

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win is seen being welcomed on his arrival back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrives back from SCO's Green Development Forum

THE Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Countries' Green Development Forum, left Qingdao Airport for Kunming by air at 4:30 pm Local Standard Time yesterday. They were seen off at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Maung Swe, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Zaw Zaw Naing, Deputy Secretary-General of the Communist Party of China in Qingdao Municipal Region Mrs Lin Bin and officials.

The Vice-Senior General and party arrived in Kunming at 8:15 pm Local Standard Time. They were welcomed by Director-General Mr Zhang Shijin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kunming People's Provincial Government, Kunming Consul-General U Thwin Htet Lin and officials at Kunming Airport.

The Vice-Senior General and party left Kunming by air and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

The Vice-Senior General and party were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, council mem-

bers, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, and officials from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and the office of the Military Attaché.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Min Thu and senior officials from the Office of SAC Vice-Chairman and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who accompanied the Vice-Senior General also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Appointment of Iranian Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Nassereddin Heidari as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr Nassereddin Heidari was born on 26 March 1963. He obtained PhD in International Relations from Allame Tabatabaei University of Tehran in 1993.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991 and served as an Attaché, Disarmament & International Security Expert at the UN Affairs Office. He also served as Second Secretary at the Iranian Embassy in The Hague, the Netherlands from 1994 to 1998, as First Secretary, Senior Disarmament & International Security Expert at Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

from 1998 to 2002, as Second Counsellor at the Iranian Embassy in The Hague, the Netherlands from 2002 to 2006, as Deputy Secretary of the National Authority for CWC & Chemical Safety Conventions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2006 to 2014, as First Counsellor (Minister) at the Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations Office, Geneva, Switzerland, from 2014 to 2018, as Director at the Conventional Arms Control & Space Affairs Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2018 to 2019, and as Director at the Bilateral & Multilateral Diplomacy for International Information Security (Cyber Diplomacy) & Space Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2019 to 2023. From March 2024, he is serving as Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Thailand.

Mr Nassereddin Heidari is married and has two children. — MNA

Public Notification

Road Closures for 77th Martyrs' Day Commemoration on 19 July 2024

1. The commemoration of the 77th Martyrs' Day will take place at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, Yangon. From 4 am until the event concludes, the following roads will be closed on 19 July 2024: - West Shwegondine Road from old Yedashe Road - Shwegondine Road from the Dhammazedi-Shwegondine intersection - Martyrs' Road from West Shwegondine to U Htaung Bo Road - U Wizara Road from U Wizara Roundabout to the U Wizara-Dhammazedi intersection.
2. Additionally, Natmauk Road will be temporarily closed from the Wingaba intersection and from the Pho Sein intersection. Bogyoke Museum Road will be closed from the Ngahtetgyi Pagoda intersection and from the Saw Maha intersection. Bo Cho Road will be closed from the Shwe Kyat Yat intersection, 5 am to 6 pm on 19 July 2024.
3. During the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Secretariat from 5 am to 6 pm on 19 July, the following roads will be closed: - Theinbyu Road from Bogyoke Junction to Merchant Road intersection - Anawrahta Road from Bo Myat Tun Junction - Maha Bandoola Road from Pansodan Junction - Bo Aung Kyaw Road from Merchant Junction.
4. The public is advised to use alternative routes during the commemoration event.

Yangon Region Government

Myanmar-Russia Cadet Shooting Competition held in Bahtoo



A documentary group photo (above) of the Myanmar-Russia Cadet Shooting Competition and the competition is in action (right below) on 7-9 July.

MYANMAR hosted the Myanmar-Russia Cadet Shooting Competition at 600 metres ASEAN shooting range of Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) from 7 to 9 July.

The event was attended

by Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (Army) Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant, senior military officials, coaches, Russian delegation leader Maj Mikhail Gladyshev

and cadets.

After the ceremonial procedures, the Myanmar-Russia cadets took positions in the range, the Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training made remarks, and a documentary photo was taken

together.

The cadets participated individually and in groups in 300-metre rifle shooting and 25-metre pistol shooting competitions for three days.

The awarding ceremony was held yesterday, and the officials awarded the winners and concluded the event.

The Myanmar-Russia Cadet Shooting Competition was held

with the aim of strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, enhancing cooperation between the two armed forces, bolstering the friendship between the cadets of the two countries, and exchanging shooting techniques.

The Russian delegation also visited the Culamuni Pagoda, Bahtoo waterfall and Yaksauk Myoma market. — MNA/KTZH



MoH Announcement on Severe Diarrhoea Outbreak Control in Yangon Region

ON-GROUND teams have been actively working to control the outbreak of severe diarrhoea in several townships in Yangon Region, under the close supervision of the Ministry of Health and with the assistance of the Yangon Region government. Sixty-four new diarrhoea patients were admitted to hospitals in Yangon Region between 6 am and 6 pm on 9 July 2024. Among them, seven were confirmed to have severe diarrhoea, while the other patients were reported to be in good condition. By 6 pm on 9 July 2024, a total of 130 diarrhoea patients have been discharged from hospitals. Although the infection rate started to decline, efforts to control the disease continued to be intensified.

Ministry of Health

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Qingdao Haier Group, Qingdao Hisense Research and Development Centre



SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Premier Vice-Senior General Soe Win looks into the display during his tour at the Qingdao Haier Group yesterday.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is in Qingdao of the People's Republic of China, visited Qingdao Haier Group and Qingdao Hisense Research and Development Centre in Qingdao yesterday morning.

On arrival at Qingdao Haier Group at 9:30 am Local Standard Time, the Vice-Senior General and party were welcomed by Deputy Director-General Mr Liu Dalin and officials.

Officials clarified facts about Qingdao Haier Group, hi-tech modern electronic equipment produced by Qingdao Haier Group, hi-tech health machinery, vehicles, standing of highly valued No 1 brand products for seven consecutive years and further expansion of work establishment.

The Vice-Senior General asked about what he wanted to know, and they exchanged gifts.

Qingdao Haier Group was established in 1984, and it contributes to a better social life and digital transformation process in China. Qingdao Haier Group has established a modern living style and industrial internet in addition to 10 research and development centres, 71 research organizations, 35 industrial parks, 143 manufacturing centres and 230,000 sales networks worldwide.

At Hisense Qingdao Research and Development Centre at 10:30 am Local Standard Time, the Vice-Senior General and party were welcomed by Deputy Manager Ms Zhen Cai Xia and officials.

As the Vice-Senior General visited the centre, officials explained the background history of the centre, the Hisense brand's hi-tech modern elec-

tronic products, technological research and development, new products, and progress in

industrial promotion.

The Vice-Senior General asked about what he wanted to

know, and they exchanged gifts.

Hisense Qingdao Research and Development Centre is the headquarters of Hisense's global research and development. It is located on 227,000 square metres of land plot in the Laoshan District of Qingdao. The area is allocated for three research and development areas emphasizing TV and communications related to the electronic information sector, industrial information about transport, the health and housing sector, and household industries such as refrigerators, air-conditioners, washing machines, kitchen and bathroom equipment. Due to upgrading products with technology and techniques based on research that works in line with the wishes of consumers, Hisense earned 201.7 billion yuan in 2023 and its profit was 13.7 billion yuan by stabilizing its status and increasing profits yearly.

Qingdao City Mayor Mr Zhao Haozhi treated the Vice-Senior General and party to a luncheon at Qingdao Sea View Garden Hotel.— MNA/TTA



The Vice-Senior General views round the Qingdao Hisense Research and Development Centre.

NATIONAL



UN Interim Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Marcoluigi Corsi calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister Admiral Tin Aung San yesterday.

DPM Union Defence Minister meets UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

STATE Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San received United Nations Interim Resident Coordinator

for Myanmar and Interim Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Marcoluigi Corsi at the Union Minister's office yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on

matters related to the prevention of minor children from military service and the implementation of the People's Military Service Law. — MNA/TS

Thai Ambassador calls on MoRAC Union Minister



Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin receives Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump yesterday.

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin received Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the two sides cordially discussed matters of friendship between the two countries and continued cooperation in religious and cultural sectors. — MNA/TS

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Ethiopian Ambassador-designate to Myanmar

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Daba Debele Hunde, Ambassador-designate of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Tokyo, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs congratulated the Ethiopian Ambassador for his appointment as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in

Tokyo. Mr Daba Debele Hunde presented a copy of his letter of credence to the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs.

They cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the strengthening of existing bilateral relations between Myanmar and Ethiopia, mutually beneficial cooperation, including trade and investment sectors, and enhancement of collaboration in the regional and international arenas.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo also received Mr Daba Debele Hunde, Ambassador-designate of Ethiopia to Myanmar, separately yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



Ethiopian Ambassador Mr Daba Debele Hunde calls on Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.



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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

Clarification by Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Information Team Leader of the State Administration Council, on events in Shan State (North)



SAC's Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

TODAY, I will explain the stand of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the events in Shan State (North).

On 27 October 2023, MN-DAA, joined by TNLA and AA, crossed Namtit Creek through Special Region 2, Wa region, and started to attack Chinshwehaw at the China-Myanmar border. Those incidents had already been explained. At the same time, TNLA attacked Namhkam, Hsenwi and Kutkai. The group started to attack the areas around Hsenwi, Kunlong and Laukkai, and on 22 December; it attacked the Mongtung area. The TNLA combined group started its attack against the area in and around Namtu. On 5 January 2024, MNDAA and its cohorts

launched attacks against the area in and around Hopang.

On 25 June 2024, TNLA and its allies attacked Nawnghkio and Kyaukme and the security posts in their vicinity. On 3 July, the combined group, including MNDAA, started to attack the surrounding area of Lashio and launched attacks with short-range rockets, drones, and drop bombs at the town daily.

MNDAA attacked the surrounding area of Chinshwehaw and Kokang territory under the heading – curb online gambling (Kyaphyant). As online gambling fraud is a clandestine business carried out in hotels and other secret places in border areas, including Laukkai, the government had no knowledge about

it. Chinese criminals who evaded arrest in China were running this illegal business, and most of the victims of the online gambling fraud were Chinese citizens. Hence, the majority of Myanmar people knew nothing about illegal business. As soon as it got information about the illegal business, the Myanmar government actively joined hands with China to eliminate it not only in the Kokang region, but also in other border areas. Till yesterday, the Myanmar government apprehended 51,851 Chinese citizens, 1,143 Vietnamese citizens, and 640 Thai citizens in Mongpauk, Laukkai, Tachilek and Muse regions, and Myawady (Shwekoko, KK Park). It had transferred 2,150 suspects to their home countries. Later, MNDAA launched the slogan to seize Special Region 1 of the Kokang area. MNDAA met NUG, presented its territory, held talks and launched attacks in the areas beyond the Kokang region. In fact, MNDAA was echoing NUG. It was recruiting even the juveniles in the Kokang area and captured other national races, including Bamar migrant workers in the region and forced them to join it in the battles. It banned schools and all educational activities. TNLA was

doing the same. Later, territorial disputes surfaced among the armed groups.

The combined armed group started attacks against Lashio on 3 July and was firing short-range rockets and launching drone attacks randomly against the town daily from afar; and 18 innocent civilians were killed, and another 24 were wounded. Locals faced socioeconomic hardships in every region it seized. The group launched drone and drop bomb attacks against a Chinese temple near Lashio Airport at 7 am yes-

terday. Locals, including Chinese residents in Lashio, disfavoured and opposed the combined group of MNDAA. At the same time, the government and Tatmadaw prioritize the security of the people, including the town's residents.

In conclusion, I would like to request the entire people to join hands in the seriously prioritized measures by the government to protect towns and villages and local people from terrorist attacks of MNDAA and TNLA to ensure their safety and security. Thank you.



Debris and damage are seen in the aftermath of the terrorist attack.

Free perennials boost tree population in Pyay

A project that has perennials being distributed free in Bago Region's Pyay Township is helping plant growers, and they are pleased, and the number of trees is expected to grow.

Landowners are wondering about growing perennials instead of leaving their land vacant.

"Perennials are being given free at the Forest Department. Anyone can get it. But if you want to grow plants, you will need to have land and fill out a form stating how many acres of land you own and where it is. We have 10 acres of land, so they give me 3,000 plants. They give plants depending on how many acres of land you have. When plants are ready to sell, they will come to log, and we will have to pay back 30 per cent of the tax. We saw teak trees about four

and five years old in the vast areas of land when we visited other towns. Now, teak plantations are allowed for the private sector, too. We got to know about it when they explained it to us. Ninety-six teak trees can be planted on a 40 feet-60 feet land. Some grow teak trees on their lands now instead of leaving them vacant," said Ma Moe Moe Than, who grows perennials in Pyay.

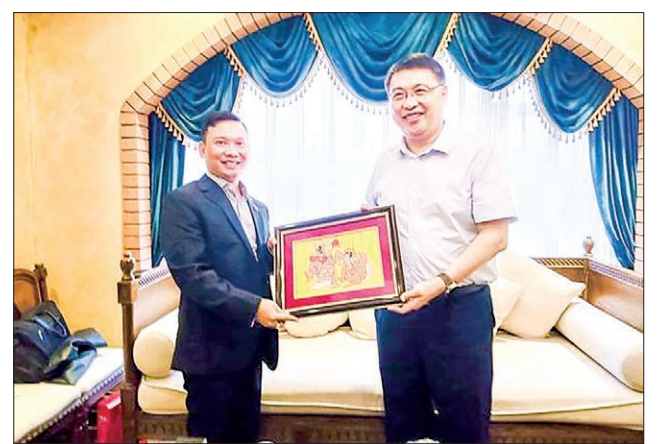
When perennials become ready for sale, growers can enjoy more income.

"I went there to buy plants, but the department told me it is not for sale but for free. Eucalyptus trees are valuable. But we took teak trees. Teak can be made into poles in three years and worth millions of kyats in 10 years," she said. — Thit Taw/ZS

Myanmar consul-general, Chongqing official discuss trade cooperation

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that U Kyaw Zeyar Lin, Myanmar's Consul-General in Chongqing, met Mr Zhang Yongwu, Director-General of the Economic Commission of Chongqing Municipal Government, at Wellington Hotel in Chongqing on 5 July.

They discussed enhancing trade between Myanmar and Chongqing via the International Land and Sea Trade Corridor (ILSTC). Both sides also exchanged views on implementing trade conditions along the International Trade Routes in



Myanmar Consul-General U Kyaw Zeyar Lin of the Consulate-General office in Chongqing presents the gift to Mr Zhang Yongwu, Director-General of the Commerce Commission of Chongqing Municipal Government.

Chongqing, an upcoming business delegation visit from Myanmar in July, and fostering economic, investment, and trade cooperation between Myanmar and Chongqing through the ILSTC. — ASH/TMT

NATIONAL



A front general view of the Ministry of Labour Office.

No deposit refunds for closed overseas employment agencies

THE Ministry of Labour stated that the security deposits of overseas employment agencies that were permanently terminated will not be refunded.

Due to various reasons, overseas employment agencies that have been permanently closed by the Ministry of Labour are not

allowed to withdraw the licence deposit paid to the department's temporary account.

Licence insurance deposits will be paid to the national treasury in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Foreign employment agencies are required to deposit K25 million for the licence insurance

and K5 million for the Thai licence. Currently, there are nearly 600 agencies that have obtained licences to send workers abroad, and nearly 20 agencies have had their licences confiscated, according to the Department of Labour in Nay Pyi Taw. — TWA/KZL

Yangon installs new signs to promote proper rubbish disposal



This photo shows a warning sign that says not to throw rubbish in drains.

ACCORDING to the Yangon City Development Committee, more signposts have been erected in the townships, urging the public to dispose of rubbish properly.

To prevent flooding caused by the indiscriminate disposal of rubbish, the committee has put up red signs stating, "Throwing rubbish into the drains will result in effective action".

Additionally, blue signs with the message, "Dispose of rubbish properly to keep the city clean and beautiful and to ensure the good flow of water," were also installed beneath the red signs on 7 July. — TWA/MKKS

Skills test schedule for group 2 announced

THE Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA-EPS) announced that the skills test for those who passed the 16th EPS-TOPIK exam in 2024 in agriculture, livestock and construction and service sector group 2 is scheduled to take place from 28 July to 1 August.

