

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

30th Pakokku Literary Award winners announced

PAKOKKU Literary Award Fund Supervisory Committee released the winners of the 30th Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary

Awards and Literary Awards. Sayagyi U Khin Aung (Shwebo Bamahti Khin Aung) and U Tint Lwin (Tet Lu) won

the Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement. Author Nyein Nyo won the second prize in the novel genre

with 'Metta Nway Htway Par Thi', whereas the third prize to Nay Soe Thaw with 'Sate' (mind) manuscript. In the collected

short stories genre, Ameithar (Natmauk) won the first prize with

SEE PAGE-2



A large sculpture unearthed during the excavation of the Hanlin Palace city wall and Hanlin research team.

Enhanced conservation plan proposed for Hanlin, recognized as key cultural heritage site in Myanmar

THE ancient Pyu city of Hanlin, which is a World Heritage Site as well as an essential cultural link for Myanmar, should be preserved with a higher standard plan, U Kyaw Myo Win, director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch), suggested on his Facebook page.

Hanlin, along with Beikthano and Sriksetra, was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List on 22 June 2014. Subsequent research revealed that the city wall of Hanlin, previously thought to be rectangular, was actually square, and the map had to be redrawn.

A vast sandstone slab found upside down was assumed to be a human face because it had Kanote (floral writing) similar to a human face, eyebrows and hairs. When a slightly swollen hill not very far away was examined with an

underground magnetic scanner, a solid image was found, he said.

The Hanlin section is trying to make a temporary shelter to protect these cracked pieces of boulder and minimize the damage.

A broken sandstone leg of a human statue unearthed on either side of the gate to the palace at Beikthano's Mound No KKG 8 is now on display at the Beikthano Museum. It is consistent with the findings at Hanlin that the site of such a giant statue could be the palace entrance. For fear of damaging any possible paintings on the underside of the statue if it is turned up hurriedly, the face-down statue found at Hanlin has been left in situ for a few years before a temporary shelter could be constructed. The rock is 11.5 feet high, five feet wide, and 1-1.5 feet thick.

"This cracked statue could be a

guard image, as we guess from the fact that it is in Beikthano. But what we found at Beikthano is just a piece of leg. It is possible to unearth the complete statue of Hanlin. If we cannot do it thoroughly, it could be damaged. There may be a similar statue that is not very far from here. The Hanlin section submitted preservation plans to the director-general. We have discussed it several times in meetings. We have also made site visits. Thanks to the efforts of the researchers, we can now open this rock to the public with minimum damage. We should thank the Hanlin research team, which had to work hard every day. While other sections were working two weeks on and two weeks off, they were tirelessly trying to recover this image in its original form in the jungle," said U Kyaw Myo Win. — MT/ZN

SUNDAY EDITION

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More than 6.2 million students enrolled at basic education schools for 2024-25 AY

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Myanmar signs MoU with Vietnam to bolster coconut sector

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Notification 106/2024

10th Waning of Kason 1386 ME
1 June 2024

Date set for Patent Law to come into force

THE Patent Law enacted as the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 7 in 2019 came into force on 31 May 2024 (9th Waning of Kason 1386 Myanmar Era), according to Sub-Section (b) of Section 1 of this law.

I hereby sign this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/
Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

30th Pakokku Literary Award winners announced



The 29th Pakokku Literary Award presentation event in 2023.

FROM PAGE-1

'Muthar Cho Cho and other stories', the second prize to Ko Ni Thway (Mann Myo) with 'The Shortest Story, the Longest Play, and other stories', the third prize to Tun Hlaing (Myaing) with 'Native Town and Friend and short stories'.

In the collected poem genre, Kaung Nwe won the first prize with 'Yaung Ni Than Chein Pan Pwint Chein', the second prize to Shwe Minthar (Sagaing) with 'Hmway Mya Gone Yi Sar Pan Thi Kabyar Myar', the third prize to Kanaung Naing Nwe Oo with 'Bawa Tay Than Kabyar Myar'.

In the genre of the treatise, Ko Toe (Yan Kin) won the first prize in 'Life and Literature of Konboungh Khit Sarso Lat Wae Thondara', the second prize by U Win Myint Maung (Linn AryanOo) with 'Yadanabon Aein Shae San', the third prize to Thet Oo Maung with 'Movie and Political Affairs, Nationalism Role'.

In the research genre, the first prize was won by Marn Thit Nyein (Archaeology) with 'Sri Ksetra Pyu Toh Ei Shwe Htal Ngwe Htal

Yin Kyay Hmu Anu Lat Yar Myar', the second prize by Ko Zaw Htay (Culture) with 'So Ka Yay Tee Yoe Yar Khayee' and the third prize by Lat Yar (Myitta Tagun) with 'La Pyae Nae Phwar Myanmar Lu Kyaw Myar'.

The Pakukko Scholarship Award was won by Ma Thant Phyu Phyu Tun (second-year painting) from the University of National Culture and Arts and Maung Min Thu Han Kyaw (second-year painting) from the University of National Culture and Arts (Mandalay).

The 30th Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Award went to Khin Maung Win (Anyamyay) for his book 'The Village I know' and Saya Thae 'Thaya Dway Linka Ahpwint Kyan'. The cash prize is K1 million for the Pakukko Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement, K700,000 for the first prize of the Pakukko Literary Award, K500,000 for the second prize, and K40,000 for the third prize.

Winners must contact the chief editor of the Sarpay Beikman and the administration section, and the prize-presenting ceremony date and venue will be notified later. — TWA/KTZH

400+ Japanese companies to recruit over 1,300 Myanmar workers



The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.

MORE than 400 Japanese companies will provide jobs for more than 1,300 Myanmar workers, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar Embassy to Japan on 31 May.

The Myanmar Embassy has carried out verification of demand letters organized in order of date of receiving a reply from Japanese companies, and the statement says that 409 demand letters were received until 21 April 2024 and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification.

According to the statement, more than 400 Japanese companies will employ more than 400 Myanmar male workers and more than 940 Myanmar female workers, totalling more than 1,300 Myanmar workers. The

embassy said it has carried out verification of demand letters sent by the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It verifies whether labour supervisory companies and factories or companies that offer jobs in Japan are officially established and re-submits its findings and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to the letter from the embassy on 15 May, more than 400 Japanese firms will recruit more than 1,300 Myanmar workers, and according to the letter dated 30 April, more than 400 Japanese companies will reportedly recruit more than 1,100 Myanmar workers. — MT/ZN

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.

Selling or renting citizenship scrutiny cards, mobile SIM cards, mobile payment accounts, or bank accounts to unauthorized individuals may result in legal action.

NATIONAL

Union Information Minister discusses music industry development

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met with officials from the music industry at the meeting hall of Myanmar Music Association (Central) in Yangon yesterday.

The Union minister first highlighted the critical role of artistes in easing the pain of the public and the massive participation of those who represent the youths and serve for the sake of the people.

He continued that cooperation is required to ensure the rights of musicians. The event to celebrate Myanmar Music Day will be held at the National Theatre on 27 June. The artistes from various levels of the music industry should work together in unity for that entertainment event, and the government will also provide the needed assistance.

He then stressed the need to set the rules and regulations to select the categories of prizes and numbers of prizes for Music



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn is seen at the meeting for the reorganizing of the Myanmar Music Association, holding of Myanmar Music Day and Music Academy Award events and copyrights. **PHOTO: MNA**

Academy in detail and collect the attitudes of the artistes from the music industry so as to consider the weaknesses for coming events.

He concluded the meeting

after hearing the presentations made by the attendees.

The Union minister proceeded to the plot for Sarso Beikman in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

On arrival at the site, region Social Affairs Minister U Htay Aung, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung and acting director-general of the Printing and Publishing Department U Ko Ko

Naing explained the construction structure of Sarso Beikman, cost and location.

