

Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

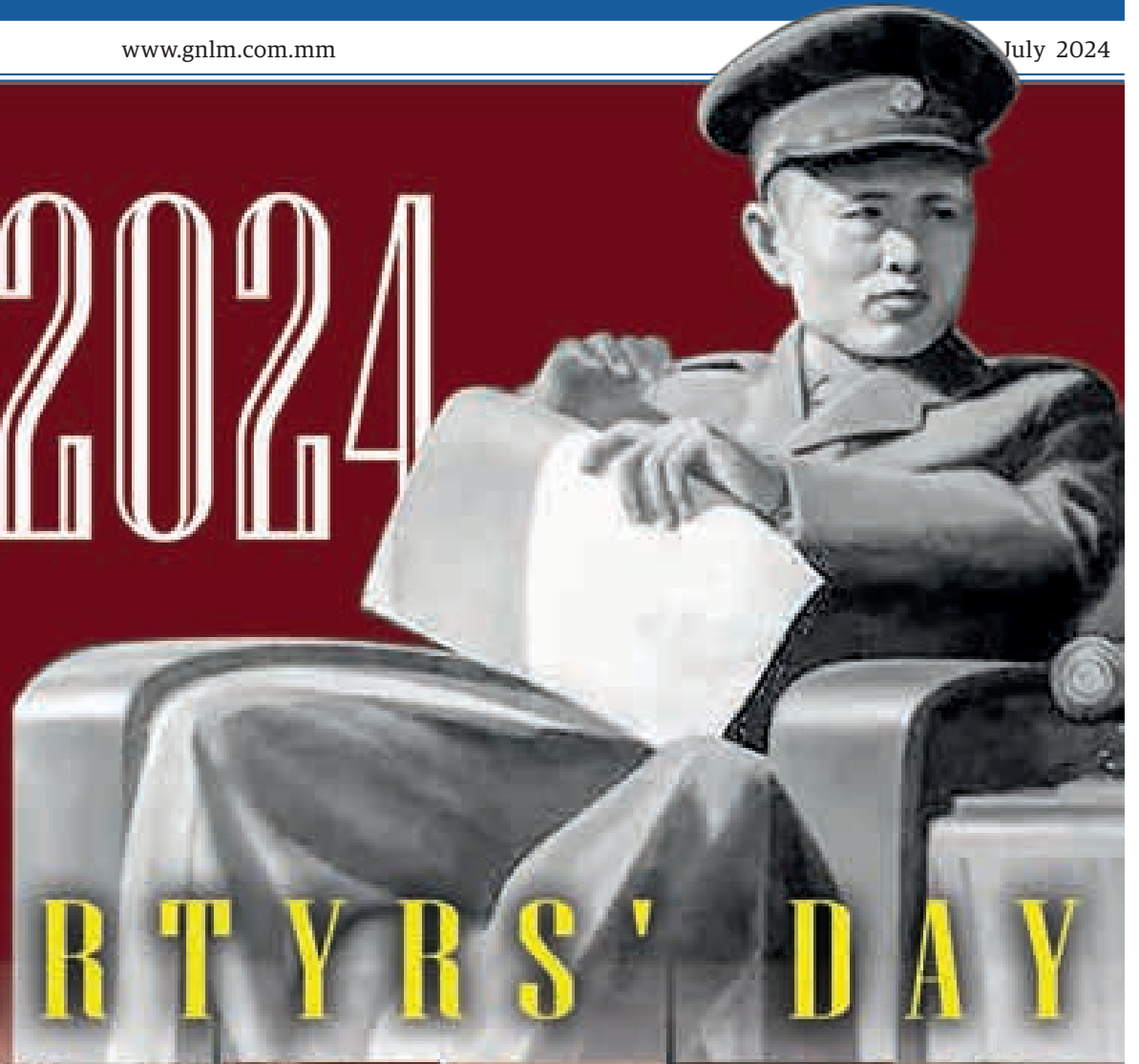
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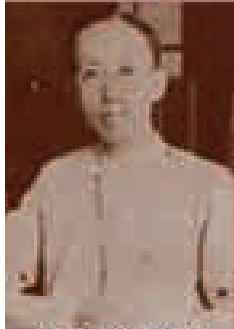
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July 2024

19TH JULY 2024



77TH MARTYRS' DAY



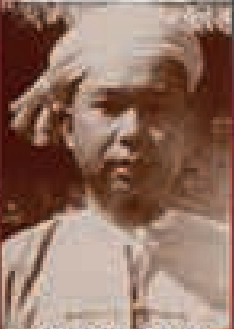
THAKIN MYA



DEEDOK U BA CHO



U BA WIN



SAO SAN TUN



MAHN BA KHAING



U RAZAK



U OHN MAUNG



YEBAW KO HTWE



OUR TRIBUTE TO MARTYRS ON 77TH MARTYRS' DAY

NATIONAL

Pro Tem President U Myint Swe receives medical treatments on medical leave

PRO Tem President U Myint Swe has been receiving regular medical treatment provided by a medical team comprising specialists as he has been suffering from psychomotor retardation and malnutrition since early 2023. According to the medical examinations, he is suffering from neurological disorders and peripheral neuropathy disease. Hence, he received a neurological medical checkup at Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre in Singapore from 15 to 19 April 2024 and further medical treatments at No 2 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) from 27 May to 18 June 2024.

During the period, Pro Tem President U Myint Swe also received surgical treatment for cataracts in his right and left eyes and improved his eye sight. But, he is still suffering from peripheral neuropathy disease. As such, he is now receiving close medical treatments from a special medical team at his home after taking a medical leave from 18 June to 30 July. An eight-member special medical team led by Union Minister for Health Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win performed a medical checkup on the Pro Tem President on 30 June and 14 July. In this regard, his health condition has not improved yet. As he cannot do normal daily activities including eating food, close medical treatments are being provided for the Pro Tem President under the arrangement of the State Administration Council.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*



This photo showcases visitors to Taungthaman Lake and Bridge amid high water level on 17 July 2024. **PHOTO KO NILIN**

Thousands flock to Taungthaman Bridge and Lake amid rising water

TAUNGTHAMAN Bridge and Taungthaman Lake in the Mandalay Region are frequented by both local and foreign travellers daily during the rainy season, with approximately 100,000 visitors on weekends, according to U Soe Win, secretary of the

Bridge maintenance team.

The water level in Taungthaman Lake is gradually rising, and on 15 July, it was one foot below the bridge floor in the middle, and two feet below at the eastern and western ends.

"Until the end of June,

there was not much water. At the beginning of July, it was still about six feet below the bridge floor. When the sluice gate was opened, the water rose to within one foot of the bridge floor.

Now, the surrounding area is filled with residents who come to witness the rising water. Approximately 3,000-4,000 people visit daily to see the water," said U Soe Win.

Travellers from Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Taunggyi, and Yangon visit Taungthaman Bridge and Taungthaman Lake, while foreign visitors primarily come from Thailand, Vietnam, and Korea. — ASH/MKKS

Visitor arrivals rise despite monsoon in Kalaw's popular destinations

regions and states. Some come by travel companies' tour packages and some families come by their private cars. Some stay

Kalaw View Point," said a Kalaw-based tour operator.

The visitor arrival to Kalaw mounted last summer.

"Kalaw is a popular destination in Myanmar. Tourist arrivals increased in recent years compared to the past. There was a massive influx of visitors last summer, before Thingyan," he said.

Photos depict Kalaw's beautiful scenery and tourists.

THE arrival of visitors from other regions and states has been still on the rise in popular destinations in Kalaw which is famous among tourists, despite the monsoon.

Normally tourist arrivals are sparse in the monsoon, however, there are visitors from other regions and states in Kalaw's popular tourist destinations such as Kalaw View Point and Hnee

Paya (bamboo Buddha image).

"The tourist arrival to Kalaw is slightly low because it is monsoon. But there are still visitors and just some of them are locals and most are from other



here and visit Kalaw's popular destinations such as Byike Hill, Myinmahti Cave, Hnee Paya and

Kalaw is famous for its fine weather and beautiful scenery. — Thit Taw/ZS

NATIONAL

Myanmar's Response to Joint Press Statement by EU and some countries on Humanitarian Situation in Myanmar

It is observed that a joint press statement on the humanitarian situation in Myanmar was delivered by US Ambassador Robert Wood, Alternative Representative for Special Political Affairs, on behalf of the EU and some countries at the media stakeout of the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 15 July 2024.

