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Embarking on a new journey to secure peace and stability in Kayin State, paving the way for peace across Myanmar

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

The NCA is a resolute and enduring legal accord, unwavering through time

Saw Mutu Say Poe



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Saw Mutu Say Poe share a warm handshake at yesterday's meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

He firmly believes this meeting would initiate a new stride for ensuring peace and stability in Kayin State and restoring peace for the whole of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Say Poe.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a team led by Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Say Poe at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 30 September to talk about peace issues.

The Senior General underscored that Tatmadaw has pledged to strive for continuous restoration of peace across the nation by firmly standing on the Constitution and the NCA path, adding Tatmadaw always opens the track for ethnic armed organizations to hold peace talks.

NCA is the top agreement signed by the government and ethnic armed organizations, and it is a pledge between EAOs and the State. The Constitution is also a pledge and agreement guaranteed between the State and citizens, the Senior General told Saw Mutu Say Poe.

In his discussion, Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Say Poe said the NCA signed by those from the government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations in the presence of international diplomats including those from the United Nations and local witnesses would never annul at any time and it will be firmly existent. Moreover, he expressed his firm belief that restoration of peace must be firmly stood on the NCA, and

SEE PAGE-3

Rakhine State speeds up fish farming to boost exports to Bangladesh

The Rakhine State government is working hard to improve the freshwater fish export volume to Bangladesh via the border camp in Maungdaw Township of Rakhine State, according to U Naing Win Thein, deputy director of Maungdaw District Fisheries Department. Arrangements are also being made to expand freshwater fish farming and apply modern techniques.

“We accelerate the freshwater fish farming in Maungdaw District of Rakhine State to increase foreign income. Currently, the freshwater fish is exported mostly to Bangladesh through the Maungdaw border. We have to make orders from other regions that produce freshwater fish to export, and we do not get the

prices we want and the fish quality is not good for transportation,” he said. The Maungdaw District Fisheries Department provides fingerlings to fish farmers and modern techniques to increase foreign income and expand freshwater fish farming. The saltwater shrimp was mainly exported to Bangladesh via the Maungdaw border trade camp in the past, and now the demand is falling and so it arranges to improve the freshwater fish export volume for its high demand. Currently, there are over 50 acres of fish farming in Maungdaw Township and over 400 acres in Buthidaung Township, according to the data from the department. — ASH/KTZH

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

1st Waning of Tawthalin 1385 ME
30 September 2023

IT is necessary to control Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection continuously. So, it is now announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives except for easing restrictions released by Union-Level Organizations and Union Ministries up to 30 September 2023 have been extended to 31 October 2023 for prevention, control and treatment on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Statement No 10/2023

1. The United Nations and the World Health Organization have acknowledged individuals aged 60 years and above as older persons, as per Article 25 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which affirms that everyone has the right to security if they become old and lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control and 1 October was approved as International Day of Older Persons through the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 45/106. Furthermore, through Resolution 47/5, the United Nations General Assembly designated the year 1999 as the “International Year of Older Persons-IYOP”. Regularly, the United Nations sets a specific theme for the elderly each year, and this year, the chosen theme is “Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations”.
2. The fundamental principles adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 46/91 to safeguard the rights of the elderly and ensure their security of life include the right of the elderly to access food, physical and mental healthcare; access to additional income-earning opportunities; the right to participate in societal associations; education for long-term life development; access to cultural and recreational resources; and rights to live with human dignity and the right to be treated with respect.
3. In Myanmar, the Constitution of the Union un-

- derscores the responsibility of the State to provide care for the elderly. Furthermore, the Elderly People Law sets the age for classifying individuals as elderly at 60 years and above and outlining their rights.
4. In 2016, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, while serving as the alternate Chair of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF), released a forum statement regarding the rights of the elderly.
 5. As the number of elderly people increases, it becomes necessary to promote and protect their rights. Therefore, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is conducting lectures on elderly rights in caregiver courses to raise awareness. The MNHRC also inspected the homes of the aged to ascertain whether the elders have basic human rights.
 6. The younger generation must promote and protect the rights of the elders to enable them not only long life but also a happy and healthy existence without encountering discrimination, negligence, isolation and other forms of human rights violations. On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission would like to express its desire to continue to promote and protect the rights of the elderly.
- Myanmar National Human Rights Commission*

Civil servants granted extra allowances for State duties

TO ensure that the civil and military servants who are carrying out the duties of the State and Tatmadaw personnel (Army, Navy and Air) have a convenient living, they will receive an allowance of K30,000 per month as an extra allowance in addition to the current salary.

Similarly, the daily wages of labourers at government departments and organizations will

be granted an additional subsidy of K1,000 over the current wage of K4,800 for an eight-hour working day.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance has issued an order and announcement regarding the matter that will be allowed to enjoy additional subsidies. — MNA/KZL

WEATER REPORT

Well Marked Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 30-9-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at 17:30 hrs MST today, the well marked low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may cross to North Odisha and adjoining West Bengal Coasts (India) during next 24 hours.

General caution

1. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Wave height will be about 8-11 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts from tonight to during next 24 hours.
2. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in the coastal areas with regionally and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states from tonight to during next 24 hours.

Advisory

Under the influence of well marked low pressure area, people should be aware of strong wind, heavy rain, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 30 September 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the well marked low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may cross to North Odisha and adjoining West Bengal Coasts (India) during next (24) hours.

Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Northeast Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 1 October 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin, Northern Shan and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Sagaing Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 mph. Wave height will be about 8-11 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 October 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 October 2023: Some rain or thundershowers with may be heavy at time. Degree of certainty is (100%).

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Say Poe

FROM PAGE-1

the irresponsible and senseless talks about the NCA with a lack of evidence are unacceptable.

The Senior General recounted that he knows residents in Kayin State wish to engage in livelihoods peacefully. If peace and stability prevail in the region, greater development will come out. Only when each region enjoys peace and stability will the whole country be peaceful and stable as well as will socioeconomic life develop. He highlighted that Saw Mutu Say Poe is a Kayin ethnic leader who signed the NCA. As he is still responsible for forging peace for people from Kayin State, he invited the Kayin ethnic leader to openly discuss the requirements for peace, stability and regional development of Kayin State and the things which should be done.

After signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA, he has been firmly focusing on restoration of peace, said Saw Mutu Say Poe, expressing his thanks to the SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services for patiently waiting for the Karen National Union (KNU) to correctly reach the peace track.

Moreover, Saw Mutu Say Poe mentioned his concept that he accepts the multiparty democratic system and desires peace and stability. Forging internal peace and stability should depend on negotiation

... Tatmadaw will firmly stand on the NCA and the Constitution in forging peace. All EAOs are always welcome to peace talks with an opening door.

and armed struggle lines. Any forms of behaviours, talks and acts harming peace are absolutely unacceptable. It is necessary to continue walking on the path of NCA signed under many agreements, he added.

The Senior General highlighted that Tatmadaw will firmly stand on the NCA and the Constitution in forging peace. All EAOs are always welcome to peace talks with an opening door.

The Senior General continued that they could hold talks with the government. If they wish to send peace delegations from the Tatmadaw to them, arrangements will be made to hold the talks at relevant military commands.

The Senior General and the Kayin ethnic leader and party openly talked about firmly standing on the existing peace and the situation to continue walking on the peace path.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General were Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and Chairman of National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Say Poe was accompanied by former KNU Central Committee member Saw Roger Khin and Kawkaireik District Chairman Pado Shwe Maung. — MNA/TTA

CBM rejects cancellation of K50 and K100 banknotes

THE announcement about the cancellation of K50 and K100 banknotes spread round social media and websites is not true.

Section 36 (e) of the 2008 Constitution clearly stated that the Union shall not demonetize the currency legally in circulation.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has issued this statement saying that the CBM is working with the authorities to uncover and take serious actions against those who disperse such false news.

Central Bank of Myanmar
30 September 2023

SAC Information Team Leader dispels rumours of demonetization

THE fake notification was spreading on the social network that K50 and K100 were declared illegal. Regarding this rumour, Major-General Zaw Min Tun, leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council clarified as follows: -

“We also found that letter. That is not official and it is a fake one. Such kind of rumours spread many times like certain banknotes are demonetized. That shows the action being done in time. The Constitution has already stated it and we also talked about it. Tatmadaw takes over the State’s responsibilities under the Constitution. Tatmadaw will always uphold the 2008 Constitution. Section 36 of the 2008 Constitution mentions it clearly in Subsections (d) and (e) of Section 36. Section 36 (e) states that the Union shall not demonetize the currency that is in circulation legally and (d) adds it shall not nationalize economic enterprises. We will follow the Constitution. We take over the State’s responsibilities under the Constitution. I initially want to announce that we will always follow the Constitution. Another fact is that ... why such rumours occur here. There are disruptive attacks against the economic sector of Myanmar. Some intentionally raise the prices of dollars and gold. The government takes action against such doing.

“The Prime Minister set national visions for the welfare of the public and to fulfil the basic needs of the people. In carrying out the measures for the prosperity of the nation and food security, we arrange the commodities prices to be fair. In such doing, we also take action against some cases. Consequently, the prices of dollars, gold and basic foodstuffs fall. Some are not satisfied with our undertakings. Therefore, they intentionally attack in terms of economy and politics. So, what I want to say to the people is that K50 and K100 notes will not be demonetized. We perform under Section 36 of the Constitution. The people should not believe rumours. The government will report to the public first if we have something to do. We always abide by the Constitution.” — MNA/KTZH

Shan traditional elephant-image pulling festival held



Shan maidens grace the elephant-image pulling festival on 29 September.

THE Elephant-image Pulling Festival, a traditional custom of the Shan ethnics to honour Abhidhamma Day on the full moon of Tawthalin as per the Shan calendar, was celebrated in Mongyawng township, Shan State (East) on 29 September.

“In this festival, we Shan ethnics come together to make life-size elephant figures using bamboo and paper as main raw materials. We adorn the elephant images with things to donate and showcase them to the public with devotees pulling the elephant figures on our way to monasteries. We donated things brought together with the elephant images to

dedicated monasteries. We also entertain revellers with traditional dances and foods. We organize this festival to preserve it,” said Sai San Hla Aye, the leader of the Shan Literature and Culture Association (Shan State-East).

Shan people living in rural areas of eastern Shan State celebrate the festival every year with the hope of regional development, achieving bumper crops and avoiding natural disasters. Before the festival, groups of donors struggle to adorn their elephant figures to become more beautiful than those of other groups. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL



Officials inspect new arrivals of e-bikes on the Sino-Myanmar border.

Arrivals of electric motorcycles

AUNG Kan Bo Motorcycle Industrial Co Ltd, with approval from the National Electric Vehicle and Related Industries Development Steering Committee, has imported Kanbo-type electric motorcycles. These electric motorcycles have now arrived at the Muse 105th-Mile Trade Zone and have been granted permission for retrieval as per the procedure. — MNA/KZW

Drugs seized in Chanmyathazi, Taunggyi townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined Soe Myat Phone, Khin Zaw, Ye Kyaw thu (aka) Ko Ye and Ma Soe Myat Mon (aka) Mi Nge with a motorbike in Chanmyathazi township at 3:30 pm on 27 September and captured 2.2 kilogrammes of heroin.

Similarly, the combined

team searched a motorbike driven by Khun Win Shwe (aka) Chit Swe accompanied by Ma Moe Moe Aye (aka) Moe Kham in Taunggyi township at 5:45 pm on 28 September and captured 299,000 stimulant tablets.

Those are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

Confiscation of illegal items: timbers, lead, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles

THE Customs on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections on 22, 26 and 27 September and impounded 55,000 kilogrammes of Solar mounted frames worth K266.805 million that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from six containers and 3,000 double flasks worth K6 million and 20 Alliance tyres worth K4.2 million that were different from ID from two containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, 49 bottles of perfume worth K6.47 million without official documents at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk), a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K35 million), headed to Mandalay from Muse, carrying two sets of Deye Hybrid solar inverters worth K7 million that were not declared in the ID at the Yepu permanent checkpoint and seven kinds of goods worth K5.514 million including 24 plastic jerrycans without official documents from a vehicle travelling from Tachilek to Taunggyi at the Maeyan combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined teams confiscated six kinds of goods worth K6.12 million including 90 sets of Wifi routers that were piled up by the side of the road over the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse township and a Hino Ranger truck (approximately K30 million) carrying 15,000 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk worth K3.75 million in Kengtung township on 27 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty team captured 18,620 kilogrammes of smuggled lead worth K558.6

million at a warehouse in Dawei, a total of 7.609 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K532,630 at the Dauntchaung checkpoint and K264,810 worth of illegal timbers in Kyaukchak village in Gwa township on 28 September. The action was taken under the Myanmar Mines Law and the Forest Law.

As a result, a total of 13 arrests were made on 22, 26, 27 and 28 September, with an estimated value of K930,256,440, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated foodstuffs are seen in Shan State on 27 September.



