

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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(Cuckoo's Song)

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State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla present Waso robes and offerings to Chairman Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa yesterday.

Families of Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) donate Waso robes to members of the Sangha for 2024

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offered Waso robes, alms and day meals to members of the Sangha at the Waso robe-offering ceremony of families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) for 2024 at Anawrahta Hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) yesterday morning.

The Senior General paid homage to the Buddha image in Anawrahta Hall and offered alms in the emerald alms bowl, fruits, flowers, water and oil lights.

The Senior General and wife together with the congregation took the Nine Precepts from the Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Thanlyin Minkyang

Pahtamapyan Buddhism Learning Centre Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa. Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

The Senior General and wife donated Waso robes and alms to the Chairman Sayadaw.

The SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win offered Waso robes and alms to SSMNC Secretary Mandalay Masoeyein Taikthit Presiding Patron Dhamma Thameikdi Monastery Sayadaw Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanhitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa.

Attendees and their wives donated Waso robes and alms to members of the

Sangha.

The Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared the merits gained.

Also present at the ceremony were Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Uppatasanti Pagoda, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and his wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and his wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and his wife, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and officials.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and his wife, the Vice-Senior General and his wife, and senior Tatmadaw officers offered day meals to members of the Sangha. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Myanmar National Flag to be flown at half-mast on 77th Martyrs' Day

THE State Administration Council informed all government offices and organizations to fly the Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at half-mast across the country, and MRTV to sound sirens at 10:37 am to commemorate the fallen leaders as a gesture of grief, on 19 July 2024, Friday (77th Martyrs' Day). At that time, vehicles on roads must pause and honk their horns. — MNA/KTZH

77th Martyrs' Day 2024 to be broadcast live on free-to-air channels

THE 77th Martyrs' Day 2024 will be held at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township in Yangon at 8 am on 19 July.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV News, MRTV Parliament, MRTV NRC, MWD-HD, MWD Variety HD, MITV, MOI Website and MRTV Website, and Myanmar Radio, Thazin FM, Star FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan, Pyinsawady FM, Mandalay FM, Cherry FM, Shwe FM and MRTV APP including online starting from 7:45 am on 19 July. — MNA

Myanmar, Russian exchange military medical services



The Military Medical Experts' Meeting between Myanmar and Russian Armed Forces in progress at No 2 Military Hospital (1,000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MYANMAR and Russian Armed Forces yesterday held a seminar on military medical services at No 2 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw with the attendance of Director of the Directorate of Medical Services Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin,

senior Tatmadaw officers and the Russian delegation led by Maj-Gen Denis Vladimirovich Davydov of the Main Military Clinical Hospital.

After the opening speeches of the two leaders, they cordially discussed experiences in Tatmadaw-related medical

services, cooperation in medical research, production of vaccines, scholarship programmes for high-level training courses, Tatmadaw-related medical services training and practice sessions and bilateral relations between medical corps of the two countries.

Then, the Russian delegation observed No 2 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed).

At noon, the Russian delegates met Adjutant General Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) at No 2 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed), and discussed exchange trips and further cooperation between medical units of the two armies.

The Russian delegates visited the Defence Services Museum, Myanmar Gems Museum and Maravijaya Buddha Image on the same evening. — MNA/KTZH

Bagan-era attire, sand painting exhibition to showcase Myanmar's artistic heritage

ACCORDING to the organizers of the Sand Painting Art Exhibition, the exhibition showcasing Bagan period clothing and sand paintings will take place from 20 to 22 July at the Golden Valley Art Centre in Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

"This sand painting exhibition displaying Bagan period clothing is a first in Myanmar's art history. Art students, accompanied by the founder of Rainbow Art Centre, made multiple visits to Bagan's pagodas, studying wall paintings dating back nearly 1,000 years. Throughout 2023-2024, teachers and enthusiastic students devoted time to practice and create. This marks a significant milestone in Myanmar's art history, culminating in a comprehensive exhibition of Bagan period clothing and sand paintings," explained a gallery official.

Furthermore, he added, "Students passionate about mural paintings and those who cherish historical heritage have left their mark on sand painting cloths. I warmly invite everyone to come, show support, and appreciate their efforts."

The exhibition will feature 540 artworks by nine teachers from the Rainbow Art Centre and 45 young art enthusiasts, celebrating Bagan's cultural legacy through artistry in sand painting and historical clothing. — ASH/TKO

MoH intensifies response to diarrhoea outbreak in Yangon

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. From 6 pm on 16 July to 6 pm on 17 July 2024, 67 new diarrhoea patients were hospitalized in Yangon Region. Among them, three were

confirmed to have severe diarrhoea, and all patients were reported to be in good condition. On 17 July, 87 patients were discharged. Up to 6 pm on 17 July 2024, a total of 792 diarrhoea patients were discharged from hospitals. Intensifying efforts to control the disease are ongoing.

Ministry of Health



Images showcase posters of the exhibition.

NATIONAL

Bangladeshi Ambassador calls on Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to

the further consolidation of existing friendly ties and expansion of cooperation in various fields of mutual interests including trade and investment, tourism and people-to-people exchanges between Myanmar and Bangladesh. — MNA

DPM and Union Minister U Than Swe meets Bangladeshi Ambassador Dr Md Monwar Hossain in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Egyptian Embassy to Myanmar hosts reception to mark 72nd Anniversary of National Day



Union Ministers, the Egyptian ambassador and dignitaries pose for the documentary group photo at the reception of National Day of Egypt in Yangon yesterday.

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw attended the reception to mark the 72nd Anniversary of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt at Park Royal Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Aya Saad Mohamed Abdelkarim and offi-

cialists welcomed attendees to the reception.

The reception was opened with the national anthems of Myanmar and Egypt.

The Ambassador and the Union Minister extended greetings and cut the cake to mark the National Day of Egypt.

The ambassador hosted a

dinner for all dignitaries.

The reception was also attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin, ambassadors from foreign missions in Yangon, Charges d'Affaires ai, resident representatives of UN agencies and guests. — MNA/TTA

UNFPA Resident Representative calls on MoH Union Minister

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Mr Jaime Nadal Roig, Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They exchanged views on collaboration on maternal, repro-

ductive healthcare and family planning between the Ministry of Health and UNFPA, mutual oversight of the partner organization's healthcare operations, academic cooperation in nursing and midwifery training schools, and continued healthcare cooperation. — MNA/TS



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win receives Mr Jaime Nadal Roig, Resident Representative of the UNFPA in Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Myanmar Consul-General U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin and Mr Ran Huazhong meet in Chongqing.

Myanmar consul-general in Chongqing discusses tourism, education cooperation

MYANMAR Consul-General U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin met Mr Ran Huazhong, Director-General of the Commission of Culture and Tourism Development of the Chongqing Municipal Government at the commission's office in Chongqing on 15

July. They discussed enhancing tourism promotion and cultural exchanges between Myanmar and Chongqing.