Then, the Union minister said Sarso Beikman is a place for intellectuals and people for their recreation, literary talks and peaceful reading sessions. It is an essential building for the country. It will be constructed with the help of India, showing the bilateral relationship between the two countries. He continued that the Prime Minister also instructed the implementation of the building as quickly as possible in accordance with the rules and regulations.

At noon, the Union minister met the chairman of the Myanmar Press Council and journalists at the Motion Pictures Branch in Bahan Township and discussed matters related to the publications of newspapers and journals, accurate news coverage and distribution processes. — MNA/KTZH

Union Health Minister unveils new medical buildings in Bago

THE opening ceremony of the Aung Thukha four-story medical ward building at Bago General Hospital was held yesterday morning, attended by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win, regional ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers, departmental officials, medical staff, and guests.

The Union minister, the Bago Region chief minister, Aggamaha Thirithudama Theingi Mahasaddhama Jotikadhaza Daw Ni Ni, Dr Moe Kyaw Thu (MD – Rain Forest Co Ltd), a representative of Aung Thu Kha Yawgis, Director-General of Medical Services Department Dr Myat Wunna Soe opened the building and sprinkled the inscription with scented water.

The Union minister and officials then inspected the Emergency and Out-Patient Department, Haemodialysis Department, Intensive Care Rooms and medical wards for monks of the new building.

The new Aung Thukha four-storey medical building has an area of 9,940 square feet and is well-built with a good structure. It also has five haemodialysis machines and other medical equipment worth K5,299.9 million. Therefore, patients with chronic renal failure will be able to receive haemodialysis treatment comfortably.

Furthermore, the Union minister and officials contributed to the children who underwent the repair surgery for cleft lips and cleft palates.



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win inspects hospital equipment at the Aung Thukha four-storey medical building in Bago Region, on 1 June 2024.

In the afternoon, they also attended the opening ceremony of a new building for cold storage medical store (Bago), built at a total cost of US\$336,000, and inspected it. — MNA/TRKM

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

More than 6.2 million students enrolled at basic education schools for 2024-25 AY



AS primary, middle and high schools under the Department of Basic Education will be opened on 3 June for the 2024-25 academic year, enrolment of students is admitted by setting the school enrolment week from 23 May to 2 June.

Yesterday, school heads, those in charge of schools and teachers of relevant basic education schools in regions and states assisted parents and guardians in smoothly enrolling their children. Moreover,

stationery and school textbooks provided by the Ministry of Education were presented to students.

Up to the 10th day of the school enrolment week on 1 June, a total of 6,275,691 students have enrolled at basic education schools, private schools and monastic education schools in all regions and states, and students are enrolling at the schools till 2 June. — MNA/TTA

The school enrolment processing for the 2024-2025 academic year in 2024.

Interest in donating voices to Kawechan School for the Blind grows



The Kawechan School for the Blind.

MANY people are interested in donating their recorded voices to Kawechan School for the Blind in Yangon's Insein Township, according to a school official. Voice donors come as individuals or groups to read out the books they like or that are available at the school.

A donor's reading is recorded, and the school plays it back for the students. "A donor shared their experience here, and it spread. The voice dona-

tion sessions are full for June, and there are only five days left in July. People come in one, two or a group. The appointment time is 9 am to 1 pm. It is aimed at enriching general knowledge of the students. We have a night library. We cannot buy books to read, and it isn't easy to read them. So, we invite voice donors. Donors contribute by voice or by hand. They read out with heart, and listeners are willing to listen," said a school official.

The donors have to audition their voices before being recorded. If the donor has a different Myanmar accent, the school is afraid that the students will not understand the text, so it will select the book to be reread. Interested voice donors can contact telephone numbers 09 32237848 and 09 253070585. — Thit Taw/ZN

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 1 June 2024)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 2 June 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway Region and Chin State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Mandalay Region and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 - 35 mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 7 - 9 feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and 5 - 7 feet in off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 June 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 June 2024: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

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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.

NATIONAL

Myanmar joins working lunch of EU Commission vice-chair, ASEAN ambassadors in Brussels

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Lynn Han, Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the European Union, as well as Myanmar Ambassador to Belgium, attended a working luncheon in Brussels on 29 May with Mr Francisco Fontan Pardo, Head of Cabinet for the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP), and members of the ASEAN-Brussels Committee (ABC) and ASEAN ambassadors.

During the luncheon, Mr Francisco Fontan Pardo briefed the attendees on matters related to the upcoming EU elections in June 2024. He discussed the status of the implementation of commitments made during the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit and the EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in February this year.

The Myanmar ambassador also provided an update on recent developments in Myanmar, explaining the preparations underway to conduct a nationwide census and compile voter lists for the upcoming general elections. He emphasized cooperation with Myanmar's constructive collaboration with international partners, including ASEAN and the EU in humanitarian assistance issues. — ASH/TMT



The photo showcases the working luncheon attended by Mr Francisco Fontan Pardo and ABC Members in Brussels on 29 May.



The photo shows one of prominent destination sites in Sagaing Region – the Kaunghmudaw Pagoda.

Sagaing Region attracts 20,000+ local visitors in April

A total of 20,501 domestic travellers visited the prominent destinations of Sagaing, Mingun, Monywa, and Shwebo in April, according to Daw Yi Yi Than, Minister for Economic Affairs of Sagaing Region.

Sagaing Region comprises six tourism zones — Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo,

Katha, Kalay, and Khamti — with the Sagaing tourism zone being the most visited by local travellers.

“Data shows that 7,880 domestic travellers visited Kaunghmudaw Pagoda and 7,651 visited SunUPonnyashin.

Similarly, 2,957 domestic visitors came to see the Min-

gun Bell, and 1,585 domestic visitors reached the Shwebo Palace in the Shwebo destination area,” said Daw Yi Yi Than.

Out of the 60 hotels and lodges registered with the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism across 11 townships, 47 are currently operating.

According to the data, more than 130,000 domestic and foreign travellers visited the destination areas of Sagaing, Mingun, and Monywa in 2023, despite transportation difficulties in some parts of Sagaing Region. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar chargé d'affaires pays courtesy call on new Vietnamese President

U Soe Ko Ko, Charge d’Affaires ad interim to Vietnam, paid a courtesy call on Mr To Lam, new President of Vietnam, along with heads of missions from the ASEAN embassies and the Timor-Leste Embassy at the Presidential Palace on 30 May, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, Mr To Lam expressed his gratitude for the congratulatory messages from leaders of the ASEAN member countries and Timor-Leste, while the heads of missions extended their congratulations to Mr To Lam on taking office as the President of Vietnam. — ASH/TMT



New Vietnamese President Mr To Lam meets heads of missions.

‘Seven Arrows’ group art exhibition at Artistic Space Art Gallery

ARTISTIC Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township is hosting a group art exhibition titled ‘Seven Arrows’ from 1 to 5 June, according to the gallery. “The Seven Arrows’ exhibition will showcase various paintings by both senior and junior artists. We warmly invite you to enjoy the largest number of paintings by many artists in this month’s show,” said a representative of the art gallery.

The Seven Arrows group art exhibition will display various beautiful paintings by 32 artists. — ASH/TRKM



The photo showcases the catalogue for the ‘Seven Arrows’ group art exhibition.

NATIONAL



The picture shows a demonstration of broadcasting urea fertilizer in Sagaing Region last year.

Myanmar aims to import 1.6 mln tonnes of fertilizer in FY 2024-2025

MYANMAR aims to bring in 1.6 million tonnes of fertilizer in the 2024-2025 Financial Year, according to the Steering Committee for Purchasing and Distribution of Urea Fertilizer.

The import volume is based on the actual import volume in the 2023-2024 FY. The committee will screen and recommend importing more depending on the needs, according to its coordination meeting.

The committee endorsed importing 679,999 tonnes of

fertilizer and 10,922 tonnes of pesticides in April-June 2024, following the reports of Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association. The meeting also addressed matters regarding import licences, import process and delay and goods arrival conditions of each company.