Myanmar's TV series, actress named at Asia Academy Creative Awards

TWO TV series of Canal + Myanmar and one actress are enlisted on nomination lists of the National Winner of Asia Academy Creative Awards representing Myanmar, according to nominated actress Su Htet.

On the nomination lists of National Winners for the Asia Academy Creative Awards 2023 to be held in December in Singapore, the TV se-

ries of Canal+ Myanmar — "An Ugly and Seven Handsomes" nominated for the Best Comedy Programme Award while the "Crying Forest" for "Best Drama Series Award" and Su Htet for Best Actress in a supporting role with Brew Me A Favour.

"Do you remember the girl for Julia's character? Julia was chosen as the National Winner for Best Ac-

triss in a supporting role at the Asian Academy Creative Awards of Singapore representing Myanmar.

"I am so happy to be among artistes of other countries," said Su Htet.

The Asia Academy Creative Awards is held annually and the 'Gala Finals' will be in December in Singapore. — ASH/KTZH

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Strong demand by oil millers, low supply elevate chickpea prices

CHICKPEA prices escalated on the back of strong demand by millers amid low supply, according to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre.

The prices touched the highest of K264,000-276,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss on 30 September.

Chickpea is cultivated between October and November as a winter crop and harvested during the January-April period. It is commonly found in Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Magway regions.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans are also grown in the country. Agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar's economy. Among agricultural products, various beans and pulses are one of the main items.

More than 18,000 kilos worth US\$13.139 million were exported in the previous financial year 2022-2023 (April-March), according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. — NN/EM

Arabica coffee farming thriving on international demand



The photo shows Arabica coffee beans produced in PyinOoLwin, Ywangan, Hopong and Pinlaung areas.

FARMERS engaged in highland coffee (Arabica) plantations are prospering as speciality coffee swells in handsome amounts of foreign income.

The trade volume of coffee, which

is a major crop in over 70 countries, is estimated at nine billion kilogrammes annually. Myanmar's coffee production has grown to over 9,000 tonnes, comprising over 2,000 tonnes of low-land

Robusta coffee beans and over 7,000 tonnes of Arabica coffee, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association.

Myanmar's coffee beans are shipped to Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, China, Thailand, the US, the UK, Island, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Germany and the UAE. About 1,100 tonnes of coffee beans were exported in the 2021-2022 financial year.

The cash crop coffee plantation is commonly found in PyinOoLwin, Ywangan, Hopong and Pinlaung areas in Myanmar, with a yield rate of over 9,000 tonnes. Of them, 1,500-1,700 tonnes are shipped to foreign countries.

Speciality coffee fetches a good price in the international market, Union Minister U Min Naung of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation mentioned during the Union government meeting held on 29 September.

The coffee bean, instant coffee mix and coffee powder are also imported into the country. About 1,250 tonnes of coffee mix and 4,500 tonnes of coffee powder were recently brought into the country, Myanmar Customs' statistics showed. — TWA/KK

Myanmar's MYEA gears up its trade expo participation efforts



The group documentary photograph of the meeting between UMFCCI and MYEA held on 29 September in Yangon.

MYANMAR Young Entrepreneur Association (MYEA) will expedite activities to participate in more trade shows domestically and internationally.

The chair of MYEA asked for advice and guidelines from executive members of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce

and Industry, expressed willingness to cooperate with the federation and exchanged ideas to promote MSME's participation and local products at the trade expos and maximize the activities of the MYEA together with the region and state associates during a meeting held at the UMFCCI's office on 29 September.

UMFCCI President U Aye Win highlighted that the federation welcomes the new executive members of the MYEA that the UMFCCI's affiliated associations are part of it. The young people foster innovation and creativity. The cooperation is appreciated.

The MYEA also presented collaborative efforts with the e-commerce committee, MSMEs development committees, ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Council, and young entrepreneur organizations in China among others. — NN/KK

Myanmar Airways International (MAI) unveils new air cargo services

AS Myanmar Airways International (MAI) runs domestic and international flights to promote Myanmar's aviation sector, the cargo aircraft is being operated starting from 30 September aiming to connect export/import goods with global trade routes.

The cargo aircraft launch ceremony was held at the Terminal-1 Airside of Yangon International Airport yesterday morning. The ceremony was presented by officials from the Department of Civil Aviation and the Myanmar Airways International.

The cargo aircraft of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) is a Boeing 737-300F which can carry all types of goods including large-sized goods and dangerous goods up to 15 tonnes. — Ko Nyi Lay/MKKS

NATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Every citizen deserves right to live, work, thrive in peace, unhindered

DURING the Union Government meeting on 29 September, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing emphasized that every citizen should enjoy a life of peace and security, while also highlighting the importance of achieving national goals such as prosperity and food security.

Plans to establish coronary care units in state, regional hospitals

AT the “World Heart Day” commemorative ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw, Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win announced plans to establish Coronary Care Units (CCUs) at regional and state hospitals across Myanmar. Furthermore, international organizations specializing in modern therapies and technological advancements are reported to be collaborating with regional organizations in Southeast Asia to enhance heart disease treatment.

Starting 1 October, control measures for people, vehicle entry

CHINA is set to create a restricted zone near the Myanmar border to combat human trafficking by online criminal groups. Starting from 1 October until the year’s end, local authorities will restrict people and vehicles from entering Tengchong, as reported by residents along the border.

Maungtaw experiences surge in freshwater fish production

IN Rakhine State’s Maungtaw District, efforts are underway to boost foreign income by accelerating freshwater fish production. The majority of these freshwater fish are exported to Bangladesh through the Maungtaw border. To address concerns related to low quality and low prices, the Maungtaw District Fisheries Department has been increasing freshwater fish production within the district.

MAEX to issue dividend of K120 per share

MYANMAR Argo Exchange (MAEX), a public company that manages the Danyingon Wholesale Market, has decided at its annual meeting to distribute a dividend of K120 per share for the financial year 2022-2023.

A total of K2,856.5 million will be spent on distribution of dividend on 9 October. In the financial year ending on 31 March, MAEX recorded a total incomes of K17.96 billion, accounting for 463 per cent rather than the previous year and an 181 per cent increase in monthly net income.

Cargo ship Arcola docks at Yangon port

BULK carrier Arcola, departing from Bangladesh on 28 September, arrived at Yangon Port in Myanmar on the night of 30 September, carrying 35,821 tonnes of goods.

Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees raise entrance fees for tourists

TOURISTS from Thailand and Viet Nam are the most visitors to the Shwedagon Pagoda among the tourists with a total of 5,000 to 6,000 visitors entering each month in 2023. There were about 7,000 to 8,000 visitors in March and a total of about 50,000 tourists visited there from January to August.

The entrance fee of Shwedagon Pagoda for tourists will be raised from K10,000 to K20,000

from 1 October, according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The entrance fee for foreigners visiting Shwedagon Pagoda will be changed from 1 October 2023, according to the trustees of Shwedagon Pagoda.

Similarly, tourists visiting the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, will increase the entrance fee from K25,000

to K30,000 starting from 1 October.

The previous charge of K25,000 was set duration of the residence permit for five days and now the increase in entrance fee is set for three days.

Additionally, the entrance fee for Mandalay Cultural Zone as well as Inwa and Pindaya Cultural Zone will be raised from K10,000 to K15,000. — TWA/MKKS

Emerald Green Project’s revolving fund spurs progress with 4,400 development initiatives in 3,500+ villages

THE interest received by the revolving fund of the Emerald Green Project has covered 4,400 rural development works in over 3,500 villages so far.

Fifty per cent of the interest contributes to the community development projects in villages, including 2,422 road and bridge projects, 224 water supply projects, 29 water purifier installation projects, 1,043 power projects, 146 school maintenance pro-

jects, 12 libraries, eight clinics, 246 halls and 299 other development works across 3,500 villages.

The interest from the revolving fund amounted to K33.96 billion and public contribution was estimated at K15.73 billion, totalling K49.695 billion.

The Emerald Green project aims to finance vulnerable rural communities and create jobs, enhance the livelihood of the rural com-

munities, and increase family incomes. The capital of K30 million is allocated per village as a revolving fund among 11,643 villages. The interest is disbursed to the villagers and the project is committed to increasing development works year over year.

The project commenced in the 2014-2015 financial year, supporting the livelihood of 1.37 million households across over 14,900 villages so far. — TWA/EM



The picture depicts two workers engaged in fisheries under the fund of the Emerald Green Project in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Celebrity Brief

Khine Thin Kyi
KHINE Thin Kyi donated K1 million for the 46th respect-paying ceremony of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization with her daughter San Hteik Htar Oo on 27 September 2023. MMPO Patron U Aung Lwin and Chairman Director U Kyi Soe Tun accepted the cash donation. Her daughter told the media that she bought a new pair of shoes, expensive ones for her mother.



Anoni Mus
ANONI MUS apologized to well-known singer U Soe Paing at his house for making a cover song "Nay Kwal Yin La Htwet Mel" without his permission. U Soe Paing forgives him and Anoni Mus pledged that he would seek permission from the singers before making cover songs. However, he allows his songs to be sung on social media apart from commercial purposes, according to his official FB page.

Ni Ni Lin Eain
MISS Grand Myanmar 2023 Ni Ni Lin Eain who will compete in Miss Grand International 2023 in Viet Nam posts on her Facebook page that she wants a crown and thanks her fans, artistes and supporters and those who voted for her. She will also try her best in the competition.



Kaung Pyae
KAUNG PYAE was cast as the main role in the "My-itta Monedaing" movie by Director Nyunt Myanmar Nyi Nyi Aung together with Chan Min Ye Htut, Yadanabo, and Phone Thiri Kyaw. In this movie, his character is a man who loves his wife so much. His girlfriend actress Thanda Bo makes birthday wishes for him on her Facebook page.



PHOTO: HTOO WAI

May Panche
MAY PANCHE, who stars in over 500 movies and makes online live sales, made food donations (rice and chicken curry) for 800 people indicating to her deceased mother Daw Tin Tin Htay on 28 September. Although she is a great enthusiast for acting, she refuses to star in the movies until she gets a good character. She now participates in a new movie with actor Myint Myat.



Songwriter
Ko Nay Win's 72nd
birthday lights up
THOR in Yangon

SONGWRITER Ko Nay Win's 72nd birthday concert took place at The Heart of Rangoon (THOR) in the Yangon Region on the evening of 29 September, as confirmed by Ko Nay Win. At the birthday celebration, singers Chit Kaung, Phoe Ka, Meeno, Ngwe Zin Hlaing, K K Moe, Htet Nay Kyi, Thar Gang and Hlaing Lay were reported to have attended. Ko Nay Win's fans also reportedly attended the event and cheered them on. The birthday commemoration of composer Ko Nay Win will also include the release of a music album called "Sorrows of a Poem". The album was produced by Tribute Records Music Production. — ASH/KZW



Hseng Sam
THOSE who make cover songs of the deceased composer-singer Sai Htee Seng should seek permission from the original singers, composers and bands as they use all their creations, singer Hseng Sam told the media. The songs composed by Sai Htee Seng are the property of his family and those who want to use these artworks must inform his family members. — Htun Htun/KTZH

OPINION

Give a chance to older persons for applying their experiences

THE 33rd anniversary of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons will shine a spotlight on a vital theme: “Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations.” This theme underscores the importance of upholding human rights for the elderly, ensuring they are not left behind due to the natural process of ageing.

This commemorative event aims to emphasize the unique needs and rights of older individuals worldwide, focusing on both the enjoyment of their rights and addressing violations. It also highlights how strengthening solidarity and promoting equity and reciprocity between generations can offer sustainable solutions in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Generally, individuals aged 60 and above are considered senior citizens. Their wealth of experience holds immense value, and it is essential that they share this wisdom with current and future generations. By doing so, they help younger generations rapidly accumulate knowledge necessary for life, benefiting society as a whole and contributing to a more peaceful world.

In Myanmar, society places a strong emphasis on respecting and learning from older persons. Parents traditionally teach their children to show respect to their elders and to seek their advice and wisdom attentively. In return, older individuals willingly share their valuable experiences and provide guidance to the younger generation, assisting them in navigating life’s challenges. This practice is deeply rooted in Buddhist teachings, reflecting a culture.

Today, Myanmar is striving for national modernization by harnessing the collective strength of the people including the invaluable advice and experiences of older citizens who have the right and capacity to actively participate in nation-building efforts. Drawing from a lifetime of experience in overcoming challenges, they form a dependable resource for the state. Therefore, younger generations have to apply the wisdom and experiences of older individuals.

Across the globe, societies must strive for balanced development by capitalizing on the invaluable experiences of senior citizens and the tireless efforts of the younger generation. Older individuals possess a wealth of knowledge and experiences, while the younger generation has the capacity to absorb these skills and techniques and put them to effective use in society.

