

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

SUNDAY EDITION

OPINION

Prevent the loss of cultivable lands in various forms

PAGE 8

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



Myanmar pulse exports exceed 740,000 tonnes, worth US\$642M by 12 July

NATIONAL

PAGE 11



YCDC's Central Lab monitors 37 water quality parameters daily

Waso robes donated to venerable Sayadaws to mark first anniversary of consecration for Maravijaya Buddha Image



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents Waso robes and offerings to Presiding Patron of Paukmyaing Monastery from Lewe Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Janinda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offered Waso robes and alms at the ceremony to mark the first anniversary of the consecration for Maravijaya Buddha Image, which took place at Aggadhipati Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Before the ceremony, the Senior General offered alms in the alms bowl, fruits, flowers, water and oil lights to the Maravijaya Naungdawgyi Buddha Image in the Beikman.

SEE PAGE 3

Be Proud with "DAGON"

Sales Department- Ph-01 651177, 09 694965080
STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 263147385
KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244
STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pyinmanar.Ph- 09 685119077



NATIONAL



Devotees flock to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw on the Full Moon Day of Waso, yesterday.

FAMOUS pagodas, temples, and stupas across the country were densely thronged on the full moon day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day), with people who kept the Sabbath and did good deeds. Pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw were also bustling with those who did good deeds on the full moon day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day). Pilgrims visited Maravijaya Buddha Image, Aggadhipadi Sasana Beikman, Kyauksaryone Pagoda and other religious buildings in Nay

Nay Pyi Taw pagodas overflow with worshippers on Dhammacakka Day

Pyi Taw. People donated Waso robe to the Uppatasanti Pagoda on the full moon day and kept Sabbath. They also donated oil lights to the pagoda in the evening. Pilgrims also did good

deeds at Letlok Hill Shwenanthwin Pagoda, Shwelwantaung Pagoda, Nayaungpyainn Pagoda, Yanaungmyay Pagoda, Phaungtawchekma Pagoda, Pyinmana Phayakoesu Pagoda, Culamuni Pagoda, Sutaungya

Sutaungpyae Pagoda, Satasattaha Mahabodhi Pagoda and four noble places of Buddha named Thanwai Zaniya Four Places and monasteries and meditation centres. Also, since Dhammacakka

Day is also a public holiday, Nay Pyi Taw's recreation areas were also packed with people who were having fun and relaxing. The full moon of Waso is held at a special place in the Buddhist traditional manner. It marks the day when the Lord Buddha proclaimed His Enlightenment, the emergence of the Sangha (the monastic community), and an opportunity for laypersons to aspire to a noble life. — MNA/KZL



People from Nay Pyi Taw and its surrounding areas visit pagodas and recreation destinations, including the Uppatasanti Pagoda yesterday.

Pagodas in and around Mandalay flocked with people doing good deeds on Waso Full Moon Day

AS the full moon day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day) is the most sacred day for Buddhists, people flocked to pagodas, temples, and stupas all over the country yesterday, making efforts to increase Dhamma worship, reciting and offering Dhamma talks in neighbourhoods and streets, and presenting Waso robes and flowers. Similarly, at temples, pagodas, stupas, and monasteries in and around Mandalay, Buddhist monks and people gathered for religious merit, including offerings, presenting flowers and robes, donating alms, and re-

leasing animals, starting from early morning. Additionally, in towns, villages, and neighbourhood religious halls, people were captivated by the sounds of religious chants and engaged in offering Waso robes and food to monks. Today, not only residents but also monks across the country come to Mandalay's famous Mahamuni Buddha Image. They offered golden robes, food, water, flowers, oil lamps, and other offerings. Similarly, temples and pagodas in the eastern region,

such as Maha Lawka Yanhnein Aungdawmu Pagoda, Candamuni Pagoda, Kuthodaw Pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Mandalay Hill, Shwekyimyin Pagoda, Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda, and Waiyawsana Jade Pagoda, were crowded with pilgrims. Likewise, famous locations in Mandalay, such as City Park on Strand Road, Yadanabon Zoo on the east side of the moat, and U Bein Bridge in Amarapura Township, were also crowded with people from all over the country. — Maung Aye Chan/TKO



Pagodas in Mandalay are packed with full of pilgrims on the Full Moon Day of Waso in Mandalay.

NATIONAL



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries take the Five Precepts from Presiding Patron of Paukmyaing Monastery from Lewe Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Janinda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

FROM PAGE 1

Presiding Patron of Paukmyaing Monastery from Lewe Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Janinda administered the Five Precepts before members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

The Senior General donated Waso robes and offerings to Paukmyaing Sayadaw.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win also offered Waso robes and donations to Presiding Patron of Maha Thiyanada Monastery of Tatkon State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Acinna.

The SAC Secretary, the Joint Secretary, council members and Union-level dignitaries donated Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Presiding Patron of Pyinmana’s Pali Tekkatho Mingalazeyon Monastery Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Also present at the ceremony were Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and attendees offered day meals to

Waso robes donated to venerable Sayadaws to mark first anniversary of consecration for Maravijaya Buddha Image



members of the Sangha.

The Maravijaya Buddha Image was carved with the aim of showing the flourishing of Theravada Buddhism in Myanmar to the international community, to ensure Myanmar is the hub of Theravada Buddhism, forge the prosperity of the State and foster peace and prosperity in the world. The image was consecrated on Dhammacakka Day, which fell on the full moon of Waso 1385 ME, whereas stone plaque chamber pagodas were hoisted umbrellas at the merit-sharing ceremony. Yesterday’s ceremony was to donate Waso robes to venerable monks in commemoration of the first anniversary of the consecration of Maravijaya Buddha Image. — MNA/TTA

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win offers Waso robes and donations to Presiding Patron of Maha Thiyanada Monastery of Tatkon State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Acinna in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



The SAC Secretary, the Joint Secretary, the council member donate Waso robes and offerings to members of the Sangha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

NATIONAL

Pagodas, including Shwedagon, overflow with pilgrims on Waso Full Moon Day

PAGODAS in Yangon, including Shwedagon Pagoda, were thronged with pilgrims performing good deeds, as yesterday was the full moon day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day), which is a sacred day for Buddhists.

The board of trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda celebrated the Dhammacakka Day ceremony at the designated places of the pagoda at 5 am yesterday. The pagoda board of trustees, staff and devotees first offered dawn meals, flowers, water, candles and fruits to the pagoda.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, relevant officials, members of religious organizations and the devotees offered golden lotus robes to the Buddha statues of the pagoda before taking Nine Precepts and donating Waso robes and offerings to Sayadaws. They also offered day meals to members of the Sangha.

Similarly, the Waso robe offering ceremony was also organized at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda on the same morning. The pagoda board of trustees of other famous pagodas in Yangon Region also marked Dhammacakka Day. — Ko Ko Zaw/TRKM



Photos show pilgrims at Shwedagon Pagoda and Botahtaung Pagoda on Waso Full Moon Day, doing meritorious deeds (above and below).



Dengue cases drop nearly 80% year-on-year

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health, the number of dengue cases this year has decreased by almost five times compared to previous years.

There were 1,309 dengue cases nationwide in the first half of this year, resulting in three deaths. The most affected age group is youngsters, specifically those between the ages of five and nine. Adults aged fifteen and older also experience a significant mortality rate from the disease.

