organizers will cover travel and accommodation costs for short-listed candidates from other cities to come and stay in Yangon.

Thai artistes from GMM Grammy and GMMTV and Myanmar artistes will participate in the contest as judges and special guests, it said. — MT/ZN

An advert for the first Thai music singing contest in Myanmar.



Myanmar's green gram exports amount to US\$118M by 14 June

MYANMAR has shipped over 180,000 tonnes of green gram to external markets with an estimated value of over US\$118 million as of 14 June in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar sent 179,550 tonnes of green gram worth \$117 million to international trade partners by sea and 2,442.5 tonnes worth \$1.5 million to neighbouring countries through border posts over the past two months.

Myanmar aimed to export 600,000 tonnes of green gram to external markets last FY, with 150,000 tonnes in each batch, the Ministry of Commerce announced.

Yet, it fell short of the export target of 600,000 tonnes for green gram in the financial year 2023-2024 (April-March), with only 500,000 tonnes being exported, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar conveyed around 503,970 tonnes of green gram worth \$336.89 million to foreign markets in the past FY 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.



A farm workers seen plucking the green gram.

Myanmar primarily exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas. The green gram is exported to China, India, the Netherlands, Ireland, England and Germany through maritime and border trade channels.

There is a wide range of foreign markets for Myanmar's green gram. More

than 8,000 tonnes of green gram are sent yearly to the European Union member countries.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce have agreed to export the green grams to European countries for bean sprouts starting in 2015. — NN/EM

MyRO registers 700+ rice storage facilities, announces mandatory registration

MORE than 700 warehouse facilities for rice storage have been registered on the online registration platform – Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) so far, and the Ministry of Commerce notified again on 24 June that the remaining businesses are to proceed to registration.

The MRF notified the warehouse operators and wholesalers to seek registration on the MyRO www.myro.com.mm for procurement of more than 5,000 baskets of paddy and over 50 tonnes of rice starting from 3 November 2023 with a view to ensuring rice price stability, creating a systematic approach to rice export, steering the market to avoid price manipulation, keeping rice stocks at supermarkets and wholesale shops in a systematic display and developing warehouse financing system.

As of 23 June 2024, 726 warehouse facilities comprising 513 owned by individuals and 213 corporate facilities have been registered.

The federation issued the first notification for the remaining facilities to proceed to registration on 12 January this year.

The Department of Consumer Affairs notified the MRF on 3 January, affiliated associations, region, state, district, and township level sub-associations, and the related committees and depots to conduct registration matters in a timely manner. Companies and individual entrepreneurs are also asked to seek registration on the MyRO in line with the regulations. Furthermore, supermarket chains are also instructed to register for rice sacks on display and stocks at the warehouse facilities, the MRF stated.

For further information regarding the MyRO registration, individuals can contact the MRF via phone numbers 09 893095503 and 09 9758642607 and email myromyanmar.mm@gmail.com or the Department of Consumer Affairs via phone numbers 067 3430563 and 067 3430131, and the Myanmar International Trade Centre located at No 622/626 on Merchant Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon through phone number 01 385323. — NN/EM



DICA blocks 8 palm oil importers for misconduct

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) added eight companies to the blacklist for misconduct in palm oil import and non-compliance with rules and regulations.

DICA has already notified that the registrar will publicly declare the denylist and weak compliance matters on DICA's website if companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO fails to comply with the existing law, rules and bylaws of the government institutions concerned and provisions stipulated in Myanmar Companies Law.

Therefore, DICA put eight companies on the blacklist from 24 June 2024.

They are Six Winner Brothers Co Ltd, Diamond Dragon Co Ltd, First Top Edible Oil Co Ltd, Ayeyar Hinthar Trading Co Ltd, Thein Than Yadana, Jewel Arrow Co Ltd, Agri One Trading Co Ltd and Grand Unity Co Ltd.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the

incorporation), according to Section 97 of Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 As per DICA's report, over 400 companies are suspended every month for failing to submit AR forms within the due date.

As a result of this, newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns. DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the Register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

NATIONAL

MNHRC inspects Taikkyi Police Lock-up, Court Detention Centres and U Maung Yone + Daw Yin Home for the Aged

THE inspection team, led by U Kyaw Myint, Member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), yesterday inspected U Maung Yone + Daw Yin Home for the Aged in Oakkan Township, Taikkyi Myoma Police Lock-up, Taikkyi District and Township Court Detention Centre, Yangon Region, in accordance with Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law.