The exam will be held at 8:30 am on 28 July for the agriculture and livestock sector and at 12:30 pm for the construction sector, while

the exam for service sector group 2 is categorized into four sections- at 8:30 am and at 12:30 pm on 29 July, at 8:30 am and at 12:30 pm on 30 July, at 8:30 am and at 12:30 pm on 31 July and at 8:30 am and 12:30 pm on 1 August.

The venue will continue to be announced, and candidates will need to be carefully reminded of the test timetable and arrive at the exam station an hour earlier

as there is an agenda for providing education.

Admit card and passport or CSC are required to bring, and those who are not able to prove any of the identifications will not be allowed to sit the exam, said POEA. Further announcements on the venue, date, and time for the service industry group 1 and manufacturing industry (first batch) will be followed. — MT/ZS



This photo shows 188 new EPS manufacturing workers arriving at Incheon International Airport on 25 June 2024.



This photo shows some accessories that Myanmar performers will use in the Ramayana drama.

Myanmar participates in International Ramayana Festival

THE Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) will participate in the International Ramayana Festival, which will be held from 9 to 17 July in Bangkok, according to the association.

The association is going to perform with the aim of making the world aware of the observances and costumes related to the Ramayana, including the Myanmar traditional Sai (orchestra).

The Ramayana is a long adventure poem written in Sanskrit and is believed to have been compiled and edited between 400 and 200 BC. 'Ramayana' is a combination of two words: 'Rama' and 'Ayana', meaning 'Rama's journey'. It consists of twenty-four thousand verses, five hundred chapters, and seven books.

Ramayana has influenced contemporary literature in languages such as Tamil, Hindi, and Bengali, and it also spread to Southeast Asia around the 8th century AD. Ramayana is prominently featured in various forms of art, including literature, music, dance, puppetry, painting, and sculpture.

The festival will feature Ramayana dance troupes from nine countries, including Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, and Cambodia. — TWA/TH

SSIC endorses seven foreign projects, 18 domestic projects

THE Shan State Investment Committee (SSIC) gave the green light to 18 domestic enterprises of Myanmar citizens and seven wholly foreign enterprises with an estimated capital of US\$16.163 million and K46 billion this financial year 2024-2025, said SSIC di-

rector U Lay Naing.

“Those enterprises will invest in agriculture, livestock, minerals, hotel and tourism, manufacturing, service and power sectors this FY. Three foreign businesses will pump into the agriculture sector, and four will flow

into the manufacturing sector,” U Lay Naing elaborated.

One domestic business in the agriculture sector, four in the hotels and tourism sector, ten in the manufacturing sector, one in the construction sector and two in the service sector will make invest-

ments. China is the top source of foreign investments in Myanmar, followed by the Republic of Korea. Domestic enterprises will create jobs for 1,513 locals, while foreign enterprises will employ 58, he continued.

Additionally, the Shan State

Investment Committee also allowed existing businesses to increase capital and labour force. The SSIC endorses domestic and foreign companies under the existing rules and laws every month to create new job opportunities for locals. — ASH/KK

ADVERTORIAL

Dapein (1) Hydropower Station Taking Actions to Accomplish Half of Its Annual Goal

THIS year, Dapein (1) Hydropower Station has been highlighting the overall consciousness that “progress is the main theme, project implementation is the top priority and success represents the real ability” as well as the guide of decreasing the electricity cost per kWh, cultivating the “truthful and hard-working” work style and the “courageous, self-reliant and devoted” Dapein spirit, and improving its capabilities to accomplish its annual tasks. Focusing on safety management, potential tapping, efficiency increase and new energy development, it has implemented solid measures in the second quarter to realize half of its annual goals.

Strict safety control for steady growth with sound long-term momentum

Taking the work safety as the priority, Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as the “Company”) has been earnestly implementing the require-

ments of No. 1 document for work safety and persists in eliminating hidden dangers, reinforcing the foundation and improving the efficiency, to effectively enhance its work safety management.

For the goal of “zero violation and zero unscheduled shutdown”, the inspection in spring and the peak inspection in summer, it has made great efforts to eliminate hidden dangers and completed 27 overhaul and modification projects, security renovation projects, fire linkage projects, automatic switching of spare diesel generators in the plant, remote control of technical water

supply and the like, to ensure the steady control of work safety. It has also strengthened the role of science and technology for work safety and developed key and core technologies for a closed power station featuring unmanned operation and only a few on-duty personnel. For the top-level design of smart power plants, it has investigated the advanced closed power stations in unmanned operation in China to facilitate the completion of Dapein (1) Hydropower Station as a closed power station.

Steady energy supply for more efficient operation



This year, the Company has been coordinating new energy and hydropower operation and strengthening the “daily scheduling” management, focusing on power increase and cost control. Based on key indicators, it has taken targeted measures and strengthened its own management for more efficient operation.

In terms of power in-

crease, the Company has made efforts to improve the production quality and enhance the comprehensive reliability management, to accelerate equipment upgrade and troubleshooting for higher safety and reliability. It has successfully upgraded relay protection of lines, main transformers, busbars and generator-transformer sets in the whole hydropower station, including the replacement of overflow parts of 4 units, hood hoisting and overhaul of 4 main transformers, upgrading of the monitoring system, DC system, excitation, fire control system, industrial TV, gate control system and auxiliary system, upgrading of the automatic system, and improvement of the safety and reliability of important equipment and key systems thus laying a solid foundation for work safety. Adhering the principle of “addressing minor defects on the same day and taking appropriate measures against major equipment defects”, the Company has been fully improving the safety and reliability of production equipment, to ensure the reliability of equipment and generator units and the sales of electricity in the long term and large-capacity generation period.

As for cost control, the Company has been implementing fine cost control on the basis of budget objectives, and accurately calculating con-



tribution margins. Costs has been fully controlled through monthly statistics, analysis and assessment. Meteorological prediction has been strengthened for adequate warnings of rainfalls in the basin and real-time information of the upstream inflow, in order to optimize reservoir regulation, dynamically control the water level, scientifically carry out sand flushing and slag removal and facilitate slag cleaning via the trash rack, thus reducing the water consumption and increasing the rate of hydropower utilization. It has also made inventory in advance to ensure the stable power supply during peak hours in summer.

Construction acceleration for green development

Adhering to the goal orientation, problem orientation and result orientation, the Company has listed the responsibilities, quantitative indicators and nodes.

In response to the boom arising from the full-capacity operation of the distributed photovoltaic power project in Dapein (1) Hydropower Station, the Company has been accelerating its implemen-

tation while maintaining the stability. Following the philosophy that the personnel in charge of the project shall be responsible for safety, the Company has been strictly implementing the work safety responsibility system to make steady progress in the closed power station project by quality control and strive to accomplish half of its annual goals.

In the future, the Company will reduce staffing by mechanization and digitalization and enhance talent cultivation and team building by means of scientific innovation, technological innovation and management innovation, focusing on “unmanned operation and remote control”, to boost the new development pattern of China Datang Overseas Investment Co., Ltd., i.e. new energy development (represented by wind power and photovoltaic power) driven by hydrogen energy, energy storage, green carbon, intelligent integrated energy, energy conservation and environmental protection and science and technology R&D on the basis of conventional energy (e.g. grid, thermal power and hydropower).



OPINION

Support population and household census enumeration process

THE Population and Household Census, scheduled from 1 to 15 October 2024, aims to create opportunities for citizens and reflect their interests. This census will play a crucial role in compiling an accurate voter list, essential for conducting a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

Beyond electoral purposes, the census will significantly contribute to the nation's reform process, developmental projects, and the implementation of good governance. Accurate census data is foundational for any government to adopt essential policies in the political, economic, social, and public administration sectors.

In 2014, with the assistance of the United Nations Population Fund, a comprehensive census was conducted from 30 March to 10 April, covering over 12 million households and enumerating a total population of 51,486,253. An interim census in 2019 covered 71 districts across 15 regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, recording a population of 51,144,607.

Public participation in enumerating the census is of great importance to obtain the correct and accurate data. Hence, departmental personnel have to serve the duties of the census-taking process through collaborative efforts for the sake of the nation, whereas people need to reply to the census questions for the emergence of a reliable population and household census.

For the 2024 census, data will be collected from diverse establishments such as homes for the aged, orphanages, monasteries, jails, boarding schools, and hospitals. Preliminary reports are expected in December 2024, with detailed region/state reports to follow in 2025. This enumeration will utilize computer-assisted personal interviews conducted through mobile tablets to enhance accuracy and efficiency.