The said joint press statement includes allegations, groundless and fraudulent elements, which are far from the reality. Myanmar firmly upholds its fundamental principle of assuring all available assistance reaches the needy population without any discrimination through cooperation at its best with the United Nations and countries that have genuine attitudes towards Myanmar to help. As such, the Government has been receiving all the humanitarian assistance for the needy people, which is provided through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

The Government has been facilitating the travel access and delivery of humanitarian assistance requested by the UN and international organizations depending on security conditions as much as possible. The Government has been taking necessary security measures with the utmost restraint to protect the lives and properties of its people. On the other hand, over 7,880 innocent civilians have lost their lives so far due to the inhumane attacks by terrorist groups in Myanmar. The joint press statement neglects such terrorist acts.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2669 is largely politicized. Myanmar reiterates its stance to uphold the 2008 Constitution, existing laws and fundamental principles as the only norms in implementing national tasks.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly rejects the groundless accusations contained in the politically motivated joint press statement of the EU and some countries that do not reflect the on-ground situation of the country.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
18 July 2024*

MoI Union Minister inspects renovation work on Mawgun film branch

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the renovation work on the former film branch building (Mawgun) in Bahan Township yesterday.

The official first clarified the location of the Mawgun film branch, land ownership, plans to be implemented for the development of the film industry and the preservation and renovation of the building in its original design.

The Union minister then provided instructions regarding the requirement to preserve the 100-year-old ancient building, training for the development of the film industry in the future, efforts of the government to ensure the development of the film industry and the need to cooperate with the government, and he inspected the renovation work.

The Mawgun film branch building was constructed in 1925 and it served as a facility for



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the renovation work at the Mawgun (documentary) film branch building.

shooting, editing and producing Mawgun films, film censorship monitoring and reviewing for

awarding the film academy awards. Currently, arrangements are being made for the

preservation of the building and conducting film training. — MNA/KTZH

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 17 July to 6 pm on 18 July 2024, 81 new diarrhoea patients were hospitalized in Yangon Region. Among them, four were confirmed to have

severe diarrhoea, and all patients were reported to be in good condition. On 18 July, 91 patients were discharged. Up to 6 pm on 18 July 2024, a total of 883 diarrhoea patients were discharged from hospitals. Intensifying efforts to control the disease are ongoing.

Ministry of Health

NATIONAL

MoIP Union Minister discusses permanent residency



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing presides over the work coordination meeting of the Central Committee on Implementation of Permanent Residency yesterday.

THE Central Committee on Implementation of Permanent Residency (PR) in Myanmar held a work coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to be able to scrutinize and grant PR to the applicants in line with the law and procedures.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing, who is also Chairman of the central committee, said there are four types of PR and the implementation was initiated on 29 January 2015. Until 30 January 2023, there is a total of 751 applicants and 699 were approved by the Central Committee. A total of 41 are remaining to have personal interviews, including 33 applicants and eight

family members. This meeting will discuss the necessary reviews for 51 applicants who completed the initial scrutinization of the working committee on 8 March.

Then, an in-charge on behalf of the central committee secretary clarified the biographies of 51 applicants, their scores, suggestions of the work committee and the work plans to be carried out after scrutinizing by the central committee.

Then, the central committee members reviewed the individual biographies of applicants and gave suggestions to be able to grant PR under the law, and the Union minister coordinated the discussion and gave a concluding remark. — MNA/KTZH

Rakhine State govt honours top students in 2023-2024 matric exams

THE Rakhine State government honoured those who excelled in the matriculation examination in the 2023-24 academic year, according to sources close to the state government.

In the 2023-24 academic year, 8,644 students from Rakhine State sat the examination, and 5,253 passed, with a pass rate of 60.77 per cent. The excellent students include 22 with six distinctions, 52 with five distinctions, 75 with four distinctions, 106 with three distinctions, 186 with two distinctions and 862 with one distinction. Despite being in various conditions, the state government organized an event on 18 July to worthily honour these students.

In Rakhine State, there were 18,934 registered students, but 8,644 of them actually sat for the examination, and 5,253 of them passed.



This photo shows the group documentary photo from the ceremony held by the Rakhine State government to honour deserving excellent students in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Among the successful students, 1379 were from Sittway, 20 from Ponnagyun, 22 from Pauktaw, 49 from Yathedaung, 14 from MraukU, seven from Kyauktaw, seven from Minbya, 196 from Myebon, 241 from Maungtaw, 331 from Buthidaung, 697 from Kyaukpyu, 66 from Yanbye, 555 from Thandwe, 202 from Gwa, 710 from Taungup, 308 from Manaung, 377 from An, and 72 from special programme (Sittway), making a total of 5253.

The Rakhine State Government managed to hold this examination for the benefit of the state's education amidst various situations such as the storm, fuel issue, accommodation situation and local instability with the cooperation and coordination between education departments and security personnel. — MT/ZN



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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

Nearly 1,300 private schools registered in Myanmar; More applications pending

ACCORDING to U Nay Oak (St Paul), Chairperson of the Private Schools Association, Myanmar, nearly 1,300 private schools have been granted registration, and 40 more private colleges and universities have applied for registration across the country.

The Private School Supervisory Board under the Ministry of Education has so far approved the registration of 1,288 private basic education schools in accordance with the national curriculum, and the board continues to review applications for school registration.

U Nay Oak (St Paul) stated, "We have granted registration to 1,288 private schools for basic education for a period of two to five years. Although we haven't yet approved private universities and colleges, 40 have applied for registration.

The regional supervisory boards are making necessary preparations to allow private schools that teach both national and international curriculums to open within this month."

The Private School Law was enacted on 12 May 2023. According to the law, all private schools must apply for registration with the respective supervisory boards of the states and regions under the following categories: (a) private schools for basic education (including those teaching international and national curriculums), (b) private high schools (including language schools), and (c) private schools for technology, vocational, and practical training.

Additionally, school days, holidays, and exam days for all private schools must align with those set by the state. All private schools are required



This photo shows activities at one of the private schools that are officially opened.

to teach Myanmar language, Myanmar history, and Myanmar geography to foster union

spirit and preserve Myanmar traditions and culture. All basic education schools across the

country must close on Sabbath days and Sundays during Lent. — ASH/TMT

Village income enhancement project to expand to 221 villages this FY



In June 2013, during the opening and teaching of the Basic Sewing Course in Taungmann Model Village of Minbu (Sagu) Township under the project to develop a modern model village and increase the family income of rural people.

ACCORDING to the Department of Small-Scale Industries under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, vocational training courses will be initiated, and business-related equipment provided to expand the Village

Income Enhancement Project to 221 villages in the financial year 2024-2025.

The selection of villages for project implementation is based on criteria such as abundant raw materials, potential for production using local re-

sources, secure and efficient transport, and development focus.

The pilot project commenced in 151 villages starting from the financial year 2023-2024. — TWA/TKO

Donghaeng Welfare Foundation to provide scholarships for international students, ME in S Korea confirms

MYANMAR Embassy in the Republic of Korea stated on 16 July that Myanmar students can apply for scholarships supported by the Donghaeng Welfare Foundation.

A non-governmental organization, Global Good Friends (GGF)'s Donghaeng Welfare Foundation Support Scholarship will be awarded to 91 international students who are eligible to study undergraduate courses at a university as well as those who are eligible to attend high schools and those who have difficulty with school fee and

accommodation charge, and 46 students who are qualified in culture and craft, sports and other fields.

Those who meet the requirements can submit an application addressed to postal code 03164, 526 Seoul YMCA Building, Jongno 69, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Korea by registered mail by 30 August 2024, after filling in the documents attached with the embassy's statement.

Students who have no experience in winning scholarships will be considered a priority, it said. — MT/ZS

Application timeline

Process	Schedule
Promotion and Application Submission	2024.7.1-8.30
1 st Round of Candidate Evaluation	2024.9.2-9.20
2 nd Round of Candidate Evaluation	2024.9.23-9.27
Announcement of Selected Candidates	2024.10.4
Scholarship Award Ceremony	2024.10.17
Distribution of Scholarships	2024.10.25

This image shows an application timeline.