The reference price is set at K73,000 per 50-kilogramme bag in June 2024. The sales price will decline, and farmers can buy them at a cheaper rate. The departments con-

cerned are encouraged to facilitate work procedures as the market price tends to fluctuate in a timely manner. Also, the departments concerned need to coordinate so that the fertilizer input will be imported in time during the monsoon season, along with meeting quality and having a reasonable price, quoted a remark of the Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development, who acts as a chair of the committee. — TWA/KK

Myanmar's Three Rs Movement 60th anniversary to be held with large attendance

ACCORDING to the Literacy and Regional Development Support Association, the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Myanmar's Three Rs Movement (1964-2024) will be held in a crowded manner.

Discussions were underway for the publication of a commemorative magazine (Echo from the Heart) and the holding of an article competition commemorating the 60th anniversary of Myanmar's Three Rs Movement at the monthly meeting of the Literacy and Regional Development Support Association on 26 May.

According to the negotiations, the ceremony will be held with a high turnout through the

process of keeping the ceremony and publishing books.

The State Administration Council Chairman also stated in the message sent to the 76th Independence Day ceremony on 4 January that literacy activities such as Myanmar's Three Rs movement course will be implemented as a national movement throughout the country.

In such doing, volunteer students, teachers, local educators and local employees will get the help of ethnic language teaching assistants and implement it in the form of a nationwide national movement. All rural people and indigenous peoples will inevitably be lit-

erate and have primary education.

Three Rs is a significant educational project to eradicate illiteracy among older people throughout Myanmar. It is named after the three initials of the Myanmar word 'Ah', which means writing, reading, and arithmetic.

With a total of more than 70,000 student volunteers from universities, colleges, and institutes and a total of more than 500,000 local teachers and students, the great project started in Meiktila District in 1964 with the East Model Village Literacy Project and taught all over Myanmar until 1984. — TWA/KZL

NEWS In BRIEF

Senior General aims to foster dependable future leaders

STATE Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing directed and urged instructors and lecturer officers to provide systematic military and academic training, along with their accumulated experience, to trainees and cadets to develop future leaders with a firm spirit which the State, Tatmadaw, and the people trust.

The Senior General addressed this in his guidance given at the meeting with senior officer instructors, senior officer lecturers, faculty members, officers, trainees, and cadets at the Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin.

The Senior General continued by saying that every junior officer and cadet must be trained to become a qualified officer who is physically and mentally strong. He emphasized that it is essential to establish an insightful society in the future.

Items arriving at ports without permits to face action

AUTHORITIES have notified that disciplinary actions will be taken if import items arrive at airports and terminals before obtaining import licences and permits, starting from 1 July.

Aside from commodities permitted for storage in the customs warehouse, imported goods that lack permission are prohibited from arriving at terminals and airports. Companies will be subject to penalties under the Import/Export Law if such goods arrive without authorization.

Steering committee established for Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Project

WITH the purpose of conducting research, developing technical solutions, and managing public relations regarding the Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Myitsone Hydropower Project, the steering committee has been established. The committee's leader is Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aye Kyaw, with Kachin State cabinet member and Kachin State Natural Resources Minister U Taint Sao being appointed as the second leader.

CBM injects US\$5 mln, 5 mln yuan into market

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$5 million and five million yuan into the monetary market through online trading platforms on 31 May. The CBM has periodically sold dollars, yuan, and baht to exporters and importers via online trading platforms.

4 commodities, including medicines, permitted for storage in Customs warehouse

PREVIOUSLY, a total of 14 commodities, including agricultural inputs, were allowed to be stored at the Customs warehouse. However, the Department of Trade has now notified four commodity groups that are permitted for storage at the Customs warehouse. These include various electric vehicles and related products, industrial raw materials and chemicals for industrial use, food, and medicine. Items not included in this list must apply to the Customs Department for storage at the Customs warehouse, and applications will be accepted until 7 June. — Htun Htun/TMT

Myanmar signs MoU with Vietnam to bolster coconut sector

MYANMAR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Vietnam to boost cooperation in the development of the coconut sector at Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon on 29 May, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar held a workshop for the “Potential Product (coconut) value chain” project under the ACEMES-ROK Fund at Pan Pacific Hotel on 29 May. Myanmar’s Orchard Company Limited and Vietnam’s Hoa Binh Hiep Agricultural Service Cooperative signed the MoU to provide coconut saplings and technical assistance for coconut plantations.

At the workshop, experts led by Mrs Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh, chairperson of the Vietnam Coconut Association, elaborated on coconut plantations and production methods, carbon credit and creating Macapuno – a new product.

Representatives from the Agriculture Department, Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporter Association, Myanmar Coconut Producer and Trader Association attended the workshop.

The delegation led by the chairperson of the Vietnam Coconut Association, experts and attendees also went on a study tour to coconut farms in Yinkadit village, Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region on 30 May. Vietnam’s delegate left for Vietnam



Pieces of coconuts seen in the domestic market.

in the evening of 30 May from the Yangon International Airport.

Under the ACEMES-ROK Fund, the “Potential Product (coconut) Value Chain” project also includes coconut handicraft courses in Ayeyawady Region between May 2023 and April 2024.

This course offered practical approaches to turning waste coconut shells into a craft that is commercially valued. The trainees learnt know-hows of choosing coconut shells, de-

signing and cutting, polishing, drying and decorating with the use of equipment step by step. A basic drawing subject was included as well.

The trainees had to make practically coconut crafts such as lamps, DIY lamp shades, curtains, necklaces, keychains and earrings. They received a completion certificate.

The three-day coconut-based products expo and competition was held in Patheingyi from 22 to 24 January 2024. — NN/EM

Online business registration amendments available from 17 June

AMENDMENT and renewal of business registration for owners of e-Commerce online shops can be made through www.ecomreg.gov.mm from 17 June, according to an export and import news bulletin 7/2024 of the Trade Department released on 30 May.

Before renewal, applicants are advised to review the information. Renewal and amendment fees are set according to Notification 17/2023. The renewal process can be done in 60 days before the expiry, the Trade Department stated.

The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce released the news bulletin 17/2023 on 28 December regarding mandatory e-commerce registration.

The ministry allowed those online sales business operators who registered between 2 October and 31 December 2023 to be exempt from registration fee for six months.

The validity of registration granted from 1 January 2024 is two years. The registration fees are set at K70,000 for companies or commercial institutions, with a renewal fee of K70,000 and an amendment fee of K3,000. Those companies or commercial institutions holding the SME certificates have to pay K50,000 for registration, K50,000 for renewal and K3,000 for amendment fees. Individuals will be charged K30,000 for registration, K30,000 for renewal and K3,000 for amendment fee. — NN/EM

380 units of Thilawa and Kanaung Housing up for sale

A total of 380 apartment units from 11 buildings of Thilawa and Kanaung affordable housing complexes developed by the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) under the Ministry of Construction in Yangon Region will be sold this month under a home loan with low interest rate, the department notified.

A total of 2,189 prospective buyers who have a deposit of K3 million and over, with the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID) until end-December 2023 are entitled to purchase the apartment units and can make registration through direct messaging the DUHD Sale Housing Facebook page between 10 and 14 June within working hours (9 am to 4:30 pm). Those who could not register online can also

send a message to the contact number 09 795824722.

The applicants must provide their name, father’s name, citizenship scrutiny card, housing name, and building types and the CHID Bank’s down payment serial number.

They are asked to consider which building they want to apply for. Each bank account owner can apply for once. Applicants are not entitled to select the unit and floor themselves.

The drawing lots system will be practised in order to follow the CHID Bank’s list. Buyers will be selected on 21 June under the drawing lots system. Those selected buyers must take out a loan, however. Individuals can enquire about the department through contact numbers 067 3407527 and 09795824722. — NN/EM



Thilawa low-cost housing flats.

