

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on inspection tours of irrigation facilities in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone

Proper flow of water must be arranged along inlet channels and tributaries of dams and reservoirs to the irrigated areas.



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the renovation of ancient lakes in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing stressed that the durability and quality of embankments must be systematically examined in building and maintaining dams and reservoirs. Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning inspected the renovation of ancient lakes to prevent flooding and damage in natural disasters in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone in NyaungU District of Mandalay Region. At Myakan Reservoir, built by King

Kyansittha in 1088 AD, the Senior General heard reports by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin on inundation in Bagan An-

cient Cultural Zone due to heavy rains triggered by storm Mocha in May 2023,

SEE PAGE-3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General during his tour of the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone

- The durability and quality of embankments must be systematically examined when building and maintaining dams and reservoirs.
- Proper flow of water must be arranged along inlet channels and tributaries of dams and reservoirs to the irrigated areas.
- Officials have to supervise environmental conservation tasks and systematic utilization of agricultural lands and other lands.



NATIONAL PAGE-2



Seasonal langsat fruit brings joy to consumers

NATIONAL PAGE-5



No vessels allowed to sail to avoid storm risk in Myeik

BUSINESS PAGE-7



FDA registers nearly 370 cosmetics in four months

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NATIONAL



The photo shows the opening ceremony of the traditional art exhibition of the Arkha people.

Kengtung hosts Arkha traditional art exhibition until 28 May

ACCORDING to Daw Thida Aung, Assistant Director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum in Shan State, the Arkha traditional art exhibition is being held at the Kengtung Cultural Museum in Kengtung, Shan State (East), from 24 to 28 May.

During the exhibition, which aims to identify

and preserve the heritage of ethnic traditional culture, photographs and paintings related to the traditional culture of the Arkha ethnic group will be displayed and sold.

Photographer U Kyaw Kyaw Win and artist U Tun Tun created the photos and paintings displayed in the exhibition. — ASH/MKKS

Seasonal langsat fruit brings joy to consumers

A seasonal fruit, langsat, draws many consumers, and sales have been good. In previous months, despite the fruit's taste being a little sour, the sale was great. Now, it is early monsoon season, and its taste has become sweet, so the sale has become better.

"In our Magway Region, people enjoy eating langsat. Its taste was a bit sour before it rained, so people liked this fruit. Now, its flavour is sweet, so many more people eat it. Now is the fruit season, so the trading has been excellent. I've received many orders. Langsat is mainly grown in Toungoo," said Ma Phyu Sin Aung, langsat seller from Magway Township.

At the fruit market in Taunggyi Township, langsat sales have been good, and both sour and sweet langsat were sold well in the pre-monsoon

season.

"Langsat sale is good. Both sour and sweet langsat have been sold well. Generally, I sell langsat in May and June. It is monsoon now, and its taste has become sweet. This is the period that langsat is sold the best in Taunggyi," said Ma Khin Hnin Soe, a langsat retail seller from Taunggyi Township. — Thit Taw/ZS



First seasonal langsat fruits.

Myanmar Embassy to China hosts cultural exchange envoy for students

ON 23 May, the Envoy of the International Cultural Exchange Programme for students from Qingdao City, Shandong Province, was held at the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing, aiming to promote cultural exchange between the people of Myanmar and China, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Maung Swe delivered a welcome speech to the students at the event, urging them to continue strengthening the longstanding ties between Myanmar and China.

The Myanmar Education Attaché from the Myanmar Embassy explained Myanmar to Chinese students. A total of 80 students from Qingdao City, Shandong Province, attended the event. — ASH/TMT



Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Maung Swe seen delivering the speech to Chinese students.

Goh Chok Tong grants Myanmar publisher rights to translate his books

MR Goh Chok Tong, former prime minister of Singapore from 1990 to 2004, has granted official publication rights to Myanmar book publisher U Myint Tun from Quality Publishing House to translate his biographies 'Tall Order', 'Pan Jang', and 'Standing Tall' into the Myanmar Language.

At the birthday party of ESM Mr Goh Chok Tong, held at Orchard Rendezvous Hotel in Singapore on 23 May, the former Prime Minister of Singapore granted publishing rights to U Myint Tun, a Myanmar publisher, and his wife, who attended the event.

U Myint Tun said, "I had the chance to have a warm chat with him. His analytical ability, views on books, and sophisticated knowledge of AI Chat GPT are awe-inspiring for an 83-year-old man. I got the book signed by Mr Goh and the writer Peh Shing Huei. I also gifted him the portrait drawn by the artist Maung Nay



U Myint Tun (Quality Publishing House) presents Goh Chok Tong with the latter's portrait.

Kyi four years ago, as well as the books 'Tall Order' and 'Pan Jang,' which have been translated into Myanmar. The former was translated by Ko Aung (MraukU), and Hsu Pyae Sone Htun translated the latter. Now, I have obtained official rights to pub-

lish and translate 'Standing Tall', and to republish the first two books."

The Singaporean publisher, the original writer, and the Myanmar publisher jointly organized the 83rd birthday party of Mr Goh Chok Tong. — ASH/TMT

NATIONAL



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the renovation of the Myakan reservoir to prevent flooding in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone in NyaungU District of Mandalay Region yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on inspection tours of irrigation facilities in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone

FROM PAGE-1
necessary maintenance works for proper flow of water in water channels in the region due to guidance of the Senior General, factual information of Myakan reservoir, and essential maintenance of the lake for lesser storage of water.
In his response, the Senior General underscored that it is necessary to systematically examine the quality and durability of dams and reservoirs in maintenance and new construction.
He highlighted that as not only dams but inlet channels must be improved, proper flow of water can be arranged along inlet channels and tributaries of dams and reservoirs to the irrigated areas.
He emphasized that priority must be given to ensuring the proper flow of water in the region, not to damage ancient heritages.
The Senior General viewed the Myakan Reservoir and gave

the necessary guidance.
The Senior General also inspected the maintenance of Phyaukseikpin Lake Nos 1, 2 and 3 near Phyaukseikpin Village.
He also looked into repairs of Zeyawady (Zeyaweri) Lake near East Phywasaw Village, Mingala Lake No 3 near West Phywasaw Village, Ywahaunggyi Lake near Ywahaunggyi Village, and Yaytaw Muni Lake near Yaytaw Muni Pagoda.
During his inspection, the Senior General stressed the need to supervise environmental conservation tasks and systematic utilization of agricultural lands and other lands under the law.
As the government leads the dredging of ancient lakes in Bagan, well-wishers are invited to make donations for the maintenance of the lakes through daily newspapers.
The Senior General visited the Myinpyan soya bean paste industry in Thiri Mingala Ward of



SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes the Myinpyan soya bean paste industry in Thiri Mingala Ward of NyaungU yesterday.