The commemorative day serves as a reminder of the importance of valuing and respecting the elderly and recognizing their essential role in shaping a better future for all generations. By fostering intergenerational cooperation and learning, we can fulfil the promises of human rights for older persons and work towards a more equitable and prosperous world.



Volunteers help pick and sell strawberries via livestreaming platform at a planting base in Banjing township, Rugao city, east China’s Jiangsu province, 24 February 2022. PHOTO: PEOPLE’S DAILY ONLINE/XU HUI

Chinese Modernization: Peaceful Development

THE Chinese people are now marching ahead on the path to modernization. Modernization, however, may not evoke pleasant memories for everyone in the world. In many cases, it comes along with expansion, friction, and even conflict. But does it have to be this way? China has given a resounding answer: its modernization will be achieved through peaceful development. In fact, China is the only country whose Constitution says it “keeps to a path of peaceful development.” Why is this a big deal?

Peace is in China’s DNA

Like the Mayan, Inca and Egyptian civilizations, the Chinese civilization is an agrarian one. With their vast plains, the Chinese developed a generally self-sufficient economy, and would earn nature’s blessings through their hard work and resilience throughout millennia. Self-sufficiency, to a large extent, shaped the Chinese national character of cherishing peace.

From statesmen advocating the governance philosophy of “peace among all nations”, to the ordinary people believing “friend-

liness brings wealth”, the culture of peace has long been woven into the fabric of the Chinese society. Even The Art of War by Sun Tsu, a military work widely acclaimed by strategists across the world, stresses that “the skilful leader subdues the enemy’s troops without any fighting”.

The pursuit of peace is a consistent theme in China’s history. The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping is inspired by the ancient Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road, which started and flourished respectively during the

Han (206 BC to 220 AD) and Tang (618 AD to 906 AD) Dynasties, the heyday of China’s feudal society. But the purpose of the two roads was trade and exchange, not invasion or expansion. In the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644), China was leading the world economy and capable of building the world’s largest fleet. But when the great navigator Zheng He led seven voyages to the western oceans, what China sought was fair trade, not plundering or looting; it sent porcelain and tea leaves to countries along the route, not “sword and cross”.

China needs peaceful development for its modernization drive

On the path of peaceful development, China has never waged a war, or encroached upon a single inch of another country’s land. After the People’s Republic of China was founded, it took the lead in proposing and acting on the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, China is the largest contributor of peacekeepers. China is also the only one of the five nuclear-weapon states (P5) that has pledged no-first-use of nuclear weapons.

Peaceful development is the most realistic and best solution for China to pursue its national interests. China is advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization.

SEE PAGE-10 >>



Book Title	-	Lee Kuan Yew Ei Ahtway Ahkhaw
Translator	-	U Tin Oo (Tuition)
Publishing House	-	Wisdom House
Publication Date	-	June 2023 (3 rd Edition)
Price	-	K7,000

Lee Kuan Yew Ei Ahtway Ahkhaw

THIS book under review is translated by U Tin Oo (Tuition). This book is, in fact, the extracts from the speeches delivered by Lee Kuan Yew between 1955 and 2010. It is undeniable that Singapore has become a nation which can keep abreast of the countries across the world just because of Lee Kuan Yew regardless of certain criticism held by the pessimists, who are against him. Reading this book will enable the readers to learn how Lee Kuan Yew has exerted effort to effectuate social justice, develop the national economy and exercise diplomacy in the maintenance of good international relations.

Lee Kuan Yew played a pivotal role in Singapore’s transition from a British crown colony to an independent developing nation, and to the economically powerful and diplomatically influential city-state it is today. Throughout this surprising and at times painful journey, he has proved a charismatic and occasionally controversial leader. Lee is a conviction politician whose speeches are unambiguous, characterful and eminently quotable; this collection of almost 600 short quotations provides a compelling summary of his views on a wide range of topics from Singapore’s past, present and future. In Lee’s

own words: “I have been accused of many things in my life, but not even my worst enemy has ever accused me of being afraid to speak my mind.

Concerning the encroachment of religion onto the political arena, Lee said, “Religion should not be allowed to interfere in political affairs. If this happens, the differences in political ideologies and doctrines will lead to an outbreak of religious conflicts. When such conflicts arise, there will be divisions between and among the religious communities as well as in the society at large, thereby creating prejudice and hatred.” Additionally, he said

in regard to politics like this, “Politics is about the people and their lives; this is neither arts nor science. Politics is the art of laying down and implementing the plans, programmes and projects which are feasible.”

In an interview, U Tin Oo (Tuition), the translator of this book, said, “If we study Lee Kuan Yew, the leader of Singapore, we will see that he was formerly a leftist during the independence struggle and in the early period of attainment of independence. But he was flexible enough to have changed his old belief when he found that the leftists’ idea to confront the capitalists did not bring any benefit to national economic development. He is found to have struck a proper balance between the employers, who are the capitalists, and the employees, who are the proletariats. As these two strata are interdependent, they need to have a good relationship. Just as Lee would not allow the employers to oppress the workers, he also would not permit shirking of work on the part of the employees. Besides, Lee has fixed the ceiling wages for the workers, who must also boost their productivity in return.”



Book Title	-	Yazawun Twin Yit Mae Saga Waing Myar
Writer	-	Kyaw Win
Publishing House	-	Paris Publishing House
Publication Date	-	September 2023 (2 nd Edition)
Price	-	K7,000

Yazawun Twin Yit Mae Saga Waing Myar (Kissinger Transcripts)

THIS week, I tried to stay away from the exciting current political layout, merely bent on retrospecting the past political stage across the world. The past events are the steps on which the people tread to move towards the future. Reviewing things of the past can be likened to students’ revision exercises in their preparation for the examination. For the book review of this week, I have chosen the book written by Saya Kyaw Win titled Yazawun Twin Yit Mae Saga Waing Myar. This is the second impression published by the Paris Publishing House.

Peace is desirable for all human beings except a handful of self-centred armed organizations, for people will hate to live a miserable life adversely affected by armed conflicts. This is the reason why undaunted efforts are being exerted to achieve peace. This book highlights how the peace brokers have put forth effort to achieve peace around the world.

In his foreword, the writer said that the Cold War is termed as ideological warfare by some academics while the Cold War is the rivalry between the two superpowers as stated by some academicians and that

this period does not witness either peace or war; this is merely an arena in which the arms manufacturing nations vie with each other to be able to sell their arms.

The writer said that he agrees with Jean-Paul Sartre, who was a French philosopher, playwright, novelist, screenwriter, political activist, biographer and literary critic, considered a leading figure in 20th-century French philosophy and Marxism, was one of the key figures in the philosophy of existentialism on the latter’s statement that the 20th century gave birth to the two gigan-

tic evils. One giant believes in communism whereas the other is an anti-communist nation. Many a man have lost their lives because of these two brutes, who put a wedge between the loving people.

This book is written by Wiliam Barr, and the contents are the transcripts of some of Kissinger’s most secret conversations with world leaders. Considered among the most important Cold War records to emerge thus far by the former Beijing bureau chief of the New York Times, The Kissinger Transcripts give us the unvarnished record of Henry Kissinger’s diplomacy during the Nixon years. Here are the transcripts, formerly classified “Top Secret/Sensitive”, of Kissinger’s talks with Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Leonid Brezhnev, Andrei Gromyko and others. These transcripts let the readers make up their own minds about the most controversial Secretary of State in modern US history. The National Security Archive is a non-profit research library of classified US Government Departments in Washington DC.

■

ARTICLE/TECH/ENVIRON
WORLD

Chinese Modernization: Peaceful Development

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The key to this ambition is running its own affairs well, focusing on development and making its people better off. That, first and foremost, requires a peaceful and stable environment at home and abroad.

Giving up peaceful development is not cost-effective considering China's endowment and its interdependence with the rest of the world. China has a supersize market with 1.4 billion people, including over 400 million in the

middle-income group. China is a major trading partner of more than 140 countries and regions. These mean enormous potential in China's consumption and export. China is also an innovation powerhouse and has complete industrial and infrastructure systems. Its high-tech industries such as new energy vehicles (NEVs), 5G and photovoltaics (PV) are highly competitive and enjoy a strong momentum. China is also deeply integrated into the international system, making huge progress amid globalization

and benefiting the world in the process. As President Xi Jinping put it, "all countries are in a community with destinies linked."

The global significance of China's peaceful pursuit of modernization

From the 2nd CELAC Heads of State and Government Summit declaring that the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was a "zone of peace", the ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Reiterating Commitment to Preserve Southeast Asia as A

Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, to the Jeddah Declaration adopted at the 32nd Arab League Summit emphasizing Arab unity and co-operation, and the AU Agenda 2063 aiming for "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa" in 50 years, peace has always been the aspiration of the vast majority of countries and people.

As the world's second most populous country and the second largest economy, China is developing itself by unleashing its internal dynamism and peacefully utilizing external resources. It

does not oppress any other nation in any form or rob others of resources and wealth; instead, it goes all out to help and support fellow developing countries. The Chinese path to modernization via peaceful development will bring new hope to people of all countries who yearn for peace and development, and contribute even more to world peace, tranquility, prosperity and development.

Source : Chinese Embassy

As rain vanishes, Guatemalans learn to use every drop of water

AS rain becomes ever scarcer in northern Guatemala, communities are learning how to carve out makeshift irrigation canals and purify their water to conserve every last precious drop.

"No water, no rain, so not a good harvest," says Francisco Carrillo, 87, as he desolately sifts through his measly corn crop, tossing aside scores of desiccated and stunted heads.

Some have given up even trying to plant, and with children constantly sick with stomach bugs from dirty drinking water, new methods are desperately needed.

Guatemala, in Central

America's Dry Corridor, ranks among the top ten climate change-vulnerable countries. Its agriculture-dependent regions face simultaneous droughts and heavy rains, leading to significant migration, notably to the United States.

In the northern region of Quiche, mostly home to indigenous communities such as Mayans, residents are learning to build ditches above their sloped fields of corn or beans, so that water trickles down through the plants and keeps the soil moist for longer.

Oscar Rodriguez from Save the Children charity is teaching residents in an area

with limited rainy days to capture rainwater using ditches to enhance soil moisture.

Additionally, they are learning how to create home-made fertilizer from herbs, chillis, and garlic to boost crop yields.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is promoting the cultivation of water-efficient crops such as carrots and tomatoes, which have quicker growth rates to improve food production.

Save the Children says that 3.5 million of the country's 18 million inhabitants are threatened with an "unprecedented food crisis". — AFP



Residents are learning to build ditches above their sloped fields of corn or beans, so that water trickles down through the plants and keeps the soil moist for longer. PHOTO: AFP



The tech giant is putting artificial intelligence into digital assistants and smart glasses as it seeks to gain lost ground in the AI race. PHOTO: CYBER PIGGY/AFP

Meta putting AI in smart glasses, assistants and more

Zuckerberg highlighted how AI advancements enable the creation of diverse applications and personas to assist in various tasks.

META chief Mark Zuckerberg on Wednesday said the tech giant is putting artificial intelligence into digital assistants and smart glasses as it seeks to gain lost ground in the AI race.

Zuckerberg made his announcements at the Connect developers conference at Meta's headquarters in Silicon Valley, the company's main annual product event.

"Advances in AI allow us to create different (applications) and personas that help us accomplish different things," Zuckerberg said as he kicked off the gathering.

"And smart glasses are going to eventually allow us to bring all of this together into a stylish

form factor that we can wear."

Smart glasses are one of the many ways that tech companies have tried to move beyond the smartphone as a user-friendly device, but so far with little success.

The second-generation Meta Ray-Ban smart glasses made in a partnership with EssilorLuxottica will have a starting price of \$299 when they hit the market on 17 October.

The smart glasses also add the ability for users to stream what they are seeing in real time, Zuckerberg said. "Smart glasses are the ideal form factor for you to let AI assistants see what you're seeing and hear what you're hearing." — AFP

WORLD

French prime minister comfortably survives censure vote

This was the 18th censure motion against her since taking office.

FRENCH Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne avoided parliamentary censure in an early morning vote on Saturday after she forced the government’s budget plan through the National Assembly without a vote.

The motion to censure Borne — the 18th levelled at her since she assumed the office — was brought by the left-wing Nupes alliance after the prime minister activated Article 49.3 to adopt the public finance bill without a vote.

The motion received just 193 of the 289 votes needed to succeed, an unsurprising outcome in light of the lack of support from the centre-right.

Its rejection constitutes the adoption of the 2023-2027 budget programme, which now moves to the Senate, the upper house of the French parliament.

The speaker for Nupes, socialist Philippe Brun, accused the government of “favouring with the greatest servility a very well-endowed minority of the



French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

French” despite “an immense inflationary crisis”.

President Emmanuel Macron had “tried to make parliament disappear with his repeated (use of) 49.3”,

Brun added.