OPINION

Expedite collaborative efforts to successfully eradicate illegal trade

THE eradication of illegal trade is crucial for the economic development of any nation. While legal trade, including government and private sector initiatives, can significantly boost economic growth, illicit trade and smuggling can severely impede progress. In the ASEAN region, counterfeit goods generate an alarming annual loss of US\$35 billion, with fake pharmaceuticals alone accounting for \$2.6 billion. This illicit activity results in business losses of around \$6 billion each year.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) highlights substantial trade discrepancies between Myanmar and its primary trade partners — China, Thailand, India, and Japan — ranging from \$6 billion to \$12 billion annually. These figures underscore the rampant nature of illegal trade in the region.

Illegal trade not only undermines the development of the trade sector but also inflicts significant revenue losses on the state and negatively impacts the socioeconomic landscape. To combat this, collective efforts from the entire population, in collaboration with the government, are essential.

Actually, those who suffer losses in illegal trade are consumers. At the same time, businesspeople of national race groups also directly or indirectly encounter losses in illegal trade. As such, the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee and special task forces from regions and states have to cooperate with the government to eradicate unlawful trade, boost the State economy, and develop the private sector.

and foreign currency earnings, fuels the black market with transactions conducted through illicit channels, and complicates the accurate budgeting of state finances. Furthermore, it hampers the formulation of effective financial and monetary policies. The prevalence of illegal trade also undermines efforts to uphold the rule of law, fosters corruption among state officials, and disrupts the administrative machinery.

The fight against illegal trade requires expedited collaborative efforts. The government, businesses, and citizens must work together to dismantle smuggling networks, safeguard state revenue, and promote lawful trade practices. By doing so, the nation can mitigate the adverse effects of illegal trade on its economy and society, ensuring a more stable and prosperous future.

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Cleaner shipping fuel accelerated global warming: study

AN INTERNATIONAL effort to improve air quality by requiring ships to use less-polluting fuel caused a spike in global warming, according to research published Thursday on this unintended climate “shock”.

Global shipping’s switch to low-sulphur fuels starting in 2020 “could lead to a doubling (or more) of the warming rate” this decade and has already contributed to record-breaking heat over the past year, the study said.

That is because the tiny particles in sulphur pollution reflect and absorb sunlight and make clouds more mirror-like, creating a temporary cooling effect on the planet.

Scientists had anticipated that switching to the cleaner fuels would reduce this reflecting effect



Global shipping’s switch to low-sulphur fuels starting in 2020 “could lead to a doubling (or more) of the warming rate” this decade and has already contributed to record-breaking heat over the past year, the study said. PHOTO: PIXABAY

and accelerate warming, even if they debated by how much. The study suggests that deliberately brightening clouds could put a brake on global warming, even if such measures do not address the underlying driver: pumping greenhouse gases into

the atmosphere.

Scientists warn that such “geoengineering” approaches to climate change may have unwanted side-effects, and say that caution is needed.

For the new study, researchers combined satellite observations and model simulations to estimate the climate impact of slashing sulphur in shipping fuel under an International Maritime Organization regulation that took effect in January 2020.

Introduced to limit airborne pollution, this ruling reduced sulphur dioxide emissions from the global shipping industry by 80 per cent, said Tianle Yuan, lead author of the study published in the journal Communications Earth and Environment.

SOURCE: AFP

Ruby and Gold Cave

By Manle Sayadaw (Translated by Myint Zan)

Finding fault when 'tis no fault

if a dog barks at the moon
the golden sheen of the moon
is not diminished
it continues to give light

swine with malice and resentment
roll (their bodies)
against
the ruby in the emerald cave

the more they rub their bodies
inside the golden cave
the colours become
become much brighter than before



ပတ္တမြားရွှေဂူ

မြစ်မှရှိ မြစ်ရှာ
လမ်းကို ခွေးဟောင်လို့
ရွှေလရောင် ပြောင်မပျက်တယ်
ထွန်းလျက်ပင်သာ။

မြရွှေဂူ ပတ္တမြားကိုလ
ဝက်များက ပြုစုစွာ
ညွှန်လူးကာ တိုက်နှံ။

ပွတ်လေလေ
ဂူရွှေမှာ အရောင်ထွက်တယ်
ရှေးကထက်ကဲ။

လေးဆစ်
မနံ့လည်ဆရာတော်

Rounds of Rain

By Chit Ko Pe

Droplets of rain touch the ground,
in a gust of wind around.
'tis a melody sweet to the ears,
played by the pitter-patters.
The setting gives us joy and delight,
with rounds of rain through day and night.

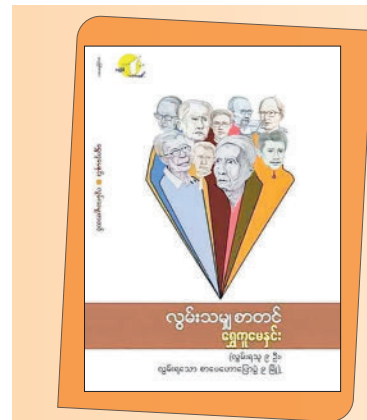


လေအသက်မှာ
မိုးစက်လေးတွေ
ကြွေ ... ကြွေ ... မြေခ။

မြေအသက်မှာ
မိုးစက်သံတွေ
မြေ ... မြေ ... ဂီတ။

ကြည့်နူးစရာ
သာယာချမ်းမြေ့
မိုးနဲ့ မိုးညှာ။

ချစ်ကိုဗေ



Book Title - Lwanthahmyasartin, Lwanyathu Koe Oo, Lwanyathaw Sarpay Hawpyawbwe Koe Myo
Writer - Shwegu May Hnin
Publishing House - Mayumyit
Publication Date - May 2024 (1st Edition)
Price - K5,000

Lwanthahmyasartin, Lwanyathu Koe Oo, Lwanyathaw Sarpay Hawpyawbwe Koe Myo

THIS book is the 37th book published by the Publishing House known as Mayumyit and written by Sayamagyi Shwegu May Hnin. This is in fact the memoirs of nine great writers and artists the writer miss very often as well as the experiences she has gained from the literary talks held in nine different towns. She is very frequently reminiscent of the said nine towns she has been to.

The book is opened with the poems of Sayagyi Min Thu Wun, a professor turned poet laureate. The first poem is about the month of Tabaung, which is March. Sayamagyi Shwegu May Hnin has admitted that she has formed great attachment to the

poems composed by Sayagyi Min Thu Wun. Many of Sayagyi’s poems have been enshrined in the school textbooks. This being so, all those who have gone to school have learned his poems.

Another great man is Saya U Thu Kha, who she first met at 18. When U Thu Kha asked her if she was willing to star in a film, she said that she wanted to finish her tertiary education studies because she had set an aim to become a school teacher upon graduation. Despite her rejection of Saya’s generous offer, she had become close to him when she became a writer. During the last days of Saya U Thu Kha, she kept in touch with him as she need-

ed his guidance on the affairs of the literature. She recalled him making an unforgettable remark that she was very aggressive. Upon hearing this remark, she retorted that she was merely brilliant, not aggressive. Saya U Thu Kha stopped arguing with her, simply saying, “Yes, you’re sharp. But don’t forget that your sharpness can cut you.” Upon return from his home, he escorted me to the entrance, shouting to me, “Be careful; your sharpness can cut you.” Saya is quite right; my fingers are stained with blood flowing out from the cuts.

Then, she recounted her encounter with Win Oo, the great actor. She met him at the Burma

Broadcasting Service where the writer has been with as a government employee. She said Ko Oo is to her taste and he is her type. But she has not tried to approach him who is always surrounded by the girls. As she does not want him to think lowly of her, she has stayed aloof from him and only when she gets a chance to talk to him on business, she makes friend with him. Later, they have become close to each other. Then, she writes how Win Oo has been fond of his famous magazine called Sandar.

After having stayed for ten months in Insein Hermitage, she lost the art of writing. She went to the house of Saya Mya Than Tint to seek advice. Saya Mya said nothing; she just gave her a book called City of Joy. After reading this book, she was encouraged to try her pen again. This book has two volumes. I owed Saya gratitude.

This book also contains the memories of Tekkatho Phone Nang, Saya Nan Nyunt Swe, Saya Sein Khin Maung Yee, Tayaw Ko Tin Yee, and Saya Aung Thin.