NATIONAL

India donates telecobalt, radiotherapy machines to YGH

THE Republic of India donated telecobalt therapy machines (Bhabhatron II and Digital Radiotherapy Simulator) to Yangon General Hospital (YGH) on 18 July for vulnerable cancer patients in Myanmar who need radiotherapy treatment.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received telecobalt therapy machines from India's Ambassador to Myanmar Abhay Thakur at the handover ceremony of Bhabhatron-II and digital radio simulator held at YGH on 18 July 2024.

India designed and developed a telecobalt unit, Bhabhatron II, which is an advanced radiation therapy for cancer patients, which is accepted as an effective treatment modality among various cancer centres in India and abroad.



This photo shows the handover ceremony of Bhabhatron-II and Digital Radiotherapy Simulator at Yangon General Hospital on 18 July 2024.

“Under India's Neighbourhood First Policy, India is committed to developing friendly relations with Myanmar. India will contribute to effectuating people-centred socioeconomic development to ensure health care, education and livelihood for Myanmar people,” said the India's Ambassador to Myanmar.

India prioritizes strengthening relations with its neighbours. It has been accelerating humanitarian assistance and cooperation in developing projects for neighbouring countries.

India has been supporting medical devices and equipment to hospitals in Mandalay, Monywa, Sittway and Nay Pyi Taw areas in addition to Yangon City. It also helps enhance the efficiency and efficacy of health professionals. — TWA/KK

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

ON the 77th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day, people are urged to fly the Myanmar National Flag at half-mast and sound the siren.

The State Administration Council has informed all government offices and organizations of hoisting the Flag of the Republic of the Un-

ion of Myanmar at half-mast across the nation, and MRTV of sounding sirens at 10:37 am as a tribute to fallen leaders as a gesture of grief. At that time, vehicles on roads must pause and honk their horns.

People who will visit the Secretariat are not allowed to bring all kinds of pens, mo-

bile phones, flags, handbags, cameras, lighters, wreaths, bouquets, flowers, vinyl, bottles, cans, sticks, glue pipes, and iron pipes. All the visitors must wear face masks, wash their hands and use hand sanitizer at designated places of the Secretariat. — TWA/KZL



The previous 76th Martyrs' Day ceremony is in progress at the Secretariat in Yangon in 2023.

Control efforts intensified despite diarrhoea case decline in Yangon Region



This photo depicts medical staff sharing their knowledge of diarrhoea in a market.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health, the number of new cases of diarrhoea in Yangon Region is decreasing.

It is reported that 74 new diarrhoea patients were admitted during the 24 hours between 15 and 16 July, a drop of 22 compared to the number admitted on 14 July. Among these patients, five suffered from severe diarrhoea, but all

are now in stable condition.

On 16 July, 92 recovered patients were discharged from the hospital. A total of 705 patients have been discharged since the beginning of the outbreak. The Ministry of Health also stated that on-ground teams have been actively working to control the severe diarrhoea outbreak in Yangon Region. — TWA/TRKM

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

21st CAEXPO invites Myanmar business delegates

THE 21st China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO), which will be held on 24-28 September 2024 in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, welcomes Myanmar participants, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

CAEXPO embracing the Diamond Crown decade and deepening ties between China and ASEAN will include exhibitions related to commodity trade, investment cooperation, service trade, advanced technology, strategic emerging industries and the Charming City. Myanmar will showcase Thanlyin city at the City of Charm Hall this year and agricultural produce, fisheries, fresh produce, gems and jewellery, handicrafts and value-added food products with 84 booths for trade in goods.

There is an arrangement for Myanmar's micro, small and medium enterprises and hotel and tourism companies to get free booths at the Expo. The exhibitors and visitors of the 21st CAEXPO can register at <https://mitc.myantrade.gov.mm/member/trade-fair/new>. MSMEs can also send their lists to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through contact number 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

YSX stock market hits new highs in June



This photo shows a stock index panel board at the Yangon Stock Exchange.

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) extended a rally to K1.7 billion with 593,392 shares traded in June from a high of over K1.558 billion with 603,906 shares recorded in May, according to the

monthly report released by the exchange.

The equity market registered trading values of K1 billion with 425,102 shares in January 2024, K693 million with 253,178 million in February, K1.34 billion with 560,687 shares in March and K473

million with 177,812 shares in April respectively.

At present, shares of eight listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom

Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd. (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the security market.

MTSH topped the trading with 212,210 shares worth K688 million, followed by 213,717 shares of FPB worth over K370 million, 114,294 shares of MAEX worth K348 million, 22,374 shares of FMI worth K202.6 million, 10,111 shares of Amata worth K48.57 million, 18,528 shares of EFR worth over K34.6 million, 822 shares of MCB worth K6.8 million and 1,336 shares of TMH worth K3.75 million respectively last month. The trading value in June is K146 million higher than that of May despite a decline in share trading volume. — NN/KK

Myanmar's green gram exports pocket US\$136M in Q1

MYANMAR shipped over 209,000 tonnes of green grams to external markets with an estimated value of over US\$136.7 million in the first quarter of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar sent 206,735 tonnes of green grams worth \$135.12 million to international trade partners by sea and

2,510 tonnes worth \$1.58 million to neighbouring countries through land borders between 1 April and 28 June this FY.

Myanmar aimed to export 600,000 tonnes of green gram to external markets last FY, with 150,000 tonnes in each batch. Yet, it fell short of the export target of 600,000 tonnes for green gram in the financial year 2023-2024, with only

500,000 tonnes being exported, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

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

There is a wide range of

foreign markets for Myanmar's green gram. More than 8,000 tonnes of green grams are sent yearly to the European Union member countries.

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

MPMDMA sells rare medicines to public at distribution prices

PEOPLE can come and buy regularly taken medicines with outpatient records, sample cards and bottles.

The medicines that were difficult for the public to buy in the market are being sold at wholesale distribution prices at the office of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization in Yangon, according to Chairman Dr Win Kyaing of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association (MPMDMA).

Starting from 17 July,

hard-to-find medicines in the Yangon pharmaceutical market are being sold by 40 pharmaceutical importers at their distribution prices.

“For regularly taken medicines that are hard to find in the market, people can come and buy them with their outpatient record booklets, sample cards and bottles. We provide a medical team there in case the patients should buy the wrong medicines without knowing it. Also, if the medicine that the patient takes is too expen-

sive or cannot be found, our medical team at Help Center is advising on available and cheaper alternatives,” said Dr Win Kyaing.

The MPMDMA is also working to arrange a similar programme in other regions and states to sell drugs at wholesale prices by importers.

Medicines on sale at the current pharmaceutical distributors' fair in Yangon include basic household medicines, prescribed drugs for high blood pressure, heart



Consumers are seen buying hard-to-find medicines at the distributors' fair of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization in Yangon.

diseases, diabetes, kidney disorders, cancer medicines, antibiotics, and bone and nerve support materials. — ASH/ZN

OPINION

Don't forget the gratitude of martyrs forever

TO shape a Union based on democracy and federalism, everyone must aspire to great ambitions and steer clear of actions that harm national interests. The path forward for the nation is clear, and it is crucial for all individuals to avoid detrimental paths that could hinder the Union's progress.

All citizens, regardless of their race, need to pursue the national goal with unwavering strength. In the process of nation-building, relentless dedication is essential. The government and the people must work harmoniously to implement nation-building projects for the benefit of future generations. This unity will ensure that everyone enjoys peace and prosperity.

Currently, all citizens reside in their homeland, which was reclaimed from colonialists and fascists through the sacrifices of their forefathers.

The Martyrs' Day indicates the history of independence struggle to new generations every year. Such a significant day remarks all national races need to be united without disintegration, preventing instigations of unscrupulous persons. Only when the whole country is in unity and harmony with peace and stability will the country be prosperous.

San envisioned.

To repay the debt of gratitude to these martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the nation, all citizens must work together to ensure the perpetual existence of the nation's independence and sovereignty. This involves fostering peace and prosperity through loyalty and dedication to the state and fellow citizens. By doing so, the sacrifices of the martyrs will not be in vain, and the nation can continue to thrive in independence and unity.