Dengue fever is transmitted through mosquito bites, and symptoms typically begin to appear four to six days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. In the initial stage of dengue fever, symptoms include a sudden onset of fever, headache, body pain, nausea,

vomiting, loss of appetite, and sometimes the appearance of spots on the body, as stated by the Ministry of Health.

In addition, the Ministry informed all that spots may appear on the forearm when blood pressure is checked with a blood pressure monitor. Still, this occurrence does not indicate any other alarming symptoms. — TWA/MKKS



A Red Cross woman checks a house to prevent dengue fever.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

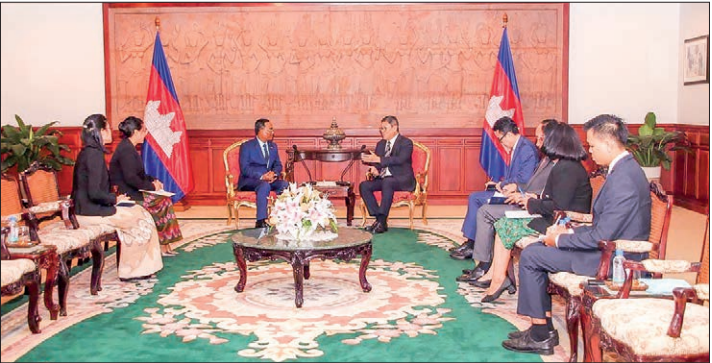
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Cambodia strengthen ties for religious and cultural cooperation

MYANMAR and Cambodia discussed promotion in the sectors of friendship, cooperation, religion, and culture at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Cambodia on 18 July.

In the meeting, U Kyaw Soe Min, Myanmar's Ambassador to Cambodia, and Mr Sok Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, had a friendly and frank exchange of views regarding the promotion of bilateral joint ventures, including tourism, religious and cultural sectors, and the organizing commemorative ceremonies to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Cambodia diplomatic relations in 2025. — ASH/MKKS



UEC delegation departs for China



Union Election Commission delegation led by commission member U Ko Ko Lwin seen before leaving for China yesterday.

AS per the invitation from the Communist Party of China, a delegation team from the Union Election Commission, led by UEC member U Ko Ko Lwin, left for China yesterday to enhance relations between the CPC and the political parties of Myanmar.

The trip will last from 20 to 27 July, during which discussions are expected to cover national development projects implemented by the CPC, strategies and methodologies in these projects, and capacity building for political parties. — MNA/TMT

Security forces combat PDFs, take security and regional control measures in Singu

PDF terrorists attacked Tatmadaw camps, township police stations, and other security camps with a substantial force in Singu, Mandalay Region, in the first week of July 2024.

PDF terrorists then arrested and killed local people, forcibly extorted money, destroyed and burnt houses and government buildings to disrupt administrative routines, planted mines,



Photos show residents' houses and departmental buildings burnt by PDF terrorists. (above and below)



The security forces carry out the security operations in Singu and its surroundings.

stole belongings from displaced residents, and committed other violent actions.

Therefore, almost all residents and government staff were displaced from Singu due to terrorists. Those who opposed terror acts organized defence teams, and Tatmadaw mobilized them for Counter-Terrorism Operations.

Subsequently, Tatmadaw units advanced into Singu, gaining ground gradually via both water and land routes. After advancing and repelling terrorists with heavy weaponry, terrorists retreated. Yesterday, Tatmadaw gained control of the town.

PDF terrorists had attacked security forces while hiding inside religious buildings, schools, government offices, and homes and had also planted mines on public roads, using local people as human shields. In response, security forces acted in line with the Rules of Engagement (ROE).

However, before withdrawing from the town, terrorists set fire to homes and buildings and planted landmines.

Security forces continued security operations in Singu and its surroundings. — MNA/TRKM

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

16 July

Registration allowed for party

The Union Election Commission allowed the registration of Peace for Diversity Party as political party No 50.

Myanmar calls for HRC's impartiality

Myanmar calls on the Human Rights Council to uphold the principles of impartiality in its engagements with member states without undermining national sovereignty and obstructing genuine efforts towards peace, stability, and democratization of the country.

17 July

Myanmar, Indian Tatmadaws to forge friendly ties



State Administration Council Member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye held talks with Mr Abhay Thakur, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw, about enhancement of bilateral relations

between Myanmar and Indian Tatmadaws, further cooperation in peace and stability and the rule of law at border areas, defence activities, and military cooperation.

18 July

Myanmar, Russia exchange military medical services

Myanmar and Russian Tatmadaws held a seminar on military medical services at No 2 DSGH (1000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw. Director of the Medical Services Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin, senior Tatmadaw officers and a Russian delegation led by Maj-Gen Denis Vladimirovich Davydov of the Main Military Clinical Hospital discussed experiences in Tatmadaw-related medical services, cooperation in medical research, production of vaccines, Tatmadaw-related medical services training and practice sessions and bilateral relations between medical corps of two countries.

19 July

Pro Tem President receives medical treatment

The Information Team of the State Administration Council issued a press release, saying that Pro Tem President U Myint Swe has received medical treatments for his neurological disorder and eye surgical operations at Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre in Singapore and No 2 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) from 15 April to 18 June 2024. He is now under medical treatment, taking a medical leave till 30 July.

Myanmar responds to EU's Joint Press Statement

Myanmar reiterates its stance to uphold the 2008 Constitution, stating that existing laws and fundamental principles are the only norms in implementing national tasks. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly rejects the groundless accusations contained in the politically motivated joint press statement of the EU and some countries that do not reflect the on-ground situation of the country.

20 July

Wreaths laid to pay tributes to martyrs



Member of the State Administration Council Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye laid the wreath of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the mausoleum in memory of General Aung San and martyr leaders to pay tributes to them at the ceremony to mark the 77th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township of Yangon. — GNLM/TTA

Depression No 04/2024

Issued at 14:00 hours MST on 20-7-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 13:30 hours MST today, the depression has crossed Odisha Coast near South of Puri (India),

reached to Odisha and it is likely to move Northwestwards and may reach to Chhattisgarh (India). It will weaken gradually into a Low-Pressure Area during next 12 hours.

This is the updated news for the Depression. — DMH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday 20 July 2024

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and strong to vigorous over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 21 July 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay Region, fairly widespread in Magway Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Bago and Tanin-

thayi regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Eastren Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40-45 miles per hour (mph). Wave height will be about 9-14 feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 mph. Wave height will be about 8-12 feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

MoH intensifies response to diarrhoea outbreak in Yangon

ON-GROUND teams have been actively working to control the outbreak of severe diarrhoea in several townships in Yangon Region, under the close supervision of the Ministry of Health and with the assistance of the Yangon Region government. From 6 pm on 19 July to 6 pm on 20 July 2024, 38 new diarrhoea patients were hospitalized in Yangon Region. Among them, four were confirmed to have severe diarrhoea, and all patients were reported to be in good condition. On 20 July, 77 patients were discharged. Intensifying efforts to control the disease are ongoing.

Ministry of Health

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.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

China leads Myanmar's rice imports with 91,000 tonnes in Q1

CHINA holds the title of Myanmar's largest rice importer with over 91,500 tonnes in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year 2024-2025, followed by Indonesia with over 84,300 tonnes and Belgium with over 53,200 tonnes, Myanmar Rice Federation's statistics showed.

Additionally, over 23,500 tonnes were exported to Spain and 10,000 tonnes to Italy.