Additionally, U Kyaw Zay Yar Lin met Ms Jin Ling, Deputy Director-General of the Education Commission of the

Chongqing Municipal Government at the commission's office in Chongqing. They discussed matters related to educational cooperation and exchanges between universities in Myanmar and Chongqing. — ASH/TMT

NATIONAL

MoIP Union Minister discusses e-ID system techniques with Indian experts

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing addressed the meeting on studying, assessing and giving advice by the Indian technicians on the technical application for the e-ID system being implemented by the Ministry. The meeting held at the meeting hall of the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 July.

In his speech, the Union Minister said the Indian Aadhaar system is a successful technology and the e-ID system was developed through the study of that Aadhaar system. The e-ID system is the very fundamental operation for the e-Government of the country. Currently, the Biographic/Biometric data of individual citizens



Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing meets Indian technicians on the technical application for the e-ID system from India in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 July 2024.

is being collected and a 10-digit Unique ID is being issued.

He also urged the Indian experts to give advice frankly for the solution to the difficulties.

He then presented gifts to the experts led by Development Partnership Administration Mr Anish Kumar from the National Institute of Smart Government (NISC) and Modular Open-Source Identity Platform (MOSIP).

The technical team implementing the current e-ID system and the technical expert team from India held a discussion yesterday and the Indian expert team gave advice and provided the necessary assistance. — MNA/KTZH

MoE Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe discusses with Bangladeshi Ambassador Dr Md Monwar Hossain on the education sector yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe met Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They frankly discussed further promoting cooperation in the education sector between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Deputy Ministers for Education Dr Zaw Myint and Dr Moe Zaw Tun, Permanent Secretary Dr Soe Win and officials were also present at the meeting. — MNA/KZL

MSWRR Union Minister receives UNFPA Resident Representative

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received Mr Jaime Nadal Roig, Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on

initiating a workplan and further cooperation between the ministry and UNFPA.

The director-general and relevant officers of the Department of Social Welfare and representatives from UNFPA were also present at the event. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Dr Soe Win receives Mr Jaime Nadal Roig, Resident Representative of the UNFPA in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 13:30 hrs M.S.T on 17-7-2024)

ACCORDING to the 12:30 hours MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun reach its danger level during the next three days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas at Thabaung Township, to take precaution measure. — DMH

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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

Plans in motion to launch production of Myanmar's Poneyaygyi noodles

MYANMAR'S Poneyaygyi (bean paste) is famous among tourists to Bagan and NyaungU. Therefore, the business people from the Bagan area have a strong desire to produce Poneyaygyi noodles like Korean bean noodles.

The Poneyaygyi can be added to pork or chicken curry and can be a curry for vegetarians. The foreign visitors mostly prefer Poneyaygyi salad and pork curry with Poneyaygyi.

"The world countries know Myanmar Poneyaygyi as the tourists to Bagan carry the news. The tourists who enjoy eating Poneyaygyi indeed know the taste and they eat Poneyaygyi salad and pork curry with Poneyaygyi at hotels whenever they arrive in Bagan. We need innovation to penetrate the market. All the people like Korean bean noodles for their unique taste. The Poneyaygyi is made from horse gram and it is good for health. Therefore, we all want to produce Poneyaygyi noodles. We have not hit the target due to a lack of technique and finance. If we can produce, we could penetrate the foreign market in addition to the domestic market," said Daw Su Su Mar, in charge of Ngwe La Min Poneyaygyi (bean paste).

The Poneyaygyi was consumed in the time of King Anawrahta of the Bagan era,



PHOTO: CAFÉ SALWEEN



Photos show some Myanmar cuisines with Poneyaygyi, which domestic and foreign travellers love to eat.

according to the records. The horse gram is a medicinal bean, so Poneyaygyi controls blood sugar and stimulates insulin secretion. Therefore, it can reduce the blood sugar level and risk of diabetes. Moreover, it contains sodium and so regular consumption can balance blood pressure and is also suitable for the heart. It is also rich in antioxidants, reducing tiredness and stress. Moreover, it can reduce the risk of premature ageing and chronic diseases.

The fermented bean paste can provide protein for the body and is fibre-rich. Therefore, it supports the digestive system and improves gut health. The lower carbohydrate and sugar content also reduces body fat and helps lose weight. Moreover, it contains healthful bacteria to improve the digestive system and stamina. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp invites visitors to enjoy scenic river views

PALIN Kanthaya Elephant Camp, a famous destination, invites people to come and enjoy the beauty that can be seen when the river rises during the rainy season.

The elephant camp is located near West Palin village beside the Myingyan-Pakokku Road in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

"Ours is a camp on the banks of the Ayeyawady River. There are more visitors in April (Thingyan) than in any other month. But the most beautiful scenery at the camp is the time when the river



This photo captures the Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp amid the rising river.

rises. The rainy season starts in Waso. Since then, the recreation rooms built in the river and the elephant camp have become

floating rooms. The river almost touches the bridge and it makes the view more beautiful," said the camp in charge U Myo Min.

"The beauty of this landscape is not something that we normally see in the elephant camp. This can only be seen during the rainy season. If the waterfalls, the water will go back to a very far place, so the landscape will not be available again. We would like to invite you to enjoy the beauty of the landscape during this rainy season created by nature, and to relax and enjoy the beauty while staying in this elephant camp," he continued.

At the elephant camp, a variety of food is available, including Anya (upper Myanmar) salad

and sugarcane juice. Especially during the rainy season, visitors can also get fresh fish and prawns while enjoying a close view of sending elephants to bathe in the river.

"During this rainy season, there are fishing boats in the river. Fresh fish and shrimp are available. We also arrange these things. Visitors had to see the elephants being sent to the river from a distance before. During this rainy season, you can watch the elephants bathing from the bridge. It is a close view," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

NATIONAL

Mine blast derails Mawlamyine-Yangon train

THE No 82 Down train for the Mawlamyine-Yangon trip derailed after the mine explosion planted by insurgents while passing through Theinseik-Donwun railway stations in Thaton Township of Mon State yesterday. No injuries have been reported after the train derailed, and the Theinseik-Donwun rail section was suspended.

The No 81 Up train from Yangon carrying 695 passengers arrived at Kyaikto at noon and proceeded to the incident place where the No 82 Down train from Mawlamyine with 459 passengers derailed. The two express trains exchanged passengers in the same evening to transport them to their destinations.



These photos show the aftermath of the derailed No 82 Down train, including rail damage and passengers transferring to another train to reach their destinations.



Regional officials and security forces members proceeded to the site promptly for inspection and the MR staff pulled up

the derailed locomotives and two carriages to reopen the railway section as quickly as possible.