The inspection team inspected U Maung Yone + Daw Yin Home for the Aged under



The MNHRC member inspects the U Maung Yone + Daw Yin Home for the Aged in Oakkan Township yesterday.

the MNHRC Law and procedures to find out whether the residents were enjoying fundamental rights, including health services, appropriate food, purified drinking water, right to freedom of religion, adequate dormitories and arrangements for leisure.

At the Taikkyi Myoma Police Lock-up and the Taikkyi District and Township Court Detention Centre, the MNHRC team inspected the conditions of detainees during the re-

mand period, any torture that occurred during the investigation and whether there were opportunities to meet family members, as well as the provision of food and drinking water, the handling of sewage, and the overall cleanliness of the facilities.

The MNHRC inspection team will inform the relevant department under the MNHRC Law of its findings and recommendations for necessary actions. — MNHRC

Discussions underway for sister city agreement for Yangon & Chongqing



Gifts are exchanged during the discussions in China on 21 June 2024.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that talks on signing an MoU to establish sister cities between Yangon and Chongqing took place in Chongqing, China, on 21 June.

U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin, Myanmar's Consul-General in Chongqing, met with Ms Wang Wen, Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Chongqing Municipal Government, at the Foreign Affairs Office in Chongqing on the same day.

During the meeting, both parties discussed enhancing practical cooperation between Myanmar and Chongqing Municipality in areas such as economics, education, people-to-people exchanges, cultural activities, and the upcoming signing of the MoU to formalize sister city relations between Chongqing Municipality and Yangon City this year. — ASH/TMT

Illegal goods seized in various states/regions



Confiscated illegal items in Yangon Region.

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

On 24 June, teams under the Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 42 types of goods worth K6.985 million, including 444 bottles of Golden Mountain brand oyster sauce without official documents, from house No 395 and house No 475-A in Thaton. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, combined teams managed by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 45 bottles (each containing 18 litres) of Two Shrimps brand palm oil valued at K2.925 million with-

out official documents in Dagon East District. Additionally, two trucks (valued at approximately K57 million) travelling from Myawady to Yangon and from Mandalay to Yangon were intercepted at the Ywathagyi Dry Port, carrying four types of goods worth K22.58 million, including 250 sets of used bicycles from Japan. The action was also conducted under Customs procedures.

On 25 June, a total of 8.374 tonnes of illegal timber valued at K1.138 million was captured in Bago District, and action was taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported seven arrests on 24 and 25 June, with an estimated value of K90.63 million. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

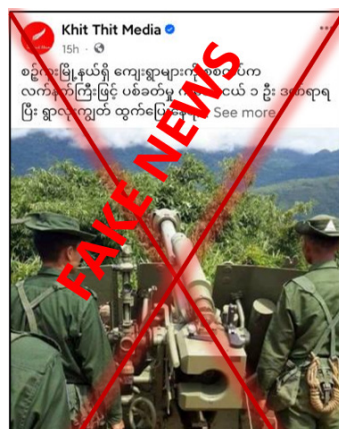
Misinformation: Villagers in Singu Township injured by security forces' heavy weapons

MALICIOUS news media are spreading false information that residents of Myathida Village were injured when security forces launched heavy weapons on villages in Singu Township, Mandalay Region, on 23 June.

According to a report from a responsible citizen who does not want violence, the actual situation is that PDF terrorists arrived and gathered at around 10 pm on 23 June to carry out terror acts in some villages in

Singu Township.

A security officer said that the security forces fired heavy weapons at the places where terrorists gathered, and terrorists were killed and fled. Still, there were no injuries to the local people. These terrorists arrested and killed one innocent person from Kyitaukpauk Village, Singu Township, on 22 June. Subversive media intentionally fabricate and spread false information that contra-



The screenshot validates false claims.

dicts the ground situation to cover up terror acts and mislead the public about the security forces. — MNA/KZL

Indian govt begins auction for telecom spectrum worth US\$11.53 bln

THE Indian government Tuesday announced it has begun the auction of spectrum for telecom services worth US\$11.53 billion.

According to the federal ministry of communications, the total quantum of spectrum being auctioned is 10,522.35 MHz in various bands.