The 2024 census enumeration process aims to collect accurate population and socioeconomic data in time, draw policies, projects, strategies and tactics for social, economic and management measures by conducting research on population and socioeconomic changes between 2014 and 2024, compile the necessary index in implementing the sustainable and harmonious development projects, developing national statistic system of Myanmar to contribute to national strategy and supporting the correct voter list for successfully holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election the entire people aspire to.

Public participation in enumerating the census is of great importance to obtain the correct and accurate data. Hence, departmental personnel have to serve the duties of the census-taking process through collaborative efforts for the sake of the nation, whereas people need to reply to the census questions for the emergence of a reliable population and household census.

AS Kate Bulkeley discovered, navigating high school without social media is no easy feat. Initially, her decision to stay off social media brought numerous benefits: stellar grades, more time for reading, and engaging family activities like lively dinner conversations and movie nights. However, as sophomore year began, Kate encountered unforeseen challenges. She missed a student government meeting organized via Snapchat and faced scheduling issues with her Model UN team, which relied on social media for communication. Even her Bible Study club used Instagram to connect.

Gabriela Durham, a senior from Brooklyn, credits her social media-free lifestyle with shaping straight-A student who has already received multiple college acceptances and made her Broadway debut as a dancer. While Gabriela acknowledges feeling like an outsider at times, she now views this as a badge of honour rather than a source of hurt.

As the harmful effects of social media become more widely recognized, some parents are opting to impose restrictions or outright bans on their children's usage. Many teenagers, aware of the negative impact on their mental health and academic performance, are voluntarily taking social media breaks or "cleanses".

Despite the growing awareness of social media's drawbacks, abstaining from these platforms can be incredibly challenging for teenagers today. Those who attempt to avoid social media often find themselves facing a mix of isolation, liberation, and significant life changes. Their experiences highlight the complexities of navigating a high school environment where most peers are deeply immersed in the digital world.

The stories of Kate and Gabriela illustrate both the rewards and the pitfalls of forgoing social media in a society where it is omnipresent. Concerns about children's phone use are not new, but the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly intensified these issues. As youth dealt with isolation and increased online activity during the pandemic, social media became even more entrenched in their lives, fundamentally altering adolescence. This tale of two families sheds light on the evolving landscape of teenage life without social media, revealing both the

struggles and triumphs that come with it.

Social media has evolved far beyond a mere distraction or a way to connect with friends. It now serves as a crucial community space that nearly all US teenagers are part of. According to the Pew Research Center, up to 95 per cent of teenagers use social media, with over a third reporting that they are on it "almost constantly". This seamless integration of digital and non-digital worlds is something most adults fail to grasp fully, says Michael Rich, a paediatrics professor at Harvard Medical School and head of the Digital Wellness Lab at Boston Children's Hospital.

"Social media is now the air kids breathe," Rich states, highlighting its pervasive influence. It's where teenagers forge their identities, seek advice, unwind, and relieve stress. This digital landscape impacts how they dress, talk, and socialize. In an era dominated by parental control apps and location tracking, social media offers this generation a sense of freedom. However, the extensive time spent online comes with increased risks. Studies cited by US Surgeon-General Vivek Murthy reveal that kids who use social media for more than three hours a day face double the risk of depression and anxiety.

These concerns drove Kate Bulkeley's and Gabriela Durham's parents to establish strict rules from a young age. Phones were delayed until middle school, and social media was banned until age 18. They educated their children on the potential impacts of social media on young brains, online privacy concerns, and the dangers of posting content that could have long-term consequences.

For Gabriela, a high school senior in Brooklyn, growing up without social media has been both isolating and liberating. At school, on the subway, and at dance classes, she is constantly reminded that social media is omnipresent — except on her phone. While this has meant missing out on jokes, TikTok dances, and viral trends, Gabriela now sees her lack of social media as a form of freedom. This absence of social media has also led to fewer screen-time battles at home, a small consolation in the face of the broader societal challenge.

Despite the clear benefits, the path isn't always easy. For teenagers like Gabriela and Kate, staying off social media in a world saturated by it can be isolating. Yet, their

journeys underscore the potential rewards of navigating adolescence without the constant presence of social media.

Gabriela Durham, a dance major at the Brooklyn High School of the Arts, dances outside of school seven days a week. Her senior year has been particularly intense, filled with college and scholarship applications, culminating in an unexpected highlight: performing at Broadway's Shubert Theatre in March as part of a city showcase of high school musicals.

After a Saturday afternoon

"insane."

Gabriela's perspective as an outsider makes her keenly aware of the superficiality promoted by social media. "It seems like a lot of kids use social media to promote a facade. And it's really sad because social media is telling them how they should be and how they should look. Everyone wants to look the same instead of being themselves," she says. Gabriela feels fortunate to avoid the friend drama and lack of honesty, humility, and kindness that social media often fosters.

Life as a Teen Without Social Media

By Min Zan

dance class in a Bronx church basement, the contrast between Gabriela and her peers becomes evident. The other dancers, aged 11 to 16, sit on the linoleum floor discussing social media. Fifteen-year-old Arielle Williams admits her addiction to TikTok, staying up until 5 am scrolling through videos. When she reveals she spent 68 hours on her phone the previous week, including 21 hours on TikTok, the other dancers gasp and check their own screen-time stats. Gabriela listens silently but later shares her thoughts on the subway ride home to Brooklyn, calling those screen-time hours

On the No 2 subway, Gabriela uses her phone sparingly, texting friends, listening to music, and using a subway app to track her stops. Her mother, Elena Romero, has strategically limited phone usage by keeping her children's schedules packed. Romero describes their routine as a whirlwind, starting at 5:30 am and involving a daily commute to various schools in Brooklyn before Romero heads to her job in Manhattan teaching mass communications at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Gabriela's younger sisters, Grace, 11, and Gianna, 13, also

have busy schedules. Grace is a sixth-grade cheerleader and active Girl Scout, while Gianna participates in debate teams and daily rehearsals for her middle school theatre production. Their tightly managed schedules leave little room for the excessive screen time that plagues many of their peers, fostering a more balanced approach to technology use in their homes.

"I'm so booked my free time is to sleep," says Gabriela, who aims to be in bed by 10:30 pm. In New York City, it's common for kids to get phones in elementary school, but Romero waited until middle school when her daughters began commuting alone. Years ago, she showed them "The Social Dilemma", a documentary that revealed how tech companies manipulate users, which deeply impacted Gabriela.

Romero's rules are straightforward: no social media on phones until 18. The girls can use YouTube on their computers but cannot post videos. Romero doesn't set screen-time limits or restrict phone use in bedrooms. "It's a struggle, don't get me wrong," she admits. Last year, the two younger girls secretly downloaded TikTok but were caught and received a stern lecture.

Romero is contemplating bending her rules for Gianna, an avid reader who dreams of becoming a Young Adult "Bookstagrammer" on Instagram. Gianna wants to be a writer and loves the idea of receiving free books for reviews. Romero is conflicted, as her primary concern was social media during middle school, a critical period for identity formation. She

supports using social media responsibly to pursue passions and tells her girls, "When you're a little older, you'll realize Mom was not as crazy as you thought."

In Westport, Connecticut, the Bulkeleys faced similar challenges. Kate was content without social media, viewing it as a waste of time. Describing herself as academic, introverted, and focused on extracurricular activities, she needed Instagram to fulfil her role as co-president of her Bible Study Club. As Kate's sophomore year began, she explained to her parents that she needed social media for her leadership roles in various clubs. Her parents, finding it ironic and frustrating, agreed to let her have Instagram for after-school activities. "It was the school that really drove the fact that we had to reconsider our rule about no social media," says Steph Bulkeley, Kate's mother.

Gabriela's tightly packed schedule and strict household rules have kept her focused and away from the pitfalls of social media. Despite occasional temptations and the struggles of her peers, she has found a balance that works for her, highlighting the varied experiences of teenagers navigating a world dominated by social media.