Myanmar shipped over 345,467.3 tonnes of rice to external markets in Q1 this FY, generating earnings of \$175 million.

The federation earmarks to achieve over 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March).

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of

Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

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

The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters



Journeying Beyond Borders: Export rice bags being loaded onto the overseas merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the chairperson of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

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

Myanmar pulse exports exceed 740,000 tonnes, worth US\$642M by 12 July



Pulses and beans seen in the domestic market.

MYANMAR has bagged more than US\$642 million from over 743,000 tonnes of pulses as of 12 July in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's pulses export by sea amounted to over 718,160 tonnes of pulses worth \$621.376 million, whereas over 25,194 tonnes of pulses worth \$21.078 million were sent to the neighbouring countries over the past three months.

The value of Myanmar's pulses exports hit over US\$1.484 billion from over

1.76 million tonnes in the previous FY 2023-2024 (March 2023-April 2024), comprising 1.6 million tonnes worth \$1.34 billion through maritime trade and 157,400 tonnes worth \$141.38 through border posts, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

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

India has growing de-

mand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota. Myanmar's black gram output is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year, whereas pigeon pea production crosses 50,000 tonnes.

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

MGMA to open supervisor-level Industrial Engineering (IE) course batch 81

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will conduct a supervisor-level Industrial Engineering (IE) course (batch 81) from 29 July to 9 August at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC).

The course will provide practical and technical approaches.

The experts will share the economic climate of global garment businesses, the importance of line balance, roles of administrator, designs, production analysis, operation rate and practical knowledge about clothing materials.

Those who wish to attend

the training can enroll through phone numbers 09 940858350, 09 450723262, 09 9403912570, 09 784085794 and 09 952802635.

MGMA has been currently offering a Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (batch 240) from 15 July to 2 August 2024 at MGHRDC.

The course will provide practical and technical approaches to sewing machines, different sewing methods, labour laws and practices.

This training will also help those hunting jobs from regions outside Yangon connect with the garment factories with a view to creating job opportunities. — NN/KK

Advertise

With us/ Hotline:

09 454237515, 09 255597511

Prevent the loss of cultivable lands in various forms

MYANMAR, being an agro-based country, is home to vast farmlands and croplands, primarily located in river valleys and along the banks of rivers and creeks. The fertile alluvial soils in these regions are ideal for crop cultivation. However, natural disasters, especially flooding, frequently devastate these agricultural areas, destroying crops and paddy plantations during crucial growing periods. Floods not only damage property but also wipe out thousands of acres of crops in a short time, severely impacting rural communities reliant on agriculture and livestock.

The loss of croplands leads to a downward spiral in the socioeconomic conditions of these communities, causing food shortages and undermining food security.

Actually, the loss of cultivable lands triggered by natural disasters or humans can harm the food security of the country to some extent in the long run. Hence, authorities need to systematically manage the prevention of loss of cultivable lands while reclaiming more farmlands and croplands to be able to produce agricultural products for the food security of the increasing population of the nation. If so, the country can minimize follow-up problems regarding the loss of cultivable lands in farmland utilization.

and industrial estates, further diminishing the land available for agriculture. To prevent this, authorities and local farmers must work together to enforce laws and regulations that protect agricultural lands from misuse.

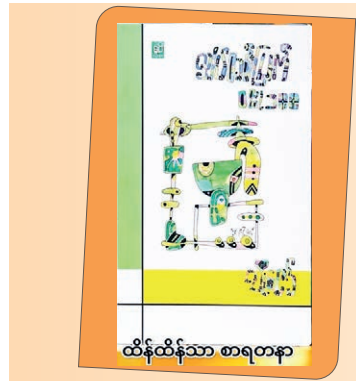
By addressing these issues through preventive measures and stricter regulations, not only farmers but also local authorities have to safeguard their cultivable lands, ensuring the sustainability of the agriculture sector and the well-being of its rural communities. It is necessary to protect cultivable lands against intentional or unintentional trespassing of other people in any way.

Actually, the loss of cultivable lands triggered by natural disasters or humans can harm the food security of the country to some extent in the long run. Hence, authorities need to systematically manage the prevention of loss of cultivable lands while reclaiming more farmlands and croplands to be able to produce agricultural products for the food security of the increasing population of the nation. If so, the country can minimize follow-up problems regarding the loss of cultivable lands in farmland utilization.

Additionally, the rising costs of agricultural inputs such as fuel, fertilizers, and pesticides exacerbate the challenges faced by farmers. As a result, if farmers' investments in agriculture decline, it poses a significant threat to the nation's food security.

Preventive measures against natural disasters, particularly flooding during the monsoon season, are essential for mitigating the damage to agricultural produce. Local authorities and farmers must collaborate to implement these measures in advance to protect their crops and farmlands as much as possible.

Moreover, the loss of agricultural lands due to various factors significantly hampers the productivity of Myanmar's agriculture sector. Since 1988, land prices have been rising, leading wealthy individuals to acquire farmland for non-agricultural purposes, often illegally. This trend results in the conversion of valuable farmlands into residential areas



Book Title	-	Hlyattapyet Wuthtu 100
Writer	-	Jo Zaw
Publishing House	-	Duwun
Publication Date	-	June 2024 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K8,000

Hlyattapyet Wuthtu 100

THIS week, I would like to introduce a new style of writing in Myanmar literature. This sector involves writing concise stories. The writer has given the title 'Hlyatapyet Wuthtu 100'.

The writer is Saya Jo Zaw. He explained his reason for the production of the very short stories, saying, These days, people are moving fast, doing things fast and also eating fast. They can always be seen in the rush with their business. This being so, they do not spend much time reading. They have come to prefer short news, short movies, short stories, short conversations, and short business letters, among others. Even with the Teachings of Buddha, the Bud-

dhist devotees would choose a Buddhist monk who is used to delivering short sermons. They do not want to spend a long time listening to or reading the Teachings of Buddha. And such a demand has led to the production of the concise stories."

Such short stories are now known across the world as flash fiction or microfiction, which have entered the literary world under a new genre. The readers want to know only the highlights. They want to go directly to the essential message the writer gives, not wishing to spend too much time on long-winding introductions. As for me, I have been reading novels for about five decades and writing them for

more than three decades, having learnt systematically from great writers how to write short stories and novels. From my own experiences, I have found that there are only two things the novels can give – pleasure and wisdom. The style of writing or the composition method has varied with the passage of time.

Nonetheless, what the writers provide their readers is only two things –delight/pleasure or wisdom/knowledge. These days, hard copies are being faced with dramatic challenges with the advent of new technology. People would choose the soft copies to read because they are cheaper and more convenient. They do not need to go to the bookshops

or newsstands. They can use the time spent buying books for other purposes. They can use the money spent on hard copies for food and snacks. They can save the time they have to spend on going to the reading corners or the newspaper stalls for other matters. As a consequence, the writers have come to lose the platform through which they communicate with their readers. In a country like Myanmar, the people from the rural areas where village people have no easy access to the internet depend on the books. Again, those residing in the megacities would prefer the short stories. This is why the posts submitted onto the internet or social media are found to be not too long. People do not like to read the long posts. That is the reason why flash fiction or micro-fiction has replaced longer short stories. Researchers say that people do not prefer stories that are more than three pages long. The writer has also admitted that he does not read the longer stories any more.