Spectrum bands to go up for bidding include 800MHz, 900MHz, 1,800MHz, 2,100MHz, 2,300MHz, 2,500MHz, 3,300MHz and 26GHz. Officials said the decision has been taken in line with the Indian government's commitment to facilitate affordable, state-of-the-art high quality telecom services to its citizens. The auction will see participation from three bidders - Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio Infocomm. — Xinhua

Israel sees sharp drop in efficiency of hi-tech startup investments: report

An analysis of exit deals and investment data in the Israeli hi-tech sector showed that the efficiency of capital investment in Israeli startup companies dropped to a decade low, the Israeli company IVC Data and Insights reported on Monday. IVC, a leading data source and business information company in Israel's hi-tech industry, measured investment efficiency by counting all exits and dividing the total exit amount by the capital raised by the relevant startups before the exit event. — Xinhua

BYD launches 3rd EV model in Japan

CHINESE automaker BYD on Tuesday unveiled its third electric vehicle (EV), the SEAL, in Japan, as the company marches into the country's sedan market.

The SEAL will be available in two versions, both with a battery capacity of 82.56 kWh, according to BYD Auto Japan Inc at a press conference in Tokyo, announcing the kickoff of the sedan's retail sales nationwide.

The base model, priced at 5.28 million yen (about US\$33,110), offers a driving range of about 640 kilometres, while the all-wheel-drive (AWD) version



Photo taken on 25 June 2024 shows Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD Co's Seal sedan on display at the venue of its press conference in Tokyo to launch the company's third EV model for Japan. PHOTO: KYODO

went on sale at 6.05 million yen with a driving range of 575 kilometres.

Deliveries are expect-

ed by the end of July for the base model and the end of August for the AWD version. Highlighting safety,

sporty performance, and comfort, the newly introduced sedan features BYD's "blade battery", known for its long range, high energy density, and extended lifespan.

Positioned as an "e-sport sedan," the SEAL for Japan marks BYD's aim at the local sedan market, said Atsuki Tofukuji, president of BYD Auto Japan, adding that he hoped the introduction of this model will significantly boost sales in the third and fourth quarters of the year.

Tomoaki Endo, director of marketing at BYD Auto Japan, stressed that

extensive market research has been conducted to localize the SEAL model for Japan, so that customers now can switch seamlessly from conventional hybrid or traditional vehicles to the EV. Back in 2015, BYD's initial delivery of electric buses in Kyoto marked its official entry into Japan. Since announcing its entry into the Japanese passenger car market in 2022, BYD had introduced two models, the DOLPHIN, a compact car, and the Atto 3, an SUV, aiming to provide Japanese customers with a wide range of vehicle experience. — Xinhua

Osaka Expo pavilion cost may further increase by 7.7 bln yen



THE organizer of the 2025 World Expo in Osaka estimates the construction of prefabricated pavilions for the event could cost an extra 7.7 billion yen (US\$48.3 million) as it prepares for some countries to possibly change the construction plans of their pavilions, people familiar with the matter said Monday. The Japan Association for the

File photo taken on 21 June 2024 shows the venue for the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka, western Japan. PHOTO: KYODO

2025 World Exposition said of the 51 countries planning to build their own pavilions, 11 have still not secured contractors as of last Wednesday. As such the organizer is looking to build further pavilions that can be rented out.

The total cost for constructing the venue for the event is now expected to reach 235 billion yen and will be split by the central government, the Osaka prefectural and city governments, and the business community. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2408S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-6-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Shaanxi Sunger Road Bio-Science Co.,Ltd have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "Myanmar Sunger Road Bio-Science Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd. Ph- 09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Cy-diamond 70 WG	Cymoxanil 20% + Dimethomorph 50% WG	P2023-5422
2.	Mechlor 12 SC	Chlorfenapyr 8% + Methoxyfenozide 4% SC	P2023-5492
3.	Cometa	Cyhalofop-butyl 12% + Metamifop 8% EC	E2023-6036

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ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

British king welcomes Japan's imperial couple on state visit



Britain's King Charles III and Japan's Emperor Naruhito travel in the 1902 State Landau Carriage as they make their way along The Mall in London on 25 June 2024 on the first day of their three-day State Visit to Britain. The Japanese royal couple arrived in Britain for a three-day state visit hosted by King Charles III. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITAIN'S King Charles and Queen Camilla officially welcomed Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako in a ceremony Tuesday, marking the start of a three-day state visit to the country.