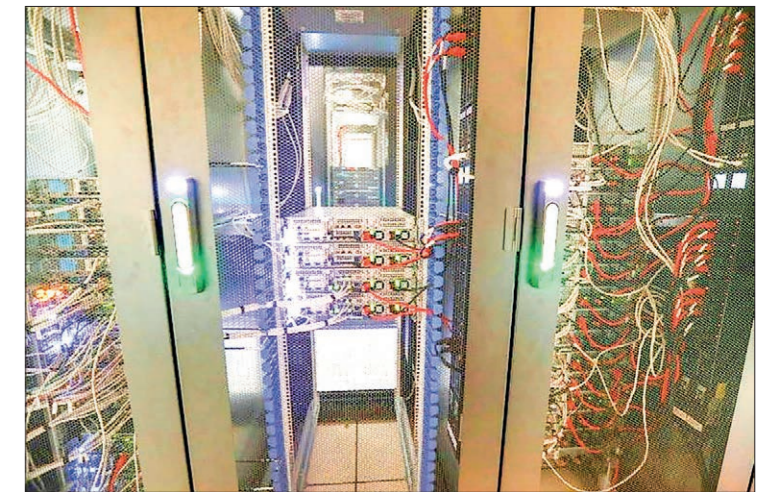
Kate's dad, Russ Bulkeley, observes that while schools talk about limiting screen time and the dangers of social media, technology is becoming integral to the school day. Despite cell phone bans at Kate's high school and Sutton's middle school, teachers often ask students to use their phones for class activities. The Bulkeleys disapprove but feel powerless to change this trend. Inspired by the "Wait Until 8th" pledge, which encourages delaying smartphones and social media until at least 8th grade, the Bulkeleys aimed to follow this advice. Some experts advocate waiting until age 16, while others believe that outright bans are impractical and that kids need to learn to coexist with technology.

Ultimately, they allowed Kate to use Instagram because they trusted her, and she was too busy to spend much time on social media. Kate and Sutton, both involved in theatre and dance, wrap up after-school activities by 8:30 pm, then finish homework and aim to be in bed by 11. Kate averages two hours a week on her phone, significantly less than the average five hours.

Reference: *Techlif* June, 2024

Is AI a major drain on the world's energy supply?

AI uses electricity primarily through the intensive computational power required for training and running models, as well as managing data centres that support AI operations, contributing significantly to energy consumption and environmental impact concerns.



Concerns have been raised by experts over the potential for AI-powered technologies to significantly escalate electricity consumption, posing broader implications for energy usage and environmental sustainability. **PHOTO: AFP**

WHEN Google announced this week that its climate emissions had risen by 48 per cent since 2019, it pointed the finger at artificial intelligence.

US tech firms are building vast networks of data centres across the globe and say AI is fuelling the growth, throwing the spotlight on the amount of energy the technology is sucking up and its impact on the environment.

How does AI use electricity?

Every time a user punches a request into a chatbot or generative AI tool, the request is fired off to a data centre.

Even before that stage, developing AI programmes known as large language models (LLMs) needs a huge amount of computer power.

All the while, the computers are burning through electricity and the servers get hotter, meaning more electricity to cool them.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a report earlier this year that data centres in general used roughly 40 per cent of electricity on computing and 40 per cent on cooling.

Why are experts worried?

Big tech firms have been rushing to pack all their products with AI ever since OpenAI launched its ChatGPT bot in late 2022. Plenty of experts are concerned these new products will cause electricity usage to spike.

This is firstly because AI services require more power than their non-AI analogues. For example, various studies have shown that each request made to ChatGPT uses roughly 10 times the power of a single Google search.

So if Google switches all search queries to AI — about nine billion a year — it could hugely inflate the company's electricity usage. And most of these new services and products rely on LLMs.

Programming these algorithms is extremely intensive and usually requires high-powered computer chips.

SOURCE: AFP



NATIONAL

MoH Union Minister leads Yangon diarrhoea prevention efforts

UNION Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win convened a meeting on 9 July at Yangon General Hospital Learning Centre. Attendees included hospital superintendents, department heads from the University of Medicine 1 (Yangon), district and township health officials, and representatives from private hospitals.

Critical discussions focused on preparing hospitals for severe diarrhoea cases, outlining patient and family responsibilities, enhancing infection prevention measures, and ensuring timely reporting to regional health departments.

Later, the Myanmar Private Hospital Association president



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win holds talks with medical officials and personnel for Yangon diarrhoea prevention yesterday.

and attendees deliberated on disease prevention and treat-

ment strategies, with the Union minister providing guidance.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and the Yangon Region

minister for Social Affairs addressed a conference hall meeting, reviewing current severe diarrhoea prevention efforts. Directives included distributing water purification tablets and bleach powder, providing treatments to contacts, and preventing further infection spread.

Health department officials, hospital heads, and ministry officials attended the session. Meanwhile, public health initiatives across the Yangon Region continue, involving chlorination, distributing health materials, and raising awareness through posters and pamphlets in collaboration with local administrations and social organizations. — MNA/TKO

Freshwater rays, other species in Ayeyawady River need conservation

U Maung Maung Oo, an environmental activist, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) that the number of other species that should be preserved, including freshwater rays, in addition to the Irrawaddy dolphin, is increasing in the Ayeyawady River.

There is a large number of non-native invasive species, and the disappearance of original species is not good. In terms of nutritional value, local varieties are better, he said.

Although there were freshwater rays in the Ayeyawady River, a few of them were only caught in the river near Letpanchay village in NyaungU Township.

“No one eats suckermouth catfish. Fishes that don’t belong here increase, and our species disappear. Their numbers are reduced. There has been a noticeable decrease in the number of hilsa. People know about the hilsa’s good taste. In addition to the Irrawaddy dolphin, we have a lot of resources that should be researched and preserved, including the freshwater rays,” he said.

In addition, lobsters were caught in the upper part of Letpanchay, so such an area with rare animals should be preserved, he added.

“It should be preserved. In fishing styles, fishing block allocation and lake auctions. It’s a pity if it disappears. It is not easy to breed any animal in the river. You can breed in a fish pond if you wish. But farmed fish and river fish are different. The wild chicken has a different taste from the CP chicken. That is obvious. The value of nutritional content is different,” he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



Fisherman displays a freshwater ray caught in the Ayeyawady River in 2023.

Myanmar collaborates with ASEAN for biodiversity conservation



HEADS of the Forest Department of Myanmar made a four-day tour to Gunung Leuser National Park-GLNP in Sumatra, Medan of Indonesia, starting from 24 June. The excursion intends to ensure the sustainability of biodiversity and nature-based tourism industry development, and the country also cooperates with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity – ACB in conserving biodiversity.

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity – ACB launched ACB-SGP projects providing funds for the sustainability of biodiversity and practical uses for ASEAN Heritage Parks in Indonesia, Viet Nam and Myanmar, and the Myanmar delegation achieved a chance to make the tour with the assistance of ACB.

Aim

The main intention of the visit is to raise awareness among the ASEAN countries about the biodiversity and ecosystem richness of ASEAN Heritage Parks in Myanmar and to exchange views on the management system of Indonesia’s ASEAN Heritage Park, rule of law and effective use of Smart technology, application of proposal for ASEAN Heritage Park between Myanmar and Indonesia, drawbacks and advantages of

sustainable conservation activities.

Benefits

The visit also grabbed advantages such as observing biodiversity in the world’s largest rainforest in northern Sumatra, research conducted with UDIK, establishment of forest land, cooperation with national park staff and regional administrative organizations to conduct education programmes and sustainable nature-based tourism industry development, job opportunities for local women and youths under ACP-SGP and vigorous participation in conservation despite of huge rely on national parks. Moreover, the officials discussed law enforcement activities, the resident-based natural tourism industry, the establishment of organic farming, public forest land, and the empowerment of women near the vicinity of sanctuaries.

Conservation

Gunung Leuser National Park-GLNP ASEAN Heritage Park spans over one million hectares of tropical rainforest and is home to the Sumatran tiger, Sumatran rhino, Sumatran ape, 147 mammals, including elephants and 380 bird species. The Sumatran tiger is the most petite tiger in the world. And there are about 400 Sumatran tigers in the world, whereas 200 tigers inhabit that park. The Sumatran rhino is the smallest species, and there are about 300 in the world, and 35 live in that park. There are over 6,600 Orangutans in that park.