The Martyrs' Day indicates the history of independence struggle to new generations every year. Such a significant day remarks all national races need to be united without disintegration, preventing instigations of unscrupulous persons. Only when the whole country is in unity and harmony with peace and stability will the country be prosperous.

1. In my second article on this topic, I mentioned that this article is very delicate, difficult, dedicated and long. It is my intention to explain my ordinary, simple, basic and layman's views. As intended, this is my third humble and honest attempt in alphabetical order.

A (continued)

Aggression and aggressiveness

The president promised that those responsible for the aggression would be punished.

The noun aggression, meaning unprovoked attack, is about an act or a fact.

His aggressiveness was blamed on a lack of parental affection.

The noun aggressiveness, meaning hostility, is about a tendency or a mood.

- An attack in response to an aggression is called a retaliation.

All and all-

The English batsmen were all powerful strikers of the ball. The word all in that sentence means everyone.

The Indian batsmen were

all-powerful in their last match. The adverb all- means completely.

The Australian bowlers toiled all day. The adjective all means the whole.

All and every

All men are born equal. We use the adjective all when we mean the whole lot.

Every man is born equal. We use the adjective every when we mean every single one.

- Use every when referring to things countable.

All ready and already

The runners were all ready at the starting line.

All ready means that the whole lot was prepared. The runners were already at the starting line. Already means that the runners were at the starting line by this time.

All right and alright

His answers to the questions were all right. All right means that his answers were entirely correct.

- Alright has not been accepted as a contraction of all right and should not be used. It is, however, quite common.

All together and altogether

The audience started to sing the national anthem all together. All together means as a group. That is a different question

altogether. Altogether means totally or completely.

Allusion and reference

The manager's report contains an allusion to the behaviour of an unnamed member of his staff.

The essential thing about the word allusion is that it hints at but does not identify or specify. The manager's report contains a reference to the behaviour of Mr Jones, a member of his staff.

Prefer the word reference to allusion if there is a specific identification.

- The word illusion, meaning of deceptive appearance, is sometimes mistakenly used for allusion.

Alternative and choices

The alternative suggestion does not appeal to me.

The use of alternative implies that there are two things from which to choose.

Only one of the choices I have been given appeals to me.

The use of choices implies that there are more than two things from which to choose.

Always and normally

I always drink orange juice at breakfasttime.

The adverb always means without exception. The word should not be qualified by almost, or nearly.

I normally drink orange juice at breakfasttime.

The adverbs normally, generally, usually mean with an occasional exception.



To learn English effectively, break down sentences into subjects, verbs, and objects, practice grammar rules and sentence structures by analyzing simple to complex examples, engaging with media such as podcasts or subtitled videos, taking notes on sentence breakdowns, and practicing speaking by repeating and explaining sentence structures aloud. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

- The word always is often worth a second thought.

Amend and emend

The government has decided to amend the taxation laws.

Amend means to change or to alter.

The typist was asked to amend

the annual report. Emend means to remove errors from.

Amiable and amicable

My boss is always very amiable.

Use amiable, meaning friendly, for living things.

His cocktail parties are always very amicable.

We came to an amicable arrangement.

Use amicable, meaning friendly, for events.

Reference:
English problem words by George Jerkings, London.

Protect the Lungs of the Earth from Deforestation

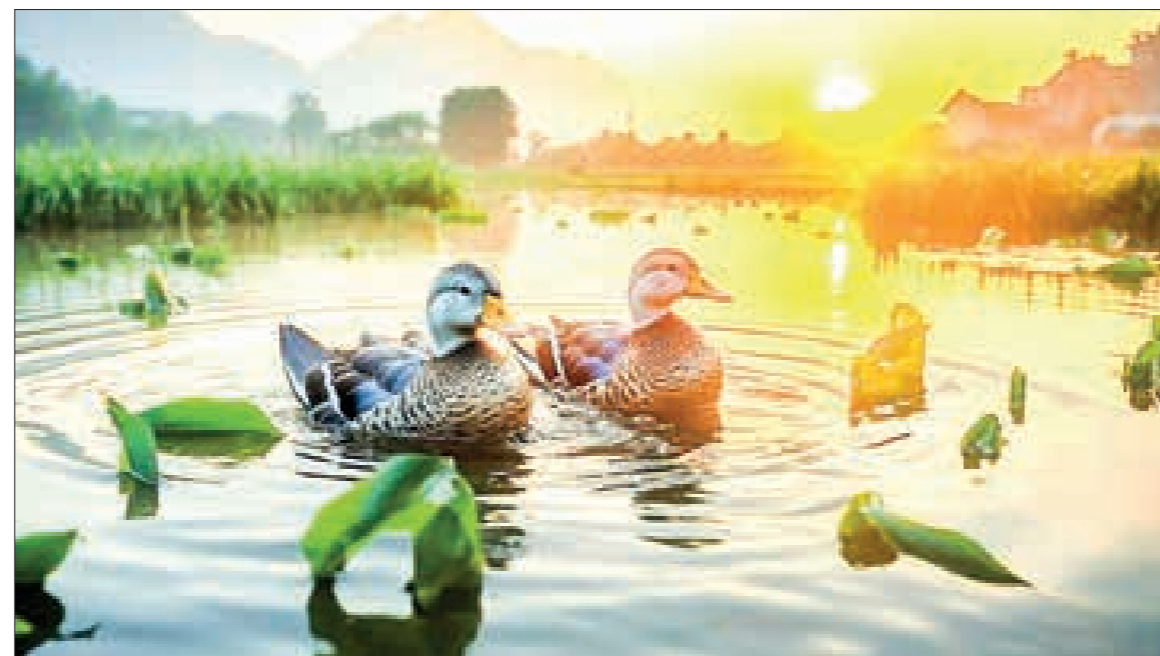
WHEN we mention deforestation, it will be necessary to consider the importance of forests. A forest is usually an area filled with trees but any tall densely packed area of vegetation may be considered a forest. Forest can:

1. Produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide.
2. Moderate temperature and rainfall.
3. Provide food, medicine, shelter and warmth.

Deforestation is clearing the earth's forests on a massive scale, often resulting in damage to the quality of the land and related ecosystems, and then the land is thereafter converted to non-forest use. Major causes of deforestation are (1) Agriculture Activities and Overpopulation, (2) Logging, (3) Mining, and (4) Forest Fire.

Agriculture Activities and Overpopulation

Agriculture is one of the factors causing deforestation on the



The lush forest teems with biodiversity, providing a vital habitat for countless species and contributing to the planet's ecological balance. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

planet. Due to the huge demand for food products, huge amounts of trees have fallen to grow crops and for overgrazing. Moreover, overpopulation too directly affects forest coverage. As the popula-

tion grows, there is excessive exploitation of wood, bamboo, firewood, fuel and various raw materials. With the expansion of the cities, more land is also needed to establish housing and

settlements.

Logging

Logging also causes deforestation. Wood-based industries like paper, match sticks, furniture etc. need a substan-

tial amount of wood supply for our growing population. Illegal logging is now being strictly implemented and most businesses are moving into a paper-free environment. The government regulates their respective laws for the production and trade of timber products. However, these laws are being violated by taking wood illegally from the protected areas. It threatens some of the world's most famous and valuable forests.

Mining

A lot of forested areas are rich in minerals and are vulnerable to mining operations. An analysis by the World Bank conveys that over 40 per cent of all operational mines lie in forests. Mines cause the loss of many hectares of forests. Oil and coal mining requires a considerable amount

By San Sandi Zaw

of forest land. Apart from this, roads and highways have to be built to make way for trucks and other equipment. The waste that comes out from mining pollutes the environment and affects the nearby species.

Forest Fires

Another example would be the forest blazes; hundreds of trees are lost every year due to forest fires in various portions of the world. This happens due to extremely warm summers and milder winters. Fire whether caused by man or nature results in a huge loss of forest cover. A study conducted by the Forest Survey of India indicates that, on average, fire destroys about 0.5 million hectare of forests annually.

There are many impacts on living organisms including a va-

riety of biodiversity and environmental due to deforestation. Major impacts are:

Soil Erosion and Disruption of the Water Cycle

Deforestation generally increases rates of soil loss by reducing the protection of soil from the collision of heavy raindrops. The agricultural plants replacing the forests are unable to hold onto the soil.