Since February 2021,

terrorist groups have been perpetrating 206 mining attacks and explosions within railway areas and stations, 166 blasts on

railway bridges, and 42 instances of blazing stations and employee housings. Their terror acts are aimed at destabilizing the

rule of law and endangering the safety of travellers, drawing widespread condemnation from the public. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: Security forces set fire to Sarchaung Village

THE malicious news media are spreading false news that security forces set fire to Sarchaung Village in Minhla Township, Bago Region, burning 30 houses.

The true incident is that security forces are conducting area security to prevent terrorists from harbouring activities in Minhla Township. On 15 July, when they reached the west of Sarchaung Village, PDF terrorists attacked with small arms and exchanged fire between the two sides.

Security forces said that terrorists retreated and ran away, and when they chased and cleared the retreating terrorists, they found a tent where terrorists were hiding about 300 metres east of Sarchaung Village. According to security officials, they seized one hand-made 12-volt gun, five 5.56 bullets and some accessories from inside the tent.



This screenshot validates false claims.

To mislead the public about the activities of the security forces in the area, they are only intentionally fabricating false information based on the incidents, and security forces did not burn Sarchaung Village. — MNA/KZL

Subversive media spreading false claims about military service in Mawlamyinekyun

IT has been discovered that subversive media are circulating false information claiming that two young men listed for military service were forcibly taken by security forces on 14 July in Mawlamyinekyun, Ayeyawady Region, because they failed to report voluntarily.



This screenshot validates misinformation.

According to an official from the local conscription team, there are no individuals in Mawlamyinekyun who failed to report for military service, and the two young men mentioned in the subversive media were not even on the conscription list.

Reports indicate that subversive media and those opposed to community peace and stability have been spreading misinformation via social networks since the enforcement of the law, aiming to mislead the public. — MNA/TKO

Public Notice

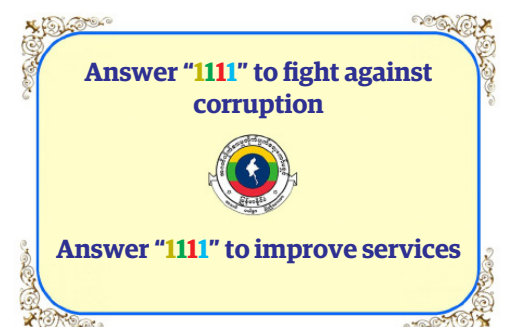
THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

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

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

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission



OPINION

Don't commit annoyance to people during Buddhist Lent

AS the month of Waso approaches, signalling the beginning of the Buddhist Lent in Myanmar, many Buddhists engage in various activities to practice meritorious deeds and meditation. This period is marked by numerous donation ceremonies organized under the guidance of venerable Buddhist monks. Traditionally, these ceremonies are often accompanied by charity feasts and loud music. However, such practices run contrary to the essence of Buddhism, which emphasizes peace, tranquillity, and calmness.

Buddhists typically devote themselves to observing Sabbaths, meditating, and worshipping the Lord Buddha during the Lent period, especially on the 8th Waxing and Waning days, full moon, and moonless days from the 1st Waxing of Waso through Wagaung and Tawthalin until the full moon of Thadingyut. For these devotees, the noisy and loud sounds associated with some donation ceremonies are unwelcome and disruptive.

Everybody has the right to do everything but they should not disturb a peaceful and stable society. Extreme noisy acts never support the peaceful society and daily routine of people. Everybody needs to consider noisy actions before they do. Spending a large sum of money on religious ceremonies never benefits the Buddhist and Buddhist societies and will face misunderstanding of the people in other religions. As such, authorities and religious officials need to supervise the proper movements of Buddhist people during the Buddhist Lent so as not to annoy the people.

Department of Religious Affairs must regulate religious and donation ceremonies within the Buddhist community. These officials should ensure that ceremonies are conducted without loud and noisy sounds, respecting societal tranquillity and individual rights.

By adhering to these guidelines, the essence of Buddhist Lent can be preserved, allowing devotees to engage in their spiritual practices without disturbance. This approach not only aligns with Buddhist principles but also promotes a healthier and more harmonious community.

Everybody has the right to do everything but they should not disturb a peaceful and stable society. Extreme noisy acts never support the peaceful society and daily routine of people. Everybody needs to consider noisy actions before they do. Spending a large sum of money on religious ceremonies never benefits the Buddhist and Buddhist societies and will face misunderstanding of the people in other religions. As such, authorities and religious officials need to supervise the proper movements of Buddhist people during the Buddhist Lent so as not to annoy the people.

BEFORE a matter of individual development and difference, three terms must be considered. These terms are human nature, human potential and human need. Human nature brings the meaning of human natural characteristics, talent, and character. It contains such primitive instinctive elements as sexual elements as well as its harmony will be achieved when the body, mind, and soul are in equilibrium. Human potential herein refers to the natural ability and hidden capability that exist in every human's mind, like the intelligence of linguistics, logic-mathematics, space, music, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal or intrapersonal skills. It can be developed and made explicit through proper encouragement and motivation. Human need is a kind of want to be satisfied during insufficiency and disturbance under imbalanced conditions. It can be classified into two main types: physiological or physical and psychological.

Based on human nature, human potential, and human need, there must be variations

or characteristics of physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioural, social, spiritual or other possible attributes among individuals in a group as individual differences. No two persons entirely possess the same physical characteristics, for instance, sex, appearance, body size, and physical skills. An individual differs from another in terms of mentality, learning, memory, reasoning, analyzed abilities, and intelligence. They will never also express the same emotional feelings in any similar situation. It comes as no surprise to know that individuals will behave differently from one another in aspects of communication, interaction, and social activities. Every individual practises his own lifestyle different from each other's, including those of his family members. And it is little wonder that they have their own philosophy of life, even if the religion they embrace might be the same as others.

Psychologists have shown that it is impossible to have two persons developed at the same rate of growth, simply due to heredity and environment that

Factors Affecting Individual Development and Difference

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

cause such rates of individuals to be diverse from one another. According to J G Mendel from Austria, the hereditary factor, now known as gene, determines an individual's inherent characteristics of his or her parents, involving some of their diseases. Genetically, there can be seen three kinds of genetic differences: physical, mental or cognitive, and emotional. Except for twin children, every individual possesses unique physical characteristics like sensory organs, and physical skills as well as external physical characteristics such as height, weight, shape, and the colour of a child's hair. Each individual has different levels of intelligence and mental ability among their peer groups, as observed from their academic performance in class. Apparently, the individual is born emo-

tional, even when their mothers are pregnant with them.

Environmentally speaking, the family unit poses great influence over individual development, especially by such factors as home atmosphere, family background, food, guidance, and socioeconomic status of a family. Children who come from a friendly and affectionate family will likely experience healthy emotional development. Also, sufficient and balanced food will probably help to develop their physical health in a satisfactory condition. Similarly, those who mix with hard-working peer groups will be an asset for their intellectual and potential development as well as those who frequently socialize with courteous and well-disciplined peer groups will tend to follow their good examples.