The writer has encouraged his fellow writers to produce microfiction to keep abreast of the world, which is changing very fast.



Book Title	-	Dutiya Pinlai Wuthtudomyar
Writer	-	Soe Bar Daing
Publishing House	-	Sar Yeik Myaing
Publication Date	-	June 2024 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

Dutiya Pinlai Wuthtudomyar

THIS is a collection of short stories written by Soe Bar Daing. He has named his collection 'Dutiya Pinlai Wuthtudomyar', which means the Second Sea Stories. He gave this name because his first collection was Hlaing Kyi Pyu Ye Pinlai, which is also about the sea. As he has already published the first sea stories, he names this book the Second Sea Stories.

What appeals to me most is that Saya Soe Bar dating was born in a seaside village. Many writers have already written a lot of stories about the sea or the stories related to the life of the sea people. But very few of them were born in places far away from the sea. Despite their

great effort to study the sea and the life of the people inhabiting the seaside areas, they cannot know the insight of the sea and the life of the sea people. Some of their stories are definitely imaginary as the sea people retell them. That is the reason why I want the readers to taste this book written by a thalassophile, who loves the sea. He is not only a thalassophile but also a person who was born and brought up in a village beside the sea. Obviously, he knows perfectly about the lives of the people who live and earn their livelihoods in the sea.

One of his stories is titled, 'Ahmay Hlay', which means the boat belonging to mother. He

writes that the boat is the life of

the mother of the character of his story. He depicts the attachment of the owner of the boat vividly by writing as follows: "As she grew old, she started to lose some memory. We were worried about her deteriorating health, but she was more worried about her boat. She would always say to mind her boat only, for the boat was herself. So, looking after the boat means taking good care of her. She would say that should something happen to her boat, she would die then. She has formed such a great attachment to her boat with which she has earned her livelihood throughout her life." Reading this story would reveal the hard

life of the people who are earning a living in a boat.

Another worth reading story is titled 'Sa Net Tan Hna Lone Thar'. That is a tragedy, which depicts the horrible scene of a boat capsized. In the face of the storm, a small sailing boat is stricken by the gust of the strong wind. And when the ship sinks, the people on board the boat are all drowned. The writer depicts the details of the boat sinking and how the people have been panicked before they breathed their last.

Reading this book will reveal the life of the people living in the villages along the Taninthayi coast, poaching, illegal fishing, and smuggling, in addition to fishing legally for a livelihood. Readers will learn about the lives of boatswains, sailors, and fishermen. This book will also disclose the danger of the passengers journeying by boat.

Lastly, I would like to mention Po Naing Linn's remark. He said that Soe Bar Daing can be compared to Saya Maung Tha Ya and Jack London. He went so far as to say that the writing of Soe Bar Daing is more exciting than Jack London's as he writes in the context of Myanmar.

RAY OF LIGHT

By Myat Soe (University of Medicine 1), Translated by Myint Zan

ရောင်ခြည်

အို...
ကြည့်ကြစမ်းပါ။ များသူငါတို့
မိုးရိပ်အသွင်၊ ကောင်းကင်ပြင်သည်
ပြည်နယ်တခွင်၊ မှောင်ရိပ်ဆင်၍
မလင်းမှောင်မိုက်၊ ဖုံးတော့၏။

Oh
do look, all and one
covered with rain clouds
the sky has
darkened shadows
without light:
the cursed darkness
covers it

ကစဉ့်ကလုံး၊ တိမ်မည်းဖုံးပြီး
မိုက်ကာအစွန်း၊ ပြီးမြောက်လွန်းသော်
ရောင်နီပြာဝန်း၊ မှောင်ကိုခွင်းသည့်
လင်းအရောင်လည်းပေါ်လိမ့်မည်။

the black clouds prevail
the whole night
after this extreme
doggedness is terminated,
overcame
the red rays (of Sun)
piercing the darkness
heralding
the dawn will arise

မြတ်စွာ (ဆေး-၁)
၂၅.၆.၂၀၂၁။

composed on 25 June 2021
translated on 15 July 2024

ရိုးမသက်သေ

By Thura Zaw

Mountain range,
the living proof

❖ တောင်ထွတ်များလည်း...
မြင့်မားပါတိ စွင့်ပါတိ။
❖ ကမ်းပါးချောက်လည်း...
မတ်စောက်ပါတိ ရှိုင်းပါတိ။
❖ ရေတံခွန်လည်း...
သွန်ကျပါတိ ဖြာပါတိ။
❖ ဂနိုင်းတောလည်း...
ကျယ်ပြောပါတိ နက်ပါတိ။
❖ ယာခင်းပြင်လည်း...
စိုးလွင်ပါတိ သန့်ပါတိ။
❖ မိုးအခါလည်း...
မိုးရွာသော်ငြား၊ နေမနားဘူး။
❖ နေ့ခါမူလည်း...
နေပူသော်ငြား၊ နေမနားဘူး။
❖ ဆောင်းပါနွိုက်လည်း...
မေးခိုက်တုန့်ငြား၊ နေမနားဘူး။
❖ ဩဉ်...တို့တိုင်းရင်းသား၊ တို့သွေးများတည့်
ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုး၊ စိုက်ကာမျိုးသည့်
ရှမ်းရိုးမလျှင် သက်သေတည်း။

❖ Mountaintops ...
Are very high indeed.
❖ Gorges and ravines ...
Are very steep and deep.
❖ Waterfalls ...
Pour down with might.
❖ Forests ...
Are vastly thick and wide.
❖ Farmlands ...
Are seen green and alive.
❖ Even in the rainy season,
They brave the rains.
❖ Even in the hot season
They brave the sun's heat.
❖ Even in the cold season
They brave the chill.
❖ O! They're our national brethren
Who grow crops on self-reliance
Shan mountain range will prove them.

သုရဇော်

Translated by Maung Swe Ngae

ချည်ကြိုးတစ်မျှင်

By Chit Ko Pe

A Thread of
Cotton

ချစ်ကိုပေ

သေးသေးသွယ်သွယ်
အရွယ်ပုံသွင်
အမြင်နုပုံနု
ပုံရိပ်ဆင်ငြား
ရွေလျားဝဲယာ
ဘယ်ညာတိမ်းစောင်း
မိုးကောင်းကင်ထက်
လွင့်တက်စွန့်ထိန်း
လေစိမ်းမကြောက်
လေနှောက်မခေ
လေပွေမရွံ့
ကြုံကြုံခံသည်
စွမ်းရည်အားဖြိုး
ချည်ကြိုးတစ်မျှင် ဗလရင်။

At visual view and sight,
it's slender in shape
and small in size.

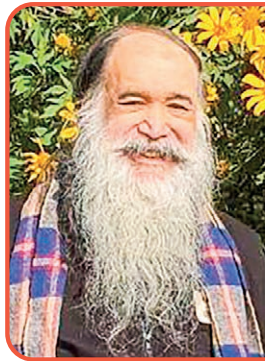
It controls a flying kite,
moving left and right
in the sky, at height.

Not being a bit afraid
of wild wind from the sides,
it endures with full might.

Advertise
with us/

Hotline:
09255597511
09454237515

NATIONAL
Entertainment



Khin Zaw (Naing Zaw)
WRITER, poet, and artist Khin Zaw (Naing Zaw) held his 10th solo art show titled 'Metaphor' at Lawkanat Art Gallery located on Pansodan Road, Yangon, on 20 July. The event will continue until 24 July. His translated fiction, titled 'A Room with a View', was recently published. The original book, written by E M Forster, portrays a young girl, Ms Lucy Honeychurch, navigating a society characterized by inequality in England and Italy.