Myanmar hosts eight ASEAN Heritage Sites, and officials cooperate with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity – ACB. At the same time, Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary, Shwettaw Wildlife Sanctuary and Mount Popa have been submitted for listing in ASEAN Heritage Parks. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL



Photos showcase Kalaw-Inlay and Bagan-NyaungU trips by the instalment payment system.

Local travel company offers instalment payments to boost tourism



LET'S Travel Easily, a local travel company, announced plans for an instalment payment system to help

travellers visit Kalaw-Inlay and Bagan-NyaungU. "This programme allows trav-

ellers to pay for their trip in three instalments. After paying half of the total cost, they can start their visit and will have two months to pay the remaining amount. Some travel companies accept payment over six months or up to one year, and some banks offer travel loans. Several tour operators use this payment system. This initiative aims to promote the local tourism sector," said an official from Let's Travel Easily.

Those wishing to travel using the instalment system must provide a photocopy of their citizenship scrutiny card, a photocopy of the household list, and recommendation letters from their ward or township administrator and the HR department of their employer. — ASH/MKKS

Pyonn Mya Thwe drops pop/rap song 'Heartbroken Youth'

SINGER Pyonn Mya Thwe announced that she released a new song, which she composed herself, on 7 July. The song, titled 'Heartbroken Youth', is a Pop/Rap track created by Jersey Club and performed in collaboration with the Cole Bryan Band.

"Writing my own music allows

me to pour my heart into it and make changes freely. It's about creative freedom, and I love bringing a smile to your face with my songs. Singing other composers' songs is a great responsibility. Huge thanks to all of you who listen to my music! I'm constantly striving to improve, so please listen to my song whenever

it comes out," said Pyon Mya Thwe.

The lyric video for the song was released on the Pyonn Mya Thwe/Poppy Pyonn YouTube Channel. Additionally, her other songs – My Boo, 18, Waiting, You, Me Myself & I, Vroom Vroom, A Chit Yuu, and Ma Lo Chin Tot Bar Bu – have already been released. — ASH/TRKM

Bago Region sees tourism surge with increased visitors, revenue in early 2023

IN the six months from January to June 2023, tourist destinations in the Bago Region attracted 185,378 local and foreign visitors, according to U Tin Oo, Minister for Economic Affairs of the Bago Region government.

"A total of 182,358 local travellers and 3,020 foreign travellers visited the Bago Region from January 2023 to the end of June. Compared to the same period last year, the number of visitors has increased by 14,489. The income from tourism reached K2,196.48 million, which is more than K266.5 million higher than the same period last year. Most of the foreign travellers were from Thailand," said U Tin Oo.

The Shwemawdaw Pagoda, the Kyaikpun Pagoda, the Shwethalyaung Reclining Buddha Image, and the Kanbawzathadi Palace are popular attractions for both domestic and foreign tourists. Foreign visitors typically arrive in group tours with packages rather than individually. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar ambassador joins Korea-ASEAN Music Festival 2024



This photo depicts performances of the ASEAN Music Festival 2024 ROUND.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, U Thant Sin, along with heads of other ASEAN embassies, attended the opening ceremony of the 2024 Korea-ASEAN Music Festival ROUND at the ASEAN Culture House in Busan on 6 July.

The ambassador also enjoyed performances by

renowned singers from Myanmar, other ASEAN countries, and Korean K-Pop artists at the festival held at the Busan Hall of the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS).

The festival was jointly organized by the ASEAN Culture House and the Korean Broadcasting System to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the partnership between ASEAN and Korea. — ASH/TRKM



Some tourist destinations in Bago Region.

NATIONAL

Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong container shipping starts 8 July

AS a new system of cross-border trade, container ships started to trade to Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong, and they docked at Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region, on 8 July.

An official said that the large container ship that departed from Ahlon Port, Yangon Region, docked at Kawthoung Port, Taninthayi Region, at the checkpoint on 8 July and proceeded to Ranong, Thailand.

The cargo ship, which arrived from Yangon to Ranong, Thailand, using this border trade method, was inspected at the checkpoint at Kawthoung Port.

Currently, Myawady and Phayathonsu, Kayah State's



The image show one of the cargo vessels cruising through Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong marine route.

PHOTO: MYINT OO(MYEIK)

border trade situation is suspended due to conflicts, and of-

ficials said it should go by container system using sea travel.

The big container ship that operated with the new system

is the Indian ship MV Beypore Sultan, which left with four containers of 99 tonnes of refined lead metal and 52 containers of 1,300 tonnes of millet, arriving at Kawthoung Port on the night of 7 July and cargo inspections are received on 8 July and departed to Ranong, Thailand.

The big ship will return to Kawthoung after loading some goods from Thailand and will continue to deliver goods to Yangon Region.

The new trade model is a result of the Myanmar-Thai regional border committee meeting held on 29 June 2024 at Pale Thanda Hotel from Myeik, Taninthayi Region. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/KZL

86.9 kilogrammes of heroin seized in Mandalay

A total of 86.9 kilogrammes of heroin worth K2.17 billion were seized in Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay Region, as stated by the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team consisting of the anti-narcotics police stopped and searched a Toyota Probox and a Super Custom on the 71st (C) street, between 114 and 115 street, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay, at 3 pm on 5 July, and 22 kilogrammes of heroin were seized from Soe Khaing, Nang Aye Phoung, Nang Yein Aong and Tun Lin Aung on the Super Custom vehicle.

According to further in-

spection, 64.9 kilogrammes of heroin were also confiscated from a house situated at 71st Street, G/2 Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, where Tun Lin Aung lives as a tenant.

As a result of the two arrests, 86.9 kilogrammes of heroin with a total local value of K2.17 billion were seized, and according to the investigation, the seized heroin was transported from Shan State to Mandalay Region.

Legal action has been taken against them, and the perpetrators of chain crimes are being investigated. — MNA/KZL



Four arrestees are seen alongside seized drugs and vehicles.

Effective seizure of illegal goods in Yangon and beyond



Photos show confiscated illicit items in states and regions.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to prevent and prosecute unlawful trade continue effectively in accordance with the law.

On 8 July, a combined team managed by the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Asia World Container Terminal checkpoint. They seized China-made knitted fabric valued at K39.47 million, including 13,453.6 metres of 95 per cent polyester and five per cent polyurethane fabric and 5,342.5 metres of cotton 40 per cent polyester, 50 per cent polyurethane, and 10 per cent indigo fabric. Legal action has been taken in accordance with Customs procedures.

On the same day, a com-

legal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected near Mile Post 376/4 on the Yangon-Mandalay old road. It seized five types of prohibited goods, including 500 cartons of Napoli cigarettes from Switzerland, worth K45.5 million. Similarly, on 9 July, a team under the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task



Force seized an unregistered Toyota Alphard worth K20 million in Waw Town, Bago District. The action was taken under the Import/Export Law.

Additionally, another team under the Mandalay Region Il-

legal Trade Eradication Task Force seized an unregistered Toyota Alphard worth K20 million in Waw Town, Bago District. The action was taken under the Import/Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that four arrests were made on 8 and 9 July, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K105 million. — MNA/TMT

Chinese firm helps transform Kenya's construction sector through precast technology



A staff member works at a workshop of China Wu Yi (Kenya) Precast Company Limited in the industrial town of Athi River, Kenya on 17 May 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

ABOUT 30 kilometres southeast of Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, China Wu Yi (Kenya) Precast Company Limited has built an expansive factory for new building technologies, causing ripples in the local construction sector.

The company in 2016 established the Kenya Building Industrialization Research Development and Production Base alongside the building materials supermarket project called "Wu Yi

Base" in the industrial town of Athi River.

The Wu Yi Base is an architectural marvel nestled between serene plains and farmland. For the past several years, the factory has been churning out precast materials, including concrete slabs, steel beams, and columns, for assembly into a modern house.

Inside the sprawling complex that houses the production base, a supermarket for building materials, and living

quarters, local youth like Brian Calisto Kariuki have secured gainful employment, a platform to gain insight into precast building technology.

A geospatial engineering major, the 30-year-old joined China Wu Yi in 2017 to work at the precast building materials factory and has risen through the ranks to become an assistant manager at the firm.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Kariuki noted that with precast tech-

nology readily available, a developer only has to assemble columns and slabs on site to construct a house; the technology shortens the time and maintains good quality.