The nine towns that have never gone out of her mind are Toungoo, Pinyinana, Kume, Myingyan, Paung, Pathein, Taungdwin, Lewe and Shwegu-Bhamo.



Book Title - Zati, Pawutti Hnint Sarthinhsaung Hman Daga Go Lar Yaik Thaw Mondaing
Writer - Kyaw Win
Publishing House - Paris Publication House
Publication Date - March 2024 (1st Edition)
Price - K18,000

Zati, Pawutti Hnint Sarthinhsaung Hman Daga Go Lar Yaik Thaw Mondaing

THIS is the seventh book published by Paris Publication House. The writer is Saya Kyaw Win, who writes books on politics and biographies. Although the writer said this book is only a very long article, it can be said to be a partial biography depicting his life from 1952, when he was born, to 1976, when he finished his tertiary studies.

Regarding the naming of this book, the writer said in his foreword, “What should be is I need four or five volumes of this genre to publish. And the last volume should deal with my opinion about the events after 2020. If I could implement

this project, I would name such a book as People, Places and Years. But for the moment, when I am not able to produce such volumes, I’ve given this name only.”

My reason for giving such a title is that with the passage of time, people and places will change. This being so, people will change their thinking, their lifestyle and even their taste for food, attire and accommodation. Nevertheless, people tend to resist change, preferring the status quo. This mentality of maintaining the present status prevents people from effectuating development. And this

mindset does not belong to the Myanmar people only. This is a cross-border mentality, and thus, a discipline in management science called change management has arisen.

As a matter of fact, many Myanmar still think that trustworthy, reliable, and truthful people should not change their beliefs, convictions, and attitudes. As known to all, Myanmar people are highly conservative, resisting change. Even if they are faced with great trouble, they will not abandon those persons and things for fear of being considered to be unreliable

persons. Parents will be reluctant to abandon their sons and daughters, whereas husbands and wives will find it extremely difficult to separate from their spouses in uncomfortable relationships.

In fact, nothing is permanent; everything is transitory. With the passing of time, things will change, places will change, and people will not be exempted. They will also change their beliefs, thinking, attitudes and lifestyles. Notwithstanding, some very stubborn die-hard people like the communists are unwilling to change as they are of the opinion that those who change are the revisionists, reformists and the turn-coats.

The writer said that he was once criticized by a so-called politician that he has surrendered. This kind of word is being used by the communists. Actually, I have never been a communist party member, although communism has been to my taste. Therefore, I am free to believe in whichever ideology of my choice. I can change my belief, especially in this age of things changing at the velocity of light. Don’t we need to keep pace with the time?

NATIONAL Entertainment



A Lwan Tha Chin Yay Tae Maung Kyaw Zaw and singer Khin Nyunt Yi are seen at the event.

Event to honour composer Maung Kyaw Zaw, singer Khin Nyunt Yi

An event to honour composer A Lwan Tha Chin Yay Tae Maung Kyaw Zaw and singer Khin Nyunt Yi was organized at M3 Food Centre in Yangon on 29 May, according to writer Aung Shan Wine (Kyai-kmaraw) who initiated the event.

At the event, singer Khin Nyunt Yi sang her 'Bay Dar Lan' song with her daughter O Pyae Shin and 'Moe Makha Alwan' song with singer Thae Nu Wah.

Moreover, the singers Maung Thein Win, Yi Yi Thant, Shwe Min Thar, Hnin Yi Thant, Aye Pa Pa Hlaing, Aye Lwin Aung, Moe Htet Myint, May Thet Htar Swe, Nang Kyawt Kalya and Cho Than Tha sang the songs to honour the two artistes.

"It is an effort of me, Sayama Mya Kyar Ngon (Dr Nilar Thein) and Sayama Ju for two artistes who are seeking medical treatment. Writer and poet Saya Maung Kyaw Zaw has been suffering a stroke, and singer Khin Nyunt Yi is under medical treatment for lung cancer. We arrange for them to get medical expenses. When we present the cash assistance, their friends sing one or two songs to encourage them," said writer Aung Shan Wine (Kyaikmaraw).

Actor and singer Moe Htet Myint read out the biography of composer Maung Kyaw Zaw and singer May Thet Htar Swe about singer Khin Nyunt Yi.

Two artistes received K6.6 million cash assistance from their friends at the event. — ASH/KTZH



Swan Zarni

MYANMAR traditional performer and actor Swan Zarni is suffering from liver disease and suspended his career for a long time. Currently, the actor resumed his

Swan theatrical Thabin in Lewe town-ship with the support of his mentor writer, Shan Tun, as he needs proper financial status for his medical treatment. The actor received massive applause from his Lewe fans, so he might keep running Swan Thabin, depending on his health status, according to composer Shan Tun.



Yi Yi Thant

A press conference for the new album release of famous singer Yi Yi Thant's 'Sar Pachi', which was produced by composer Diramore's Music City Production, was held at Studio Canvas in Yangon on 31 May. All the song tracts of the new album were composed by Diramore, and orchestra Myanmar Pyi Kyauk Sein, Pantaya Sein Hla Myaing, pianist Zeyar Min and Harpist Myo Thet Tin made the music.

May Myint Mo

ACADEMY May Myint Mo won the Shining International Award at HOF S Award 2024 held at Ritz-Carlton Millenia in Singapore on 24 May. Myanmar national Dr Aung Thiha (Dr A) also won the Beauty and Health Influencer Award, and Omo brand CEO Nan Su Yati Soe received the Dietary Supplements Hall Of Fame, which is one of the business-influencer-creator awards. Academy May Myint Mo received positive comments from her fans on Facebook daily.



Zaw Paing

Famous singer Sithu Lwin posted a birthday wish for singer Zaw Paing on 31 May. Singer Zaw Paing celebrated a music concert at the Spicy Club in Bangkok on 1 June with female singers Wynne Su Khine Thein and Cherry Thinn.



Ni Ni Linn Eain

Myanmar Miss Ni Ni Linn Eain entered the 18th-mile mediation centre in the second week of May. She also says thanks to her fans for supporting her.



Yair Yint Aung

Singer and actor Yair Yint Aung has got one new tattoo on his body, 'Kyay Mone'. The singer explained the meaning of his tattoo: that people should be treated the way they treat others, like a mirror, and he got the idea to have that tattoo. Academy Nay Toe also gave positive comments for Yair Yint Aung and appreciated his outstanding acting skills. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Celebrity Brief

WORLD

China's C919 serves first overseas commercial chartered flight

China aims to secure a share of the global civil aviation market, which is currently dominated by Boeing and Airbus, with its self-developed trunk jetliner.



The 6th C919 jetliner joins the China Eastern Airlines fleet. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A C919 jetliner of the China Eastern Airlines fleet on Saturday kicked off its first overseas commercial chartered flight, providing a round-trip service between Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Flying from the Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport to the Hong Kong International

Airport Saturday morning, it is expected to carry more than 100 Hong Kong young talents on its return trip on the same day. On Tuesday, the sixth C919 jetliner delivered worldwide joined the China Eastern Airlines fleet on Tuesday, indicating the acceleration of commercial operation of China's homegrown large

passenger aircraft.

This came one year after the first commercial flight of C919 was made. With its self-developed trunk jetliner, China aims to secure a share of the global civil aviation market, which is currently dominated by Boeing and Airbus. — Xinhua

UN mission in Iraq to end after two decades



Motorists drive past Iraqi security forces' armoured vehicles in Baghdad on 26 December 2023. **PHOTO: AHMAD AL-RUBAYE / AFP/FILE**

AT the request of Baghdad, the UN Security Council unanimously decided Friday that the United Nations political mission in Iraq will leave the country at the end of 2025 after

more than 20 years.

The Iraqi government welcomed the decision, saying it reflected progress and stability in the country since the United Nations Assistance Mission

for Iraq (UNAMI) was established in 2003 after the US-led invasion and fall of Saddam Hussein.