Tin Tin Oo
WRITER Daw Tin Tin Oo and family donated K200,000 to Hmyatuhmya charity for honouring the third anniversary of the demise of the founder of News Watch Journal U Chit Maung (Awakyun). She was the one who guided the News Watch Journal to achieve success together with U Chit Maung (Awakyun). Readers can find her stories and novels on the Facebook page named 'Tin Tin Oo'.



Sai Sai Maw
THE funeral of the late vocalist Sai Sai Maw (77 years old) was held at Yeway Cemetery located in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon. His colleagues from the music industry, family members and relatives attended the funeral. The bereaved family said that the cremated remains (ashes) will be buried under the Cherry Tree located in Namhkam, adhering to the specific wishes of Sai Sai Maw.

'Taythwaei Asa' musical
movie unveiled at press
conference

THE press conference for the musical drama titled 'Taythwaei Asa' (The Beginning of Melody) took place on 19 July at the Junction City JCGV Cineplex in Kamayut township, according to the movie's director, Ye Myint Tun.

The story was written by Ye Myit Tun, and the script was created by Shwe Yi Phu Thwe. The movie was produced by Tun Tauk Kyel Production.

"This movie pays tribute to my uncle and mentor, U Maung Maung Than (The Sun Music), featuring all of his new songs. We filmed the movie with new actors in Myitkyina. Singer Y Wine also supported us, which was very encouraging," said Director Ye Myint Tun.

The movie mainly features Lin Eain, Awine, Saung Oo May, Brang Mun Shawng, Hpu Li San Hz, Jo Sar, Mlassel Marip, Akyi Ko Ko, Saung Min Nway, Maung Maung, and Elizabeth. It is also noted that singer Y Wine performed the original soundtrack titled "Your Love Will Find You" for the movie. — ASH/TRKM



The photo depicts the attendees to the press conference of the movie.

Celebrity
Brief



Ni Ni Lin Eain
MISS Grand Cambodia 2024 took place at the Koh Pich Theatre, Cambodia, on 12 July. As the first runner-up of the Miss Grand International 2023 she crowned the Miss Grand Cambodia 2024. Designer Phoo Pwint Wai created the dress of Ni Ni Lin Eain at the event of MGI 2023.



Ko Myo Kyaw & Yadana Mai
A wedding ceremony of famous vocalist Yadana Mai was held at the Melia Hotel, Yangon, on 14 July. She has been dating musician Ko Myo Kyaw for nine years, who proposed to marry her by offering a house worth K600 million.

Poe Mamhe Thar
POE MAMHE THAR, an actress-cum-doctor, shared awareness of cholera with her fans and the public by posting 'Stay safe to all' in times of severe diarrhoea in Yangon. From 6 to 18 July, a total of 1,001 diarrhoea patients were admitted to hospitals in Yangon Region.—Htun Htun/TMT

Kaigo scholarship applications open 20 July

THE Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) Education Centre has informed that applications will be accepted from 20 July 2024 for those interested in the elderly care scholarship, which will be called for April 2025.

Programme I cover one year of Japanese language teaching, two years of nursing college, and five years of working in a nursing home, while Programme II covers two years of nursing college and five years of working in a nursing home. In Japanese language qualification, those who have passed JLPT/TopJ/

NAT Test/Jtest (N3) and above (must present a certificate) and those who have passed N3 and above (those who will take N3 and above in July JLPT can apply) are eligible.

Requirements include 18 years old and under 27 years old, those who have passed grade 12 or at least the first year of university, not married, no tattoos (totally), and clear of infectious diseases like TB, hepatitis and HIV (only medically fit candidates can join interviews).

Passport PV holders (who have a QR code for PV), those who have applied for a student visa or other visas to Japan, and

COE-rejected persons are not eligible to apply.

The application period is from 20 July 2024 to 4 pm, 26 July 2024. In order to apply, candidates need to fill out the Google Form and submit it together with a photograph (three centimetres by four centimetres), passport or QR code, proof of education, and a Japanese language test certificate.

MAJA Education Centre has also informed that applicants who have applied will be contacted with detailed plans related to the scholarship through emails filled in on the Google Form. — MT/ZN



This photo depicts an aerial view of Kaigo College.

YCDC's Central Lab monitors 37 water quality parameters daily



An expert from the Central Lab is measuring the water quality.

THE Central Laboratory, operated by the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), measures up to 37 water quality parameters and conducts

water quality assessments at mini-labs, according to YCDC.

In water treatment plants, information about water quality parameters, such as chlo-

rine concentration, is monitored daily and distributed to the public. Water quality inspections ensure that water from supply pipelines and wells owned by the committee is continuously monitored before being distributed as safe drinking water.

The YCDC Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) distributes up to 237 million gallons of clean and healthy water per day to city residents from the Hlawka Reservoir, Gyobu Reservoir, Ngamoeyeik Water Treatment Plant, Lagun Pyin Water Treatment Plant, and underground water supply stations. — TWA/KZL

Applications for 96th TOPIK exam open 1 August, Myanmar Embassy announces

APPLICATIONS for the 96th TOPIK exam will be accepted from 1 to 4 August, stated the Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea.

The 96th TOPIK exam is scheduled to take place on 13 October 2024 (Sunday) from 9:40 am to 4:20 pm. TOPIK I is in the morning, and TOPIK II is in the evening at the University of Yangon/Hlaing Campus.

Applications can be submitted from 1 to 4 August at Toungoo Hall (Department of Myanmar), Dagon Road, University of Yangon (Kamarut Campus) from 10 am to 12:30 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm. Applicants must come in person if they live within area where the place of application is located and those who live outside the area can submit via represented person but the rep-

resented person must be relatives and copy of applicant's NRC card and original of represented person's CSC card is required, said the embassy.

Except for applicants, no one is allowed to enter the campus, and applicants must bring two 3-centimetre by 4-centimetre photos and a CSC card or driver's license or passport required. Recommendations from the respective ward, police station or household lists are acceptable if they don't have the above-mentioned documents. Only those who bring a CSC card are allowed to enter the campus.

The exam fee is US\$25; therefore, applicants will need to exchange dollars before they come to submit, and exchange service won't be provided at all at the place of application, it said. — MT/ZS

Passport extensions resume 21 July under second special plan

THE Myanmar Embassy to Singapore will continue passport extension service for remaining registered applicants on 21 July as the second batch of the special plan.

There are about 200 remaining registered applicants, and they can come to extend their passports at the embassy from 9:30 am on 21 July, along with their full documents.

The embassy will re-issue extended passports on 23-24 July between 1 pm and 3 pm.

Those who missed this particular plan can register through the embassy's WhatsApp num-

ber, +65 82468581, and a list of names who are eligible to receive its regular service on office days will be announced every Friday at its website <http://www.myanmarembassy.org>.

The embassy said it doesn't allow any private company, individual or organization to provide passport service.

It warned that it doesn't offer paid reservation service for online appointments through online platforms such as Facebook Messenger and Instagram. Therefore, Myanmar nationals should be very aware of it. — TWA/ZS



The Myanmar Embassy to Singapore.