The far right had supported the left’s motion of censure, accusing Borne of the “repeated and abusive use of 49.3”. — AFP

TOP HEADLINE

Zelensky opens forum in bid to attract arms makers

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky has opened Kyiv’s first International Defence Industries Forum, in a bid to attract more manufacturers to build arms in Ukraine.

Kyiv has depended heavily on Western aid since Russia invaded last year, but is increasingly seeking to bolster its domestic arms industry amid fears support from its allies may waver.

“Our first task is to win this war and return a lasting and, most importantly, reliable peace to our people. We will accomplish this task through our cooperation with you,” Zelensky said in a speech at the opening on Friday. — AFP

Injuries in Scotland rail crash, Flying Scotsman involved



One of the trains involved was the record-breaking, century-old Flying Scotsman, the first steam train to reach over 100 miles an hour. PHOTO: AFP

SEVERAL people were injured after two trains, one of which was the storied Flying Scotsman, collided at Aviemore railway station in the Highlands of Scotland on Friday, police said.

The crash happened on the Strathspey Railway, a heritage railway separate from mass-transit public services,

and involved a stationary carriage and another train in the station.

One of the trains involved was the record-breaking, century-old Flying Scotsman, the first steam train to reach over 100 miles an hour; the National Railway Museum said.

“Two people have been

taken to Raigmore Hospital. A number of other passengers are being treated at the scene and enquiries are ongoing,” Police Scotland said in a statement. The two trains collided at around 7:00 pm (1800 GMT) in the station 600 miles (965 kilometres) north of London, the statement said. — AFP

European countries smash September temperature records

Earlier, the EU climate monitor reported that global temperatures during the Northern Hemisphere summer were the highest ever recorded.

AUSTRIA, France, Germany, Poland and Switzerland announced their hottest Septembers on record on Friday, in a year expected to be the warmest in human history as climate change accelerates.

The unseasonably warm weather in Europe came after the EU climate monitor said earlier this month that global

temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere summer were the hottest on record.

French weather authority Météo-France said the September temperature average in the country will be around 21.5 degrees Celsius (70.7 degrees Fahrenheit), between 3.5C and 3.6C above the 1991-2020 reference period. — AFP



Average temperatures in France have been exceeding monthly norms consistently for almost two years. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

G-7 to set up fund to aid developing nations
strengthen supply chains

The fund will support developing Global South nations in enhancing their resource processing and production capabilities for emission-reducing products.



The fund will support developing nations in the Global South to enhance their capacity for resource processing and production, specifically for items like solar panels, aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

THE Group of Seven nations will create a fund to help developing nations build robust supply chains for products needed for decarbonization, sources familiar with the plan said Friday.

The fund will be used to help developing and emerging nations in the so-called Global South boost their capacity to process resources and produce items needed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, such as solar panels and electric vehicle batteries. Japan is planning to contribute \$5 million to the envisaged fund at the World Bank, according to the sources.

Supply disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s war in Ukraine have led the G-7 and other nations, particularly those heavily reliant on China, to review how they secure products that are critical to their economic security.

A launch event is scheduled for 11 October ahead of a meeting of the finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of 20 advanced and emerging economies in Morocco, the sources said.

Besides Japan, this year’s rotating chair, the G-7 includes Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States plus the European Union.

The envisaged fund will initially be used to cover costs for personnel engaged in the transfer of technologies to developing nations.

Under the plan, it will develop into a framework that will enable private-sector financial institutions to extend loans to companies in the Global South and to support the local processing of minerals and manufacturing of parts and end products, the sources said. — Kyodo

N Ireland unionists concerned at
new Brexit port checks

A system of green and red lane port checks for products from England, Scotland, and Wales begins to prevent unauthorized entry into the EU single market.



Pro-UK unionists oppose post-Brexit trading rules for Northern Ireland. **PHOTO: PAUL FAITH/AFP**

NEW checks on goods entering Northern Ireland from mainland Great Britain come into force this weekend as part of a post-Brexit trade deal between the UK and EU.

A system of green and red lane port checks for products arriving in Northern Ireland from

England, Scotland and Wales begins on Sunday.

The aim is to stop goods entering the European single market by the back door, given the open border with EU member Ireland — a key plank of a 1998 peace deal ending violence over British rule in Northern Ireland.

But unionists decried the step as an internal “border”, threatening Northern Ireland’s place in the wider UK. “On Sunday it will be confirmed that Northern Ireland has got a border in the Irish Sea,” said Sammy Wilson, a veteran MP with the largest pro-UK party the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). “We are going over the next year to see physical border checkpoints built... to mark Northern Ireland as being part of the EU rather than being fully part of the United Kingdom,” Wilson told BBC radio.

From Sunday, lorryloads of goods destined for the Republic of Ireland or the wider EU will use a red lane with obligatory customs declarations and some checks to comply with EU single market rules. — AFP

Quake-hit locals relieved Europe’s
biggest gas plant to close

RESIDENTS near Europe’s biggest gas field, shaken by decades of earthquakes, voiced relief it would be shut down Sunday although experts warned the tremors could continue to haunt them for years.

The Netherlands is poised to end production at the massive Groningen gas field in the north of the country on 1 October, but keep the wells open for one more

year in case of a “very severe” cold winter.

People living near the site, which opened in the early 1960s, have complained for more than 20 years of being terrorized by quakes directly attributed to drilling operations. “We are very relieved this is now coming to an end,” said Jan Wigboldus, president of an association representing locals. — AFP



The Netherlands will shut down production at Europe’s largest gas field in October 2023 after the surrounding area was hit by years of increasingly severe earthquakes, deputy mining minister Hans Vijlbrief said on 23 June 2023. **PHOTO: JOHN THYS / AFP/FILE**

HKEX adds Saudi Exchange to list of recognized stock exchange

This recognition enables companies primarily listed on the Saudi Exchange's main market to seek secondary listings in Hong Kong.



Photo taken on 31 July 2021 shows the statues on the square of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) in south China's Hong Kong. **PHOTO: WU XIAOCHU/XINHUA**

THE Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) announced Thursday that it has added the

Saudi Exchange as a recognized stock exchange, a move that is expected to boost financial ties be-

tween Hong Kong and the Middle East. The addition will allow companies with a primary listing on the Saudi Exchange's main market to apply for a secondary listing in Hong Kong, the HKEX said in a statement. HKEX Head of Listing Katherine Ng said that the Saudi Exchange is a well-established stock market that hosts a diverse range of companies from Saudi Arabia and across the Middle East, representing sectors including energy, industrials and healthcare. — Xinhua

Three killed, 18 feared missing after Zimbabwe gold mine collapse

THREE miners were killed and 18 feared buried after a shaft in an informal Zimbabwean gold mine collapsed, state television said Saturday. The accident occurred on Friday in Chegutu, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) west of the capital Harare, ZBC said. "Three bodies have been retrieved from the collapsed Bay Horse Mine in Chegutu," it said. "The bodies were found underneath some rocks in a search operation being undertaken by government with the assistance of some artisanal miners."

The southern African nation has vast reserves of platinum, diamonds, gold, coal and copper. Due to the floundering economy, illegal mining is rife and often takes place under dan-

gerous conditions. Accidents are common. In February 2019, 24 miners died when an abandoned pit flooded after torrential rains in the central Zimbabwe. — AFP



Three miners were killed and 18 feared buried after a shaft in an informal Zimbabwean gold mine collapsed, state television said Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

US auto strike expands with 7,000 more workers joining

ANOTHER 7,000 members of the biggest US automobile workers' union on Friday joined its already major strike against the country's "Big Three" Detroit car manufacturers. The latest walkouts leave a total of some 25,000 workers on strike in 21 states — or around 17 per cent of the United Auto Workers' membership. UAW president Shawn Fain said the latest members to join the strike were at two plants in Chicago and Michigan, who downed tools at 1600 GMT.

"Our courageous members at these two plants are the next wave of reinforcements in our fight for record contracts," Fain said. The industrial action is the first-ever joint strike at the major automakers — Ford, GM and Chrysler producer Stellantis — in a push for higher salaries and other improvements. — AFP



UAW members and workers hold signs outside the Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant after walking off their jobs in Chicago, Illinois. **PHOTO: AFP**

Israel reopens Gaza crossing to Palestinian workers

ISRAEL on Thursday allowed thousands of Palestinian workers to cross from Gaza for the first time in two weeks through the Erez crossing, following violent protests that rocked the blockaded enclave. The Israeli authorities had initially closed off

the transit route, the only gateway for pedestrians from the Gaza Strip, for the Jewish new year holiday on 15 September. After extending the closure citing security reasons amid deadly protests, they announced on Wednesday evening

that the crossing would be reopened for workers on Thursday, with thousands seen lining up in the morning. An AFP correspondent saw crowds of Palestinians waiting at the terminal from the early hours, including many who had spent the night at the

complex. "We learnt at midnight that the Erez crossing would open today, and I have been waiting here since 1:00 in the morning," said Awni Abu Oda, who works in Tel Aviv, the main commercial city of Israel. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (019N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (019N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-10-2023** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ARCOLA VOY.NO. (2023001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ARCOLA VOY. NO. (2023001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Japan govt plans to seek court order to dissolve Unification Church

THE Japanese government plans to seek a court order to disband the Unification Church, a government source said Saturday, a move that comes after a months-long probe into the religious group over allegations of soliciting financially ruinous donations from members and other questionable practices.

Scrutiny of the group intensified after former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was fatally shot during an election campaign speech last year over his perceived links to the entity, an incident which also brought to light its connections with many ruling party lawmakers.

According to the source, the Cultural Affairs Agency is currently considering convening a meeting of an advisory body on religious institutions — possibly on 12 October. — to report its plan, and then asking the Tokyo District Court to issue an order to dissolve the group, the source said.

In Japan, many people have faced financial issues related to the Unification Church, known for coercive “spiritual sales” involving threats and high-priced item purchases, exploiting notions of negative “ancestral karma”.



File photo taken on 21 January, 2023, shows a building in Tokyo's Shibuya district that houses the Unification Church, officially known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. **PHOTO: KYODO**

If dissolved, the Unification Church, founded in South Korea in 1954 and formally known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, would lose its status as a religious corporation in Japan and be deprived of tax benefits, although it could still operate as an entity.

Many in Japan have reported financial problems involving the Unification Church, which has also been notorious for “spiritual sales”, in which it pressures people to buy vases and other items for exorbitant prices through the use of threats, such as invoking negative “ancestral karma”.

Tetsuya Yamagami, indicted for Abe’s assassination, targeted him partly because of Abe’s grandfather, former PM Nobusuke Kishi’s role in bringing the church to Japan in the 1960s. Yamagami’s mother donated 100 million yen to the church, causing financial ruin, as claimed by Yamagami. — Kyodo

Price cap on Russian oil not working as intended, Yellen admits

Global crude oil prices surged above \$95 per barrel due to production cuts by Russia and Saudi Arabia in recent months.

THE G7 price cap on Russian oil has not been working as well as the West intended with Moscow’s ability to create shadow services for its oil shipments and after the rally in crude prices that brought a barrel near \$100, US Treasury Secretary

Janet Yellen told reporters. “It does point to some reduction in the effectiveness of the price cap,” Yellen told reporters in what appeared to be her first public comment acknowledging the West’s shortfall on the matter, Yellen

said as quoted by Bloomberg on Friday. The price cap is one of the West’s many inventions to curb Russia’s participation in the international markets, in response to Moscow’s role in the Ukraine conflict. — SPUTNIK



The landing station for Nord Stream 1 in Lubmin, Germany. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

TOP HEADLINES

New York flooded by heavy rains, subway partly paralyzed

HEAVY rains overnight in the northeastern United States left parts of New York City under water on Friday, partially paralyzing subways and airports in the country’s financial capital.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul declared an official state of emergency for the city, Long Island to the east, and the Hudson River valley to the north, warning people to not travel on flooded roads.

Images from around New York showed cars half-submerged and traffic snarled, with some major roads completely blocked.

The massive New York subway system was also hit by the flooding, with several lines closed in Brooklyn.

“There is only extremely limited subway service available because of heavy flooding. Service is suspended at many stations,” the subway declared on social media. — AFP

France launches battle plan against bedbug invasion

THE French government said Friday it was launching a concerted effort to fight bedbugs that have appeared in numbers in public transport, cinemas and hospitals. The blood-sucking insects have been spotted in the Paris metro, high-speed trains and at Paris’s Charles-de-Gaulle Airport, with disgusted travellers posting videos on social media. Transport Minister Clement Beaune said he was convening representatives from public transport operators next week “to inform them about counter-measures and how to do more for the protection of travellers”. — AFP

SPORTS



Myanmar sports team to join three more events in Asian Games

THE Myanmar sports team will compete in three more sports events at the XIX Asian Games, according to the sports federations. In this Asian Games, Myanmar is currently competing in seven kinds of sports.

Myanmar football teams, Wushu teams and Taekwondo teams have completed as their mission but the Esports team is still on their stage.