NyaungU, where proprietors U Khin Maung Win and Daw Khin Saw Wai explained the product's manufacturing process to the Senior General. The Senior General urged them to extend work establishment for more healthy production. — MNA/TTA

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

Government to implement a special plan to grow trees in Chauk Township and along both sides of roads

Buildings must be constructed in Chauk Township to provide shelter to older persons and unhealthy people in times of severe climatic conditions.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets departmental officials and town elders in Chauk, Magway Region, yesterday.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing remarked that residents have to plant trees in their residences and environments with water supply from the Ayeyawady River through water pumping projects.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and his entourage met departmental officials and town elders at the office of Chauk Township General Administration Department to talk about regional development tasks yesterday afternoon.

The Senior General heard reports from officials on arrangements for shelter for people in summer; more plans to build the shelters, requirements to grow

trees to thrive in the dry area, and removal for settlers from the oil field.

Union ministers discussed plans to grow at least two acres of trees in each village, technical assistance from staff from relevant departments to nurture saplings, requirements of collaborative efforts of the government and residents to green the dry zones to prevent desertification and production of cooking oil and cotton in Chauk District.

In his discussions, the Senior General said that the Chauk region needs to prepare land as local farmers use a large area of croplands, adding that local farmers have to use humus and waste from livestock breeding farms as natural fertilizers.

He stressed that surplus

meat, fish and eggs could be sold to the Bagan region and other regions where flocks of pilgrims visit to raise the socioeconomic life of the people.

The Senior General noted that it is necessary to successfully operate MSME businesses as the Chauk region has a fine tradition of an oil production industry.

In the education sector, the Senior General underlined that as MSME industries need qualified human resources, it is necessary to promote the education standard of the people in the Chauk region. Only when the number of educated people rises will the socioeconomic life of individuals improve, he added.

He urged local people to systematically manage their daily routine measures to ensure

peace and stability in the region in addition to forging the rule of law.

He also stressed that if temples and Gandakuti chambers are built in the region, residents can take shelter in these build-

ings to evade the impacts of the hot season, and these buildings will become religious landmarks in the future. After the meeting, the Senior General cordially met departmental officials and town elders. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General at the meeting with town elders in Chauk

- Residents have to plant trees in their residences and environments with water supply from the Ayeyawady River through water pumping projects.
- Chauk region needs to prepare the land as local farmers use a large area of croplands.
- It is necessary to successfully operate MSME businesses as the Chauk region has a fine tradition of an oil production industry.
- Temples and Gandakuti chambers built in the region for residents to take shelter during the hot season will become religious landmarks in the future.

NATIONAL

10th ASEAN-China Young Leaders Meeting held

A delegation consisting of two executives from the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) and five young people attended the 10th ASEAN-China Young Leaders Exchange Festival, held under the theme of ‘Better Youth and Future’, which took place from 21 to 24 May in Nanning City, Guangxi Province.

At the meeting, the Myanmar youth group had a friendly exchange with youth representatives from ASEAN member countries, sharing experienc-

es and cultural knowledge and performing Pyu-era cultural songs and dances.

ASEAN youth delegations went on excursions to Nanning City, the capital of Guangxi Province, and to Liuzhou, an industrial zone. — MNA/TKO

Youth representatives from ASEAN member countries to attend the 10th ASEAN-China Young Leaders Exchange Festival.



The photo depicts some passenger vessels and speed boats at the Myeik Archipelago.

No vessels allowed to sail to avoid storm risk in Myeik

THE Department of Marine Administration (Taninthayi Region) warned that all the ships, including passenger vessels, are not allowed to sail to prevent the storm risk in Myeik township.

The authorities have informed the Myeik Speed Boat Inspection Team, Myanma Port Authority, Committee for the Supervision of Orderly Operation of Private Vessels, and owners of coastal speed boats that all watercraft are not allowed to sail in the sea starting from 23 May due to

the storm warning.

Sailing permissions for vessels were temporarily suspended after the Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued a warning on 23 May that strong winds and waves may occur along the coast of Myanmar and in offshore waters.

At present, a weak storm is over the Bay of Bengal, and thunderstorms are expected in 13 regions, including Taninthayi, Kayin, Mon, and Rakhine, from the morning of 24 to 27 May. In some areas, widespread or scattered

heavy rains accompanied by strong winds is possible. The Meteorology and Hydrology Department has warned all of potential natural disasters such as flash floods and landslides.

Therefore, the department urged people living near highlands to be aware of the risk of landslides, those residing near small streams and rivers to be alert to potential flooding, and vessels navigating coastal Myanmar waters to take precautions in advance of the storm. — TWA/TRKM

Myanmar students, workers in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai get new passport service locations

THE location for providing passport services to Myanmar students and workers in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces will be changed, the Myanmar Embassy to Thailand announced on 24 May.

For students who are studying at universities and workers in northern Thailand, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces, the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok will no longer provide passport service from 27 May, and they can seek it at the Myanmar Consulate-General in Chiang Mai, it announced.

“It is better because Myanmar nationals here no longer need to go to Bangkok. So, it is convenient for both students and workers, and the embas-

sy’s functions will be eased. So I assumed it is good,” said Ko Maung Maung, who works on Myanmar workers’ affairs.

In recent years, Thailand has been one of the preferred destinations for Myanmar students to study, and the number of Myanmar students studying in these cities has grown recently.

Myanmar passport issuing team on 23 May released a list of eligible persons who applied for lost passports. Those who lost passports can come in person and collect them along with a copy of the ID card, a copy of the first page of the passport, a copy of the embassy’s endorsement, 4,900 baht and a bank receipt. — MT/ZS



The Myanmar Consulate-General in Chiang Mai.

NATIONAL

Only 2,950 MW of electricity generated under control in entire country



30MW Thapyaywa 3 and 30 MW Thazi solar power plants in Mandalay Region are commissioned into services.

ALTHOUGH generating capacity of electricity is about 4,200 megawatts per day for the whole country, some 2,950 megawatts per day is generated and supplied under control, according to the Ministry of Energy.

The Union Minister of Electric Power delivered as mentioned at the launching of the 30MW Thapyaywa 3 and 30 MW Thazi solar power plants in Mandalay Region held in

Nay Pyi Taw on 23 May.

Electrification is under control to supply about 1,250 megawatts to the people in the morning and evening times. The newly opened two solar power plants can generate 148 million kilowatt hours of electricity to be able to electrify some 99,000 households, according to the Union minister.

At present, implementation of the 500 kV Kankaung substation project is 79 per cent complete. At a time when the project is fully completed in coming December, the electricity generated by the power plants located in the northern part of the country will be fully fed to the southern part of the country through national grids. — TWA/TKO

Illegal digital currency converters face legal action

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) warned individuals not to get involved in exchanges of digital currencies, such as cryptocurrency, bitcoin (BTC), Litecoin (LTC), Ethereum (ETH) and Perfect Money (PM) through social media platforms (Facebook, websites), according to its directive 9/2020

released on 15 May 2020.