ECONOMY

WORLD

Japan expecting record 35 mln foreign visitors in 2024: PM Kishida

Kishida acknowledged the challenges of “overtourism”, which has led to issues such as traffic congestion, pollution, and inconvenience to residents.

JAPAN could see a record 35 million foreign visitors this year, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Friday, with their spending in the country expected to grow to an all-time high of about eight trillion yen (\$50 billion) due to a weak yen.

With around 17.78 million

people having likely visited Japan from January to June, the highest for the six-month period, Kishida pledged to take steps to deal with “overtourism”, which has triggered traffic jams, pollution, hindrances to residents and other problems brought about by the influx of travellers.



Osaka’s Minami entertainment district bustles with visitors enjoying its vibrant nightlife and diverse culinary offerings. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The annual total of people visiting Japan from overseas in 2024 is projected to exceed the previous record of 31.88 million registered in 2019 before the

coronavirus pandemic, with the government aiming to attract 60 million foreign visitors annually by 2030.

“We will strongly push ahead

with expanding inbound tourism and developing sustainable travel areas,” Kishida said during a meeting with relevant Cabinet ministers. — Kyodo

As Pakistan aims to double its exports, data proves otherwise

Pakistan’s Commerce Ministry aims to double exports to US\$60 billion in three years, but current data suggests growth prospects are lacking.

PAKISTAN’S Commerce Ministry is intending to double its exports to US\$60 billion within the next three years, however, the data does not showcase any such growth prospects in the country, Dawn reported.

In the current situation,

Pakistan will have to increase its sales, abroad by 25 to 30 per cent to double its exports within the intended time span.

Pakistan aims to entail major investments in the fields of industry and agriculture to boost its production. However,

er, there is no evidence which suggests that it will happen any time soon, the report added.

It added that a ‘stagnant export graph’ has always been a problem for Pakistan’s economy for decades. Exports have repeatedly marked a minimalistic rise in their value, and this has been a major challenge for Pakistan’s substantial economic growth. The exporters of the country blame high fuel prices, fluctuating global demand and domestic policy shifts for poor economic performance, Dawn reported.

An earlier report by Dawn, mentioned that the Pakistani government faces substantial financial challenges as it navigates through economic uncertainties and inflationary pressures. — ANI



Pakistan aims to entail major investments in the fields of industry and agriculture to boost its production. **PHOTO: AHMAD KAMAL/XINHUA**

EU chief von der Leyen wins second term

EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday won a second five-year term that she vowed would tackle the EU’s challenges head-on, including bolstering its defence capability and strengthening Europe’s industry.

The German ex-defence minister, who became the first woman leader of the European Commission in 2019, had presented herself as the best and most experienced captain to steer the commission.



EU Commission president nominee Ursula von der Leyen delivers a speech during her statement for her candidacy at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France, on 18 July 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Von der Leyen received votes backing her from 401 MEPs in the 720-seat chamber in the French city of Strasbourg — over the 361-vote majority she needed to remain head of the EU’s executive body.

There were 284 lawmakers who voted against in the secret ballot, held during the first parliamentary session since EU-wide elections in June.

An elated von der Leyen pumped fists in the air after parliament speaker Roberta Metsola announced the result.

She later said it was “a very emotional and special moment for me” and the result “sends a strong message of confidence”.

Von der Leyen’s first term was full of crises including the coronavirus pandemic and the outbreak of war in Ukraine.

“We have navigated the most troubled waters that our union has ever faced,” she told reporters. — AFP

China's e-commerce sector reports robust growth

Digital products like AI devices grew sharply. Online travel and dining also saw significant growth.

CHINA'S e-commerce sector saw robust growth in the first half of 2024, fuelling momentum for consumption recovery in the world's second-largest economy. Online retail sales during this period surged 9.8 per cent year-on-year to 7.1 trillion yuan (about US\$996 billion), of which the retail sales of goods reached 5.96 trillion yuan, marking an increase of 8.8 per cent, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) on Friday.

The MOC said that digital products, services consump-



Workers sort parcels at a transit hub of SF Express in Tianjin, north China, 18 June 2024. PHOTO: LIRAN/XINHUA

tion, and trade-in programmes were the three new drivers for consumption growth during the period. In terms of digital products, AI learning machines and smart wearable devices grew 136.6 per cent and 31.5 per cent, respectively, the data showed. For services consumption, surveyed online travel and catering services grew 59.9 per cent and 21.7 per cent, respectively. E-commerce platforms in China coordinated to offer

trade-in services for more than 400,000 products and recycling services covering over 300 categories of goods. The trade-in services saw sales of refrigerators, washing machines, mobile phones and TVs increase by 82.1 per cent, 70.4 per cent, 63.9 per cent and 54.3 per cent, respectively, on major online shopping platforms. As e-commerce drives consumption recovery domestically, the sector's international co-operation has also expanded further. — Xinhua

Airlines resume services after global IT crash wreaks havoc

A major global IT outage on Friday disrupted computer systems worldwide, grounding flights in the US, derailing TV broadcasts in the UK, and affecting telecommunications in Australia. Australia's National Cyber Security Coordinator attributed the outage to a "third-party software plat-

form" issue, dismissing hacker involvement. Airlines were gradually coming back online Saturday after global carriers, banks and financial institutions were thrown into turmoil by one of the biggest IT crashes in recent years, caused by an update to an antivirus pro-

gramme. Passenger crowds had swelled at airports on Friday to wait for news as dozens of flights were cancelled and operators struggled to keep services on track, after an update to a programme operating on Microsoft Windows crashed systems worldwide. — AFP



Passengers stranded as dozens of flights cancelled due to Microsoft Windows programme update crash. PHOTO: PIXABAY

Adidas drops Bella Hadid from campaign over Gaza controversy

ADIDAS said Friday it had dropped vocal pro-Palestinian model Bella Hadid from an advertising campaign for retro sneakers referencing the 1972 Munich Olympics, which were overshadowed by a massacre

of Israeli athletes. The German sportswear giant recently relaunched the SL72, a shoe first showcased by athletes at the 1972 Olympics, as part of a series reviving old classic sneakers. Eleven Israeli

athletes and a German police officer were killed at the 1972 Munich Games after gunmen from the Palestinian Black September group broke into the Olympic village and took them hostage. — AFP

Japan's individual shareholders top 70 mln for first time



A screen displays the Nikkei Stock Average and the Topix index in Tokyo on 4 July 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

According to data from the Tokyo, Nagoya, Fukuoka, and Sapporo stock exchanges, the total rose to approximately 74.45 million, marking a 4.62 million increase from the previous financial year.

THE number of individual shareholders in listed companies across the four Japanese stock markets climbed to a record high in fiscal 2023, surpassing 70 million for the first time amid an up-trend in share prices, according to the four bourses. The figure came to about 74.45 million, up 4.62 million from the previous financial year for the 10th consecutive year of increase, according to data compiled by the stock exchanges in Tokyo, Nagoya, Fukuoka and

Sapporo. Share prices have advanced sharply recently, with the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average hitting a record high in February for the first time since 1989, during Japan's asset-inflated bubble economy. The tally is calculated by simply adding up the number of shareholders of each company. For example, an investor holding shares of 10 companies is counted as 10 different shareholders, the bourses said. — Kyodo

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



The Moscow Oil Refinery (MNPZ) "Gazprom Neft" in Kapotnya.
PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Russian oil sales surge

20 JULY

RUSSIAN oil supply to China increased by 4.81 per cent in January-June 2024 to 55.122 million tonnes worth \$32.807 billion year-on-year, data from the Chinese General Administration of Customs showed on Saturday.