And again, differences in life values, culture and religion will produce different ways of living, personality, and human behaviour. The exposure of children to healthy technological resources in existence, for example, newspaper, magazine, advertisement, film, radio, television, and computer, will improve their rate of cognitive, emotional and social development. Teachers and schools influence children's development in physical, intellectual, emotional and social aspects; in the main, teachers who are emphatic and efficient in organizing teaching-learning activities in class will be able to give birth to educated, adroit, well-mannered and responsible children, too.

Finally, genetic and environmental factors both influence the individual development of



Human potential encompasses various natural and hidden abilities, such as linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, musical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal skills. These abilities can be enhanced through encouragement and motivation. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

children differently in physical, emotional and social aspects. This means that every child is unique and possesses particular characteristics. Thus, teachers must be able to plan teaching-learning activities according

to their individual differences. In this connection, they will need to adopt suitable strategies and approaches like group, remedial, and enrichment activities for children who are diverse in physical, intellectual,

emotional and social aspects. Above all, any teacher ought to put up with individual differences, especially those that may be bad for them, to some extent, before their educational target concerning children.

Nearly 6,500 adolescent girls die in childbirth every year in South Asia: UN Study

The statement highlighted that South Asia accounts for 290 million child brides, nearly half of the global total.

NEARLY 6,500 adolescent girls die in childbirth in South Asia every year, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said in a joint statement on Friday. SAARC, UNICEF South Asia, UNFPA and WHO called for increased commitment to critical services for over 2.2 million adolescent girls who give birth yearly in South Asia.

This comes at the Regional Dialogue on Adolescent Pregnancy in South Asia, which is being held in Kathmandu on July 11 and 12. The event is jointly organized by the agencies and was inaugurated by the Secretary General of SAARC, Ambassador Golam Sarwar.

"Every year, nearly 6,500 adolescent girls die in childbirth in South Asia, as per an analysis by UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA. Most of them are child brides who have limited power over their reproductive health or lives," the statement read.

In fact, South Asia accounts for 290 million child brides – nearly half of the world's burden, it added.

In three countries of South Asia, they are also four times more likely to be out of school than their unmarried peers.

Ambassador Golam Sarwar, the Secretary General of SAARC appreciated the role of governments, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society for the improvements made by the SAARC region over the years in reducing teenage pregnancy.



This statistic underscores the urgent need for enhanced support and services for the 2.2 million adolescent girls who give birth each year in the region. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

"But the region still has a long way to go. I call upon everyone to resolutely address the root causes including child marriage, access

to adolescent health education, and removing social stigma in managing the teenage population of the SAARC region," Sarwar said.

"I never got the strength back after my caesarean section operation," said Geetu Kumari from Nepal who got married at 16 and was pregnant soon after. "I still feel weak and find it difficult to do housework and take care of my baby. I just want to be healthy again. I also want to work and earn money. I've studied till 10th grade, so I am ready to continue my studies or find work," Sarwar added.

When young girls give birth, their lives can be at risk as they are not yet physically ready to give birth. Thousands more girls are forced to drop out of school, face stigma, rejection, violence, unemployment as well as lifelong social

challenges.

According to the analysis, 49 per cent of young girls in South Asia are not in education, employment or training – the highest in the world.

"We must do better for adolescent girls, particularly those who are married, pregnant or parents. In addition to hurdles to learn, get good healthcare and eat nutritious food, they are denied the opportunity to build skills and start businesses — everything they need as parents to thrive and fulfil their potential," Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, said.

Wijesekera added that we must work together and invest in opportunities to unleash the promise of more than 170 million adolescent girls in South Asia, stressing that doing so would be

transformative for this region.

Government and UN officials, adolescent girls, as well as civil society representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have participated in the dialogue and reaffirmed their commitment to providing better services to support pregnant adolescent girls and young mothers. This includes opportunities to learn, set up their own businesses, and earn a living.

Moreover, adolescent mothers have a much higher risk of dying from maternal causes, compared to women in their 20s and 30s.

These risks increase greatly as maternal age decreases, with adolescents under 16 years facing four times the risk of maternal death compared to women over 20 years.

"Babies born to adolescents also face a significantly higher risk of death compared to babies born to older women. Evidence shows that pregnant adolescents face poorer health coverage than adults. These include antenatal care, postnatal care, delivering with a skilled birth attendant, and

family planning. Even if they do have care, these adolescents often lack the confidence to express their needs. They face greater humiliation and disrespect and receive poorer quality care than adults," the statement read.

"It is high time that we reverse this trend. The unique physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and sexual development during adolescence necessitates special attention in national and international policies. Effective strategies to tackle adolescent pregnancy require cross-sectoral collaboration and equitable access to a variety of services," Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia said.

"Investments in adolescent health are essential for promoting healthy socio-economic development and preventing health risks and problems before their onset. This supports the well-being of the youth of today – who are the human capital of tomorrow," she added. Programmes to combat child marriage and improve care for pregnant adolescents and young mothers have gained momentum across South Asia.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

Myingyan No 1 Steel Mill to produce 20,000 tonnes this FY

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Industry, No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) is planning to produce 2,000 tonnes this financial year.

The mill has been able to melt iron 285 times and produced a total of 14,463 tonnes of steel billet from March 2023 to 8 July 2024. It is targeting to produce 20,000 tonnes during the current 2024-25 financial year and has produced 4,569 tonnes as of 8 July.

The mill has two 60-tonne melting furnaces. The melting furnace No 1 was able to start smelting iron in 2023, and to re-operate the melting furnace No 2 for the 2024-25 financial year; officials are taking advice from domestic and foreign experts. If the melting furnace can be restarted, it will produce more molten steel plates.

In addition, No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) is intended to produce iron ore and slag from

iron metal and send it to the steel mill in Myingyan, where it is intended to produce various types of nails, iron plates and thin iron plates.

Out of 22 workshops, 19 of them are operating in the mill and the remaining three will be used to produce raw iron in the 2025-26 financial year. No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) is currently producing square steel rods for the construction industry. — TWA/KZL



An aerial panoramic view of the No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan).



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung along with officials is seen arriving at No 1 Water Pumping Station (Malon) and inspecting water quality, water laboratory and water distribution facilities on 13 July 2024.

Mandalay expands urban water distribution from multiple sources

ACCORDING to the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), water is being distributed to residents in Mandalay after being sourced from various locations and purified.