Trees also play a key role in the water cycle by helping to keep a balance between the water on land and water in the atmosphere. But when deforestation occurs, that balance can be upset, resulting in changes in precipitation and river flow. Trees extract groundwater through their roots and release it into the atmosphere. When part of a forest is removed, the trees no longer transpire this water, resulting in a much drier climate. Tropical rainforests produce about 30% of our planet's fresh water.

Global Warming

Deforestation also causes the greenhouse effect that leads

to global warming, a contributor to climate change. It also upsets the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide, leading to lower oxygen levels and higher levels of pollution. These greenhouse gas emissions contribute to rising temperatures, changes in patterns of weather and an increased frequency of extreme weather. Natural forests help to mitigate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions and prevent further global warming, purifying the air.

Biodiversity Extinction and Disruption of Livelihood

Biodiversity extinction is the most serious consequence of deforestation. Biodiversity refers to the variety of living things on Earth. It is essential for human survival and the long-term sustainability of the earth and the environment. Due to the lack of systematic conservation of biodiversity as their utilities and effects were not certainly known, many plants and animals are on the verge of extinction in many countries of the world.

SEE PAGE 12

NATIONAL

Young woman with heart condition receives successful surgery, improves quality of life through donations



A young woman with congenital heart disease who couldn't afford operation charges had a successful heart surgery and was able to live her life fully thanks to the help of donors.

She is an 18-year-old woman from Theinla village in Myaungmya Township and a chronic patient with congenital heart disease (Atrial Septal Defect). Consequently, she became tired whenever

A young woman with a congenital atrial septal defect is seen at the Pyinmana Sangha Hospital.

she moved.

Her parents, who are farmers, sold their property and earned K2.5 million. Then they came to the Presiding Sayadaw of the Pyinmana Sangha Hospital, Dr Than Min Htut said through his social media page.

"When I first met her, she was quite out of breath. Her lips were blue. I didn't need to listen with a stethoscope to hear her fast beats. I could tell by looking at her upheaving blouse. Even if she walked, she started to get out of breath within a few steps. She said she was tired even when she walked between home and school," he said.

As her disease needs surgery, and they would need about K6 million for it, he said.

"She got only K2.5 million. It is not enough. It won't be easy to go home and earn the rest K3.5 million. But she was lucky. One of my Facebook friends, Aye Thi, who works in Singapore, gave K3 million to donate to a patient in need. When I explained to her, my friend also donated the remaining K500,000," he wrote.

Afterwards, the operation on the heart of the young woman was successful, and the patient has regained a normal healthy life to live to the full capacity, according to the doctor's post. — MT/ZN

CRIME NEWS

Drugs seized in some townships this week



Photos (L & R) shows offenders alongside confiscated banned chemicals and vehicles.

A combined team of anti-narcotics forces searched the home of Zaw Min Naing (aka) Zaw Khaing in Selsu Village, Kyuntetpe Village-tract, Dekkhinathiri Township, at 1 pm on 17 July and confiscated 152 stimulant pills plus 0.001 kilogramme of heroin.

According to further investigation, anti-narcotics forces also searched the home of Zin Min Oo (aka) Gadone in 3rd Chindwin Street, Shwekyapin Ward, Zabuthiri Township, at 3 pm on the same day and found 2,400 stimulant pills and 0.005 kilogramme of heroin. Likewise, police stopped and searched

a Hino Profia driven by Aung Htet Ko Ko and Naing Tun (aka) Naing Naing Tun, Khun Aung (aka) Aung Hein, and Than Tun Lin on board at 8 am on 14 July and found 5,250 kilogrammes of the prohibited chemical sodium cyanide.

Next, officials arrested Thet Paing Soe (aka) Thet Paing at the 21st-mile checkpoint of Myitkyina at 5 pm and Nann Oo and Htet Lin in Thetkon Ward, Myitkyina, at 8 pm. Similarly, officials seized 6,800 hydrogen peroxide and 4,125 kilogrammes of caustic soda from a 12-wheel vehicle driven by Naing Win and Aye Ko Win onboard near Than

Village, Than Village-tract, Kyaukse, at 9 pm.

On the same day, officials confiscated 1.085 kilogramme of Ice, 5.55 kilogrammes of ketamine, 16,150 ecstasy pills, 0.319 kilogramme of Happy Water and K130,000 while searching hotel room No 411 where suspect named Maung Maung Khin and Qing Sheng (aka) Aryone staying between 53rd and 54th street, 39th street, Yemontaung Ward, Mahaaungmyay Township, at 1:30 pm on 16 July.

Offenders were prosecuted under the drug law. — MNA/KZL

Seafarer recounts encounter with pirates in Malacca Strait

KO Myo Thiha Than, a Myanmar seafarer retold The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) the story of his experience in encountering pirates in the Strait of Malacca.

Pirates raided the ship he worked on on 15 July when he was alone inside the engine room, he said.

"It was about 2 am. Two masked pirates came in first and I wasn't aware that they were holding guns at first. Then, they called their group turning back to the door. At that moment, I had a walkie-talkie. One of the masked men aimed at me and asked me to remove the walkie-talkie and lie on my stomach when I was going to send messages," he recounted.

The two masked pirates tied his hands on his back.

"They took me into a spare room and asked me to lie on my stomach. And the man with the gun stayed near me and the rest took all things and all left the spare room. I managed to untie myself and called the bridge after locking all doors in the electric room," he said.



Ko Myo Thiha Than demonstrates how he was tied by pirates.

It took about 10-15 minutes to untie his hands and pirates were already gone when he reported to the ship, he said. "The message I just want to deliver to either other seafarers or those who are trying to become seafarers is nothing is more important than your life and they don't hurt you until you try to fight back or if they get they want. It is safe if you understand what they say and act prudently," he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

NATIONAL

People relax along Mandalay Harbour, Strand Road

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) has set up recreation areas near Mandalay Harbour and its strand road for the sake of cleanliness and greening. These areas are crowded every day in the morning and evening with people who come to relax and exercise for their health.

A resident from the strand road near Mayanchan Jetty said that when the water level of the Ayeyawady River is high, it is more crowded due to people visiting the river.

“The current Mayanchan Jetty’s square project is about 70 per cent complete. The completed part of the square is full of people who practice sports in the morning, relax in the evening, and watch the wa-



Photos (L&R) show Mandalay residents enjoying recreational activities along Strand Road and Mandalay Harbour.

ter when the river rises. The strand road is lined with asphalt concrete road and the middle of the road is lined with trees. It’s so green that it’s very comfortable for the eyes. You can

also breathe the fresh air from the river. That’s why the port is crowded,” he said.

At Mandalay Port, MCDC has placed flowery plants and health-supporting sports train-

ing equipment for relaxation, so the public visits these places for relaxation walking exercises and group health exercises, which are more crowded in the morning and evening.

For flood prevention, relevant departmental officials are also conducting maintenance and enforcement. – Maung Aye Chan/KZL

Mobile market celebration at Yangon Zoo for three days

GLAMORIZE’S first mobile market, in which nearly 10,000 people can join, will be celebrated for three days at Yangon Zoo from 19 to 21 July.

On the event’s first day, Joy Band, Junior Azalea Star’s baby talent show, and Rose Mary will entertain with Joker’s fantastic performance. The mobile market will feature music concerts, Zumba shows, talk shows, and other activities on the second

and closing days.

Zoo and animal education booths, which will feature fantastic magic performances, photo shooting with adorable tamed birds, keeper talks program, education activities on wild animal protection, animal knowledge quizzes and other knowledge-sharing activities, will be exhibited on all days of the event. — MT/ZS



An advertising poster of Yangon Zoo’s mobile market.

Effective seizure of illegal goods in Yangon and beyond

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

On 16 July, a combined team managed by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force made inspections and seized 1.814 tonnes of illegal teak timbers and 1.140 tonnes of other timber worth approximately K547,102 in Lewe District and Ottarathiri District. The action was taken under the Forestry Law.

On 17 July, a combined team managed by the Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections and seized 5,250 kilogrammes of sodium cyanide without documents valued at K68.25 million and the action

was taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On the same day, another team managed by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections and seized one unregistered Toyota Passo worth approximately K3 million near Myanmar Plaza, Bahan Township. The action was executed under the Import-Export Law.