It is the first state visit to Britain by a sitting emperor

since then-Emperor Akihito's in 1998 and is the Japanese couple's second goodwill overseas visit since the emperor ascended the throne in May 2019. The Japanese royals, who arrived in the country on Saturday, were earlier greeted by Prince William at their central London

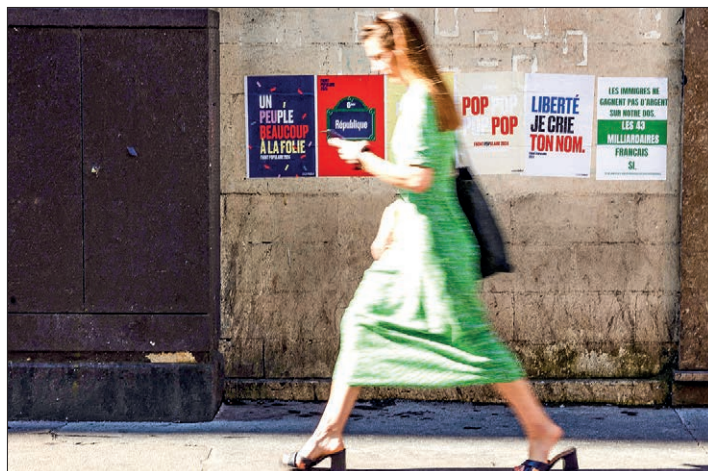
hotel before travelling to Horse Guards Parade for the ceremonial welcome. King Charles, who was diagnosed with cancer in February, and the emperor inspected a Guard of Honour, formed of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards with the Band of the Welsh Guards. — Kyodo

French parties hold key debate as Macron warns of 'civil war'

FRANCE'S three main political camps were set to go head-to-head Tuesday in a key TV debate as voters prepared for the most polarizing election in decades and President Emmanuel Macron warned of "civil war".

The rhetoric has reached fever pitch ahead of Sunday's first round of voting in the parliamentary elections, with the far-right National Rally (RN) polling in first place.

Tuesday night's debate will pit Prime Minister Gabriel Attal of Macron's centrist Renaissance party against RN president Jordan Bardella and Manuel Bompard of France Unbowed, representing a left-wing alliance that is also best-



Pedestrians walk past wall posters created by independent graphic designers from the website "24X36.art" in support of the leftist "New Popular Front" political coalition for the general elections, in Paris on 25 June 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

ing Macron's side in the polls.

At just 28, Bardella could become the first far-right prime minister in France's

modern history, though he has said he will only take the job if the RN wins an absolute majority in parliament. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Laos to improve satellite data management, service

LAOS' Ministry of Technology and Communications will establish a national satellite data management and service centre to integrate satellite technology into public service delivery to increase the efficiency of the government.

The satellite centre will enable the creation of maps along with remote sensing centres, geography information system (GIS) centres, global navigation satellite system (GNSS) centres, and BeiDou satellite information services.

Satellite mobile services will also be made available, while weather extremes will be predicted using satellite imagery, with weather monitoring stations to be built at power plants, Lao national TV reported on Tuesday. — Xinhua

Australian PM welcomes news of WikiLeaks founder Assange's release

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has welcomed the news that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is set to be released by US authorities.

Assange, 52, on Tuesday agreed to plead guilty to US espionage charges in a deal that ended his imprisonment in the United Kingdom (UK), allowing him to return to Australia pending court proceedings in Saipan on Wednesday.

Speaking in parliament on Tuesday, Albanese welcomed the news and said he plans to speak more once the legal process is complete.

"While this is a welcome development we recognize these proceedings are crucial and delicate," he said.

"We have engaged and advocated Australia's interest using all appropriate channels to support a positive outcome and I have done that since very early on in my prime ministership." — Xinhua

Envoy highlights China's dedication to restoring Iranian nuclear plan

CHINA'S permanent representative to the United Nations, Fu Cong, emphasized on Monday that China remains committed to collaborating with relevant parties to swiftly reach an agreement on reinstating the implementation of the Iranian nuclear plan.

"Going forward, China will continue to work with all parties to ensure an early agreement on restoring the plan's implementation, to push for a political settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue, to safeguard the international non-proliferation regime, and strive tirelessly for peace and stability in the Middle East," Fu told the Security Council briefing on the Iranian nuclear issue.