But analysts say the mission has struggled to make an impact in areas such as impunity, and that its exit is part of a trend for host nations to reject UN missions.

The UNSC resolution adopted on Friday extended the mission's mandate until 31 December 2025 "after which UNAMI will cease all work and operations."

The mission has about 700 staff, with tasks including advising the government on political dialogue and reconciliation, as well as helping with elections and security sector reform. — AFP

SUMMARIES: WORLD

Princess of Wales to miss major military display amid cancer treatment

CATHERINE, Princess of Wales, will not be resuming her royal duties with an appearance at the Colonel's Review coming days as she continues her treatment for cancer, CNN reported.

The ceremonial display, scheduled for 8 June in London, serves as the dress rehearsal for Trooping the Colour, the official birthday parade for the King, set for 15 June.

Concerns linger regarding her attendance at the highly anticipated Trooping the Colour event, a spectacle renowned for its grandeur and tradition.

Anticipation had mounted for the 42-year-old royal's participation, given her role as Colonel of the Irish Guards, whose regimental flags will be trooped during this year's ceremony, according to CNN. — ANI

In historic first, Mexicans expected to elect woman president

MILLIONS of Mexicans are expected to vote for their first woman president in a landmark election Sunday, following a long and sometimes acrimonious race overshadowed by soaring political violence.

In a watershed for a country with a long history of gender discrimination, two women have dominated the contest to lead the world's most populous Spanish-speaking country.

Addressing a cheering crowd of thousands at her closing campaign rally, ruling party candidate Claudia Sheinbaum said Mexico was going to "make history" this weekend.

"I say to the young women, to all the women of Mexico — colleagues, friends, sisters, daughters, mothers and grandmothers — you are not alone," the 61-year-old said.

Her vow to champion women's rights was music to the ears of Evelyn Trasvina.

"I'm very excited," said the 42-year-old accountant from western Mexico. — AFP

Forum for cooperation in printing industry held in Germany

A forum on the global cooperation in the printing industry was held on Friday in the German city of Dusseldorf, with participants discussing the evolving printing culture while exploring innovative development strategies and further opportunities for collaboration.

The event, held during the 2024 Drupa exhibition, gathered industry leaders and specialists from the Printing and Distribution Bureau of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the World Print & Communication Forum and one of its members

Intergraf, the Messe Dusseldorf GmbH, alongside more than 180 experts, scholars and entrepreneurs, providing a platform for exchanges and networking within the global printing community.

The "Bi Sheng Forum for Cooperation in the Printing Industry — Drupa Dialogue" centred on the theme of "New Opportunity, New Cooperation, New Future". It is named after Bi Sheng, an 11th-century Chinese scientist who made baked clay into movable characters for type-setting printing, thus accomplishing a major revolution in printing history. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Cambodia offers finance scheme to help fishery growth after harvest

Cambodia boasts abundant fisheries resources, offering significant potential for success in the global fish and fishery products market.



Workers peel shrimps at a factory in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 7 September 2023. **PHOTO: VAN POV/XINHUA/FILE**

CAMBODIA'S Fisheries Administration (FiA) on Wednesday launched an Investment Support Facility (ISF) scheme, aiming to catalyze growth in the country's post-harvest fisheries.

The ISF scheme is a blended financing initiative in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia (CGCC) and co-funded by the European Union (EU), said a news release after the launching event.

With its rich fisheries resources, Cambodia holds great promise for excelling in the global fish and fishery products market. However, post-harvest fisheries face challenges such

as inadequate fish-processing technologies, limited value addition, and food safety concerns impacting consumer trust and the sector's competitiveness on a global scale, the news release said.

The ISF scheme was designed to support post-harvest fisheries enterprises and their input suppliers in overcoming these challenges, enhancing productivity and product safety and quality.

"This scheme blends co-financing from the enterprises' own resources, guaranteed business loans distributed by the local financial institutions, and grant support from the project," the news release said. — Xinhua

SUMMARIES: ECON

New Zealand unveils tax-cutting budget

New Zealand's fledgling centre-right government unveiled a tax-cutting budget for "everyday people" Thursday despite a recession and tough economic outlook.

To pay for it, the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said it would tighten spending.

Once dubbed a "rock-star economy" for its ability to weather financial crises, the agriculture-dependant economy tipped into recession at the end of 2023. New Zealand has been battered by natural disasters, while global supply chain issues have hurt the isolated island nation more than most.

"This is a budget for everyday people getting on with their lives," said finance minister Nicola Willis. — AFP

Japan mulls providing state loan guarantees to chipmaker Rapidus

JAPAN'S industry ministry said Friday it is considering offering loan guarantees to Rapidus Corp in its latest effort to help the state-backed chipmaker launch a domestic production line.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry is hoping such state guarantees will help the chip venture raise funds from private-sector banks, as the company estimates it needs about five trillion yen (\$32 billion) to complete a plant in Hokkaido, northern Japan, to begin mass production of next-generation chips in 2027. The US government and the European Union both provide generous financial aid to their local chip industry, so private-sector loans are vital in Japan as its fiscal health remains the worst among major developed countries. Japan is also saddled with increasing social security costs. — Kyodo

India strongly connected to global diamond hubs: MEA

India plays a significant role in the global diamond trade and has strong connections to major diamond hubs worldwide.

THE G7 plan to route rough diamond supplies through Antwerp has triggered concerns in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has instructed his ministers to escalate the issue with G7 and EU counterparts. India remains an "important player" in the global diamond trade and has "strong connections" to major diamond hubs across the world, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesman Randhir Jaiswal told a regular press briefing in New Delhi on Thursday.

"We have global manufacturing happening in India... we are one of the major centres of global diamond trade, global polishing, value additions happen in India. We are an important player in that sector," Jaiswal said, responding to a question from Sputnik India on whether India and the European Union

(EU) were involved in talks to establish "diamond verification centres" in India.

Jaiswal wouldn't say if there were ongoing discussions between New Delhi and Brussels on the matter. However, the MEA spokesman highlighted

linkages between Indian diamond industry and other global centres. "There are strong connections between Surat and Antwerp, and other centres which are on the global diamond map," the Indian official said. — SPUTNIK



The Surat Diamond Bourse is a state-of-the-art trading centre and marketplace located in Surat, Gujarat, India. The bourse provides a modern and efficient platform for diamond merchants, traders, and buyers from around the world to conduct business. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Huawei launches Seeds for Future 2024 programme in Nepal

The programme offers Nepali undergraduate students a unique platform to gain insights into cutting-edge technologies, promote cross-cultural understanding, and nurture their entrepreneurial spirit.

THE Seeds for the Future 2024 programme was inaugurated here by Huawei on Friday, the fourth consecutive year for the Chinese technology giant to continue its efforts to help the South Asian country achieve a digital trans-

formation.

Undergraduate students are encouraged to participate in the programme co-organized with Nepal's ministry of education, science and technology. Under the programme, top selected

students shall join on-site training and a regional competition in China in September, where they will be attending seminars on cutting-edge technological innovation as well.

The top two teams from the regional round

shall visit China again for the global final.

"The experiences and knowledge gained through this programme will empower our young talents to become leaders in the digital transformation of Nepal," said Huang Jun, CEO of Huawei Nepal. "They are the seeds that will grow into the future innovators, entrepreneurs and tech leaders of the nation." Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Bishwo Babu Pudasaini, secretary at Nepal's ministry of education, science and technology, stressed that the Huawei programme offers "a unique platform" for Nepali students to get insights into cutting-edge technologies, foster cross-cultural understanding and ignite their entrepreneurial spirit. — Xinhua



People attend the inauguration ceremony of the Seeds for the Future 2024 programme by the Chinese tech giant Huawei in Kathmandu, Nepal on 31 May 2024. PHOTO: SULAV SHRESTHA/XINHUA



Reliance Industries chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani. PHOTO: ANI/FILE

Reliance Industries recognized as one of world's most influential companies by TIME

RELIANCE Industries Limited (RIL) has been named one of TIME's 100 World's Most Influential Companies of 2024. This marks the second time the conglomerate has received this honour, previously being recognized in the inaugural list in 2021 for its subsidiary, Jio Platforms.