Next, the Myanmar Sepak Takraw team and Myanmar Archery team will join the events from 1 to 7 October while the Myanmar Traditional Boat Race team will compete in the tourney from 4 to 6 October.

Two players are representing the Myanmar Archery team and they will compete in the men's individual recurve event,

women's single event and men's and women's mixed event.

The Myanmar Sepak Takraw team is composed of 14 players who are competing for a team of four and a team of three events for men's and women's categories. A total of 28 rowers will represent team Myanmar for 200, 500 and 1,000 Metres Men's and Women's Traditional Boat Race events.

Myanmar teams missed out on a medal as Myanmar men's football team was eliminated from the playoffs while the women's football team said goodbye from the group stage.

All four athletes of the Myanmar Wushu sports team failed to make medals and one Taekwondo player also dropped out of the first round. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The Myanmar Sepak Takraw team is seen performing at the previous competition. PHOTO: XINHUA



Myanmar rowers use all their energy to row the boat during the previous international competition. PHOTO: THAW GYI

Asian Games: Myanmar to compete in 200-metre traditional boat race event

MYANMAR traditional boat team will join the opener of the XIX Asian Games 200-metre traditional boat race event this week. Six events are included in the traditional boat race (Dragon Boat) competition which will run from 4 to 6 October.

According to the fixtures, Men's 200-metre 12 rowers event and women's 200-metres 12 rowers event will be

launched on 4 October while men's 500-metre 12 rowers event and women's 200-metre 12 rowers event will be held on 5 October.

Next, the men's 1,000-metre 12 rowers event and the women's 200-metre 12 rowers event will kick-start on 6 October. A total of 28 Myanmar rowers including 14 males and 14 females will compete in all six events of the race.

This is the third time the sport has been introduced, the first time being at the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games and the second time at the 2018 Indonesian Asian Games.

The Myanmar traditional boat team has competed the last two times, winning three silver medals in the 2010 competition, but missing out on a medal in the 2018 competition. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

North Korea thrash South at Asian Games as rivalries take centre stage

NORTH Korea thrashed South Korea 4-1 in women's football while India battle Pakistan in hockey later Saturday as fierce rivalries took centre stage at the Asian Games. The men's and women's 100-metre sprint titles will also be contested on the athletics track in Hangzhou, where rain fell on and off throughout the day.

With the Games approaching their halfway point, hosts China have raked in 108 gold medals, far ahead of the rest, with Zhang Zhizhen doing his part on Saturday by winning the men's tennis

crown.

North Korea, back in major international competition for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, clinched a fourth gold of the Games when Ri Song Gum set a world record in the women's weightlifting 49-kilogramme class.

She lifted a combined 216 kg (92 kg snatch, 124 kg clean and jerk), one kilo greater than the previous mark, held by China's world champion Jiang Huihua.

Ri jumped with joy and punched the air in celebration, then was emotional on the podi-



North Korea thrash rivals South Korea 4-1 to win the women's football gold medal in the Asian Games at Hangzhou. PHOTO: AFP

um. There were more beaming North Korean smiles soon after when they soundly beat the South in a feisty encounter in the women's football quarter-finals.

South Korea, led by the English coach Colin Bell, included players who featured at the recent Women's World Cup, where they went out in the group phase.

The neighbours, who are still technically at war, were locked at 1-1 when South Korea forward Son Hwa-yeon was sent off for a second yellow card close to half time. — AFP



Lakers fans line up to celebrate near a Kobe Bryant mural in Los Angeles after the Lakers won the NBA Finals. Kobe Bryant passed away in a 2020 helicopter accident. **PHOTO: BRANDON BELL/AFP/FILE**

Video games give sports stars second life

The post-retirement careers of the biggest sports stars can be fascinating to watch — Viagra ads, property ventures, crypto projects — but one option is becoming a sure-fire winner: put your face on the cover of a video game. And death is no barrier for this particular career, with two popular games this year choosing sports legends who are no longer with us. LA Lakers basketball star Kobe Bryant, who died in a helicopter accident in 2020, graces the cover of “NBA 2K24”.

And two of the world’s greatest footballers from bygone eras — Pele and Johan Cruyff — get posthumous respect with their figures emblazoned on “FC 24” from EA Sports. They are joined on the cover of the EA game by a galaxy of still-living stars of the more recent past — Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldinho — and present — Erling Haaland and Alexia Putellas. French legend Zidane told AFP in June that many young children now knew him largely through his appearance in the EA’s game, formerly known as “FIFA”. World Cup winner says today’s kids aged eight to 10 recognize him mainly through PlayStation, and he finds it amusing.— AFP

Startups in Japan gear up to make “tree sake” the next big thing

Ethical Spirits in Tokyo plans to market sake made from discarded sake lees, offering unique flavours such as whiskey-like birch and sweet, fruity Lindera aromas.



Equipment for pulverizing wood into mash is pictured at the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, in August 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

IN a world first, a Japanese research institute has developed a process for making sake from trees, with at least one startup aiming to commercialize its cedar-based product by 2025. The Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute devised the manufacturing process, which is similar to that for producing shochu, to create unique flavours using cutting-edge fermentation technology, considered to be the first of its kind in the world.

Although the high cost of installing equipment for the production process presents a challenge for companies wishing to enter the market, the research institute is focusing on lending its support for commercial production to increase demand for domestic timber.

In late July, Kyodo News was given access to the facility, located northeast of Tokyo, to taste Japanese white birch, cedar, Lindera umbellata (used in high-grade toothpicks) and Mongolian oak

samples. The clear liquid had a fresh wood aroma, with the alcohol content adjusted for tasting at 25 per cent. Tokyo’s Ethical Spirits plans to make sake from leftover sake lees with complex flavours, like aged cask-aged sake. A non-chemical fermentation method for extracting sugar from wood, discovered after the Fukushima accident in 2011, is now being explored for commercial use. Birch samples had a whiskey-like taste, while Lindera had a fruity, sweet aroma. — Kyodo

Paw patrol: Philippine security guards adopt stray cats



This picture taken on 27 September 2023 shows Conan the cat walking past security guards in formation outside an office building in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. **PHOTO: JAM STA. ROSA/AFP**

Although cats lack the security skills of dogs and tend to sleep on the job, their presence offers companionship to security guards enduring long 12-hour shifts.

A cat wearing a black-and-yellow security vest strolls nonchalantly past security guards lined outside a Philippine office building waiting to receive instructions for their shift. Conan, a six-month-old stray, joined the security team of the Worldwide Corporate Centre in the capital Manila several months ago. He is one of the lucky moggies unofficially adopted by security guards across the city, where thousands of cats live on the street.

While the cats lack the security skills of dogs — and have a tendency to sleep on the job — their cuteness and company have endeared them to bored security guards working 12-hour shifts. Conan was rescued when he was a few weeks old by a housekeeper who found him wailing in the

building’s car park. He accidentally landed the role of security cat after his predecessor, Mingming, died — reportedly from gum disease, not in the line of duty. Grieving guards wanting another furry friend to liven up their shifts decided to appoint Conan as Mingming’s replacement. Guards chose him as the replacement and found him a source of motivation and stress relief. Pictures of Conan alongside Mingming’s cardboard image went viral on Facebook.

Conan is one of many strays living in a corporate building where employees provide food. He’s not interested in security duties but enjoys sleeping, relaxing at Starbucks, and playing with passers-by who find him friendly and amusing.—AFP



PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival

A Spectacle of Cultural, Traditional, and Historical Significance

By Linn Htet

INLAY LAKE, the heart and landmark of the southern Shan State, and Buddha's statues of PhaungdawU Pagoda cannot be omitted when we utter the story of the southern Shan State.

Nyaungshwe Saopha and Buddha's statues of PhaungdawU

Nyaungshwe is known as Yawngshwe in the Shan Language. It is Nyaungshwe Valley of Shan's plateau nestled between

two mountains. It is noted that Nyaungshwe is named after Myanmar misheard Shan's Yawngshwe.

The Nyaungshwe was built in 721 ME under the rule of Saopha Si Hseng Hpa.

Locals found the beam of light radiating from sacred relics inside the cave which was

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Bagan visitors more interested in henna paintings



Nowadays, more and more visitors to the Bagan cultural heritage area want to have henna paintings done. There has been an increasing number of henna shops around the Buddha images, pagodas, temples and Buddhist buildings, according to Ma Thin Thin Oo, an owner of the lacquerware and henna studio in Bagan.

"Anyone who comes to Bagan does not return without having a hand painting done. Everyone who comes to Bagan loves henna paintings, especially since they are youths. They wear the elephant clothes and have photos taken with the landscape of Bagan while driving e-bikes," said Ma Thin Thin Oo.

She started working in the lacquerware business in her parents' days and has engage in it for over 40 years. After the COVID-19 period, there has been fewer tourists visiting the Bagan area, but the henna-painting business has been thriving with an increase in the number of local visitors.

The henna painting, which attracts visitors to the Bagan region, is a art related to lacquer painting and originated in Myinkaba village. There are two types of henna painting, acrylic painting and mehndi painting, and black and red.



Colours are usually used. Acrylic painting is quick to draw but the colour is easy to fade and so, the Indian paint known as mehndi is used as it is fast.

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Exploring Myanmar by Rail: A Journey with Myanma Railways

Shwedagon Pagoda attracts over 700,000 domestic, international visitors in August

DURING the month of August, more than 700,000 domestic and international travellers visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, as recorded by the Pagoda board of trustees.

Approximately 20,000 pilgrims visit the Shwedagon Pagoda from Monday to Friday, and the number increases to 40,000 to 50,000 on public holidays, Saturdays and Sundays.

At present, trees and flowers are being planted to beautify the surroundings of the

Shwedagon Pagoda. This initiative aims to provide travellers with a lush and green environment. Bodhi trees are also being planted and tree-planting festivals have been held since 2016, about 300 trees and plants, including teak, almond and mesua ferra, were grown in seven designated locations within the precinct of the Shwedagon pagoda, as reported by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

According to the trustees, more than

six million domestic and foreign travellers visited the Shwedagon Pagoda from January to the end of June this year. Most of the overseas travellers came from Thailand, China, Viet Nam, and Cambodia, followed by Europe and the United States, as well as from Africa. —TWA/KZW

International tourists are pictured alongside a tourist guide at Shwedagon Pagoda.



The file photo mentioned on 30 May 2021 shows flocks of tourists going sightseeing by trishaw. PHOTO: MAGWAY KO MYO

Myanmar is blessed with fascinating tourist sites throughout the country. Although some tourist destinations can be searched on Google Maps, most of the virgin sites are waiting for exploration by local and international travellers. To enjoy pleasure and happiness in exploration and visits to the tourist sites, not only the travellers but also businesspersons including tour operators need to comprehensively understand the dos and don'ts as well as necessary prohibitions and restrictions related to the Myanmar Tourism Law.

The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar enacted the Myanmar Tourism Law as Law No 26 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in 2018. Section 2 (l) of the law mentions the types of licences related to the tourism industry as Tour Operator Licences, Hotel Licences and Accommodation Licences, Tourist Guide Licences and Licences for Other Tourism-related Service Licences.

Section 3 of the law clarifies objectives of the tourism industry: To support effective domestic and international tourism marketing activities in visioning Myanmar as one of the International Tourist Destinations; To protect the

rights of tourism operators and tourists and ensure they understand and adhere to their responsibilities; To ensure the adequate quality and safety of tourism services; To enhance cooperation and coordination in developing and managing tourism; To develop human resources and increase employment opportunities by enhancing knowledge of tourism; To promote responsible tourism activities that will contribute to the country's sustainable development, ecotourism and conservation of the natural environment; To support community tourism related businesses, SMEs and to create regional economic opportunities for communities, as well as the development of community based tourism by relying on the tourism sector; and To coordinate with domestic and international institutions and tourism experts in conducting tourism sector de-

velopment research. Section 10 defined the functions of the Regional Tourism Executive Committee. In this regard, Section 10 (c) emphasizes the functions and duties of the State, Region or Union Territory Tourism Working Committee such as Approval, refusal or modification of pre-approval for the building or renovation of hotels or guesthouses. Section 10 (d) highlights the issuance or refusal of licences, and extension or rejection of licence extension applications, and the approval or refusal of the transfer of licences. Section 10 (g) stipulates that coordination with local government departments and authorities to promote enjoyment and good relations between tourists and local people, as well as to prevent and address safety issues and inconveniences for both parties. With regard to operating the hotels and guesthouses, Section 15 states that anyone who intends to operate a hotel or guesthouse must seek prior permission from the Regional Tourism Working

Analyzing salient points of the Myanmar Tourism Law

By Aung Kyaw Thant

In fact, the Myanmar Tourism Law aims to mention the provisions for lending a helping hand to businesspersons to operate hotels and the tourism industry, comprising staff and employees at different levels, tour guides and those from relevant businesses and protect their rights. On the other hand, the government relies on this law to take action against offenders and those who attempt to harm businesspersons from the hotels and tourism industry



Committee before commencing to build or renovate a hotel or guesthouse, as per the designated procedures, unless otherwise allowed under existing law.