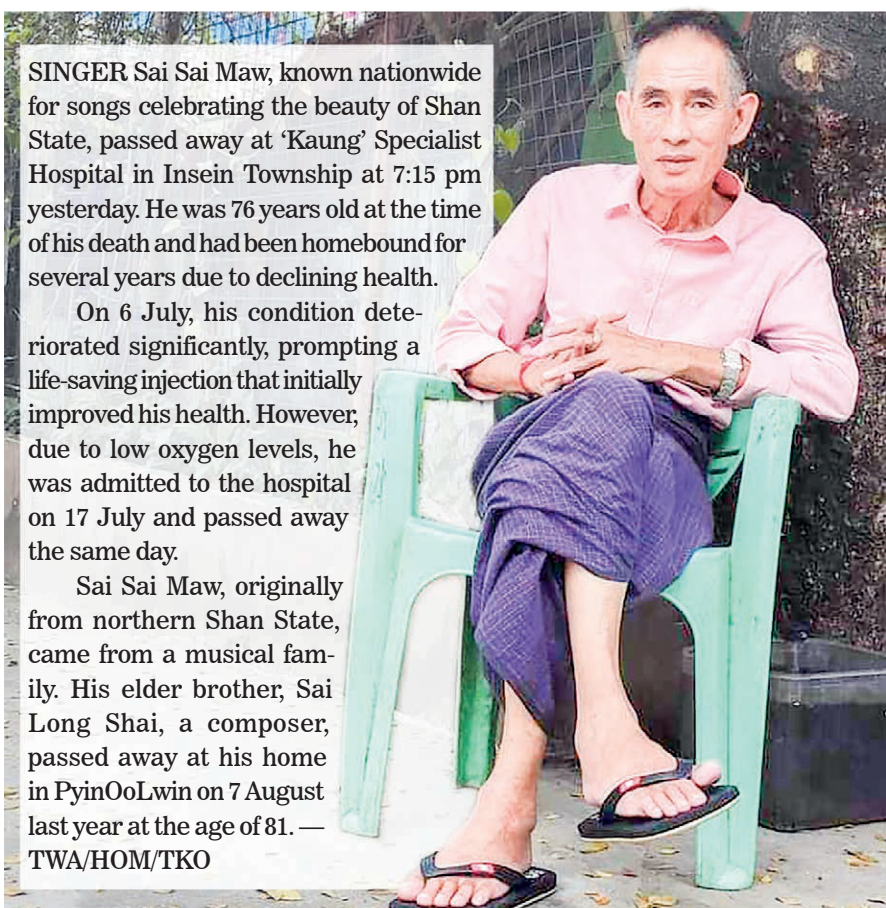
Water from 30 tube wells drilled along the Ayeyawady River is sent to the 5-million-gallon Pump Station 1 using vertical turbine pumps, to be distributed daily to residential areas. Additionally, water from the Ayeyawady River is sent to the 8-million-gallon Pump Station 8

using pontoons. From there, it is sent to the 2.5-million-gallon water reservoir on Mandalay Hill and the 1.5-million-gallon Pump Station 3.

Moreover, water from the Setawgyi Dam is distributed to the northeast part of the city through the four-million-gallon Pump Station 4.

With the completion of the Dokhtawady River water pump, water will also be distributed to the southeastern part of the city. — TWA/MKKS

Renowned Shan singer Sai Sai Maw passes away



SINGER Sai Sai Maw, known nationwide for songs celebrating the beauty of Shan State, passed away at 'Kaung' Specialist Hospital in Insein Township at 7:15 pm yesterday. He was 76 years old at the time of his death and had been homebound for several years due to declining health.

On 6 July, his condition deteriorated significantly, prompting a life-saving injection that initially improved his health. However, due to low oxygen levels, he was admitted to the hospital on 17 July and passed away the same day.

Sai Sai Maw, originally from northern Shan State, came from a musical family. His elder brother, Sai Long Shai, a composer, passed away at his home in PyinOoLwin on 7 August last year at the age of 81. — TWA/HOM/TKO

Re-excavation of Ngamoeyeik Creek completed to prevent flooding in Yangon Region



This picture captures re-excavation work of Ngamoeyeik Creek.

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (Water Resource), the re-excavation of the Ngamoeyeik Creek, which serves as a water outlet to prevent floods in Yangon Region, has been completed.

The Ngamoeyeik Creek spans 47 miles from the Ngamoeyeik Dam in Hlegu Township to the Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. Due to silting, the 22-mile-long upper part of the creek required re-excavation. The 25-mile-long lower part of the creek already has a good flow of water. This re-excavation is the first since the completion

of the Ngamoeyeik Dam in 1995.

The Ngamoeyeik Creek flows through Hlegu Township, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, South Okkalapa Township, Thingangyun Township, and Pazundaung Township, eventually joining the confluence of the Bago River and the Yangon River.

The Ngamoeyeik Dam, built on the Ngamoeyeik Creek, supplies 130 million gallons of drinking water daily to Yangon Region residents and irrigates over 30,000 acres of agricultural land annually. — ASH/MKKS

MCA receives purchase order for green coffee beans

INTERNATIONAL buyers contacted the Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA) to purchase green coffee beans.

They are requesting lists of green bean producers and suppliers through MCA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Therefore, MCA asked green bean producers and traders to send the information of suppliers including name, position, enterprise, growers' group, address, annual production rate,

contact number and email address.

Individuals can enquire about details through the Myanmar Coffee Association's email mca@myanmarcoffee.org and Viber phone number at 09 951570777.

To produce commercially valued speciality coffee in international markets, MCA has been conducting courses related to coffee processing on technical and practical approaches, basic principles and practices of coffee standards, influencing factors to coffee processing, characteristics of ripe coffee beans, methods



A glimpse of ripe coffee beans in the plantation.

of coffee harvesting and benefits, analysis of coffee bean sample and quality control, device to

measure coffee moisture and refractometer to test sugar content and tests for coffee ripening,

and coffee processing methods from harvesting, processing, roasting to brewing. — NN/KK

Certain commodity lines moved to non-automatic licensing system

CERTAIN commodity lines that did not require an import licence earlier on the automatic licensing system will be mandatory for import licence under the non-automatic import licensing process from 1 August 2024, according to Notification 4/2024 dated 16 July released by the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Commodity lines that can be processed through automatic licensing and non-automatic licensing systems on the Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 platform were declared as per the export-import

news bulletin 9/2023. Having digitized the licensing system, import licensing for certain lines (1,532 lines) was automatically passed on to the system. At present, 1,460 lines (HS Code 10 digit) of them will be moved to a non-automatic licensing system starting from 1 August 2024. Only 72 lines were automatically processed on the automatic licensing system.

For imports of those 1,460 lines, only a non-automatic licensing system will be exercised and import licence must be initially applied. — NN/KK



File photo shows a container vessel is seen berthing at one of the container terminals in Yangon on 8 May 2024.