On the same day, a combined team managed by the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force made inspections and seized China-made food: 360 cartons of seafood branded Imitation Prophyra, 340 cartons of seafood branded Blasson with Fish Roe and nine other items of food worth approximately K143.192

million. The action was undertaken under the Import-Export Law.

On 17 July again, a combined team managed by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections and seized 0.341 tonne of illegal teak timbers, 2.042 tonnes of hardwood, and 2.358 tonnes of other types of wood worth approximately K2.223 million in Toungoo District; and one unregistered Toyota Crown worth approximately K4 million in Wow Township. The action was carried out under the Import-Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that eight arrests were made on 16 and 17 July, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K242.213 million. — MNA/TMT

Low-pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 18-7-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30)hrs MST today, the low-pressure area over West-central and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify and move Northwestwards towards Odisha Coast, India.

ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Protect the Lungs of the Earth from Deforestation

FROM PAGE 9

Forests create nests for birds and provide homes for animals. About 80 per cent of the world's documented species can be found in tropical rainforests. When species lose their forest homes, they are often unable to subsist in the small fragments of forested land left behind. As they become more accessible to hunters and poachers, their numbers begin to dwindle and some eventually go extinct. Even localized deforestation can cause extinctions as many unique species exist in small isolated geographic locations in the world. Forest fires, capturing and killing animals indiscriminately, reckless use of pesticides, climate change, and factors such as air, water and soil pollution also destroy biological species. When biodiversity disappears, the chain of harmony and balance between humans and the environment may be destroyed.

Similarly, when the forests are being destroyed, many species of plants and animals are also being lost, which inevitably affects the livelihood of humans. Some indigenous people's survival is threatened by the loss of forests. Fewer trees result in an insecure future for forest workers.

How to protect the forest

The government has the resources to allow anti-deforestation organizations. This is a good way to effectively solve deforestation. The government needs to make forest management and strict rules for deforestation and illegal logging. Besides, small parks should also be promoted in the cities and the cutting down of trees should be countered by replacing them with young ones.

In order to prevent deforestation caused by human activities, public participation is also important. Individuals can practice the 3 R'S; Reduce, Reuse and Recycle items to lower the need for raw materials from trees to help preserve natural forests. We can also support non-profit organizations by donating some amount of money to the organizations to help them

fight against deforestation.

There is an easy way to remember the most important points in forest preservation called TREES which means:

- Tell others about the importance of the forest and how they can help lessen deforestation/ save the environment
- Restore damaged ecosystems by planting trees on land where trees have been cut down
- Encourage people to live in a way that does not hurt the environment
- Establish parks to protect rainforests and wildlife
- Support companies that operate in ways that minimize damage to the environment.

Conservation of forests has become an important issue for the long-term benefit of the living world. Nowadays, many countries around the world are paying special attention to the conservation of trees and forests. The cultivation of forests is carried out at a rapid pace, realizing that humans play a major role in managing forests for the future of mankind. Sanctuaries, belt forests and large botanical gardens have been built at great expense with the development of technology.

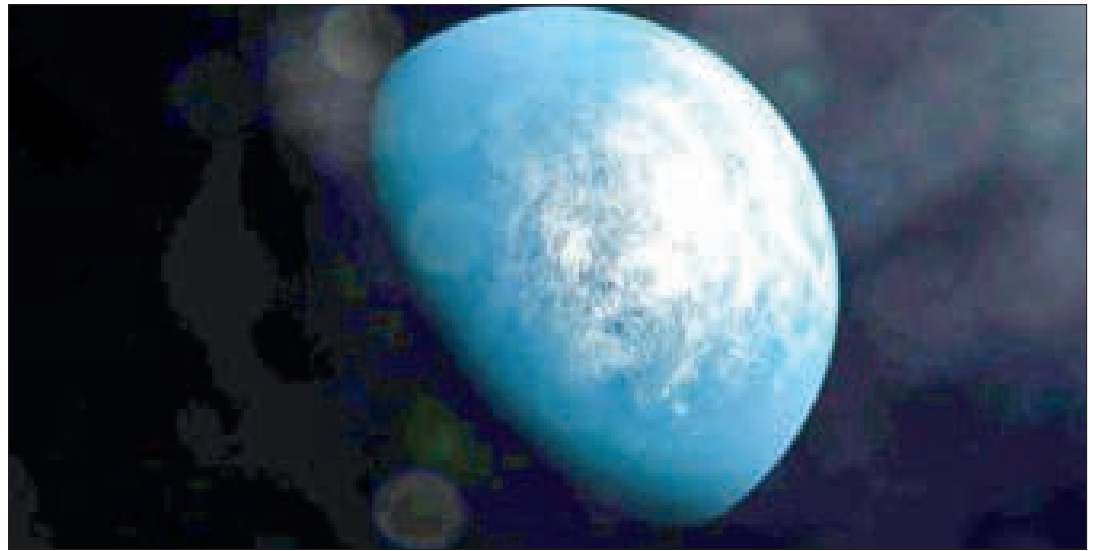
The earth, weather, water, land, air, forests, trees, animals and human beings are connected with each other. Forests provide not only the existence of biodiversity but also a variety of useful materials such as rubber, rattan and small-scale agriculture for people. Half of the medicines used in the world are obtained from plants and animals.

Forests are also invaluable heritage for the greenery around the land and the key to the long-term persistence of the environment and living things. Overall, it is the responsibility of all human beings to preserve and protect the forests, and the lungs of the earth, being aware of the importance of environmental conservation and the benefits of biodiversity; the flora, fauna and a variety of living organisms.

Reference: *Environmental Management Course*

Nearby exoplanet could be first known ocean world: Webb telescope

This planet is situated in the habitable zone, where conditions may support liquid water—a critical component for life.



An artist's illustration of an planet—though not LHS 1140 b—outside the Solar System. **PHOTO: NASA/AFP/FILE**

A planet relatively close to Earth could be the first ever detected with a potentially life-sustaining liquid ocean outside our Solar System, according to scientists using the James Webb space telescope.

More than 5,000 planets have been discovered outside of the Solar System so far, but only a handful are in what is called the “Goldilocks zone”

— neither too hot or too cold — that could host liquid water, a key ingredient for life.

The exoplanet LHS 1140 b is one of the few in this habitable zone, and has been thoroughly scrutinised since it was first discovered in 2017.

It sits 48 light years from Earth, which equates to more than 450 trillion kilometres (280 trillion miles) — relatively close

in the vast distances of space.

The exoplanet had been thought to be a small gas giant called a “mini-Neptune” with an atmosphere too thick with hydrogen and helium to support alien life.

However, new observations from the Webb telescope have confirmed that the exoplanet is in fact a rocky “super-Earth”. — AFP

Dinosaur skeleton breaks auction record with \$44.6 mln sale in New York

The largest stegosaurus skeleton ever found, nicknamed Apex, sold for a record-breaking \$44.6 million at auction in New York.

THE largest stegosaurus skeleton ever found, nicknamed Apex, sold for a record breaking \$44.6 million at auction in New York on Wednesday, Sotheby's said.

Estimated to be 150 million years old, Apex is said to be “among the most complete skeletons ever found”, according to the auction house.

It measures 11 feet (3.3 metres) tall and 27 feet long and counts 254 fossil bone elements of an approximate total of 319. The previous auction record of \$31.8 million for a dinosaur skeleton was set in 2020 for a Tyrannosaurus Rex nicknamed



Paleontologists have criticized sales of dinosaur skeletons, saying these finds should be preserved in museums and not sold to private bidders. **PHOTO: AFP**

“Stan”.

Sotheby's had expected Apex to fetch between \$4 million and \$6 million, but the price

quickly skyrocketed as telephone bidders deluged the sale, prompting gasps and clapping in the auction room. — AFP

Volkswagen Anhui launches first NEV for Chinese market

VOLKSWAGEN Anhui officially launched its first new energy vehicle (NEV) for the Chinese market on Wednesday in Hefei, the capital of east China's Anhui Province.

The new model, ID. UNYX, is Volkswagen's first smart electric coupe SUV. It has a maximum range of 621 kilometres and is equipped with an 82.4 kilowatt-hour battery from CATL.

It also features a large language model developed in partnership with Iflytek, China's leading AI company.