"The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a major achievement of multilateral diplomacy endorsed by the Security Council," Fu said, emphasizing the critical importance of the agreement.

The envoy stressed the urgency of achieving an "earlier breakthrough" in negotiations to restore JCPOA's implementation, which remains "deadlocked".

The ambassador highlighted four key observations. First, he emphasized the need to adhere to the goal of political and diplomatic settlement, urging parties to "step up dialogue and engagement" to resume JCPOA's complete and effective implementation. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Shan United book ticket to AFC Challenge League

THE Myanmar club Shan United will have the opportunity to compete in the 2024-2025 AFC Challenge League Championship, which the Asian Football Confederation-AFC will organize.

The AFC will hold three more tournaments starting next season, and Myanmar clubs will only be allowed to compete in the third-ranked AFC Challenge League. Next season, the football confederation will host the AFC Champion League Elite competition at level 1, the AFC Champions League Two at level 2 and the AFC Challenge League at level 3.

The AFC Challenge League will be divided into the East Asia Zone and the West Asia Zone, and Myanmar club Shan United will compete in the East Asia Zone.

Myanmar club Shan United is placed in the East Asia zone with Indonesian club Madura



The Shan United squad is seen posing for the group photo. PHOTO: THAW GYI

United, Cambodia club PKR Svay Rieng, Chinese Taipei club Taiwan Steel, Lao club Young Elephants and Mongolian club

SP Falcons.

The East Asia zone will be divided into two groups of three teams, and according to the for-

mat of the tourney, the West Asia zone will have three groups and the East Asia zone two groups.

The top team from each

group and the best three runners-up from each group will advance to the quarterfinals, making a total of eight teams.

The group matches will be held in one round only, and the quarterfinals and semifinals will be played for two rounds with the home and away system. In turn, the final will be held in one round.

The group matches will launch from 26 October to 2 November, while the quarterfinal will be played in March 2025, and the semifinals will start in April 2025. The final match will be played in May 2025. The lot-drawing event for the tourney will kick-start on 22 August 2024.

Shan United will compete in the AFC Challenge League, which the Asian Football Confederation will hold, and the ASEAN Club Championship, organized by the ASEAN Football Federation. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Brazil frustrated by Costa Rica, Colombia beat Paraguay at Copa



James Rodriguez of Colombia challenges for the ball with Omar Alderete of Paraguay during the CONMEBOL Copa America 2024 Group D match between Colombia and Paraguay at NRG Stadium on 24 June 2024 in Houston, Texas. PHOTO: HECTOR VIVAS/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

A lacklustre Brazil launched their Copa America campaign with a dour 0-0 draw against Costa Rica on Monday as James Rodriguez inspired Colombia to a 2-1 win over Paraguay.

Brazil, chasing a 10th Copa America crown, dominated possession and territory in the Group D game at the SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles but struggled to break down a resolute Costa Rica.

The Brazilians thought they had taken the lead in the 30th min-

ute after Marquinhos tapped in at the back post after a flick on by Rodrygo following a free-kick by Raphinha.

But after an agonizing VAR delay, the goal was chalked off for a fractional offside decision as Costa Rica escaped.

That was as good as it got for Brazil, who laboured to break down Costa Rica's defence for the remainder of the game, registering just three shots on target despite enjoying 73.5 per cent possession.

Costa Rica were content to sit back, defending in numbers and rarely venturing forward with any purpose.

The Costa Ricans failed to have a single shot on goal for the entire game.

Brazil coach Dorival Junior paid tribute to Costa Rica's defensive organization.

"They were very well organized from start to finish," he said. "They were dedicated in everything they did".

Colombia finished the day top of Group D after collecting all three points in their deserved win over Paraguay at Houston's NRG Stadium.

Rodriguez sparkles

Rodriguez, whose club career has languished in the decade since he rose to prominence with a dazzling performance at the 2014 World Cup, created both of Colombia's goals.

The 32-year-old midfielder, who has played just a handful of minutes for Brazilian club Sao Paulo in the two months leading into the Copa America, set up the opening goal for Colombia in the 32nd minute. — AFP



David Raya Martin (Back), goalkeeper of Spain, makes a save during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group B match between Spain and Albania in Dusseldorf, Germany, on 24 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Italy stuns Croatia, Spain advances with perfect record

MATTIAS Zaccagni's last-grasp 1-1 equalizer against Croatia sent reigning champion Italy through the Euro 2024 group stage while Spain capped a perfect Group B run with 1-0 win over Albania in the last round of group play on Monday.