"When you do precast, you can do four floors in a month. So you save time and money. You can control the quality of the concrete," said Kariuki. "Another advantage is that it is all-weather, so whether it is raining or sunny, you can still do precast." — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia earns over US\$247 mln from milled rice export in H1 2024

CAMBODIA had exported a total of 338,654 tonnes of milled rice in the first half of 2024, earning a total of US\$247.6 million, the Cambodia Rice Federation said in a news release on Tuesday.

Some 51 companies had shipped milled rice to 63 countries and regions during the January-June period this year, the news release said, adding that China remained one of the main buyers of the commodity.

The kingdom exported 75,398 tonnes of milled rice to China during the period, making a gross revenue of \$47 million, it said.

Rice varieties the Southeast Asian country exported include fragrant rice, white rice, parboiled rice, and organic rice, among others, according to the news release. — Xinhua

Philippines manufacturing output sustains growth in May

THE performance of manufacturing production in the Philippines sustained its growth in May 2024, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said Tuesday.

Based on the preliminary results of the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries, the PSA said the year-on-year value of production index (VaPI) and the volume of production index (VoPI) increased by 2.2 per cent and 3.2 per cent in May, respectively.

The PSA said the VaPI rose at a slowed annual rate of 2.2 per cent in May from a yearly increase of 5.7 per cent in April, bringing the average VaPI growth rate from January to May this year to -0.1 per cent.

In May 2023, the VaPI yearly growth was 8.5 per cent.

The PSA attributed the slower annual increase in the VaPI in May 2024 to the slowed annual growth rate of the manufacture of computer, electronic, and optical products industry division, which dropped to 1.6 per cent during the month from 9.4 per cent in April. — Xinhua

2,600 Boeing 737 airplanes face FAA inspection over oxygen mask issue

THE US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said Monday it has required inspections of 2,600 Boeing 737 airplanes because passenger oxygen masks could fail during an emergency.

The FAA said it required the inspections of 737 MAX and NG airplanes after multiple reports of passenger service unit oxygen generators shifting out of position. The issue could result in failing to provide supplemental oxygen during depressurization.

Boeing issued a bulletin to airlines calling for visual inspections on 17 June, the FAA added.

The FAA said its airworthiness directive was immediately effective and requires inspections and corrective actions if needed within 120 to 150 days based on the 737 model. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA TENAGA VOY.NO. (0210W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA TENAGA VOY.NO. (0210W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2024** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2408S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2024** 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

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Singapore's hell theme park dead serious about afterlife



This photo taken on 1 May 2024 shows visitors entering Haw Par Villa, an Asian cultural park which features Chinese folklore, legend and mythology in Singapore. **PHOTO: AFP**

GORY grottos with demons impaling sinners on stakes and people drowning in a pool of blood are not part of your average theme park experience.

But at Hell's Museum in Singapore, the main attraction at the Haw Par Villa park, visitors are welcomed to a kitschy, air-conditioned hell on Earth.

Inside the sprawling park complex with over 1,000 statues and dioramas showcasing Asian culture, faiths and philosophy, Hell's Museum exhibits various religious views on the afterlife.

Visitors are encouraged to learn about the 10 Courts of Hell through intense depictions of punishments for earthly sins.

At court number two, for instance, corruption gets you frozen in ice while rapists at court seven are thrown in boiling oil. The 10 Courts of Hell are "the result of the mixing of four different religions and philosophies: Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Confucianism", said Eisen Teo, the chief curator of Hell's Museum in the multicultural city-state.

"The sculptures and dioramas are a visual dis-

section of many classics, stories and moral values that many Singaporeans have and are familiar with," Teo said.

Visitor Gin Goldberg told AFP she wasn't so surprised to learn that many religions had differing opinions on the afterlife. "One person's heaven would be another person's hell," the American said.

Party in hell

The odd park stands apart from gleaming Singapore's mainstream tourist attractions such as the luxury shops of Marina Bay Sands or the towering

"supertrees" of Gardens by the Bay.

Haw Par Villa was built in 1937 by entrepreneur Aw Boon Haw, known for co-developing Asia's much-loved Tiger Balm pain relief rub.

While fondly remembered by older generations, the park has had trouble attracting the Gen Z crowd and younger millennials, according to Journeys, the firm that manages the park. To broaden appeal, it has held several rave parties and other private events -- but not too near to religious exhibits. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

King urges public to plant trees to make green Cambodia

KING Norodom Sihamoni on Tuesday called on all people to plant trees in order to turn Cambodia into a green kingdom. The monarch made the appeal in a speech on the occasion of the 29th National Arbor Day held in Tram Kak district's Khnar village, with thousands of participants.

"I dedicate this Arbor Day to the hearts of all Cambodians and make it a tradition of unity, planting all sorts of trees and preserving, protecting and developing forest and wildlife resources as a national heritage forever," he said. "Tree planting is extremely beneficial for the nation, as it creates a green blanket in nature and profits human beings, all nations and all animal species on our planet," he added.

The king expressed his thanks to all friendly countries as well as national and international organizations that have contributed to the afforestation and conservation of forest and wildlife resources. — Xinhua

India floods swamp national park, killing six rhinos

DEVASTATING floods in India's northeast that have killed scores of people also swamped a national park drowning six threatened rhinos and other wildlife, government officials said Tuesday.

Floods have begun to ease, Assam state Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in a statement, noting the "water level of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries is below the danger level in most places".

More than 1.8 million people have been affected across 3,000 villages, as well as 72 killed since mid-May, according to state disaster officials.

Monsoon rains across South Asia from June to September offer respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies, but also bring widespread death and destruction.

The intensity of rain and floods has increased in recent years, with experts saying climate change is exacerbating the problem. As the waters recede, the impact on wildlife from the deluge is also being seen, including in Kaziranga National Park. — AFP

Six dead in Tokyo as Japan swelters in heatwave

SIX people have died of heatstroke in Tokyo as Japan swelters under a rare rainy season heatwave, prompting authorities to issue a flurry of health warnings.

Over the weekend, the central Shizuoka region became the first in Japan to see the mercury reach 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) this year, far surpassing the 35-degree threshold classified by weather officials as "extremely hot".

Such severe heat in the middle of Japan's rainy season is "rather rare", caused in part by a strong South Pacific high-pressure system, a weather agency official told AFP. Temperatures also hit record highs near 40 degrees Celsius on Monday at observation posts in Tokyo and in the southern Wakayama region, according to local media. — AFP

Biden vows to stay in race in letter to Congressional Democrats

IN a letter to Democratic lawmakers on Monday, US President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, vowed to stay in the race despite concerns about his physical and mental fitness following

his poor performance in a debate with former President Donald Trump.

"I want you to know that despite all the speculation in the press and elsewhere, I am firmly committed to staying in this race, to running this

race to the end, and to beating Donald Trump," Biden wrote in the letter.

"The question of how to move forward has been well-aired for over a week now. And it's time for it to end. We have one job. And that is to beat Donald

Trump," Biden said.

Biden noted that there are only 42 days to the Democratic Convention, when the party's presidential nominee will be formally announced, and 119 days to the general election. — Xinhua

SPORTS

River Seine to have flying taxi landing pad at Paris Olympics

FRANCE'S government on Tuesday gave the go-ahead for construction of a floating landing pad on the River Seine for flying taxis set to be shown off during the Paris Olympics.

An official decree said that the pad "can be used until 31 December 2024" after months of suspense over whether the taxis would take to the air during the 26 July-11 August Games.

The landing site will float on the Seine near the Austerlitz railway station in southeastern Paris.

Flights will be limited to two per hour, between 8 am to 5 pm, and no more than 900 over the whole trial period "given the experimental nature" of the vehicles, the decree read.

Private firms involved in the flying taxi project include Paris airport operator ADP and Germany-based Volocopter.

Its "Velocity" two-seaters are fitted with 18 electric-powered rotors on a circular frame above the fuselage.

They hope to use the global draw of the Olympics to show that the technology can efficiently link "vertiport" take-off and landing sites.

While four vertiports — airports for vertical take-off and landing vehicles — have already been set up in the Paris suburbs, including one at Charles de Gaulle airport, the Austerlitz site will be the first within the city proper.

Backers tout flying taxis as a low-carbon form of aviation and hope future larger versions could be used as ambulances or in other roles.