China purchased 8.43 million tonnes of Russian oil worth \$4.914 billion in June, data showed.

China's oil imports totaled 275.484 million tonnes in January-June of this year that cost \$167.39 billion, up by 2.1 per cent year-on-year.

In 2023, the Asian nation's imports of Russian oil jumped by 24 per cent to 107 million tonnes year-on-year.

Meanwhile, Russia's liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply to China decreased by 9.24 per cent to 3.515 million tonnes in January-June 2024. In June alone, China imported 663,880 tonnes of LNG from Russia worth \$377.857 million. — SPUTNIK

19 JULY

Sister Cities Summit boosts Tacoma ties

THE SIXTH US- China Sister Cities Summit was held Friday in Tacoma, a port city in western US state of Washington, aimed at deepening friendship and strengthening sub-national exchanges between the two countries.

The summit, themed "Shared Visions for a Brighter Future", is co-sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Sister Cities International, a nonprofit which serves as

the national membership organization for individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States.

Featuring panel discussions, keynote addresses and case studies, the summit brought together more than 140 representatives from 14 Chinese provinces and more than 100 representatives from 21 US states, to explore shared opportunities, exchange insights, and address common challenges affecting communities in both nations. — Xinhua

18 JULY

Panama: No forced repatriation

PANAMA'S new president on Thursday ruled out forcibly repatriating US-bound undocumented migrants who make the dangerous jungle crossing from Colombia, in an apparent softening of his stance. "We cannot put them in prison. We cannot forcibly repatriate them," Jose Raul Mulino said.

Last year, more than half a million people braved Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama, where they faced perilous river crossings and violent criminal gangs.

During his campaign, Mulino vowed to deport migrants and close the key route. After he was sworn in on 1 July, the conservative lawyer said his Central American country would no longer be a "transit" point for undocumented migrants.

Panama recently signed an agreement with the United States, securing \$6 million in funding aimed at facilitating migrant repatriation. — AFP

17 JULY

Global tuna quota increase

AN INTERNATIONAL body managing Pacific bluefin tuna stocks agreed to raise the annual quota for catching the fish, typically consumed as sashimi and sushi, by 50 per cent for those weighing 30 kilogrammes or more, as their numbers have been rebounding, Kyodo News said on Wednesday.

As the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's Northern Committee wrapped up a two-day meeting in the northern Japanese city of Kushiro in Hokkaido, it also decided to increase the worldwide catch limit by 10 per cent for smaller sizes of the fish, the Japanese Fisheries Agency said.

The decision will be formalized at the WCPFC's annual conference starting in late November, and the changes are expected to go into effect next year. Japan's quota for large fish will increase to 8,421 tonnes, up by 2,807 tonnes, and that for small fish will rise to 4,407 tonnes, up by 400 tonnes.

The current supply of Pacific bluefin tuna in Japan, a major tuna consumer, stands at around 30,000 tonnes per year, including imports, and the expanded quota is expected to help push down prices for bluefin tuna in the country, the agency said at a briefing in the city. — Kyodo

16 JULY

Creation of joint geological platform

BRICS countries have supported the idea of establishing a joint geological platform presented by the head of the Russian Federal Agency for Mineral Resources (Rosnedra) Yevgeny Petrov, the federal agency said on Tuesday.

Yevgeny Petrov presented the platform's details at the BRICS round table, emphasizing its role in fostering cooperation. Geological agency heads highlighted its significance and endorsed its establishment, as per Rosnedra's statement.

The platform aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, technological advancement, and joint initiatives. It will establish a coordination council, joint projects commission, and technology transfer council, with working groups focusing on key minerals and related expertise.

These meetings will spur new projects and ideas, enhancing inter-ministerial cooperation in geological exploration, regional research, and strategic minerals. — SPUTNIK

15 JULY

Trump charges dismissed

A FLORIDA judge appointed by Donald Trump has dismissed the criminal case against the former president on charges of mishandling top secret documents, ruling that Special Counsel Jack Smith was unlawfully appointed.

The decision is a major victory for Republican presidential candidate Trump, who had been accused of endangering national security after leaving the White House.

Federal Judge Aileen Cannon made her ruling after lawyers for the 78-year-old argued for a partial stay of proceedings to allow for an assessment of a Supreme Court ruling that a former president has broad immunity from prosecution. Judge Cannon granted Trump's motion to dismiss due to the unlawful appointment and funding of Special Counsel Jack Smith, citing breaches of constitutional roles by Smith's prosecution. — AFP

14 JULY

Fujimori to run in 2026 elections

FORMER Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori — ageing and legally embattled — will stand in the South American country's 2026 elections, his daughter announced Sunday.

Keiko Fujimori announced that her father, Peru's former president from 1990 to 2000, will run as their party's presidential candidate. Alberto Fujimori, now 85, is known for his tough stance against the Shining Path guerrilla group, economic policies, and authoritarian governance. He was imprisoned in 2009 for human rights violations during his anti-terrorism efforts but was released in 2023 for health reasons, raising questions about his eligibility to run for office again. — AFP

Thailand's Chanettee takes lead at LPGA Dana Open

THAILAND'S Chanettee Wannasaen managed a birdie-eagle finish to grab a one-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the LPGA Dana Open.

Chanettee fired a six-under par 65 to stand on 11-under 131 after 36 holes at Highland Meadows in Sylvania, Ohio.

That was enough to lift her ahead of defending champion Linn Grant of Sweden and China's Lin Xiyu with China's Mary Liu fourth on 133. Chanettee, ranked 43rd, won her only LPGA title at last September's Portland Classic as a Monday qualifier. This year, she was third at the Americas Open in May and shared eighth at last month's Dow Championship.

"Actually I'm really nervous right now, so I think on the weekend I will do my best," she said. "I don't want to like get stressed for the weekend." The 20-year-old Thai standout birdied the par-3 second hole and answered her lone bogey at four with a birdie at the par-3 eighth.

After birdies at the 11th and par-3 14th, Chanettee closed with a birdie at 17 and eagled the last to grab the lead. — AFP



A player from Yadanabon FC (blue) vies for the header amid rivals during the Myanmar National League match played at Yangon United Sports Complex on 20 July 2024. PHOTO: MNL

Myanmar National League: Yadanabon, Maha garner triumph

YADANABON United and Maha United celebrated their wins in the Myanmar National League Week-3 matches played in Yangon yesterday.

Yadanabon defeated Thitsar Arman 2-1 at Yangon United Sports Complex. With the victory, team Yadanabon could maintain their two consecutive wins.