With regard to the construction of the buildings for the purpose of the tourism industry, Section 16 notes that anyone, who has already obtained prior permission from the Ministry for building or renovating a Hotel or Guesthouse on the date this Law is enacted, is required to apply for a Licence from the Regional Tourism Working Committees without being required to resubmit the application.

In applying the licences for the tourism industry, Section 18 stipulates individuals intending to operate any of the tourism activities listed below must apply for a licence from the relevant regional tourism working committee, following the requirements: Tour Operator Business, Hotel Business, Guesthouse Business, Tour Guide Business, and Other Tourism-related Services.

In renewal of the licences, Section 22 stresses that all holders of current licences at the date of adoption of this Law shall be permitted to continue to operate until the date of expiry of their licences. Upon expiry of their licence, should they wish to continue operations, they should apply to the relevant regional tourism working committee for a licence renewal as per the requirements.

Under the title of administrative actions and appeal, Section 26 notes that if a licence holder violates any licence terms, or violates any of the prohibitions mentioned, the relevant Regional Tourism Working Committee can impose one or more of the following administrative actions, as Warning, Temporary Suspension of Licence, and Cancellation of Licence, and Blacklisting.

Regarding the ways of appeal, Section 27 mentions any person who disagrees with the administrative action taken by the relevant Regional Tourism Working Committee may appeal to the Tourism Authority within 30 days of the date of receipt of that sanction.

Concerning the authority of the Tourism Working Committee, Section 28 states the Tourism Working Committee may amend, cancel or confirm the sanction on

an appeal taken under Section 27, which is imposed by the Regional Tourism Working Committee.

Mentioning the restrictions for tour guides and hotel and tourism operators, Section 30 spotlights that no one shall provide tour guide services without a licence, transfer or accept tour guide services, and operate Tour Operator Business, Hotel Business, Guesthouse Business, or Other Tourism-related Services without a licence. Section 31 noted that no one, without permission obtained according to this Law, shall transfer or accept the following licences: Hotel Business Licence; Guesthouse Business Licence; Tour Operator Licence and other Tourism-related Services Licence.

The law mentioned the penalties for offenders, showing Section 32 underscored whoever commits an offence under Section 30 (a) or (b) shall if convicted, be liable to a fine of not exceeding K500,000. Section 33 underlines that whoever commits an offence under Section 30 (c) shall, if convicted, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or a fine of K20 million, or both.

Moreover, Section 34 highlighted whoever commits an offence under Section 31 (a) shall, if convicted, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding a year or a fine of K10 million, or both. Section 35 states whosoever commits an offence under Section 31 (b) shall, if convicted, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or a fine of K5 million, or both. Section 36 said that whosoever commits an offence under Section 33 (c) shall if convicted, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or a fine of K3 million, or both.

In fact, the Myanmar Tourism Law aims to mention the provisions for lending a helping hand to businesspersons to operate hotels and the tourism industry, comprising staff and employees at different levels, tour guides and those from relevant businesses and protect their rights. On the other hand, the government relies on this law to take action against offenders and those who attempt to harm businesspersons from the hotels and tourism industry.

The current landscape of the tourism industry

With the return of a stable political environment, both domestic and foreign tourist destinations experienced an increase in visitors in the post-Covid era. The following are the excerpts from interviews with tour operators by our reporter TWA, presenting the current landscapes of the tourism industry. (Editor)



Ko Chan Nyein Lin
Well & Fair Travels and Tours
Tours Director

Post-Covid period in 2023 has seen improved domestic travels and more tourist destinations are being created. The number of young people found travelling, camping and hiking increases apparently and they become united to make adventures by travelling.

“But in the post-Covid period, many people are trying to reestablish their businesses and spend less on travelling. I believe that, by organizing travel fairs, we can attract more people to travel again.

“Now outbound tours have started and people travel to countries with their families and we start selling package tour services. For domestic tourism, Bagan, Mandalay and Inlay Lake attract most travellers.”

Ma Khin Nanda
Khin Nanda Travels and Tours



At airports in some countries, there are no more checks for Covid-19. Travellers carry notarized results of Covid tests, but the documents are no longer required. So, there is a growing number of travellers in the post-COVID era in Myanmar.

“Most of our customers are interested in outbound tours. This year, we have arranged tours to Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Bhutan in addition to the Bodh Gaya tour. Last year, we also arranged tours to Sri Lanka and Kashmir in India.

“Many of our customers are interested in Bhutan and Viet Nam tours. In Viet Nam tour, many other tourism companies combine tours to the south, middle and to the north of Viet Nam tourist destinations. But we arrange separate tours for different destinations. And our combined tour to three parts of Viet Nam lasts for nine days and costs only US\$1,200 for a person, much cheaper than that of our competitors.

Tours to Bhutan will start in January. We have chartered flights from Bodh Gaya to Bhutan and we don't need to take a transit flight from Thailand anymore. Our Yangon-Gaya tour of seven-day costs \$2,300 and it is \$600 cheaper than our local counterparts.”



Ko Khant Wai Yan Tun
Manager
World Myanmar Travels and Tours

Apart from the Bodh Gaya tour, we provide tour services for Asian countries including Thailand and European countries. We also provide package tours of a maximum of 14 days to America, European countries, Egypt, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Bali of Indonesia, Viet Nam, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore. However we are facing difficulties in applying for visas for some countries.

Ma Thiri Yadana Naing
Marketing Team Lead
Flymya Tech Co Ltd



The sales of flight tickets for both domestic and international travels significantly has risen by nearly 50 per cent. Currently sale of flight tickets for domestic travel have higher more than that of international flight tickets.

“We Flymya also provide services for automobile rental, bus ticketing, hotel reservation and Balloon service. We have more customers in local hotel reservation service than that of international one, as we are still trying to penetrate the international market.”

Translated/TH



According to Executive Director U Phyo Wai Lin of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Shan State), the new Dokhtawadi Cloud Sea Resort will be opened in Mepoke Village, Nawngkhio Township, Shan State (North), before the next tourist season.

The resort is built on nearly five acres of land near Mepoke Village, Nawngkhio Township, Shan State (North), and a horse-riding arena, a cycling field, a park, and pineapple plantations, including a hotel, have been built there.

“The Dokhtawadi Cloud Sea Resort is going to be a luxury type, I suppose. The flowers are also neat and beautiful. We can feel the vibe of PyinOoLwin (Maymyo), which is a flower city. Even so, we can still enjoy the different vibe of Nawngkhio with the view of the sea of clouds. Shan State (North) is already

New Dokhtawadi Cloud Sea Resort in Nawngkhio Township to be opened before tourist season

A horse-riding arena, a cycling field, a park, and pineapple plantations, including a hotel, have been developed.

preparing new resorts for domestic and foreign tourists for the coming tourist season,” said U Phyo Wai Lin.

There are up to five resorts where local and foreign tourists come to relax in Nawngkhio Township, Shan State

(North), and they are Nawngkhioygi Cloud Sea, Sea Cloud Resort, Cloudy Villa, U Htwe Shwe Cloud Sea, and Saopha Mountain resorts.

Among these resorts, Nawngkhioygi Cloud Sea has a constant flow of tour-

ists as it can be visited in any season. Visitors have to travel along a dirt road through Nawngkhioygi village to reach other resorts, which can be visited only in the open season. — ASH/CT

PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival ...

FROM PAGE-A

covered by bushes and shrubs in the Thanhtaung pagoda precinct 644 years ago. Saopha was informed and he was delighted to hear that. He left for the Thanhtaung area, accompanied by his cabinet members (generals, relatives), instructed his fellows to clear the shrubs and discovered the five sacred statues inside the cave, with the presence of thousands of people. Two of them are believed to be sacred Buddhist monks’ statues.

The Saopha took five statues to Haw Palace in Nyaungshwe for obeisance. The statues were taken to a pavilion from the spire of the Haw so that a paying homage ceremony was held on a grand scale every 7th Waxing of Thadingyut month. That event was called to be “Buddha descending to Earth” (Sao Phaya Lon Sai). PhaungdawU village was located in the west of Sawma Village in the Nyaungshwe area. It was be-

lieved to be the land of low-ranked comrades. Starting from this event, those statues are called PhaungdawU Pagoda. The pagoda festival with Buddha’s effigies journeying around the town was held for public obeisance during the month of Thadingyut.

Tradition of Buddha’s effigies transported at Pagoda Festival

The Buddha’s effigies will be transported to 21 sacred monasteries traditionally for public obeisance between 1 and 15 October during the pagoda festival, the Pagoda’s trustees board notified. The PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival drew the attention of tourists. They mostly visit the PhaungdawU at the time of the pagoda festival. The journey of Buddha’s effigies includes 21 sacred monasteries; Indein, Heya Ywama, Ngaphechaung, Kyaesar, Pwesarkon, Linkin, Nyaungsh-

we, Nanthe, Mongthauk, ThaleU, Kaylar, Zayatgyi, South Alodawpauk, Nampang, Magyeeseik, Kyaikkham, Mongpyo, Nauktaw, Inpawkon and Yetha. After stopping over at those monasteries, the statues are transported to PhaungdawU monastery. That pagoda festival is crowded with religious and fun activities, attracting tourists and homegrown visitors. The area is congested with vehicles and boats every year as hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to the festival.

Extraordinary leg-rowing tradition in Inlay Lake

The Buddha’s images are towed over a Karaweik barge from village to village, with the traditional long-tail boat parade (15 boats) at front and accompanying other 15-boat parade behind for Buddhist chanting. The unique feature of the pagoda festival is that only four images can be transported

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and one image cannot be moved for misfortune, a member of PhaungdawU Pagoda trustees board, told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. It resumes four years after the COVID hiatus. The traditional leg-rowing races in Inlay Lake that capture the attention of the tourists and locals will take place this year, with boats having more than 40 crew, 26 women crew and single players.

Eight teams from Kaylar, Ywagyishay, Ywagyimyaunk, Ohkon, Shwepyitha, Kyataw, Zayetgyi and Yetan villages will participate in a boat race with over 100 crew, while residents from Kaylar, Zayetgyi, Yethagon and Eindautngyi will participate in the race with 46 crew, the race with two rowers and

one individual respectively.

The rules and directives for the pagoda festival have been issued to ensure the security and safety of the people. Throwing trash into the Lake is banned. The boat crew must wear traditional costumes to have cultural uniformity.

Enchanting Inlay Lake deserves a visit

“We expect homegrown visitors rather than tourists in the upcoming tourism peak season. The tourism-related businesses are trying to revive after the negative consequences of the COVID-19. The boat operators were earlier occupied with the passengers. Also, the souvenir shops were thriving with tourists and passengers,” Sai Naung shared.

The famous destinations in the Inlay area are PhaungdawU Pagoda, Alotawpyae Pagoda, Shwe Indein Pagoda,



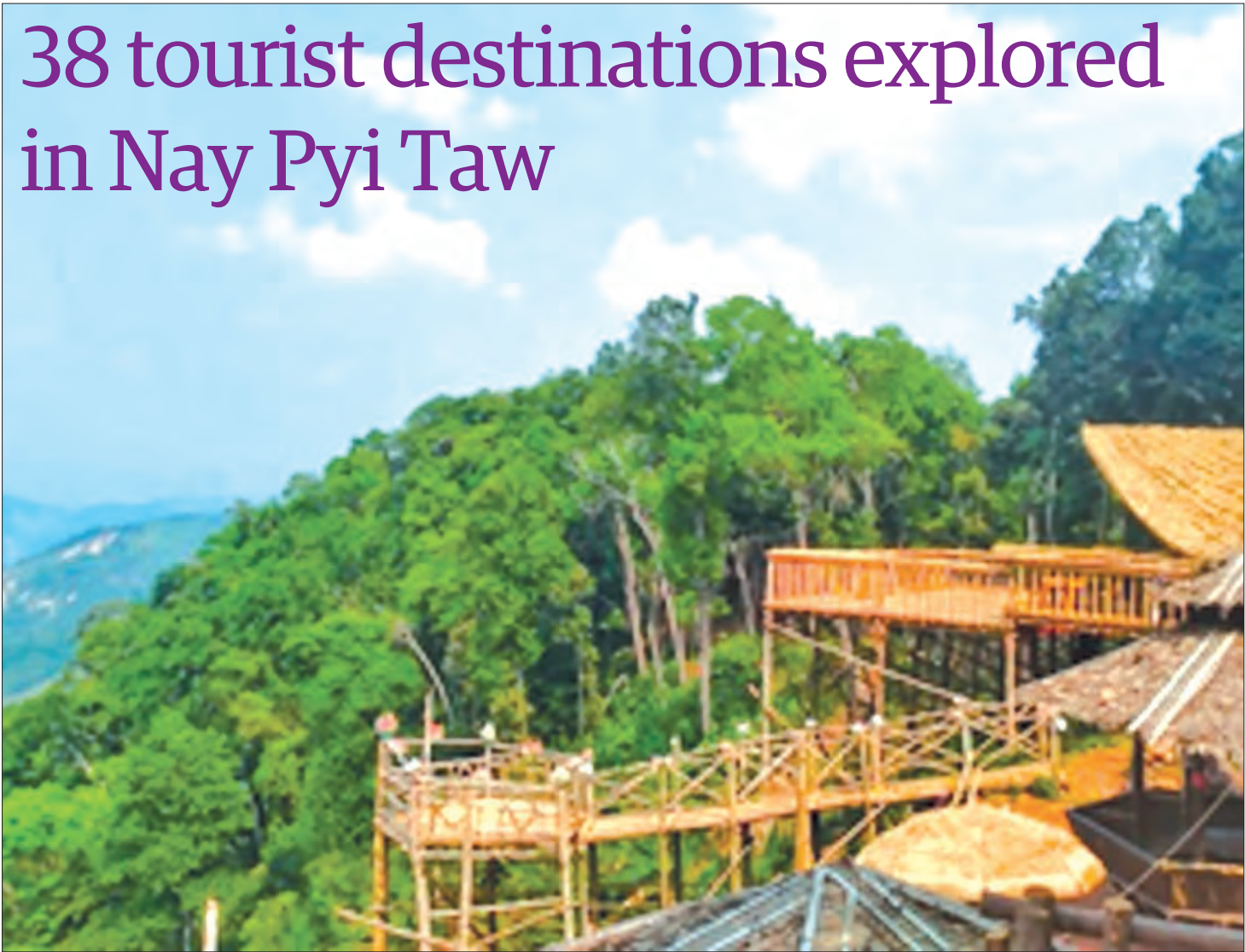
More than 38 places in Nay Pyi Taw have been identified rights for domestic and foreign tourists to see. Previously, 34 places were identified as tourist attractions in Nay Pyi Taw, and now four more have been identified.