Myanmar exports 240,000+ tonnes of black gram worth US\$242M in Q1

MYANMAR'S black gram export hit over 240,000 tonnes in the first quarter of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, generating earnings of over US\$242 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's black gram export by sea hit over 247,225.38 tonnes of pulses worth \$242.669 million, whereas over 66 tonnes of pulses worth \$0.062 million were sent to the neighbouring countries between 1 April and 28 June this FY.

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses'



A vendor shows black gram at the market. PHOTO XINHUA

annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

Myanmar's black gram output is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year, whereas pigeon pea production crosses 50,000 tonnes.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/KK

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



ECONOMY WORLD

IMF raises China's 2024 economic growth forecast to 5%

The global growth forecast remains at 3.2 per cent, with Asia's emerging markets continuing to drive global economic expansion.

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday revised China's 2024 economic growth up to five per cent in an update to its World Economic Outlook (WEO), from the 4.6-per cent forecast in April.

The revision is primarily attributed to a rebound in private consumption and strong exports in the first quarter, according to the update.

"In China, resurgent domestic consumption propelled the positive upside in the first quarter, aided by what looked to be a temporary surge in exports belatedly reconnecting with last year's rise in global demand," it said. The IMF maintained its forecast for global growth in 2024 at 3.2 percent, noting that Asia's emerging market economies remain the main engine for the



This panoramic aerial photo taken on 10 January 2023 shows a view of Lujiazui area in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: FANG ZHE/XINHUA**

global economy.

Global activity and world trade firmed up at the turn of the year, with trade spurred by strong exports from Asia, particularly in the technology sector, the WEO update noted.

World trade volume is expected to grow by 3.1 per cent in 2024 and 3.4 per cent in 2025, each 0.1 percentage points higher than the April projection.

"Asia's emerging market economies remain the main

engine for the global economy. Growth in India and China is revised upwards and accounts for almost half of global growth," IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said in a blog. — Xinhua

Indonesia seeks green investments to combat climate change, boost sustainable growth



People are seen on Kuta Beach in Bali, a famous tourist destination of Indonesia, 24 December 2023. **PHOTO: XU QIN/XINHUA**

INDONESIA is seeking investors to finance green and renewable energy projects to support the country's agenda in combating

climate change and promoting sustainable economic growth.

The country's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs

Airlangga Hartarto said at a recent event that Indonesia expects green investment funding of around US\$281 billion as part of the total \$1.1 trillion needed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.

As part of efforts to attract foreign investors, the Indonesian government has offered 21 sustainable green infrastructure projects, 19 of which are related to pipeline projects. Hartarto noted that two projects ready for investment are the Green Refinery Cilacap in Cilacap and the Green Refinery Plaju in South Sumatra, each valued at 860 million dollars. — Xinhua

Bolivia announces discovery of natural gas 'mega-field'

BOLIVIA has discovered a massive natural gas field with reserves of 1.7 trillion cubic feet, its biggest discovery of the fuel since 2005, President Luis Arce said Monday.

The South American nation, which was hit by an attempted coup last month, is battling a severe economic crisis due to a shortage of US dollars prompted by a dramatic drop in exports of natural gas — once a mainstay of the economy.

The discovery amounts to enough gas to power Mexico or Italy for a year, according to 2020 consumption figures from the US Energy Information Administration.

Arce said during a public appearance that "we have discovered a mega-field" north of the capital La Paz, after a \$50 million investment in exploration.

The reserve "is the most important discovery for Bolivia since 2005." — AFP



Handout picture released on 16 July 2024, by Bolivia's state oil company (YPFB) showing dancers celebrating the discovery of a massive natural gas field in Alto Beni, Bolivia. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / YPFB / AFP**

Inflation in Canada slows to 2.7% in June

AFTER an unexpected surge in May, Canada's annual inflation rate slowed to 2.7 per cent year on year, Statistics Canada announced on Tuesday, paving the way for a new interest rate cut, according to experts.

The larger-than-anticipated drop came after the Canadian

central bank lowered its key rate by 25 basis points to 4.75 per cent in early June, with a further announcement scheduled for 24 July.

"The deceleration was largely the result of slower year-over-year growth in gasoline prices, which rose 0.4% in

June following a 5.6 per cent increase in May," the government statistics agency said in a press release.

A 1.8 per cent drop in durable goods prices also contributed to the slower growth of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in June, Statistics Canada said. — AFP

Cambodia earns over US\$213 mln from rubber exports in H1 2024

Cambodia's revenue from dry rubber exports reached \$213.3 million in the first half of 2024, marking an 8.6 per cent increase from \$196.3 million during the same period last year.

CAMBODIA made US\$ 213.3 million in revenue from exports of dry rubber during the January-June period this year, up 8.6 per cent from \$196.3 million over the same period last year, said a General Directorate of Rubber's report on Wednesday.

The country exported 140,653 tonnes of the commodity in the first half of 2024, a slight increase of one per cent from 139,220 tonnes over the same period last year, the report said.

"A tonne of dry rubber averagely cost \$1,517 during the first half of



Cambodia has so far planted rubber trees on a total area of 407,172 hectares, in which the trees on 320,184 hectares, or 78.6 percent, are old enough to be tapped. **PHOTO: FREEPIK**

2024, about \$107 higher than that of the same period last year," Khun Kakada, acting direc-

tor-general of the General Directorate of Rubber, said in the report.

The Southeast Asian

nation exports the commodity mainly to Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore and China. — Xinhua

Hungary fines Booking.com anew for 'unfair' practices

ONLINE travel agency Booking.com was slapped with a second fine by Hungary's competition watchdog Monday for failing to cease its "unfair" business practices, including putting psychological pressure on customers.

In 2020, the Amsterdam-based firm was fined 2.5 billion forint (\$7 million) by the Hungarian Competition Authority (GVH) for aggressive sales tactics.

On Monday, the authority hit Booking.com with an additional penalty of 382.5 million forint after a follow-up investigation showed the company had continued its unfair practices.

"Booking has not fully complied with its obligations to cease previous in-

fringements," the watchdog said in a statement.

The body found the website was still exerting "psychological pressure" on consumers to book accommodation quickly.

It also pointed out that the travel agency put Hungarian users at a disadvantage by not offering them the same cheaper, non-cancellable alternatives on its listings.

Booking.com did "not admit to the violations" and only "stopped infringing" during the final stage of the probe, the watchdog said.

In a statement sent to AFP, the travel agency said it was "disappointed" with the findings, but vowed to provide "further clarity" to consumers. — AFP



Travel agency Booking.com's logo seen on a building. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

UK inflation holds at 2.0% in June: official data

BRITAIN'S inflation rate held steady in June after returning to the Bank of England's target the previous month, official data showed Wednesday, confounding expectations for another modest slowdown.

The Consumer Prices Index was unchanged at 2.0 per cent in June from the same level in May, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement, compared with market forecasts of 1.9 per cent.