Despite the loss, Thitsa Arman created an icebreaker by Hla Tun at the 19-minute mark. Although Yadanabon conceded a goal, the team's playing style was not ruined, and the whole team tried unitedly to change the come-from-behind result. With a solid effort, Yadanabon equalized

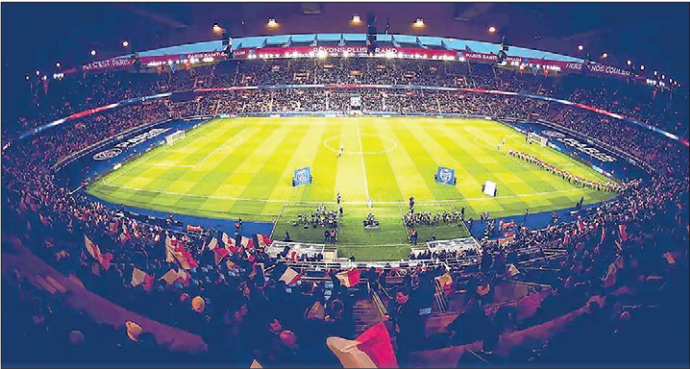
at 28 minutes with a score of Soe Min Oo. Three minutes later, the team produced the second or leading goal created by Carlet. Both teams failed to score in the second half, and Yadanabon won according to the first-half result. The best player award for this match went to Yadanabon's Carlet. After three games, Yadanabon claimed seven points, while Thitsa Arman gained no points from three losses.

At the same time, Maha United trounced Rakhine United 4-1 at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon. Rakhine broke the deadlock at 13 minutes with a score from Mang Hteik Paung. But Maha

United produced a quick come-back action with goals from Patrick at 20 and 70 minutes and Aung Hlaing Win at 28 and 41 minutes. After the game, Rakhine's Aung Hlaing Win secured the best player award. With the victory, Maha United picked up a total of six points, while Rakhine collected zero points.

Defending Champion Shan United will go up against Dagon Port FC at Thuwunna YTC, while Yangon United will fly in the face of Hanthawady United at YUSC today. Likewise, Ayeyawady United will take on Myawady at Patheingyi Stadium. — MNA/KZL

Messi-less Argentina eye Olympic men's gold, Spain favourites for women's gold



The men's and women's Olympics football tournaments will be held at seven different venues across the country, including as far afield from the northern capital as south-coast cities Nice and Marseille. PHOTO: FRANCK FIFE/AFP/FILE

ARGENTINA, despite being without talisman Lionel Messi, are considered to stand a good chance of winning a record-equalling third men's football gold medal at the upcoming Paris Olympics.

Argentina head coach Javier Mascherano, who won gold as a player in 2004 and 2008, is aiming for glory, as he

called up four World Cup winners to his squad, including striker Julian Alvarez and defender Nicolas Otamendi.

Olympic men's football is an under-23 tournament, but each team is allowed up to three overage players.

Messi, 37, who helped the South American side win gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics,

will not play in the Paris edition, citing a heavy workload. Clubs are not required to release their players to compete at the Olympic Games, as unlike other major international football tournaments, the Games take place outside the official FIFA international window.

In 2008, Barcelona won an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport to prevent Messi from playing in Beijing. It was reported that after Pep Guardiola, then-head coach of Barcelona, intervened, the La Liga club eventually gave the green light, and Messi went on to win gold with Argentina in his only Olympic campaign.

The Olympic men's football tournament serves more as a platform for emerging talents rather than established stars, with traditional football powerhouses not necessarily being among the favourites. — Xinhua

Zverev clinches season-leading 43rd win, aims to be 'happiest man on planet'



'Happiest man on planet': Germany's Alexander Zverev. PHOTO: AFP

ALEXANDER Zverev claimed a season-leading 43rd win on Friday with a straight-sets victory over Zhang Zhizhen of China to edge closer to back-to-back titles at his hometown Hamburg tournament.

The world number four needed just 66 minutes to secure a 6-4, 6-3 win and reach the semi-finals for the fourth time at the clay-court event.

His 43rd win of 2024 took him past the mark of world number one Jannik Sinner.

"I'm extremely pleased with the level of tennis today," said Zverev who showed no sign of the knee injury he suffered in his fourth round exit at Wimbledon.

"I'm happy to be in the semi-finals, but I don't want to stop here, I want to continue and hopefully defend my title here in Hamburg".

French Open runner-up Zverev is playing his last tournament before heading back to Roland Garros to defend his Olympic title. — AFP

Snakes on a plate: pythons touted as protein alternative

Exploring Sustainable Food Opportunities: Python Farming in Thailand

IN the heart of central Thailand's fertile farmlands, thousands of pythons coil in containers within a warehouse, their robust, diamond-patterned skins destined for high-end European fashion markets.

Yet, amidst the humid confines of these farms, an overlooked potential emerges — the utilization of python meat as a sustainable food source.



The trainer of snakes moved with remarkable grace. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/ PINTEREST

Globally, there's a rising demand for meat despite concerns over its environmental impact. While plant-based diets are often promoted as a sustainable alternative, reptilian protein sources like pythons have gained attention for their efficiency.

These snakes thrive in hot climates, requiring minimal food and water while growing swiftly compared to traditional livestock. Researchers suggest that python farming could offer a flexible solution to global food insecurity, leveraging their rapid reproductive rates and efficient feed-to-meat conversion ratios. — AFP



Supplied photo shows Jin of K-pop group BTS with the Olympic flame in Paris on 14 July 2024. PHOTO: PARIS2024/CEDRIC MICHAEL/SIPA PRESS/KYODO

BTS pop star Jin carries Paris Games torch

Jin from BTS runs with Olympic torch in Paris, cheered by fans, ahead of games.

Singer-songwriter Jin of K-pop supergroup BTS carried the torch for the Paris Olympics while cheered by a throng of fans in the French capital on Sunday.

With less than two weeks until the

games start, the Olympic torch relay will travel around Paris and other parts of France before returning to the capital for the 26 July Opening Ceremony.

The South Korean pop star led off a section of the relay from the distinctive

glass pyramid of the Louvre Museum. Sunday's activities, which coincided with France's Bastille Day celebrations, culminated with French tennis icon Yannick Noah lighting a cauldron in front of Paris' city hall, followed by a fireworks display. "I am proud to be a runner in Paris, the most beautiful city in the world," an emotional Noah said.

Other French sports stars who carried the torch included women's over-78-kilogrammes bronze medal-winning judoka Romane Dicko, retired football great and current Olympic men's team coach Thierry Henry, and basketball player Nicolas Batum, who handed off the flame to Noah. — Kyodo

Mexico tries to bring drought-stricken lake back to life

Mexican authorities restore Lake Patzcuaro with fish releases and spring cleanups amid drought and heat impacts.

MEXICAN authorities are releasing thousands of juvenile fish and cleaning up freshwater springs as part of efforts to rejuvenate one of the country's lakes stricken by drought and heat waves.

State workers this week freed 10,000 silverside fish native to Lake Patzcuaro, whose waters attract fishermen and tourists in the western state of Michoacan.

The aim is to release a total of 50,000

fish by the end of the year. "Let's hope they reproduce," said fisherman Miguel Alba, 46. "People who live here by the lake live from farming and fishing. But as there aren't any fish anymore, people are having to leave," he added. Drought, heat waves and water theft have depleted Lake Patzcuaro's water levels.

Rainfall in Mexico in 2023 was 21 per cent below average, making it the driest year since record-keeping began in 1941, according to the National Meteorological Service. The situation has only worsened this year, with heat records broken in the capital and several other cities.

Another problem stems from avocado producers illegally extracting water from Lake Patzcuaro to irrigate their fields, according to local authorities and residents. Michoacan is Mexico's main avocado-producing region, and the lucrative trade has attracted the attention of organized crime groups who extort farmers. — AFP



A man fishes on Mexico's Lake Patzcuaro, where authorities have released thousands of fish to rebuild stocks hit by drought. PHOTO: AFP