"The ID. UNYX expands our electric ID. family in China with a bold, progressive design, sustainable electric



A drone photo taken on 7 June 2024 shows an exterior view of Volkswagen (Anhui) Automotive Company Limited in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province. **PHOTO: GUO CHEN/XINHUA**

drive, and a state-of-the-art user experience," said Stefan Mecha, CEO of Volkswagen China Passenger Cars Brand.

Volkswagen Anhui is

Volkswagen Group's first joint venture in China that focuses on the research and development and manufacturing of NEVs. Its plant's body

shop is equipped with 1,200 robots and has the highest automation rate of all Volkswagen factories in China. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL4 VOY.NO. (01N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL4 VOY. NO. (01N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** 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:

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09 4542 37515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3416S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3416S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA HARBURG VOY.NO. (426W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA HARBURG VOY.NO. (426W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.123N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (V.123N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK QINZHOU VOY.NO. (426X)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK QINZHOU VOY.NO. (426X)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB427A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB427A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2024** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV8MS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV8MS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Japan PM apologizes to victims of forced sterilizations



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (3rd from R) bows in apology to victims of forced sterilization surgery under a now-defunct eugenics protection law, during a meeting on 17 July 2024, at the premier's office in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida apologized Wednesday to victims

of forced sterilization surgery under a now-defunct eugenics protection law as Japan's top court ruled it was unconstitutional and the government must pay dam-

ages to plaintiffs.

During their meeting at the prime minister's office, Kishida expressed his government's readiness to settle cases currently pending in courts and even compensate those who have not

filed lawsuits. In his first direct apology to the victims since the Supreme Court ruling on 3 July, Kishida said, "The government, which enforced the law, bears extremely grave responsibility. I am deeply sorry and I offer an apolo-

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida issued an apology to victims of forced sterilization under Japan's now-defunct eugenics protection law, following a ruling by the top court declaring the law unconstitutional.

gy on behalf of the government."

In what is often labelled as the worst human rights violation in Japan's post-World War II history, the law allowed people with intellectual disabilities, mental illnesses or hereditary disorders to be sterilized without their consent to prevent the birth of "inferior" offspring.

In front of more than 130 plaintiffs, lawyers and supporters, Kishida said, "It is with deep regret that at least 25,000 people have suffered the grave harm of being sterilized," under the eugenics law, which was in effect between 1948 and 1996.

In its landmark ruling on five lawsuits, the Supreme Court said that the statute of limitations of 20 years for an unlawful act does not apply to cases involving the eugenics law. Kishida said the government will no longer refer to the statute of limitations in the ongoing legal battles.

In the ruling, the top court said, "It is extremely unfair and unjust" to exempt the government from liability by applying the statute of limitations, and called its application by the state "intolerable", as it "goes against the duty of good faith" and is "an abuse of power." — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden tests positive for Covid, fuelling health worries

US President Joe Biden tested positive for Covid with mild symptoms Wednesday, shortly after conceding he would consider dropping his reelection bid if doctors diagnosed him with a serious medical condition. The 81-year-old Democrat gave reporters the thumbs up and said "I feel good" as he cut short a trip to Las Vegas and flew to his beach home in Delaware to go into isolation, which will take him off the campaign trail for days.

Biden thanked well-wishers on X, adding that "I will be isolating as I recover, and during this time I will continue to work to get the job done for the American people."

The infection comes at a critical moment for Biden's campaign, with the president seeking to show he is up to the job after a disastrous debate performance against rival Donald Trump sparked concerns about his health and calls from some Democrats for him to step aside. — AFP

Seven killed in building fire in France's Nice: firefighters

A fire that broke out overnight at a residential building in a working-class neighbourhood of the southern French city of Nice killed seven people, firefighters said early Thursday.

Rescuers were alerted at around 2:30 am (0030 GMT) to the blaze in Les Moulins, the cause of which is still unknown. In spite of the substantial resources deployed, "unfortunately seven people died during this fire", rescuers said.

One person was taken to hospital as an "absolute emergency" and two others were hospitalized as "relative emergencies". — AFP

South Korea's KHNP wins multi-billion-dollar Czech nuclear tender



Dukovany nuclear power plant will get two reactors from South Korea's KHNP. **PHOTO: MICHAL CIZEK / AFP/FILE**

SOUTH Korean power giant KHNP has won a tender worth billions of dollars to build two nuclear units at a Czech power plant, Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said on Wednesday.

KHNP (Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Company) beat France's EDF in the tender launched in 2022 initially for one new reactor at the Soviet-built Dukovany power plant.

But Prague said later it was seeking bids for a total of four new units: two for each of its two

nuclear plants in Dukovany and Temelin, run by the state-owned power group CEZ.

"The Korean bid was better in all criteria assessed," Fiala told reporters.

"We have decided to build two units at Dukovany for now," Fiala said, adding that the government would discuss an option for another two units at Temelin.

Fiala said the price offered by KHNP beat expectations, reaching around 200 billion Czech koruna (\$8.65 billion) per unit if

two units are built.

"We want to ensure energy security for future generations," Fiala added. He said the deal was the most expensive one in the modern history of the Czech Republic, adding that Czech companies would participate in about 60 per cent of the construction.

The government said earlier it expected to sign a deal with the winner by next March, the construction to begin in 2029, and the first new reactor to be launched in trial operation in 2036. — AFP

SPORTS

AFC Women's Club Championship: Group A sees Myawady FC

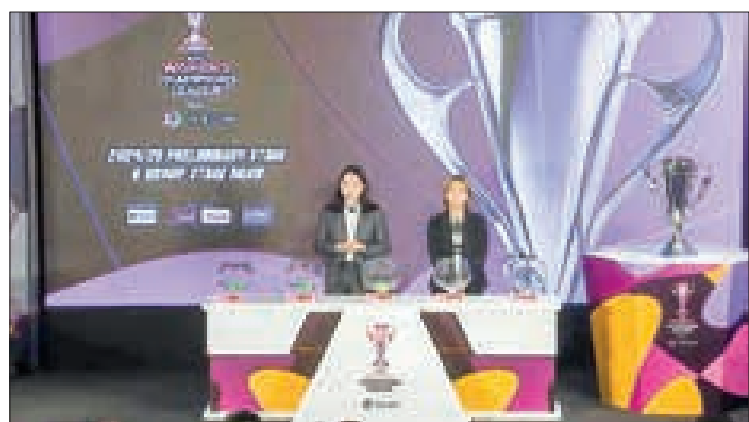
THE 2024-2025 season AFC Women's Club Championship qualifiers and the final group lot-drawing event were held on 18 July, and Myawady FC, representing Myanmar, is in Group A.

Myawady FC will start from the qualifying round. The qualifiers will be divided into four groups, and only the top team from each group will qualify. The qualifying group matches will be held from 25 to 31 August.

According to lot-drawing result, Group A sees Myawady (Myanmar), Young Elephants (Laos), Abu Dhabi (UAE), Al

Nasr (Saudi Arabia) and Odisha (India) while Group B consists of Lion City Sailors (Singapore), and Etihad (Jordan). Group C features PFC Nasaf (Uzbekistan), Sabah (Malaysia) and APF (Nepal) while Group (D) has Bam Khatun (Iran), Kit Chi (Hong Kong) and Royal Thimphu College (Bhutan).

The final group matches will be held in October this year and will be divided into three groups. If the Myanmar club Myawady succeeds in qualifying, it will go into Group A of the final stage. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The lot-drawing event of the AFC Women's Club Championship is in progress. PHOTO: AFC



A Myanmar player (red) fights for the ball with a Vietnamese player during the Group B match of the AFF U-19 Championship in Indonesia on 18 July 2024. PHOTO: MFF

ASEAN U-19 Championship: Myanmar ties Vietnam 1-1

TEAM Myanmar drew Vietnam 1-1 in the Group B match of the ASEAN U-19 Championship held in Indonesia yesterday. In the other Group B match, Australia trounced Laos 6-0.

The Myanmar team took the leading goal but had to concede an equalizer and

were satisfied with a draw.

Team Myanmar had chances to score since the first half but failed to capitalize many times. Myanmar Team made a leading goal at 59 minutes when Phyo Pyae Sone kicked the ball that bounced back from the corner kick.

After conceding a goal, the Vietnamese team tried to equalize and in the 74 minute, Quanyu scored with a long shot.