"Hotel prices rose strongly, while second-hand car costs fell but by less than this time last year," said ONS chief executive Grant Fitzner.

"However, these were offset by falling clothing prices, with widespread

sales driving down their cost.

"Meanwhile, the cost of both raw materials and goods leaving factories fell on the month, though factory gate prices remain above where they were a year ago." — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAESTRO 1 VOY.NO. (03/2024)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAESTRO 1 VOY.NO. (03/2024)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

CHANGING THE NAME OF TRADING

Notice is hereby given that the official trade name has been changed of Gold & Super Co., Ltd for the following product manufactured by Zibo NAB Agrochemicals Limited.

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Tetking	Super Pyaung	Atrazine 20% + Mesotrione 7% + Nicosulfuron 3% OD	Provisional Reg:	P2023-5391

We invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Gold & Super Co., Ltd. (Address: CORNER OF 43 & 57 ST, YE MON TAUNG WARD, NO.MA-14/1 MAHARAUNG MYAY TOWNSHIP, MANDALAY REGION, MYANMAR. Ph no .09403723854)

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ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Kremlin saw nothing 'particularly good' for Russia in Trump presidency, but dialogue existed

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov highlighted that topics about Russia and President Vladimir Putin became a central theme in US election campaigns, reflecting their consistent presence in electoral debates.



View of the Kremlin. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

DURING the presidency of Donald Trump in the United States, nothing particularly good was done for Russia, new restrictions were introduced, but there was a dialogue between the two countries, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry

Peskov said on Wednesday. "Under Trump, nothing particularly good was done for Russia; on the contrary, more and more restrictions were introduced under Trump. But, nevertheless, there was a dialogue,"

Peskov told reporters. The topics of Russia and personally Russian President Vladimir Putin became an integral part of the US election campaign, Kremlin spokesman said. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

16 missing after oil tanker capsizes off Oman coast

SIXTEEN people, including 13 Indians aboard a Comorian-flagged oil tanker went missing after it capsized off the coast of Oman, officials said.

According to the Sultanate of Oman's Maritime Security Centre (MSC), the oil tanker capsized 25 nautical miles southeast of Ras Madrakah on Tuesday. Though Oman has not specified the cause of the capsizing, it said search and rescue operations were underway in the area for the missing crew.

The MSC has identified the vessel as Prestige Falcon and said it has 16 crew members on board including 13 Indians and three Sri Lankans.

Local media reports quoting Indian defence officials said the Indian Navy Wednesday deployed the warship INS Teg along with maritime surveillance aircraft P-81 to assist Oman in search and rescue operations of the missing oil tanker. — Xinhua

Rain-triggered landslides, mudflows in northwest China

HEAVY downpours have caused roadside landslides and mudflows, leading to traffic disruptions in Baoji, a city in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, local authorities said on Wednesday.

Traffic was interrupted on sections of two highways and an expressway in Baoji, but no casualties have been reported so far.

From 6 am Tuesday to 6 am Wednesday, Baoji received an average precipitation of 67.4 millimetres, with the highest recorded precipitation reaching 209 millimetres, according to Shaanxi's metrological observatory. — Xinhua

What to know about Trump's VP pick, JD Vance

FORMER US President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, announced Ohio US Senator JD Vance as his running mate Monday, ending months of speculation on his vice president pick.

Vance, who was elected to the US Senate in 2022 and sworn into office in January 2023, has quickly risen to prominence in American politics.

After graduating from high school in 2003, Vance enlisted in the US Marine Corps and served as a combat correspondent in Iraq.

He later attended Ohio State University and Yale Law School and worked as a venture capitalist in Silicon Valley.

Initially, Vance was a vocal critic of Trump, labeling him as "dangerous" and "unfit" for the presidency in 2016, even calling him "America's Hitler."



US Senator JD Vance (R-OH) and his wife Usha Chilukuri Vance look on as he is nominated for the office of Vice-President on the first day of the Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum on 15 July 2024 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. **PHOTO: AFP**

However, after meeting Trump in 2021, Vance's views shifted, and he became a loyal ally. Since his election to the Senate, he has steadfastly supported Trump's policies and actions.

Vance first gained national recognition with the publication of his memoir "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" in 2016. The book, which details his upbringing in

the Rust Belt states, became a bestseller and brought him into the national spotlight.

Vance started writing the memoir while he was at Yale at the encouragement of his mentor and "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" author Amy Chua.

In his book, Vance documented his tumultuous childhood, marked not only by his father's departure from the family but also by his mother's struggle with addiction to drugs and alcohol.

The memoir provides a candid look at the economic and social challenges faced by communities in the Rust Belt states, emphasizing issues such as job loss, opioid addiction, and a sense of cultural and economic displacement.

The Rust Belt, including states like Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, was once

a thriving hub of manufacturing known for its steel production, automobile manufacturing, and other heavy industries.

However, over the past few decades, these states have experienced significant economic decline, leading to widespread unemployment and financial instability, with families facing the dual pressures of stagnant wages and rising living costs.

Vance's perspectives align with Trump's "America First" policies, which prioritize American jobs and industries, striking a chord with voters who believe the political establishment in Washington has neglected their concerns. He has consistently opposed US policy regarding the Ukraine crisis. This April, Vance argued in a New York Times op-ed that the administration lacked a clear strategy for Ukraine's success. — Xinhua

SPORTS

New signing Ito relishing top-level competition at Bayern

JAPAN defender Hiroki Ito voiced his excitement at the chance to test himself at the highest level after the new Bayern Munich signing was unveiled on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old moved from Stuttgart to the German Bundesliga giants in a deal reported to be in excess of 23 million euros (4 billion yen) earlier this summer, becoming new Bayern manager Vincent Kompany's first recruit.

"Being among rivals is great, both for the team and for my own development," Ito told a press conference. "I want to enjoy that competition."

The Shizuoka Prefecture native left Jubilo Iwata, then in the J-League second division, for Stuttgart in the summer of 2021 and helped them finish second in the Bundesliga last season.

Primarily a central defender, Ito can also play left-back, as well as defensive midfield, and has 19 caps for the Samurai Blue,

scoring one goal.

"My strength is the versatility to play many positions," said Bayern's new No 21, who has already spoken with his new manager and received a tip about a Japanese restaurant by Germany attacker Serge Gnabry.

"Everyone gave me a warm welcome," Ito said.

Japan international goalkeeper Zion Suzuki, meanwhile, joined returning Italian Serie A side Parma following a season at Belgian outfit Sint-Truiden.

The 21-year-old former Urawa Reds keeper was a key player in his age group for Japan but was left out of this summer's Paris Olympics squad in anticipation of his imminent transfer.