According to a press release, Reliance now holds the unique distinction of being the only Indian company to have been included twice in this elite list. Reliance Industries has been categorized under the 'Titans' section

in the latest edition of TIME's influential companies list.

TIME lauded the company, describing it as 'India's Juggernaut.' The publication highlighted the company's origins, tracing back to its foundation as a textile and polyester enterprise 58 years ago by Dhirubhai Ambani, and its evolution into India's most valuable company with a market capitalization exceeding US\$ 200 billion.

The company's alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a "self-reliant" India was also noted. — ANI

NEWS ROUNDUPS: BIZ

Japan begins 40,000 yen tax cut to help inflation-hit households

A 40,000-yen (\$255)-per-person tax cut programme began on Saturday in Japan to ease the pain of inflation felt by households as Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, hit by low approval ratings, seeks to make the benefits of government support more visible to disgruntled voters.

Of the total reduced under the new temporary scheme, 30,000 yen is from income tax, and 10,000 yen is from resident tax. High-income earners who receive 20 million yen or more annually will be excluded, with cash handouts given to those earning low incomes, such as those exempt from paying both taxes. A household of three – an income earner, a spouse and a child – will be entitled to a 120,000 yen cut, for instance. The programme will cover some 95 million people as a major feature of the government's efforts to help consumers at a time when wage growth has yet to outpace inflation. Workers can see their income tax payments reduced on their pay slips. — Kyodo

Oil giant Aramco says to offer shares worth over \$10 bln on Saudi bourse

Oil giant Saudi Aramco said on Thursday it plans to sell 1.545 billion shares worth more than \$10 billion in one of the biggest such offerings in recent years.

In a statement posted to the Saudi stock exchange, Aramco announced a "secondary public offering of 1.545 billion shares", with an expected price range between 26.70 and 29 Saudi riyals (\$7 to \$7.70).

The sale on the local bourse, which represents approximately 0.64 per cent of the company's issued shares, will commence on Sunday, Aramco said.

It is the firm's second listing after an initial public offering in December 2019 that raised \$25.6 billion, the biggest flotation in history.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest crude oil exporter and, before the announcement on Thursday, the government owned about 82 per cent of its shares. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV7QE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV7QE1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-6-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/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.

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ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

China, Bahrain establish comprehensive strategic partnership

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Bahrain.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on Friday announced the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, a new milestone in bilateral relations.

The announcement came as Xi held talks with Hamad, who is in China for a state visit. Hamad also attended the opening ceremony of the 10th ministerial conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing on Thursday. Bahrain is a good friend and partner of China in the Gulf region, Xi said, adding that although the two countries have different national conditions, they have always treated each other sincerely and enjoyed friendly relations. As this year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Bahrain, Xi said China



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at the square outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People before their talks in Beijing, capital of China, 31 May 2024. **PHOTO: YAO DAWEI/XINHUA**

is ready to work with Bahrain to develop their comprehensive strategic partnership and to bring more benefits to the two peoples.

China firmly supports Bahrain's efforts to safeguard national sovereignty, security and stability, and supports Bahrain's path of independent development, as well as Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and its diversified development strategy, he said.

China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Bahrain in the fields of energy, investment, transport, new energy and digital economy, and achieve more results in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Xi said.

Both sides should enhance cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and facilitate personnel exchanges to continuously strengthen public support for the China-Bahrain friendship, Xi said. — Xinhua

Japan billionaire Maezawa decides to cancel planned trip to Moon

JAPANESE billionaire entrepreneur Yusaku Maezawa has decided to cancel his planned private space trip to orbit the



Yusaku Maezawa, the entrepreneur who became the first Japanese civilian to travel to the International Space Station in December 2021, attends an event in Tokyo on 27 November 2023, showing a capsule he used to return to Earth from space. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Moon, as the mission's feasibility became unclear, according to a website on Saturday.

While he had initially tried to realize the circumlunar flight with other crew members, including American DJ Steve Aoki, by the end of last year as part of the "dearMoon" project, the plan "became unfeasible", a statement on the website showed.

"Without clear schedule certainty in the near-term, it is with a heavy heart that Maezawa made the unavoidable decision to cancel the project," the statement posted on the dearMoon website said.

The statement also said, "Maezawa and the dearMoon crew members will continue to challenge themselves in their respective fields," but it did not mention whether or when the team would again aim to carry out the mission. — Kyodo

NEWS ROUNDUPS: WORLD

President Marcos Jr makes historic address at Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R Marcos Jr of the Philippines made history on Friday as he became the first Philippine leader to deliver the keynote address at the 21st edition of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

The Shangri-La Dialogue serves as Asia's premier annual defence summit, convening government leaders, senior officials, experts, and business icons to foster cooperation and address regional security challenges. In his speech, President Marcos underscored the paramount importance of maintaining peace and stability in the international community, emphasising the rule of law as the foundation for countries to pursue their respective aspirations. — ANI

Israeli army withdraws from Jabalia refugee camp after weeks of operation

THE Israeli army has withdrawn from the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip after nearly three weeks of military operation there, Palestine TV reported on Friday. The civil defence agency in Gaza said that rescuers found a large number of bodies in the area from which the Israeli army has withdrawn, and the search and rescue work is still ongoing. The Israeli troops of the 98th Division completed their mission in eastern Jabalia and began preparation for continued operations in the Gaza Strip, after "rescuing seven bodies of hostages, eliminating hundreds of terrorists, and destroying a 10-kilometre subterranean tunnel network," the Israel Defence Forces said in a statement on Friday. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Alcaraz, Swiatek push through for second week at Roland Garros

TWO-TIME Grand Slam winner Carlos Alcaraz defeated Sebastian Korda in straight sets to reach the last 16 of the French Open for a third successive year on Friday.

The Wimbledon defending champion, playing for the night session for the first time this year at Roland Garros, dispatched the American 27th seed 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 to set a round of 16 clash against the winner between another American player Ben Shelton, seeded 15th, and Canada's 21st seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, with the pair's match was interrupted by the rain when Auger-Aliassime led by 5-4 in the first set.

21-year-old Alcaraz reached the semifinals in Paris last year, where eventual champion Novak Djokovic defeated him, and beat Korda at the same stage in the clay major in 2022.

The No 3 seed hit 38 winners (Korda totaled just 20) to 27 unforced errors (Korda had 40), and landed 78 per cent of his first serves.

"It was a really good match. I think I played really, really, well, much better than the previous match. This was something that I really wanted: to get in the rally, to play good points, feeling (like) myself on the court, and I think I did that really well," Alcaraz said on the court.

Italy's Matteo Arnaldi delivered the biggest upset of the day as the unseeded player toppled 6th seed Andrey Rublev to reach the round of 16 at Roland Garros for the first time.

Over three impressive sets in which he barely stumbled, the 23-year-old handed Rublev his second straight third-round exit in Paris, 7-6(6), 6-2, 6-4.

It was the first victory over a top 20 opponent on clay or a top 10 rival at a major for the world No35. —Xinhua

Zverev survives French Open epic as Djokovic eyes Federer record

ALEXANDER Zverev came back from the brink of defeat to reach the French Open last 16 for a seventh successive year on Saturday as Novak Djokovic took aim at equalling Roger Federer's record for Grand Slam match wins.