Four places in Ottarathiri Township, seven places in Zeyathiri Township, six places in Pobbathiri Township, four places in Lewe Township, two sites in Dekkhi-nathiri Township, seven places in Pyinmana Township, seven places in Zabuthiri Township, and a sites outside Nay Pyi Taw municipal boundaries are said to be included in the 38 destinations.

At the Nay Pyi Taw Council Regional Tourism Committee meeting 1/2023 held on 6 September, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman said that it is necessary to work together for the development of the tourism sector since efforts are being made to shape Nay Pyi Taw as a clean city, green city, and smart city and that authorities are working to identify new tourist places in Nay Pyi Taw where visitors can take relaxation, in addition to the existing tourist areas. Moreover, it is needed to continue to develop agriculture and livestock-based tourism activities and community-based tourism activities and focus on increasing the production of products directly related to tourism (MSMEs) and encouraging entrepreneurship, the chairman continued.

Measures are being taken in Nay Pyi Taw to promote the tourism sector and increase the influx of tourists. — TWA/CT

38 tourist destinations explored in Nay Pyi Taw



A view of the sea of clouds found on the mountain where the ethnic groups live on the eastern side of Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, which can be visited on a day trip from Yangon and Mandalay.

Mongthauk Bridge, Inlay traditional weaving workshop, silversmiths on floating villages, floating farms and ancient monastery. At present, only a small number of local travellers are seen in the area. “Before the COVID-19, guesthouses and hotels were fully booked. During the low season, we can expect only local visitors,” Ko Tun Naung told the GNLM. They barely witnessed the tourists during the high season (October-December) last year. They relying on local visitors for now, said a motorboat operator Ko Tun Shwe.

The arrival of tourists after fallout from the COVID-19

The number of tourist arrivals in Myanmar reached over 4.8 million in 2019. The tourism sector came to an abrupt stop in the pandemic. The number of international tourist arrivals grew by 78 per cent in 2022 compared to the figures in 2021. “There is an inflow of international travellers in the country. Yet, the arrivals showed a sharp decline compared to those in the previous years. Local pilgrimage is much anticipated. They mostly buy traditional clothing. Tourists eye traditional costumes, silver crafts and locally produced lotus fabric. The stalls in the pagoda’s platform have yet to return to business operations. The weaving business in Inlay Lake primarily depends on the domestic market for now,” the GNLM quoted a lady engaged in the weaving business in Inlay Lake. A total of 751,216 tourist arrivals were registered in the eight months of 2023, with about 550,000 travellers entering the country through border checkpoints and 200,000 tourists by air. The majority of international travellers are from China, Thailand, India, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, the US, the UK and Russia, according to the notification released by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Tourism in the picturesque Inlay Lake has yet to revive amid the negative consequences of the pandemic and other political changes. Residents relying on tourism for livelihood are anticipating a significant recovery with local visitors during the upcoming PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival in Inlay Lake.

Translated /EM

Bago, just 50 miles from Yangon is located between latitude 17°14' and 17°50'N and longitude 96°24' and 96°41'E. The area covers 1,121.66 square miles and is bordered by Waw and Thanet-pin townships to the east, Hlegu, Taikkyi and Thayawady townships to the west, Kawa township to the south and DaikU and Lepadon townships to the north. It is also composed of three towns (Bago, Phayagyi and Indagaw), 40 wards, and 211 villages of 65 village-tracts.

The Bago Region is a place where ancient Myanmar kings reined. As most of the Myanmar kings were Buddhists, there are still many pagodas, temples and statues constructed by them.

Being a capital of kings, it boasts the city characteristics. The most popular Hanthawady Royal Palace and Kanbawzathadi Palace of Hsinbyumyarsin King Bayintnaung mainly attract the interest of foreign travellers and there are still historic sites and heritage there.

Various names

Bago was once called Peku, Otha and Hanthawady. The location of Bago is a place where the ruddy shelduck and Indian Spot-billed Duck pass through, and it was called Wan Be Kuu. Then, it transformed into Bago from Wan Be Kuu and Pegu. After the Bagan era, the merchants from Orissa of India arrived in Bago to trade and they called the city Orissa for its similarity to their state and then, the name became Ottha.

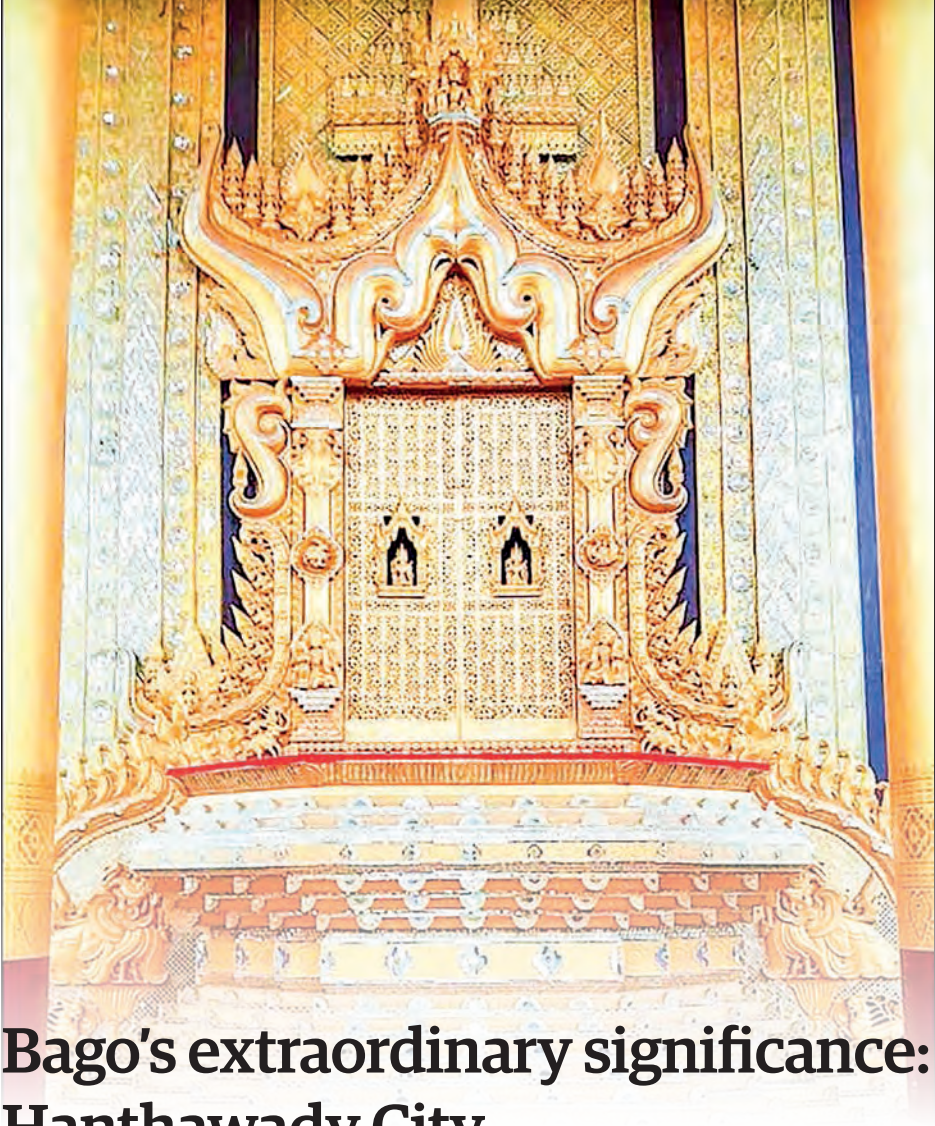


The place of Bago was just a lake and a male and a female ruddy shelduck flew over it and took a rest on a land plot. The Bago city was established on that land plot, currently Hinthagon, and it came to be called Hinth Kyun, Hinthagon and Hanthawady.

Hanthawady Royal Palace

According to the record of the Hanthawady era, the 312 years of the kingdom by Thamala and Vimala to King Tissa was the first Hanthawady era, 186 years from King Banyar Oo to King Thu Shin Taka Ruppi was the second Hanthawady era and another 58 years from King Tabin Shwehti to King Nanda was the third Hanthawady era.

King Bayintnaung established Kanbawzathadi palace on the 13th Waxing of



Bago's extraordinary significance:
Hanthawady City,
Kanbawzathadi Palace

By Maung Yin Oo

Nataw 915 ME (1553 AD), on Friday. Then, the palace was named Kanbawzathadi.

Minister-General Banyar Dala led the palace construction and each of the other generals was asked to put a teak pillar for the construction of the palace and Pyathat. Moreover, the kings had to take responsibility for the construction of various palace buildings. Meanwhile, they constructed Hanthawady Yazahtani City, the great walls of Shwemawdaw Pagoda and the Pitaka Chamber. All the buildings within the wooden fort were called 'Kanbawzathadi'. The city containing the outside wall and moat was also established in 1566 AD and it was

named Hanthawady City.

The city wall is in a square shape and the city is about one mile and two furlongs in length and one mile and four furlongs from south to west. There are five entrance gates at each city wall and there was a total of 20 city gates. There were 20 small steeples at the city gates. The palace buildings are concentrated in the middle of the city. The main halls are located in the T-shape.

There are eight buildings for the ceremonial occasions of kings

(1) Lion Throne Hall

(Thihathana Palin) at Ground tier-roofed hall, (2) Hanthasana Hall, (3) Baung Taw Hall (Thinkhathana Palin Hall), (4) Gajathana Palin Hall at Byai-Taik, (5) Migathana Throne Hall (South), (6) Padumathana Throne Hall, Mayurathana Throne Hall and (8) Bamayathana throne Hall of King Bayintnaung.

The travel records of Italian Caesar Fredericke and Englishman Ralph Fitch showed that the Hanthawady City is a grand place and the palace is located in the middle of the new city. The main halls are covered with gold. Some of the roofs of buildings were covered with real gold. Therefore, the Golden Palace looked so grand and became a domain for trade in the 16th Century AD.