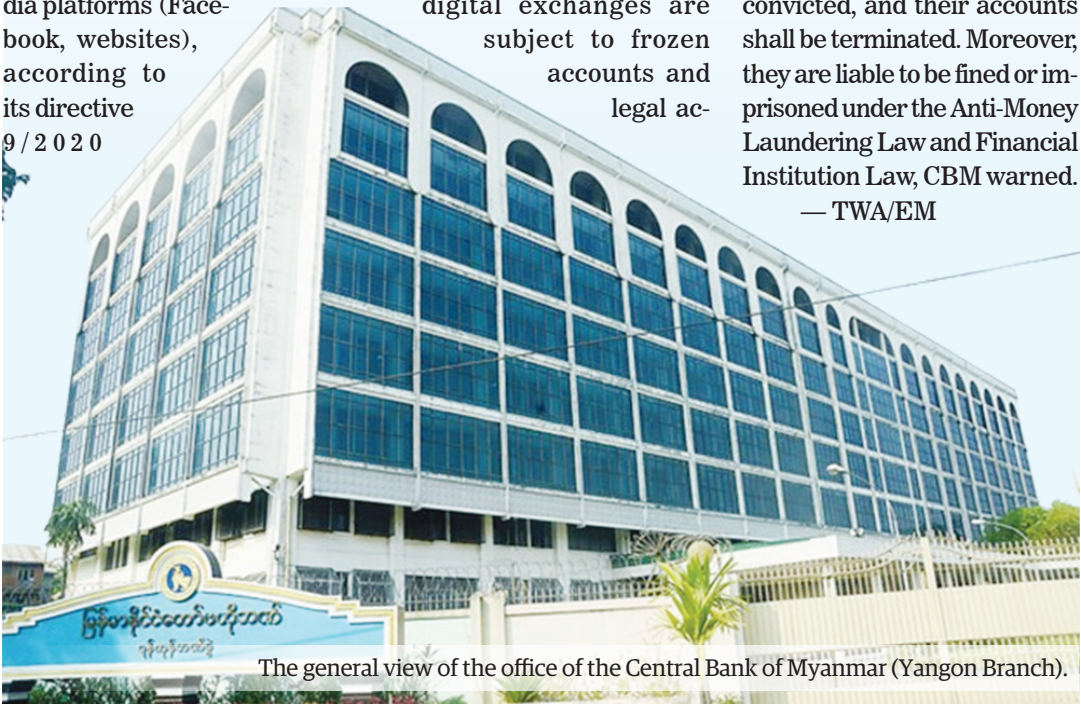
Nonetheless, illegal virtual currency conversion and illegal hundi money transfers with USDT (cryptocurrency) were found, notified CBM on 24 May 2024.

Those involved in illegal digital exchanges are subject to frozen accounts and legal ac-

tion under provisions stipulated by the Anti-Money Laundering Law and Financial Institution Law.

Therefore, the individuals need to follow the directive of the CBM. Those who are found to violate the prohibitions are convicted, and their accounts shall be terminated. Moreover, they are liable to be fined or imprisoned under the Anti-Money Laundering Law and Financial Institution Law, CBM warned.

— TWA/EM



The general view of the office of the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch).



Deep Depression Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 25-5-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the deep depression over Eastcentral Bay of Bengal has moved Northwards and centred at about (330) Nautical miles Northwest of Coco Island, (300) Nautical miles Northwest of Hainggyigyun, (265) Nautical miles West of Thandwe, (210) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Sittway (Myanmar), (220) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Khepupara (Bangladesh), (220) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Sagar Island and (245) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Canning (West Bengal, India).

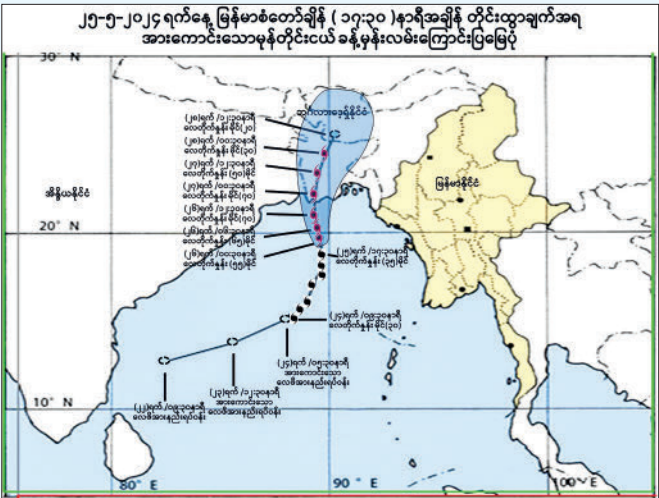
It has not directed towards Myanmar Coasts, the present stage of the deep depression is coded yellow stage.

POSITION OF DEEP DEPRESSION, CENTRE PRESSURE AND WIND: The deep depression is located at Latitude (18.4) degree North and Longitude (89.7) degree East, centre pressure of deep depression is (993) hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is (35) miles per hour at (17:30) hrs MST today.

DURING NEXT (36) HRS FORECAST: The deep depression is likely to move Northwards and further intensify into a Cyclonic Storm over Eastcentral Bay and adjoining North Bay of Bengal during next (6) hours. Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move Northwards and intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm over Northwest Bay and adjoining Northeast Bay of Bengal on 26-5-2024 morning. It may cross between Khepupara (Bangladesh) and adjoining West Bengal coasts, Sagar Island (India) on 26-5-2024 night.

GENERAL CAUTION: Under the influence of deep depression, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls in some regions and states along with strong winds from tonight to 27-5-2024. Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40-45 mph and wave height will be about 9-12 feet from 25-5-2024 to 26-5-2024. Frequent squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 50-60 mph and wave height will be about 13-18 feet from 25-5-2024 to 26-5-2024.

ADVISORY: Under the influence of deep depression, people should be aware heavy rain with strong wind, 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.



Research underway for high-yield paddy quality seed

THE Department of Agricultural Research and Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) are jointly undertaking high-yielding paddy research to achieve quality seed that is commercially valued in the international market.

Research is underway to obtain Kayinma Hteiksaung, Tunpu, Ngaseinyakyaw, and 90-day short-matured paddy seeds.

A demonstration event was held on 18 May at a paddy research farm in the central division of the Agriculture Research Department to transfer knowledge of efficiently storing Tunpu and 90-day paddy seeds and the benefits of quality seeds to farmers.

Dr Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, officials from the department, MRF and farmers

were present at the demonstration event.

The federation aims to achieve two million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March), bagging US\$1 million.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to European countries. The federation will make efforts to export quality rice to China, Indonesia, and the Philippines at reasonable prices, according to an official of the MRF.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the previous FY 2023-2024, generating earnings of \$1 billion. However, rice exports fell short of the target with only 1.6 million tonnes worth \$845 million.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control



Experts explain new high-yield quality seeds to farmers at a research farm.

export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, affirmed the Myanmar Rice Federation President.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. — NN/EM

FDA registers nearly 370 cosmetics in four months

A total of 369 cosmetic products were registered with The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the past four months (Jan-Apr), including new products and renewal of registration.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, the FDA has been supervising the market systematically to ensure the quality of cosmetics that are considered safe for use. According to the Post-Marketing Alert System (PMAS) Report, the 42 cosmetics made in the regional countries were found unregistered and containing toxic



File photo shows a cosmetics shop in Mudon Myoma Market, Mawlamyine District, being inspected by FDA officials.

substances and prohibited chemicals that are unsafe for use.