But many city officials in Paris have derided the plans as harmful to the environment. — AFP



(FILES) A Volocopter air taxi flies during a demonstration flight at Paris-Le Bourget Airport on 20 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

International Friendly: Myanmar beat India 2-1



The Indian goalkeeper saves a kick from Myanmar's midfielder, Naw Htet Htet Wai. PHOTO: THAW GYI

THE Myanmar women's national team defeated the India women's squad 2-1 in an international friendly match played at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

This victory made the debut of the Myanmar women's team a sweet result. Team India played the best response to Myanmar, so it was a very competitive match.

While the Myanmar team prioritized attacking from the start, the Indian team did not play defensively, relying on counterattacks. In the 13 minute, the Myanmar team took the lead when Win Theingi Tun headed in a corner kick. Both teams had opportunities to score goals, but they could not use them, so the Myanmar team was leading by one goal at the end of the first half.

The Indian team, which had been close to equalizing since the first half, got back in 57 minutes, and Pyari Xaxa scored. After the draw, the match became more mutual, but in the 74 minute, San Thaw Thaw scored the winning goal for team Myanmar.

The second friendly match for both teams will be played at the same venue on 12 July. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Djokovic cruises into quarterfinals at Wimbledon

NOVAK Djokovic of Serbia brushed past Denmark's Holger Rune 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, reaching his 15th Wimbledon quarterfinals here on Monday.

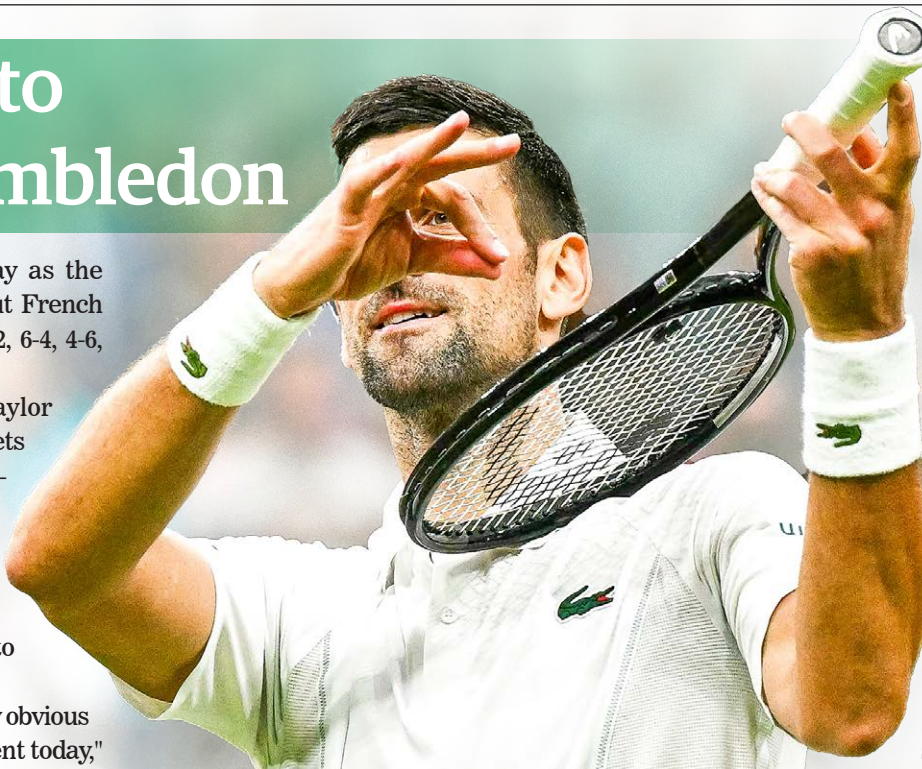
The 24-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic gave Rune a huge blow as he took 12 points in a row to lead 3-0 in the opening set. The 21-year-old Rune could hardly raise his game to compete with the seven-time Wimbledon champion and failed to reach the quarterfinals at the All England Club as he did last year.

"I don't think Holger played close to his best. Tough start for him. That got to him mentally," said the 37-year-old Djokovic, who will face the ninth seed Alex de

Minaur on Wednesday as the Australian knocked out French hopeful Arthur Fils 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

American ace Taylor Fritz came from two sets down to beat Alexander Zverev 4-6, 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-6(3), 6-3, but the German fourth seed said he was proud of himself as he fought to the end with one leg.

"I think it was fairly obvious that I wasn't 100 per cent today," said Zverev who injured his knee in the last match. "I wasn't moving really in the entire match. I wasn't running for dropshots. If I was running for a dropshot, I



Serbia's Novak Djokovic pretends to play the violin for his daughter as he celebrates winning against Denmark's Holger Rune during their men's singles tennis match on the eighth day of the 2024 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on 8 July 2024. PHOTO: AFP

was limping there more than running".

In the women's singles, last year's semifinalist Elina Svitolina was too good for China's Wang Xinyu, as the Ukraine's No 21 seed beat Wang 6-2, 6-1 within one hour. Wang, 22, admitted that she was under great pressure at the beginning of every point as Svitolina was so aggressive and determined.

"My serves were not good, and I didn't play my best in the whole match," said Wang who reached the last 16 at Wimbledon for the first time.

"She put me in huge pressure and gave me no time to adjust".

Svitolina, 29, will meet 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in the quarterfinals. — Xinhua



Putin-Modi informal talks lasted about three hours – Kremlin

THE informal talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi lasted for about three hours and were very meaningful, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

“Yesterday, Putin talked with Modi in an informal format for about three hours, there was quite a meaningful one-on-one conversation,” Peskov told reporters.

On Tuesday, Putin and Modi will visit the Atomic Energy Pavilion at Moscow’s Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy (VDNH) and host the Russian and Indian delegations for a working breakfast, the Kremlin spokesman said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held an informal meeting in the Novo-Ogaryovo residence of the Russian leader on Monday. Modi is paying a visit to Russia from 8-9 July to hold an annual summit with Putin. — SPUTNIK



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi walk following their meeting at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence, outside Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Heavy battles in Gaza City on eve of new truce talks

ISRAEL pushed on with a major military offensive in war-ravaged Gaza City on Tuesday that the UN said has once again displaced tens of thousands of Palestinians.

Troops, tanks and aircraft were fighting in Gaza’s biggest

urban area on the eve of new truce talks in Qatar that aim to free the hostages and halt the conflict raging into its 10th month.

A source with knowledge of the talks said CIA director William Burns and Israel’s Mossad

chief David Barnea would travel to Doha on Wednesday and also meet the Qatari prime minister, a key mediator.

Hamas, whose 7 October attack started the war, has accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of deliberately stepping up battles in Gaza City and in far-southern Rafah in order to thwart a ceasefire agreement.

The Islamist group’s Qatar-based political chief Ismail Haniyeh said he had made “urgent contact” with mediators, warning that the “catastrophic consequences” of the battles could “reset the negotiation process to square one”.

Hamas’s armed wing, the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, described the latest Gaza City fighting as “the most intense in months”, with militants using rockets, mortars and explosives. — AFP



A picture taken from al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip shows smoke billowing after Israeli bombardment in the Wadi Gaza (Gaza Valley) area on 8 July 2024 amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas militant group. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iran, Russia discuss expansion of bilateral ties

IRAN’S President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral relations, according to the official news agency IRNA.

In a phone call, the two sides voiced their countries’ readiness to sign a comprehensive cooperation agreement on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Russia’s Kazan in late October.

Pezeshkian said Iran attached great importance to its relations with friendly and neighbouring countries and would undoubtedly strengthen such ties.

He added his administration would be focused on following up on and implementing the bilateral agreements reached during the term of Iran’s late President Ebrahim

Raisi, who lost his life in a helicopter crash on 19 May.

Pezeshkian described it as important cooperation between the two countries within the frameworks of regional and international organizations, coalitions and treaties, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS and the Eurasian Economic Union.

He said the documents pertaining to the comprehensive cooperation agreement between Tehran and Moscow had been finalized and Iran was prepared to sign them on the sidelines of the upcoming BRICS summit. For his part, the Russian president congratulated Pezeshkian on his election as Iran’s ninth president, wishing him success in fulfilling his new responsibility. — Xinhua