Croatia started offensively minded knowing that only a win would see it progress into the round of the last 16.

Luka Sucic created the first clearcut chance with five minutes gone after unleashing a hammer from 20 metres, forcing Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to tip the ball around the post.

Italy needed some time to gain a foothold and came close in the 20th minute when Mateo Retegui headed Riccardo Calafiori's cross goalwards.

Luciano Spalletti's men should have taken the lead before halftime but neither Alessandro Bastoni nor Lorenzo Pellegrini was able to overcome Croatia custodian Dominik Livakovic, who was equal to both promising efforts. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLDBritish king welcomes
Japan's imperial couple
on state visit

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WORLD



The return capsule of the Chang'e-6 probe lands in Siziwang Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 25 June 2024.

PHOTO: XINHUA

China's Chang'e-6 brings back first
samples from moon's far side to Earth

THE returner of the Chang'e-6 probe touched down on Earth on Tuesday, bringing back the world's first samples collected from the moon's far side, and marking another remarkable achievement in China's space exploration endeavours. The return capsule landed precisely in the designated area in Siziwang Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 2:07 pm (Beijing Time), operating normally, and the mission is a complete success,

according to the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

Under ground control, the returner separated from the orbiter approximately 5,000 kilometres above the South Atlantic. The capsule entered the Earth's atmosphere at about 1:41 pm at an altitude of about 120 kilometres and a speed of nearly 11.2 kilometre per second.

After aerodynamic deceleration, it skipped out of the atmosphere and then began to glide downwards, before re-en-

tering the atmosphere and decelerating for a second time.

At around 10 kilometres above the ground, a parachute opened, and the returner later landed precisely and smoothly in the predetermined area, where it was recovered by a search team. The returner is set to be airlifted to Beijing for opening, and the lunar samples will be transferred to a team of scientists for subsequent storage, analysis and study, said the CNSA. — Xinhua

 Hamas insists on
Russia being one
of Gaza ceasefire
guarantors

THE Palestinian movement Hamas insists that Russia should be one of the guarantors of the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, Hamas political bureau deputy head Musa Abu Marzouk told Sputnik.

"We still insist that Russia be the guarantor of such a ceasefire agreement, because obviously the United States is on the side of Israel ... Russia's position is fairer, more acceptable to all sides, and it is ready to act in this direction. We want to put an end to the hegemony of the United States and its one-sided influence on the Palestinian issue," Marzouk said.

There is no progress in negotiations on a ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian movement Hamas has not received a response to its amendments to the text of the document, Marzouk said.

Hamas does not ask Russia for military assistance, Hamas political bureau deputy head Musa Abu Marzouk added.

"No, we did not ask for military assistance. The war is going on in Gaza, Gaza is producing its own weapons for close combat, and, so far, we believe that we can manage on our own for this kind of fighting," Marzouk said.

Marzouk has arrived in Russia for meetings at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — SPUTNIK

Half a million Gazans still facing
'catastrophic' hunger: UN

ALMOST half a million people are still experiencing "catastrophic" hunger in Gaza, with famine still a high risk, a United Nations-backed assessment found Tuesday.

The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) partnership said its March warning of imminent famine in the north of the Palestinian territory had not materialized.

"However, the situation in Gaza remains catastrophic and

there is a high and sustained risk of famine across the whole Gaza Strip," the report said, warning against any complacency.

It said around 495,000 people — around 22 per cent of the Gaza population, according to the UN — are still facing "catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity" known as IPC Phase 5.

Another 745,000 people are classified as in a food security emergency.

The UN's World Food Pro-

gramme said the new report "paints a stark picture of ongoing hunger".

"The improvement shows the difference that greater access can make. Increased food deliveries to the north and nutrition services have helped to reduce the very worst levels of hunger, leaving a still desperate situation," it said.

But it warned that in the south of Gaza, the situation was getting worse. — AFP



A boy walks with a jerrycan after filling up with others from a truck loaded with water cisterns in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 25 June 2024 amid the ongoing conflict in the Palestinian territory between Israel and Hamas. PHOTO: AFP