Those prohibited chemicals can cause skin irritation, swelling, rash, numbness, muscle cramps, fatigue, headaches, dizziness and depression. Long-term exposure to those substances can also result in kidney failure and other chronic diseases.

Thus, cosmetic importing companies, distributors, wholesalers and retailers should not ethically distribute unregistered cosmetics that are declared unsafe for use. The relevant authorities will take legal action against them under Section 3, Stanza 3 (D) of the Public Health Law for non-compliance. — NN/EM

VIFA ASEAN 2024 invites Myanmar businesspeople

VIFA ASEAN 2024, which will showcase modern and traditional furniture, home décor and handicrafts from the Southeast Asian regions, welcomes Myanmar businesspeople, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The VIFA ASEAN 2024 will take place on 27-30 August 2024 in Ho Chi Minh City at the Saigon Exhibition & Convention Centre (SECC), jointly organized by the Vietnam Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Lien Minh Company and Vietnam Coconut Association.

The exhibition is expected to attract 350 exhibitors with over 1,200 booths. It will be a gateway for exhibitors to meet with international furniture buyers, importers, wholesalers, retailers, designers and manufacturers. Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei and Timor-Leste will participate in the exhibition.

The organizer will provide four booths for the Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi. The exhibition fee is US\$1,845 per booth (three-metre length by three-metre width and 2.5-metre height). Those companies that register through the Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi will enjoy a 30 per cent discount, and it will cost only \$1,345 per booth.

Interested business entities, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and its delegates can enquire through the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization via email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com and contact numbers 067 408622 by 24 June. — NN/EM

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OPINION

Eradicate illegal trade in all means for booming State economy

GLOBAL countries are experiencing significant revenue losses across various sectors due to illegal trade, amounting to more than US\$2 trillion annually, according to a United Nations report. In the agricultural sector alone, the illicit trade of products is estimated to cost between US\$30 billion to US\$40 billion each year, according to the report.

Illegal drugs and counterfeit pharmaceuticals pose severe risks, including fatalities among children and environmental degradation from illicit chemical drugs. These threats are compounded by the inability to verify the authenticity of illegally traded drugs. Illegal trade and smuggling of medicine are the worst for consumers as these drugs may be dangerous.

In response, the government has established the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee to combat illegal trade systematically. Statistics indicate that from February to April 2024, special task forces across regions and states, along with

Businesspeople are urged to foster patriotism and integrity in their trading practices to prevent harm to the public and their livelihoods. Myanmar has solid foundations and human resources for development.

Despite facing economic sanctions, trade route blockages, and attempts to destabilize peace and commodity flow, collective efforts to overcome these challenges can lead to improvements in the state economy and trade sector. That will also help reduce the depreciation of the Myanmar currency in legal trade transactions.

and capital goods.

The escalation of illegal trade in the ASEAN region results in significant monetary losses for governments and legal businesses, and it severely impacts biodiversity, human lives, and human rights. Industries involved in cigarettes, liquor, beverages, toys and game accessories, auto parts, medicines, agricultural chemicals, pesticides, and copyright-protected goods face substantial losses due to illegal trade.

Businesspeople are urged to foster patriotism and integrity in their trading practices to prevent harm to the public and their livelihoods. Myanmar has solid foundations and human resources for development. Despite facing economic sanctions, trade route blockages, and attempts to destabilize peace and commodity flow, collective efforts to overcome these challenges can lead to improvements in the state economy and trade sector. That will also help reduce the depreciation of the Myanmar currency in legal trade transactions.

Pandemic agreement talks end without a deal

NEGOTIATIONS on a landmark global agreement on handling future pandemics ended Friday without a deal — though countries said they wanted to keep pushing for an accord.

Scarred by the devastation caused by Covid-19 — which killed millions of people, shredded economies and crippled health systems — countries have spent two years trying to hammer out binding commitments on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

The talks gathered momentum in the final weeks, but failed to meet a final deadline before next week’s World Health Assembly — the annual gathering of the World Health Organization’s 194 member states.

“This is not a failure,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus insisted as the talks ended at the UN health agency’s headquarters in Geneva.

He urged countries to see it



In the lead-up to the World Health Assembly, discussions intensified in the last few weeks, yet they ultimately fell short of reaching a final agreement before the upcoming assembly. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

as a “good opportunity to re-energise”.

“The world still needs a pandemic treaty and the world needs to be prepared,” he commented.

‘We’re not finished’

The assembly, which runs from Monday until 1 June, will take stock and decide what to do next.

The talks co-chairs Roland Driece and Precious Matsoso told

AFP that countries clearly wanted to reach a final agreement.

“It’s not the end,” stressed Matsoso, noting that the same ministers who decided they wanted a pandemic agreement would be the ones deciding on the next steps.

“They are the ones who are going to say, ‘OK, you haven’t finished this. Please go back, finalize it,’” she said.

Driece said the draft they would send to the assembly was “not an agreed document, but it is a document — and we started with a blank sheet of paper. With nothing.”

“I would think it would be very stupid if they would not finish this,” he said.

After arm-twisting, horse-trading and 3 am finishes as the talks ramped up, Matsoso said 17 pages out of 32 had been fully agreed by countries.

SOURCE: AFP

Rain and Truth

မိုးကြီးမိုးဟည်း
မိုးသည်းသောခါ
နွေသေပါလိမ့်
သစ္စာတရားအရှိသားပေါ့

when great rain
thundering rain
heavy rain falls
the summer will die

’tis the truth,
abiding truth

By Ko Lay (Inwa Goan Yi);
Translated by Myint Zan

Aroma

By Chit Ko Pe

On a scorching day in the paddy field,
a sweaty damsel works with a will
taking a short rest beside the hill.
At dusk, on the way back home nearer,
aroma spreads from royal Thazin flowers
that she dons and wears in her hair.

တစ်နေ့ကုန် နေပူကုန်
လယ်ထဲက လုံမပျို
ချွေးရွှေရီရီ
ရိုးမ တောင်တန်းညို
ရိပ်ရိ တစ်ထောက်နား။
ဆံကသာ ဦးခေါင်းပေါ်
တော်ဝင်စံ သဇင်ပန်းနဲ့
ရွာလမ်းဝင် ညခင်းမှာ
မွှေးသင်းနံ့ပွား။
ချစ်ကိုဖေ

Book Title - Lannkhwegyin Anupyinna Hnint Achar Yattha Sardanmyar

Writer - Maung Khine Latt

Publishing House - Duwun Sarpay

Publication Date - March 2024 (1st Edition)

Price - K7,000

their hands at a funeral. As we all know, people clap when they are happy. To my great surprise, the Italians clap their hands at the funeral. They show respect for the dead person by clapping. According to their belief, people have received the clappings throughout their lives. Nonetheless, all the clappings do not mean praising. Some clappings are done to please the clap receivers. This being so, the clappings can involve the pretence. But the clapping at the funeral does not include the pretence because there is no reason to please the one who is dead and gone. Therefore, the clapping at the funeral is done with a sincere mind.