Suzuki, whose father is of Ghanaian descent, made his senior Japan debut in 2022 and was the regular starter during the Asian Cup earlier this year. His contract runs through June 2029. — Kyodo



New Bayern Munich signing Hiroki Ito (L) holds his No 21 shirt up with sporting director Christoph Freund during a press conference in Munich on 16 July 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

AFC U-19 Championship: Myanmar to play Vietnam today



The Myanmar head coach U Aung Naing (R) is seen with Vietnamese and Australian coaches. PHOTO: MFF

MYANMAR team will take on Vietnam in the 2024 AFC U-19 Championship Group B opener in Indonesia today.

Team Myanmar match will begin at 7 pm Myanmar Standard Time while Laos will face Australia in the same group today at 2:30 pm MST. A pre-match press conference for the AFC U-19 group matches

was held yesterday and head coaches attended.

"As we all know, team Myanmar is in a tough group. There are good teams like Australia and Vietnam. Laos is also an improving team. Every team will prepare well for the competition, and the Myanmar team has also prepared the best. We will pay close attention to every

match and compete at our best. At the moment, we are focusing on the opening game against Vietnam," said Myanmar head coach U Aung Naing.

Myanmar is placed in tough Group B with ASEAN powerhouse Vietnam, world-class team Australia and Laos. Group matches will run from 17 to 29 July. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Cambodia to send 3 athletes to Paris Olympics

THREE athletes will represent Cambodia to compete in the Paris Olympic Games, a sports chief said on Wednesday.

Thong Khon, a senior minister and president of the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia, said the kingdom will dispatch a 15-member

sports delegation, including three athletes, for the Games.

He said the trio include two swimmers — 17-year-old Cambodian-French swimmer Antoine le Lapparent and 23-year-old Cambodian-American Sakbun Apsara Katarina — and 31-year-old

sprinter Bunthan Chhun, who won a SEA Games gold medal in 2023.

Khon said the Olympic Games has provided a great opportunity for Cambodian athletes to take on world-class competitors from various sporting disciplines. — Xinhua

Paris mayor takes pre-Olympics dip to prove Seine clean

THE mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, took a long-awaited swim in the murky waters of the Seine on Wednesday amid joy and relief that the river is finally clean enough for outdoor Olympic swimming events later this month. Wearing goggles and a wet suit, the 65-year-old city leader swam breaststroke under bright sunshine before immersing her face and beginning a front crawl, covering around 100 metres (yards) downstream.

"It's wonderful, very, very pleasant," Hidalgo told reporters of the greenish

water. "It's fresh but not cold."

She was joined by senior local officials and chief organizer of the Paris Games, Tony Estanguet, a gold medal-winning canoeist who has been sweating on the state of the Seine ahead of the opening of the Paris Games next week.

"Today is a confirmation that we are exactly where we meant to be," Estanguet said. "We are now ready to organize the Games in the Seine."

The swimming leg of the Olympics triathlon is set to take place in its waters

on 30-31 July and 5 August, followed by the open-water swimming on 8-9 August.

Despite an investment of 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) to prevent sewage leaks into the waterway, the river had been continually failing water quality tests until the start of this month.

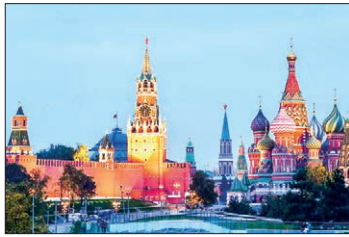
Wednesday's dip in front of more than 150 journalists was intended to demonstrate that the river was ready, but also to underline what is meant to be one of the key legacy achievements of Paris 2024. — AFP



Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo swims in the Seine, in Paris on 17 July 2024, to demonstrate that the river is clean enough to host the outdoor swimming events at the Paris Olympics later this month. PHOTO: AFP

Kremlin saw nothing 'particularly good' for Russia in Trump presidency, but dialogue existed

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WORLD

BRICS futurological forum: Modernization doesn't mean Westernization

At the forum, there was a focus on respecting different cultures. The discussion highlighted the need to plan the future with cultural diversity in mind.



Floats are seen outside the Bumbodromo during the Boi Bumba folklore festival in Parintins, Amazonas State, Brazil, on 28 June 2024. Parintins is well-known internationally for its Boi Bumba folklore festival, which lasts for three days in late June and whose themes, costumes, and songs are based on indigenous cultures of the Amazon rainforest. PHOTO: MICHAEL DANTAS / AFP

SPEAKING to Sputnik, Marta Fernandez, Director of the BRICS Policy Centre at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, highlighted considering past years' experiences of transformations in order to successfully construct a just world order and foster future intercivilizational relations at both the national and international levels.

According to her, the forum participants agreed that the dominant Western view that modern development is inseparable from cultural Westernization is not the only correct one.

"The very concepts of civilization and modernity are in many ways contradictory, it is argued that in order to devel-

op and look to the future it is necessary to somehow completely erase the past. In the Western understanding, the past is presented as something unworthy and subject to destruction, which seems strange. At this forum, on the contrary, we talked about the need to respect different cultures and to plan the future

with diversity in mind," expert said.

In particular, she notes that each of the BRICS countries has its own unique experience in overcoming the harsh consequences of socioeconomic and social transformations, as well as in implementing major infrastructure projects aimed at improving the lives of the

population, "taking into account specific cultural and material circumstances".

The scholar posits that the Western theory linking modernization with perpetual consumption contradicts the principles of sustainable development and the efforts to combat climate change. — SPUTNIK

A SHIMMERING JEWEL

Mongolia's Khar-Us Lake added to UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

MONGOLIA'S Khar-Us Lake National Park has been added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO, local media reported Wednesday, citing the UNESCO.

The decision was made during the 36th session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Program held in Agadir, Morocco, from 2 to 5 July.

Khar-Us Lake, located in the western Mongolian province of Khovd, occupies a vast depression within the Great Lake Basin, spanning 14,153 square kilometres. The biosphere reserve comprises a core area of 703 square kilometres, a buffer zone spanning 7,800 square kilometres, and a transition area covering 5,650 square kilometres. — Xinhua

Philippines waives visa for cruise tourists

THE Philippines has launched the cruise visa waiver programme to make entry into the country easier for visa-required foreigners vacationing on board cruise ships, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) said Wednesday.

"The cruise visa waiver programme supports our goal of making the Philippines the cruise hub of Asia," BI Commissioner Norman Tansingco said. "The cruise visa waiver is a significant step in revitalizing our tourism industry after the pandemic. It ensures that cruise tourists can

easily visit and enjoy our beautiful country," Tansingco said.

In 2023, the Philippines welcomed 123 port calls, bringing in over 101,000 passengers. With

the new programme in place, the country is projected to see 117 cruise calls with an estimated 118,000 passengers in 2024, the BI said in a statement. — Xinhua



The Nautica cruise ship carrying tourists arrives at Benoa Harbour in Denpasar on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on 31 December 2023. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/SONNY TUMBELAKA / AFP