World number four

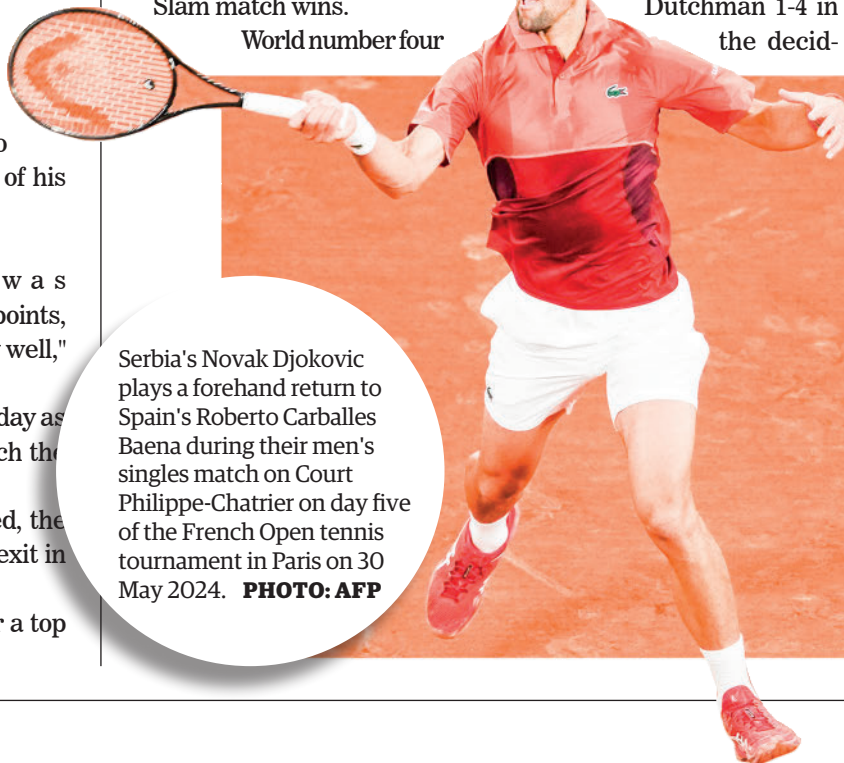
Zverev, who effectively ended Rafael Nadal's Roland Garros career in the first round, came through against Tallon Griekspoor 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (10/3) despite trailing the Dutchman 1-4 in the decid-

er. The 27-year-old German, who is playing under the shadow of an ongoing trial in Berlin over allegations of assaulting an ex-girlfriend, stayed on course for a last-four showdown with defending champion Djokovic. "Incredible match, incredible player. He's unbelievably dangerous. I always struggle against him," said Zverev after the four hour, 14-minute marathon.

Djokovic, chasing a fourth title at Roland Garros and 25th career major, will go level with Federer on 369 Grand Slam match wins if he sees off Italian 30th seed Lorenzo Musetti in the night match.

Djokovic has defeated Musetti four times in five meetings.

However the Italian gave the Serb a major scare at the French Open in 2021 when he won the first two sets of their fourth round clash before retiring injured in the decider. —AFP



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a forehand return to Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena during their men's singles match on Court Philippe-Chatrier on day five of the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on 30 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar-Japan football match draws enthusiastic fans



An advertisement poster published online just after the match is five days away.

THE Myanmar versus Japan football match, which will be played soon, has caught the audience's attention.

The Myanmar versus Japan FIFA World Cup 2026 Preliminary Competition, Asian Zone Round 2, Group B's Matchday 5 will take place on 6 June at Thuwana Youth Training Centre in

Yangon. Upper-class tickets and ordinary tickets will be sold at the stadium's Gate 2 from 10 am to 3 pm on 4-5 June.

The remaining tickets will be sold at Gate 6 and Gate 8 on the match day from 10 am to the play-time. ID card or driving licence is required to buy the ticket, and two tickets will be available per

ID card. The upper-class ticket price is K5,000, and the ordinary ticket price is K2,000, which is free admission for children under ten years old. Myanmar Football Federation's Facebook post about this football match has gained many likes and shares.

"Our whole family, three children and five adults, will go to watch the game. Our children have never been inside the sports field," a Facebook user commented. "No matter what it is, I support the Myanmar team with the spirit of being Myanmar," a commentator said. Many spectators will come to watch this match, said Ko Htet Myat, a Myanmar team fan.

"I think there will be many spectators in this match. We've seen the public's interest in this match. Although there are people who have a negative attitude, I think there will be many spectators. Rather than result, we will support our national team," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

Wayne Rooney recalls time when he got "sued" by his former manager David Moyes



Moyes was furious about the claim and sued Rooney. In the end, Rooney withdrew the accusations he made and also issued a public apology to Moyes. PHOTO: ANI

FORMER England striker Wayne Rooney opened up about the time when manager David Moyes sued him after he made a switch from Everton to Manchester United.

Moyes played a crucial role in Rooney's career and handed him his first-team de-

but at Everton in 2002. Rooney rapidly rose to success by showcasing his remarkable talent on the field, especially in front of the goal.

In 2004, Rooney made a switch to Manchester United for £30 million, which marked the beginning of the relationship going downhill between him and Moyes.

The tension between Rooney and Moyes came into the limelight in 2008 when the manager sued Rooney over the claims he made in his autobiography, "My Story So Far". In his book, Rooney accused his former manager of leaking details of a private conversation that he had with him regarding his plans to move away from Everton. —ANI

Young Cambodians fight to preserve ancient martial art

The practice includes kicks, elbow and knee strikes, and includes stick, sword, and spear fighting. Bunthav aims to preserve the martial art for future generations.



The ancient Khmer martial art of Yutkromkhorm is enjoying a mini revival in Cambodia. **PHOTO: AFP**

In a small Cambodian town near the banks of the Mekong River, law student Oeun Bunthav tenses his slender torso and steels himself for an elbow strike to his head.

Bunthav is among 20 young Cambodians at an open-air club in Krong Areyksat training in the ancient Khmer

combat martial art of Yutkromkhorm.

The practice was largely forgotten after many of its masters were killed in a purge of intellectuals under the communist Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1979, but Bunthav and his fellow students are determined to learn its techniques and keep their heritage alive.

For the students, who wear headbands and arm ties, the training includes learning to launch knockout blows with fists, high-powered precision kicks and rapid elbow and knee strikes. Stick, sword and spear fighting are also on the curriculum. “I will try my best to train with it so that I can know about it

clearly and try to preserve this martial art for the next generations,” Bunthav told AFP.

Yutkromkhorm — which translates to “the art of war” in the Khmer language — was born out of the numerous wars fought by the ancient Khmer empire. — AFP

Humanity in ‘race against time’ on AI: UN

Doreen Bogdan-Martin highlighted the extraordinary developments in AI, which are already speeding up efforts to solve pressing global problems like climate change, hunger, and social care.

HUMANITY is in a race against time to harness the colossal emerging power of artificial intelligence for the good of all, while averting dire risks, a top UN official said Thursday.

“We’ve let the genie out of the bottle,” said Doreen Bogdan-Martin, head of the United Nations’ International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

“We are in a race against

time,” she told the opening of a two-day AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva.

“Recent developments in AI have been nothing short of extraordinary.”

The thousands gathered at the conference heard how advances in generative AI are already speeding up efforts to solve some of the world’s most pressing problems, such as climate change, hunger and social care. “I believe we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to guide AI to benefit all the world’s people,” Bogdan-Martin told AFP ahead of the summit. But she lamented Thursday that one-third of humanity still remains completely offline, and is “excluded from the AI revolution without a voice”. — AFP



A robot using artificial intelligence is seen at a stand during the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva on 30 May 2024. **PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI / AFP**



The “Electric Salt Spoon” works by passing a weak electric current through the tip of the device. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Spoon that enhances salty taste goes on sale in Japan

A spoon that enhances the taste of saltiness through electric stimulation was launched by Kirin Holdings Co in Japan in May, aimed at people struggling to cut their salt intake.

The “Electric Salt Spoon” works by passing a weak electric current through the tip of the device. Users can select their preferred intensity out of four levels, the Japanese beverage group said.

Priced at 19,800 yen (\$126), the spoon was commercialized after the company said in 2022 that it had developed a chopsticks-like device to alter taste perceptions using an electric current.

The chopsticks were developed jointly with Homei Miyashita, a professor at Meiji University who won the Ig Nobel Nutrition prize last year with another Japanese scientist. — Kyodo