In the essay titled “Lannkhwegyin Anupyinyar”, the writer said with respect to the art of departing the people. He said that there is always a time for a person to leave his companions, friends, partners and spouses or boyfriends and girlfriends. When thinking of departure, termination counts. After pondering over the consequences, we have to decide if we should leave a person behind. Once determined, we should not turn around. That is what he calls the art of departing the people.

Book Title - Lettunt Maung Hman Hnint Ah-cha Ah-htay Ah-Ngaw Myar

Writer - Maung Hman

Publishing House - Yan Aung

Publication Date - October 2018 (1st Edition)

Price - K1,500

LOOKING at the books on the bookshelf of the bookstall of the City Mart, I spotted this book among the new arrivals. This book under review was written by Maung Hman. Although he is not known as a satirist, he has written this one in a satirical style. I saw the book among the new arrivals; this book was published in 2018, though. As it was written in the period of the civilian government, the situation may be different from that of today. The readers should not forget this. Nevertheless, the problem that has occurred in those days is not very different from that of today. This being so, the book is worth reading anyway.

The book opens with the scenarios of the matriculates struggling with their studies to take the final examination, defying the sweltering summer. In fact, they have weathered many a summer, so it should not be a problem to be able to bear the intense heat. They are thus strongly believed to overcome the summer woes. On the part of their parents, they are ready, willing and prepared to spend their wealth on their offspring’s education lavishly. They would not mind spending millions of kyats on their children’s preparation for the examination as they know education is the best investment for the future of their children. Amidst this situation, Maung Hman, the writer, has raised his doubt about the worthiness of investment in their children’s education. He has

he admitted.

Nonetheless, Maung Hman knows very well that a new education system cannot bear fruits overnight as the leaders are not the magicians who can use the mantras to make things happen outright. We cannot get clean water just after digging the well, as the saying goes. He is overly fond of this saying as he is in favour of procrastination. Finally, Maung Hman realized that he had set high expectations for the new democratic government.

He also said that the English question was rather difficult that year. He has pointed out that the question does not need to be extremely difficult to raise the education standard. He is pretty ironic when talking about a talk show held at a school in which a writer-cum-teacher said those who do not have a degree will become a trishaw operator. At the end of the talk show, four or five young men arrived and told the orator that they were operating the trishaw although they were holding a bachelor’s degree. Regarding the high prices of the commodities, the writer does not say that the prices are not high; the prices have just changed. The book contains 30 satirical articles.

NATIONAL

Entertainment



Aung Khit Minn Film Production ready for new movie 'King'

AUNG KHIT MINN Film Production will release its new movie 'King', according to Academy May Myint Mo, who is the lead character. Writer Byuu created the story, and Pho Kyaw (Thanlyin) made the script, directed by director Soe Moe Min.

"I am a daughter of Amay Cho (Cho Pyone). This movie is about the simple lives of a mother and daughter. It is also a brother-and-sister lifestyle with five actors. It will be a good movie as it was created from a novel by writer Byuu. There will be a good chance for all characters. Director Soe Moe Min directs it, and it will be an interesting story," the actress said.

The cast will be Kyaw Htet Zaw, Bhone Min Nay La, Tay Za Lin Yaung, Win Khant Moe, Willie, Academy May Myint Mo, academy Cho Pyone, academy Tekkatho Goon Pone, and other artistes. — ASH/KTZH

Artistes of the 'King' movie.



Aung Yay Chan
Actor Aung Yay Chan, who got married in January, received the applause of fans for MRTV4's 'Kyama Ka Ma Hay Thi' series again. The actor mentioned the role of media and Facebook that should be used for good purposes as the Black Media makes people bad ones.



Connie
Singer Connie donated to Thawbhta Linkara Buddhism Learning Centre in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Yangon on the full moon day of Kason and poured water onto the banyan tree at the centre. She also urged the people to make donations for the construction of the four-storey Sangha building.



Hein Thit
Actor Hein Thit donated food boxes for the pilgrims to Shwedagon pagoda on the full moon day of Kason together with singer Po Po. The actor mentioned that he made donations with his earnings from his career and profits from Hti Mi Gwi food products, fried vermicelli, and noodle boxes for 2,000 people.

J Me & Ar T
THE concert of famous singers J Me and AR-T took place at Suniram Park at No 20 Thukhawady Street, Yankin Township, on 25 May. The event, called "The B1G Day in Levitate", marks the 1st anniversary of Levitate and includes a showcase of "Who's the 1?" Winners in "Hip Hop Community", and collaboration of "FYC Crew and RVC Crew", according to Levitate.



Celebrity Brief

Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi
Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi and her husband donated offertories on the birthday celebration of Aung Zabu Sayadaw on the full moon day of Kason. She also donated K30 million for monastery construction to Sayadaw Ashin Hsekinda and day meals to 300 monks who sit for State Dhamma Cariya and Phahtamapyan exams, marking the one-month remembrance of her late father on 14 May.



Bobby Soxer
Singer Bobby Soxer's birthday was 22 May, and her fans sent her Mini-Mes as birthday presents. (Mini-Me can refer to any small or diminutive version of a person or thing, often implying a close resemblance or a simplified, smaller-scale copy). Her fans also made birthday wishes for her on their Facebook pages. — Htun Htun/KTZH

WORLD

Putin says ready to continue talks with Ukraine, but on previous agreements

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed readiness to resume negotiations with Ukraine, insisting that any talks must adhere to previously agreed-upon terms.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia is ready to continue negotiations with Ukraine, but only based on the agreements reached before. “Well, let them (negotiations) return, but not from what one side wants, but based on those agreements reached during negotiations in Belarus and Türkiye and based on the current situation on the ground,” Putin told a press conference following talks with his Belarusian counterpart, Aleksandr Lukashenko, in Minsk.

The Istanbul agreements satisfied both the Ukrainian and the Russian sides in 2022, Putin said, adding that Russia supports the resumption of negotiations with Ukraine. — Xinhua



Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko (R) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin during their meeting in Minsk, Belarus, on 24 May 2024. **PHOTO: PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS OFFICIAL WEBSITE/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

Singapore, Kazakhstan to deepen development connectivity

Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam received President Tokayev, and both leaders expressed mutual appreciation for enhanced connectivity and people-to-people exchange through initiatives such as education, cultural exchanges, and tourism.



Astana is located in the northern region of Kazakhstan, nestled along the Ishim River within the Akmola Region. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

SINGAPORE and Kazakhstan have signed agreements in economic cooperation, higher education, intellectual property rights protection, legal cooperation, security cooperation, and standards, Singapore’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement Friday. The agreements were signed during Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev’s state visit to Singapore from Wednesday to Friday.

Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam received Tokayev. Both presidents welcomed stronger connectivity and people-to-people exchange through education, cultural exchanges, and tourism. Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Tokayev discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in areas including education, food security, green energy, and digitalization. — Xinhua

NEWS ROUNDUP

India, US discuss opportunities to strengthen space cooperation

US Acting Assistant Secretary of Defence for Space Policy Vipin Narang and India’s Joint Secretary for International Cooperation, Vishwesh Negi, met for the second annual US-India Advanced Domains Defence Dialogue (AD3) at Pentagon in Washington, DC on Thursday. During the dialogue, Narang and Negi discussed opportunities to strengthen space cooperation and identified potential areas for collaboration with US industry, according to the statement released by the US Department of Defence Spokesperson Cmdr Jessica Anderson provided the following statement:

In a press release, Anderson stated, “The dialogue executes a commitment by the US Secretary of Defence and Indian Minister of Defence during the 2022 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue to deepen collaboration on evolving and emerging defence domains, including space.” — ANI

Chile firefighter accused in February blaze that killed 137

A firefighter was arrested Friday in Chile on suspicion of starting a blaze in February that killed 137 people in the resort city of Vina del Mar, authorities said.

“An arrest warrant was issued today against the person who started the fires in February in the Valparaiso region,” where Vina del Mar is located, police director Eduardo Cerna told a news conference. Several fires broke out simultaneously on 2 February around the coastal city of Vina del Mar, 70 miles (110 kilometres) northwest of Chile’s capital Santiago. The inferno, the second deadliest in the world this century, was fuelled by winds and a heatwave that saw temperatures of around 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit). — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan to work with ASEAN to train 100,000 digital professionals

Japan and ASEAN will develop a 10-year strategy to promote the next-generation automobile industry.



Japan and ASEAN will formulate a decade-long strategy to come out on top of the next-generation automobile industry. Panasonic Corp's self-driving delivery robot runs in a residential area in Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ KYODO**

JAPAN aims to work with ASEAN to train 100,000 highly skilled digital professionals in the fields of artificial intelligence and semiconductors over the next five years, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Thursday.

The initiatives come amid efforts to bolster cooperation

with the 10-member regional bloc. Japan and ASEAN will additionally develop a 10-year strategy through 2035 to promote the next-generation automobile industry, with the plan to be unveiled in the fall, Kishida said.

The strategy will be formu-

lated in cooperation with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, headquartered in Jakarta.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

South Africa tops Africa in WEF's tourism index

SOUTH AFRICA has ranked highest in the African region in the 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) of the World Economic Forum (WEF), the country's Department of Tourism said in a statement issued on Thursday.

South Africa was ranked 55th among 119 countries and emerged as the leading country in the rankings for the African continent in the second edition of the index released earlier this week by the WEF.

The 2024 TTDI, which covers 119 economies and measures the set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable and resilient development of the travel and tourism sector, also revealed that South Africa is home to the largest travel and tourism economy in Africa.

"We are extremely pleased with this ranking as it affirms our commitment and work to elevate the significance and contribution of the tourism sector in South Africa," said South African Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille, as quoted in the statement. — Xinhua

Means of production prices mixed in China

THE capital goods monitored by China's statistical authorities registered mixed prices in mid-May compared with early May, official data showed Friday.

Of the 50 major goods classified in nine categories, including seamless steel tubes, gasoline, coal, fertilizer, and some chemicals, 24 reported higher prices in the period, 19 saw price declines, and seven recorded an unchanged price, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

During this period, hog prices went up two percent, the NBS data revealed.

These figures, released every 10 days, are based on a survey of nearly 2,000 wholesalers and distributors in 31 provincial-level regions across the country. — Xinhua

Celebrations as new biopiracy treaty agreed at UN

The treaty, supported by over 190 nations, seeks to combat biopiracy by requiring patent applicants to disclose the origins of the materials used in their inventions.

REPRESENTATIVES of Indigenous peoples celebrated Friday at the United Nations following the agreement of a treaty against the pillaging of their traditional knowledge and genetic resources, like those from medicinal plants.

The new treaty, agreed by more than 190 nations, aims to combat so-called biopiracy by making applicants for patents disclose the origins of such ma-

terials used in a new invention.

Genetic resources — such as those found in medicinal plants, agricultural crops and animal breeds — are increasingly used by companies in everything from cosmetics to seeds, medicines, biotechnology and food supplements.

The idea is to increase intellectual property transparency on Indigenous people's traditional knowledge about resources, but

the treaty does not address potential compensation for those communities. The treaty is the culmination of more than 20 years of work at the UN's innovation and patenting agency — the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). "Here we are not simply making history but the foundation for a sustainable future for all," the Indigenous Caucus group said after the deal was struck. — AFP



The treaty was agreed at the UN's WIPO agency. **PHOTO: AFP**

China-Europe freight train trips surpass 90,000

A fully-loaded train departed from Xi'an, China, destined for Malaszewicze, Poland, marking a significant milestone as China-Europe freight train trips surpass 90,000.

A train fully loaded with diverse goods departed from Xi'an, the capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province on Saturday morning, bound for Malaszewicze, Poland, marking a significant milestone as the total number of China-Europe freight train trips has surpassed 90,000.

To date, China-Europe freight trains have trans-

ported more than 8.7 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers of goods, valued at US\$380 billion, according to China State Railway Group Co Ltd (China Railway).

From 2016 to 2023, the annual number of China-Europe freight train trips surged from 1,702 to over 17,000. The value of goods transported by this service skyrocketed from

\$8 billion in 2016 to \$56.7 billion in 2023. The types of commodities transported via the China-Europe freight trains have expanded from IT products such as laptops and printers at the beginning to over 50,000 different types, including clothing and footwear, automobiles and parts, daily necessities, food, timber, furniture, chemicals and machinery. — Xinhua



Freight train X8157, which is bound for Malaszewicze, Poland, departs from Xi'an, the capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 25 May 2024. PHOTO: ZHANG BOWEN/XINHUA

Eiffel Tower ticket prices to rise by 20%

PARIS city hall on Friday voted to increase the Eiffel Tower adult admission price by 20 per cent from next month to help pay for urgent renovation work.

Visitors currently

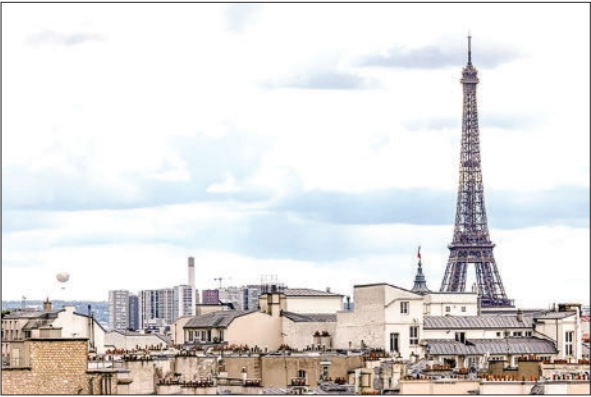
pay 29.40 euros (\$31.90) for a ride by lift to the top of the Eiffel tower, a price tag that is set to rise to 35.30 euros on 17 June.