Team Myanmar will face Laos in the second game of Group B on 21 July. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

ANNE Hidalgo, mayor of Paris, the city that is to host the upcoming Olympic Games, swam on Wednesday in the Seine to assure the cleanliness of the river ahead of the Olympic competitions.

Accompanied by Tony Es-



Paris mayor swims in Seine to prove it is clean enough for Olympic Games

tanguet, president of the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Hidalgo said that the water was in "rather optimal conditions".

"It's cool but not cold at all. We didn't want to go out," she said. After a 100-year ban on

Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo swims in the Seine River less than 10 days before the opening of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, 17 July 2024.

bathing in the river, athletes will take the plunge in just a few days during the Games, the City Hall of Paris said on its X account, adding that swimming in the Seine will also be open to the public as of next summer.

The French government has spent more than 1.4 billion euros (about US\$1.5 billion) since 2016 to make the Seine swimmable.

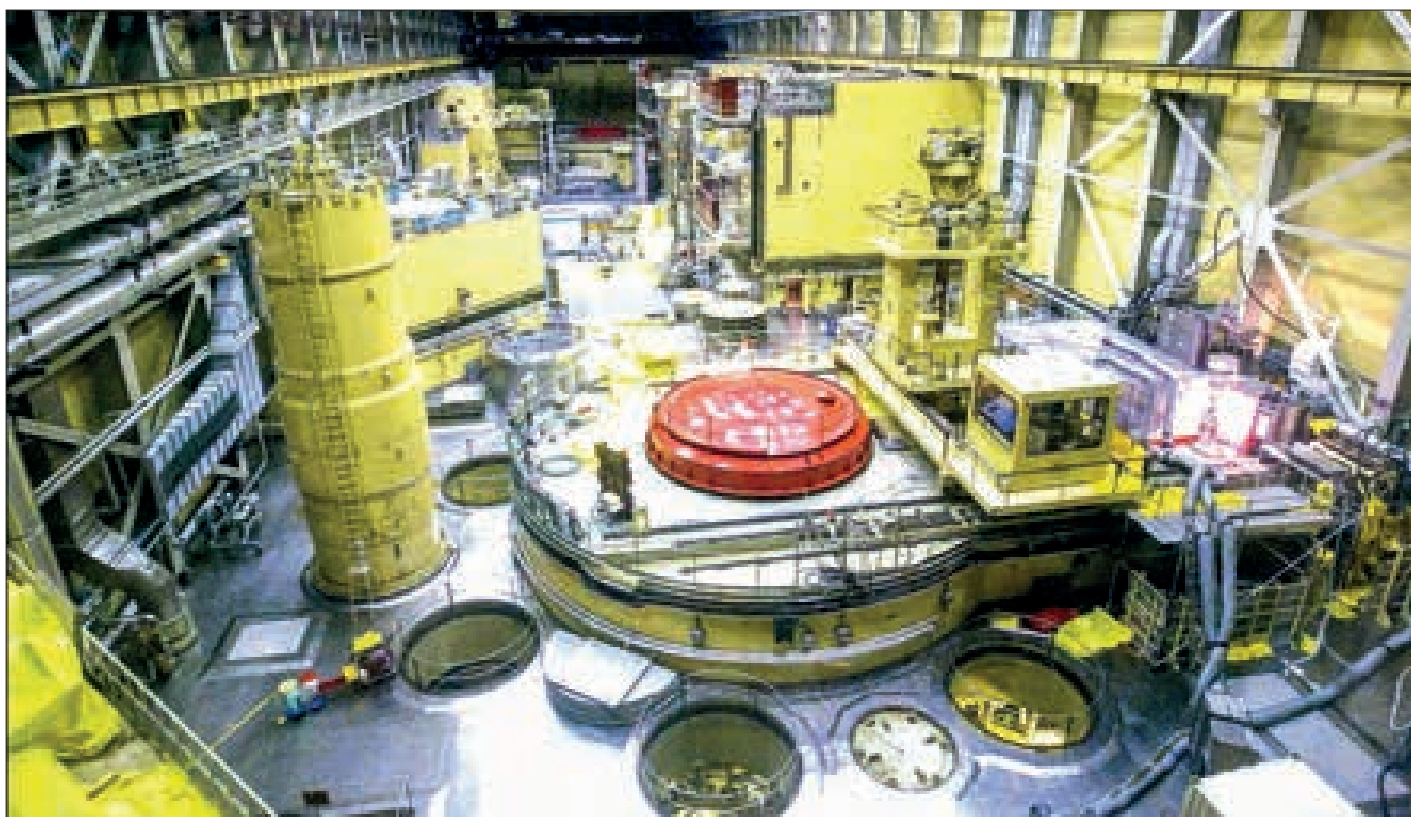
For the mayor of Paris, the hosting of the Olympic Games has accelerated the process. "When we clean the Seine, of course we will make it possible to prepare for the Olympics, of course we will be able to swim afterwards, but we also protect the rivers, for future generations," she said.

The Seine will host the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympic Games on 26 July, and the triathlon and marathon swimming are also scheduled to take place in the Seine. — Xinhua



Russia, Hungary to begin construction of Paks-2 NPP's power units by end-2024: Rosatom

A core melt localization device, the first major shipment from Russia, is expected to arrive at the site by the end of July.



A general view from May 2003 of the reactor block No 2 in the Paks nuclear power station. PHOTO: ATTILA KISBENEDEK/AFP/FILE

RUSSIA and Hungary plan to begin the construction of power units at the Paks-2 nuclear power plant by the end of this year, the engineering division of state corporation Rosatom said in a statement on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev and Hungarian For-

eign Minister Peter Szijjarto held talks in Turkiye.

“The parties noted the high level of implementation of the Paks-2 NPP project, which was achieved thanks to joint effective work with the Hungarian customer for the construction of future power units built according to the Russian design of III+ generation nuclear

power plants,” the statement says.

The plans are to begin work on the construction of the nuclear units by the end of this year, the company said.

It is planned that “before the end of July, a core melt localization device will be delivered to the construction site — the first large-sized cargo that will arrive in Paks from Russia.” — SPUTNIK

INNOVATIONS IN AVIATION SECTOR

Tokyo airport trials driverless cargo vehicle

TOKYO'S Haneda Airport is trialling a driverless vehicle to tow cargo containers in an attempt to get around labour shortages as the number of tourists flying into Japan soars.

The vehicle at one of the world's busiest airports can tow up to 13 tonnes of containers, joint developers All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Toyota Industries said in a statement.

It can pull up to six containers at a time, trundling between aircraft and airport buildings over a distance of around two kilometres (1.2 miles) with no driver in the cab.

The Level 4 vehicle, meaning that it does not require human interaction in certain settings — although a human driver can still request control — has been in operation since 1 July.

The trial, the first at a Japanese airport, is part of government-backed efforts to innovate the air transport industry, and the companies aim to make the vehicle fully operational by the end of next year, they said.

Another Japanese airport — Kansai, serving Osaka — claims never to have lost a bag, but the country faces major challenges as it seeks to double tourist numbers to 60 million by 2030.

The rapidly ageing country has the world's second-oldest population and many sectors in the world's number four economy are suffering worker shortages. — AFP



Guests attend the inauguration ceremony of the electric vehicle (EV) factory of China's carmaker GAC Aion in Rayong province, Thailand on 17 July 2024. PHOTO: SUN WEITONG/XINHUA

China's carmaker GAC Aion opens EV factory in Thailand

CHINA'S carmaker GAC Aion, a subsidiary of GAC Group, opened its Thailand electric vehicle (EV) factory on Wednesday, as Aion's first global strategic model rolled off the assembly line in the factory, marking a milestone in the company's overseas expansion.

As the second overseas plant opened by a Chinese carmaker in Thailand this month after BYD, the factory is located

in Rayong province in Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), with a planned investment of 2.3 billion baht (US\$64 million) and an annual capacity of 50,000 vehicles.

The factory is a highly intelligent plant which applies new technologies such as big data, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things to achieve more efficient production of mul-

tiples models.

Thailand's Minister of Industry Pimphattra Wichaikul said at the inauguration ceremony that the operation of a new EV factory will promote the transformation of Thailand's automotive industry and help the Southeast Asian country realize its vision of becoming a regional and global EV production hub. — Xinhua