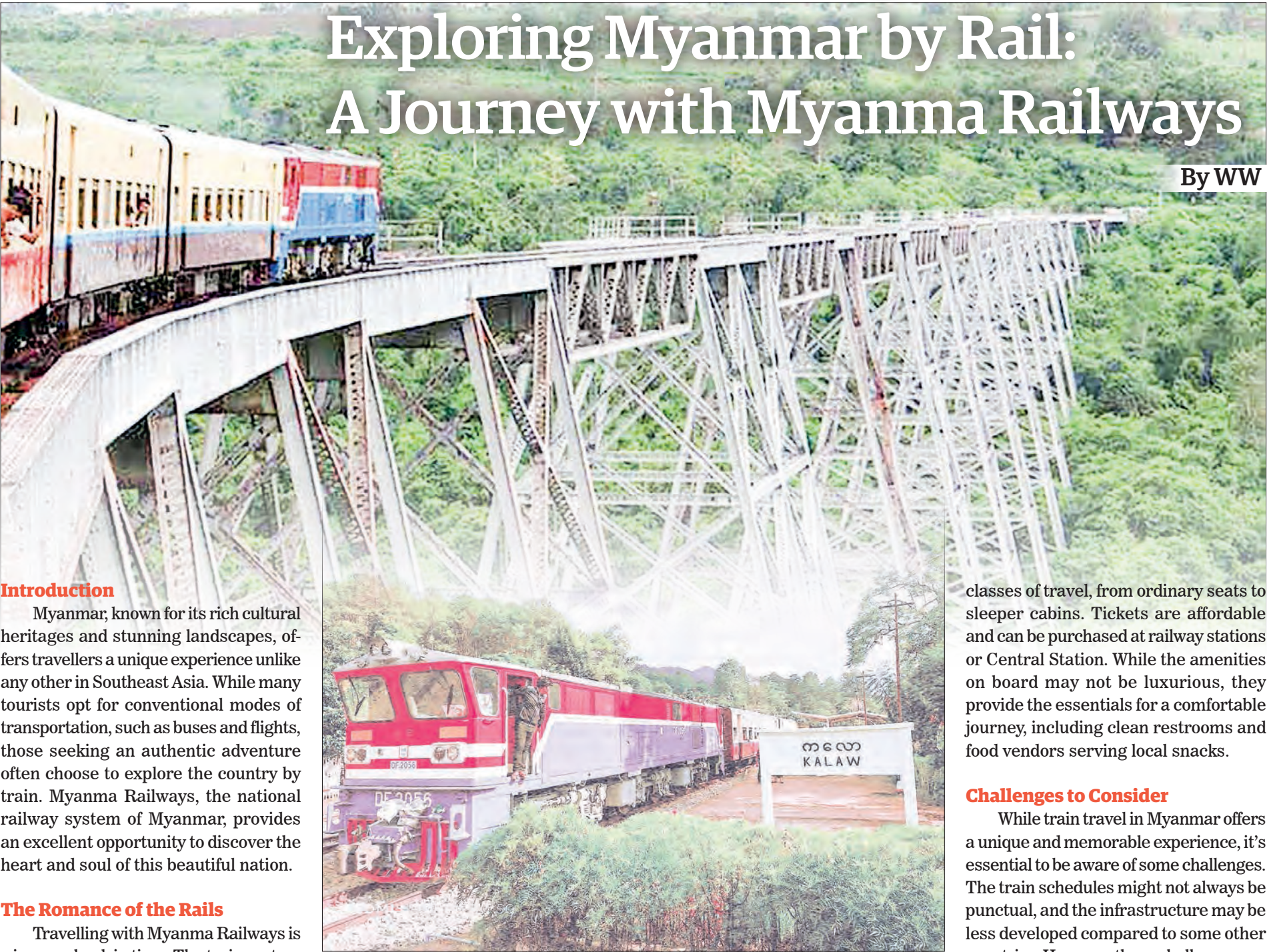
Exploring the history

The exploration of the Kanbawzathadi palace of King Bayintnaung was launched on 25 April 1991.

The ground-tier-rooted building was reconstructed in 1997 and completed in 2002. It contained Thiha Thana Throne Hall, Samok Hall, left-wing hall and right-wing hall. The Thiha Thana Throne Hall was replaced with 40 concrete poles. There were seven layers of steeples on the roof of the buildings and they were surrounded by four small steeples. The building is 198 feet in height, the left-wing hall and the right-wing hall were 144 feet in width and 56 feet in length, 40 feet in height and reconstructed with 52 concrete poles respectively.

SEE PAGE-G





Exploring Myanmar by Rail: A Journey with Myanma Railways

By WW

Introduction

Myanmar, known for its rich cultural heritages and stunning landscapes, offers travellers a unique experience unlike any other in Southeast Asia. While many tourists opt for conventional modes of transportation, such as buses and flights, those seeking an authentic adventure often choose to explore the country by train. Myanma Railways, the national railway system of Myanmar, provides an excellent opportunity to discover the heart and soul of this beautiful nation.

The Romance of the Rails

Travelling with Myanma Railways is a journey back in time. The train system retains a sense of nostalgia, with its charming old-world carriages and the rhythmic clatter of wheels against the tracks. This nostalgic ambience makes the train travel experience truly unique and unforgettable.

Scenic Beauty Unveiled

One of the most compelling reasons to choose rail travel in Myanmar is the breathtaking scenery along the way. As the train traverses the countryside, passengers are treated to stunning vistas of lush green paddy plantations, towering mountains, serene rivers, and charming villages. Unlike flying, which simply transports passengers from point A to

point B, a train journey immerses them in the mesmerizing beauty of Myanmar's landscapes.

Connecting the Country

Myanma Railways connects major cities and towns across the country, making it a convenient and economical mode of transport for travellers. Whether they want to explore the bustling metropolis of Yangon, the ancient temples of Bagan, or the colonial architecture of Mandalay, the railway network offers a reliable means of getting there. It's also a great way to access more remote and less-touristy destinations, providing a deeper and more authentic travel ex-

perience.

Interaction with Locals

One of the most rewarding aspects of train travel is the opportunity to interact with locals. As travellers share a compartment or search with fellow passengers, they will have the chance to engage in conversations, exchange stories, and learn about the culture and traditions of Myanmar from the people who call it home. It's a genuine and heartwarming way to connect with the country and its people.

Ticketing and Amenities

Myanma Railways offers various

classes of travel, from ordinary seats to sleeper cabins. Tickets are affordable and can be purchased at railway stations or Central Station. While the amenities on board may not be luxurious, they provide the essentials for a comfortable journey, including clean restrooms and food vendors serving local snacks.

Challenges to Consider

While train travel in Myanmar offers a unique and memorable experience, it's essential to be aware of some challenges. The train schedules might not always be punctual, and the infrastructure may be less developed compared to some other countries. However, these challenges are part of the adventure and can contribute to the authenticity of their journey.

Conclusion

Travelling with Myanma Railways in Myanmar is more than just a mode of transport; it's a genuine and immersive experience. It allows the travellers to witness the beauty of the country, connect with its people, and create lasting memories that go beyond the typical tourist experience. So, when planning your next adventure in Myanmar, consider hopping on a train and embarking on a journey that will leave them with stories to tell for a lifetime.

Bago's extraordinary significance: ...

FROM PAGE-F

The Samok Hall is located in the middle part and it is 46 feet in length, 38 feet in width, 40 feet in height and constructed with 16 concrete poles. The Thiha Thana Throne Hall displays the Lion Throne and the materials of Kings. It also features the records of political achievement and economic growth made by King Bayintnaung.

Hanthawady archaeological museum

The Hanthawady Archaeological Museum located between 9th and 10th streets of Nandawgon covers 3,600 square feet and one-storey building and is built with

an octagonal base. The museum was opened to organizations in 1993 and to the public both foreigners and locals with entrance fees in October 1996 and in May 1997 respectively.

A total of 345 types of ancient archaeological findings from the exploration of Kanbawzathadi Palace and the Bago area are displayed in seven chambers of the museum.

The significant thing about the museum is that the Forest Department expresses the term of a teak pole containing text and another teak pole without text found from the left-wing hall. These teak poles are about 180

years. Moreover, the people can study the huge teak pole, the model of the royal carriage of King Bayintnaung.

The current Kanbawzathadi palace reconstructed in its original structure after the fire stands as a historic building luring the interest of local and foreign travellers.

Therefore, this article is aimed at the youths and those who want to study Myanmar's cultural heritage at Kanbawzathadi Palace as it claims that the works of art of Myanmar people long ago meet the qualities and standards.

Translated/KTZH

A Therapeutic Journey to the Oasis in the Heart of Myanmar's Arid Desert Region

By TWA



As the tourism peak season approaches, homegrown travellers develop wanderlust. They seem to like seek escape from stressful urban life and think that nature will heal the one. Although I am not certain about this year's trip plan, I took down a memory lane from the Bagan-Popa trip that I went on last year.

Arrays of sky beer (toddy) shops with appealing decorations on both sides of the Bagan-Kyaukpadaung road are seen appealing to the visitors, giving a brief glimpse into the life of traditional palm tree businesses and livelihoods of those residents in central Myanmar.

There's a shortcut called Byatta Pansat Road to Mount Popa. Within a 30-minute drive, a lush greenery can be spotted, where a signboard of Popa City can be found and directed to the foot of Mt Popa.

There are Taungmagyi (with volcanic crater blown open on one side) and Taungkalat (sheer-sided lava neck) in the site.

The word Popa is believed to be derived from Sanskrit word puppha (flower). It is portrayed as the land of yellow



Champaca flowers and also named sacred golden Mt Popa.

The months of Tagu, Kason and Nayon (April-May) are the blossom season of yellow Champaca. Geographically, Taungkalat that captures the attention of tourists is 2,417 feet high above sea level. The height of Taungmagyi is 4,981 feet. Popa Taungkalat is the steep-sided volcanic plug and extinct volcano with a cluster of monastery and temples on top of the mountain. One can see different forms of peak from the north and the west.

Popa Taungmagyi (Mother Hill) is a volcano with a big caldera having 2,000 feet in width and 3,000 feet in depth. That big caldera is called Chonmatwin pit. The won-

derful fact of Mt Popa has natural springs and various species of herbal plants. Moreover, venomous snakes are not found in the area. The minerals cannot be extracted as well. People said earthen pots and wares businesses would not thrive there.

Of 200 springs at Mt Popa, Gyo-chaung, Yaysu, Ngawasan, Maungtaw and Hnamataw springs are well-known.

Mt Popa was designated as a sanctuary by the Forest Department in 1989. The sanctuary has 363 species of herbal plants, 86 species of orchids and 363 other plant species. It is also home to 10 species of mammals, 185 bird species and 100 butterfly species, as per a record. Another surprising fact is that there are about 500 Popa langurs that are listed as the critically endangered species, dwelling in the pit and chasms of the area.

Mt Popa sees the most crowded and prominent ritual event where the car parking extends to the foot of Mt Popa. The event takes place for three days when other fun and Nat (spirits) events are also celebrated in front of other Nat shrines.

One can see the vendor stalls and the

Nat worshipping rooms and a shrine of Popa Medaw along the stairway to Taungkalat. It is an exhausting and uncomfortable experience to climb the stairs as some of them are steep. The significant feature of Popa is a troop of monkeys. They sometimes hunt food from the visitors. There are also some people asking for donations while sweeping the floor as monkeys' feed are scattered into pieces.

Additionally, devotees can pay homage to Pylon Chantha Pagoda on top of the mountain that was built by Bo Min Gaung. The majority of tourists visit Mt Popa to enjoy and take documentary photos of natural scenic views and sunrise and sunset atop the mountain. They like to climb the steep mountain road as well.

Moreover, tourists can explore the habitats of Popa langurs, Myanmar golden deer, rare sandalwood farm, herbal park, ecosystem and biology of animals, butterfly species distribution and orchid species in the sanctuary, besides studying geological features of Mt Popa. There is a horse ride tour in the sanctuary as well.

Translated/EM

Bagan visitors more interested ...

FROM PAGE-A

In henna painting, Myanmar traditional knots and ancient architectural outlines are usually drawn as most youths and the middle-aged like them. "In the vacation season and the pagoda festival season, henna art services have to be provided non-stop. When that time, all family members have to do the painting without taking a rest. Henna painting is better only with a passion for art and an interest in the work," said Ko Thein Hlaing, Ma Thin Thin Oo's husband, to The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The henna painting fee ranges from K5,000 to K10,000 depending on whether the designs and paint used.

This year, local pilgrims to the Bagan cultural heritage area have gradually increased and the number renting pony carts and e-bike have increased. Along with the local families' additional income, the small businesses of the locals will do well. — TWA/ MKKS



Making preparations for tourists and local visitors in Mandalay, Pinya and Inwa cultural zones

Zone entrance fees for tourists will be raised starting from 1 October.

The preparations have been made for tourists and local visitors who will visit Mandalay, Pinya and

Inwa cultural zones during the vacation season, according to the Director of the Department of Archaeology and

National Museum (Mandalay Branch) Dr Than Htike.

In making such preparations, not only vacation area

directory maps and information are being distributed but also the museums and exhibitions in the vacation areas are being upgraded.

"Currently, the renovations are underway. Visitor arrivals have become fewer since the beginning of the rainy season. Not only tourists but also local visitors often come here. But there are not many. In preparation for the upcoming vacation season, there are things to be done to distribute information such as maps to travellers so that they can easily learn information in the vacation area. We have also prepared showcasing and exhibitions in museums," Dr Thein Htike told the GNLM.

In addition, the zone entrance fee at Mandalay, Pinya and Inwa Cultural Zones for tourists is K10,000 per head until the end of September and it will be changed to K15,000 per visitor starting from 1 October.

Tourists are interested in visiting not only Mei Nu Brick Monastery, Golden Monastery and Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in the Mandalay cultural zone but also the Pinya and Inwa cultural zones. — ASH/ MKKS