The Paris city council also backed a recapital-

isation for Eiffel Tower operator SETE, and lowered the annual fee it charges the operator for running one of the world's most famous monuments.

Lower visitor numbers during the Covid pandemic combined with spiralling renovation costs have pushed SETE deep into deficit.

Staff at the Eiffel Tower went on strike earlier this year, protesting against what unions said was insufficient investment. The Eiffel Tower booked a shortfall of around 120 million euros during the Covid pandemic in 2020 and 2021. — AFP



Ticket price hike is to help pay for urgent renovation work. PHOTO: AFP

Japan on alert for unseasonal swarm of stink bugs that feed on fruit

JAPAN is bracing for a swarm of stink bugs that can attack tree fruits, with an unusually large number of prefectures already issuing alerts.

Of Japan's 47 prefectures, 30 from west to east, including Tokyo, had issued stink bug alerts as of

Friday, according to Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries data. The tally is in contrast to the previous 10 years, when the number of prefectures issuing stink bug alerts between January and May averaged around five but never topped 15.

The number of insects has already been rising and is expected to surge further following the summer breeding season.

Warmer temperatures appear to be one of the factors contributing to the insect outbreak. — Kyodo

Transferring Registered Pesticides

Registered pesticides distributing by Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd in the territory of Myanmar for the product as following are transferring from Guangxi Baike Biological Technology Co.,Ltd. former producer to Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd as per mutual consent from both parties. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Byter Hero	Thiamethoxam 25% WG	P2019-4654

Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd.
No.125-127, Kha 11st, Myoe Thit (A+B) Quarter, Inn Sein Township, Yangon.

Transferring Registered Pesticides

Registered pesticides distributing by Myanmar Kete Co.,Ltd in the territory of Myanmar for the product as following are transferring from Guangxi Baike Biological Technology Co.,Ltd. former producer to Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd as per mutual consent from both parties. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Byter Say Kyain Lone	Bacillus thuringiensis 8000IU/ul SC	P2019-4778

Myanmar Kete Co.,Ltd.
No.125-127, Kha 11st, Myoe Thit (A+B) Quarter, Inn Sein Township, Yangon.

Transferring Registered Pesticides

Registered pesticides distributing by Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd in the territory of Myanmar for the product as following are transferring from Jingbo Agrochemicals Technology Co.,Ltd. former producer to Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd as per mutual consent from both parties. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Dab Hand 23 EC	Emamectin Benzoate 2.3%EC	P2019-4656

Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd.
No.125-127, Kha 11st, Myoe Thit (A+B) Quarter, Inn Sein Township, Yangon.

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Falling UK energy bills grab election spotlight

The announcement coincides with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's call for a general election on 4 July, with his Conservative party trailing behind the Labour party in opinion polls.

BRITAIN'S energy regulator on Friday announced a fall in household bills from July, catapulting a key cost-of-living issue into the second day of general election campaigning.

The cap on energy bills for most UK households will drop seven per cent on sliding wholesale costs, regulator Ofgem revealed, yet it remains well above its pre-Covid peak.

The annual amount suppliers are allowed to charge an average household consuming electricity and gas in England, Scotland and Wales will decline to £1,568 (\$1,990) from £1,690 from 1 July.

It was already lowered in April.

The announcement comes



The announcement comes two days after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak fired the starting gun on a 4 July general election. **PHOTO: DARREN STAPLES/POOL/AFP/FILE**

two days after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak fired the starting gun on a 4 July general election — with his governing Conservatives far behind the main opposition Labour party in opinion polls.

Conservative ministers immediately seized on the price drop, arguing it was further evidence that Sunak was turning around the UK economy, even if critics insist it is more down to market forces than government policy amid on ongoing cost-of-living crunch.

“This is the second biggest big cut that we’ve seen,” said energy minister Claire Coutinho, describing it as “really welcome news”. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE engages global community on path to 2026 UN Water Conference

This week, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs' delegation headed by Abdulla Balalaa, Assistant Minister for Energy and Sustainability, attended the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, participating in high-level panels, bilateral meetings and sessions focused on practical steps to address challenges related to water security.

The UAE has always seen climate action as an opportunity to contribute practical solutions to a global problem that affects us all, underscored most recently by its hosting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) where water held a central role in the climate agenda.

During COP28, the UAE showcased its commitment towards addressing the urgent threat of global water scarcity where a pledge of US\$150 million for water scarcity solutions was announced. — ANI

EU discusses possible role monitoring Gaza border crossing

THE European Union is studying whether it could play a role monitoring the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt after Israel's war with Hamas ends, officials said Friday.

The 27-nation bloc set up a mission in 2005 to help monitor the crossing but that was suspended two years later after militant Islamists Hamas took control of Gaza.

“We received demarches from different parties including Israel whether we could study the possibility to reopen it (the EU mission),” a high-ranking EU official said. — AFP

Japan's Princess Kako heads to Greece to mark 125 years of ties

This will be her third official overseas trip, following visits to Austria and Hungary in 2019 and Peru in November last year.

JAPAN'S Princess Kako, a niece of Emperor Naruhito, left Tokyo for Greece on Saturday for a trip to mark 125 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the countries.

It will be the third official overseas visit of the younger daughter of Crown Prince Fumihito and Crown Princess Kiko, following her trips to Austria and Hungary in 2019 and Peru in November last year.

Her trip through 1 June coincides with the commemoration of the “Year of Culture and Tourism Between Japan and Greece”.

In the Greek capital Athens, the princess will pay a courtesy call to President Katerina Sakellariopoulou and attend a commemorative event for the 125th anniversary, according to the Imperial Household Agency.

The princess's itinerary also includes visiting the Parthenon, situated in the World Heritage Site of the Acropolis of Athens. She is also scheduled to tour a facility for the hearing-impaired and an orphanage.— Kyodo



Japan's Princess Kako prepares to depart for Greece from Tokyo's Haneda airport on 25 May 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SPORTS

Nadal ready for emotional French Open farewell



Give my all': Rafael Nadal waves to spectators as he leaves the court after taking part in a practice session at the French Open. **PHOTO: AFP**

RAFAEL Nadal, a legendary figure in tennis with 14 French Open titles under his belt, prepares to bid adieu to his illustrious 19-year career at Roland Garros. Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic faces uncertainties and injury woes ahead of the tournament, setting the stage for an intriguing and potentially unpredictable French Open.

Rafael Nadal will bring down the curtain on his 19-year French Open career with the likelihood of adding to his 14 titles greatly diminished before he leaves behind a record and reputation unlikely ever to be matched. — AFP

World Cup qualifier between North Korea and Myanmar to be held in Laos

THE final group match of the 2026 World Cup Asia Zone second-round qualifiers will be held in Laos, where Myanmar will face North Korea.

The North Korean team was initially scheduled to play all three games in the second round of World Cup qualifiers at home. However, the match against the Japanese team versus North Korea, expected to be played on 26 March, was postponed by the North

Korean side when the match day was approaching, so FIFA awarded the Japanese team a 3-0 win.

The North Korean team had two remaining group games to play, and it was not convenient to host both of these games at home, so they decided to play in Laos.

The North Korean team will play against the Syrian squad on 6 June and the Myanmar team on 11 June. In the first round of the meeting, the North Korean team defeated the Syrian squad 1-0 and won the Myanmar team by 6-1.

In Group B of the second round of World Cup qualifiers, Japan is leading with 12 points, Syria securing seven points, and North Korea collecting three points, but Myanmar is gaining only one point. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

A Myanmar player (white) approaches the North Korean player (red) and tries to clear the ball during their previous meet of the World Cup qualifiers. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**



Yangon reaches MNL cup final with win over Yadanabon



Yangon United's Okkar Naing (21) vies for the ball with Yadanabon FC's Nyein Chan Soe (7) during the Myanmar National League Cup semifinal at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 25 May 2024. **PHOTO: MFF**

YANGON United defeated Yadanabon FC 3-1 at the semifinal match of the Myanmar National League Cup 2024 semifinal played at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna in Yangon yesterday.

As soon as the game start-

ed, Yangon United dominated the opponents. Yadanabon FC, which is less skilled than the previous Myanmar National League season, had to rely on counterplay and made some mistakes in the back. By taking advantage of the Yadanabon defenders who

lost focus, Gideon Tetteh opened a goal for team Yangon at the 10-minute mark.

But, with a quick counter-attack, Yadanabon's Sitt Mone scored an equalizer at 20 minutes to make the result 1-1. Both teams were tied at the interval.

In the second half, Yadanabon's players, whose skills and enthusiasm rose, were able to respond fiercely to the Yangon's players. The second goal for team Yangon was seen at 69 minutes as Gideon Tetteh created a beautiful goal amid the massive defence line. Again, Yan Kyaw Htwe produced the third and leading goal for team Yangon at 76 minutes.

At the final whistle, Yangon United garnered a 3-1 victory over Yadanabon to advance to the final of the Myanmar National League Cup 2024. In turn, Myanmar National League defending champion Shan United will face Dagon Star United in the other semifinal match of the Myanmar National League Cup at Thuwunna UTC in Yangon at 4 pm today. — GNLM

Man Utd stun Man City in FA Cup final to give Ten Hag hope of avoiding the sack

ERIK ten Hag made a convincing case to be spared the sack as Manchester United upset Manchester City to win the FA Cup with a shock 2-1 victory in Saturday's final. Ten Hag was reportedly set to be dismissed regardless of the result at Wembley after a troubled campaign that even the United manager described as "terrible" this week. But United's hierarchy might be having second thoughts after Ten Hag's tactical masterclass ruined City's history bid. City were hot favourites to win a second successive Premier League and FA Cup double. Yet Ten Hag found a way to neutralize Pep Guardiola's side as first half goals from Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo put United on course to win the FA Cup for the first time in eight years. — AFP



Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder Bruno Fernandes (8) lifts the trophy to celebrate their victory at the end of the English FA Cup final football match between Manchester City and Manchester United at Wembley stadium, in London, on 25 May 2024. **PHOTO AFP**



A team of Chinese scientists has revealed the extensive evolutionary history of rice, spanning an astonishing 100,000 years, tracing its transition from wild to domesticated forms. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Study reveals 100,000-year evolution from wild to domesticated rice

Rice, a dietary staple for billions globally, has played a significant role in shaping Chinese civilization.

A team of Chinese scientists has unveiled the continuous evolutionary history of rice, tracing its journey from wild to domesticated over an astounding period of 100,000 years. The findings published on Friday in the journal *Science* not only shed new light on the progression of human society and the origins of agricultural civilization, but also present compelling evidence that China is the birthplace of rice.

The cultivation and domestication of rice, a dietary staple for billions worldwide, have exerted a significant influence on the

evolution of Chinese civilization.

Scholars from various academic fields have long been captivated by the study of how humans first began cultivating wild rice and the evolutionary journey from wild to cultivated strains. Archaeological findings of rice at sites like Hemudu and Shangshan in the Yangtze River's middle and lower valleys since the 1970s have shed light on the region's pivotal role as a cradle for rice cultivation.

However, identifying well-preserved markers that differentiate wild from cultivated rice in the region, dating back

to the last glacial maximum, and elucidating the mechanisms and processes behind early human exploitation, cultivation and domestication of wild rice, continued to be central challenges in archaeological research.

The research team that led by Professor Lyu Houyuan from the Institute of Geology and Geophysics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences conducted a systematic study on phytoliths in modern wild and domesticated rice plants and soils. They found that the increase in the number of fish-scale facets on the bulliform phytoliths correlates with the trait of domestication. Based on these findings, they developed a standard for distinguishing wild rice from its domesticated counterparts. — Xinhua

Older Japanese men making up for lost time by dipping into cosmetics

This surge in demand is attributed to men paying more attention to their appearance in video and online meetings, which became more prevalent during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

JAPANESE men are increasingly turning to cosmetics and skin care to sharpen up their image, with those in their 40s and older seemingly becoming more conscious about how they present to important clients and customers.

The market grew about 1.7-fold from 2017 to 43.3 billion yen (\$275 million) in 2023, according to major Japanese marketing research firm Intage Inc., as men focused more on how they appear in the video and online meetings that became much more common during and after the coronavirus pandemic. — Kyodo



Men are given make-up tips in Tokyo in a session offered by Shiseido Japan Co on 14 March 2024. **PHOTO: SHISEIDO JAPAN CO. /KYODO**

Istanbul's century-old streetcar gets a makeover

Beloved Istanbul trams, iconic for locals and tourists, to be replaced by modern streetcars, signalling the end of a century-old era.

ISTANBUL'S emblematic red and white trams, built over 100 years ago and loved by both locals and tourists, are about to give way to a more modern streetcar. The tramway has become a symbol of Istanbul's most popular shopping street, Istiklal Avenue, which runs for 1.4 kilometres (0.9 miles) on the European side of the city.

Put into service in 1914, the original streetcars have undergone regular touch-ups, without ever betraying their historical look.

The new battery-powered

trams, from their wooden floor to their reversible seats, stay faithful to the look of their predecessors.

Two cameras on either side of the vehicles replace the old rear-view mirrors, giving drivers better visibility and enabling them to drive seated.

"It's a very good thing that they are modernising the tram. The new one hasn't changed the nostalgic aspect of the old one," said local Gonul Murtekin, who travels with her grandson. — AFP



The century-old trams have become a symbol of Istanbul's Istiklal Avenue. **PHOTO: YASIN AKGUL/AFP**