

Myanmar strives to forge peace and stability in border region of India

Preparations are ongoing to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser (NSA) of India, at the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries, the political progress of Myanmar, preparations to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, and measures of forging peace and stability in the border region. — MNA/TTA



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents souvenir to Indian National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Doval during courtesy call.

NATIONAL **PAGE 11**

MAJA opens applications for Asahi Shimbun Scholarship

BUSINESS **PAGE 12**



Kawthoung border trade crosses \$28M+ by 22 July

MEC calls for bid to buy long-staple cotton

MYANMAR Economic Corporation (MEC) invited a tender to buy 917,927 visses of long-staple cotton for the Cotton Ginning Factory (Myittha). A firm price quotation for cotton, including delivery charges to the factory, must be submitted during a tender meeting that is scheduled to be held at MEC headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 August 2024. Individuals can enquire about bidding through contact number 067 3434733. The Ministry of Industry also

called for tender in early May to buy three million visses of cotton (2.9 million visses of A-grade long-staple cotton and 100,000 visses of C-grade cotton) for cotton ginning factories under No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise during the 2024-2025 financial year. Those cotton ginning factories operated under No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise are No 1 Textile Factory (Shwetaung), No 3 Textile Factory (Sagaing), No 4 Textile Factory (Pwintbyu), Cotton Ginning Factory (Taungdwingyi), No 7 Textile

Factory (Myittha), No 8 Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) and Cotton Ginning Factory (Yamethin). There are 3,005 acres of monsoon cotton in Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, in the 2024-2025 FY, expanding across 85 in Kyaukse township, 190 in Sagaing and 2,730 in Myittha, according to statistics of the District Settlement and Land Records Department. Myittha is the leading producer of cotton in the district, mainly in Daing, Myanadi and Lunkyaw villages. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

BIMSTEC security chiefs visit
Maravijaya Buddha Image,
Uppatasanti Pagoda



BIMSTEC delegates and spouses pose for the commemorative group photo with Maravijaya Buddha Image backdrop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ADMIRAL Moe Aung, National Security Adviser and Union Minister for the Ministry 1 of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office and his wife, together with BIMSTEC national security chiefs and their wives, delegation members and the BIMSTEC Secretary-General, visited Maravijaya Buddha Image and Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

When they arrived at the Maravijaya Buddha Image, the world's tallest sitting marble Buddha Image, situated in the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri

Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, the pagoda's board of trustees explained the history and events of the Buddha Image with a recording video of the pagoda being shown.

They donated cash to the fund of the pagoda, followed by offering flowers, oil lamps, and water to the pagoda and taking a commemorative group photo. BIMSTEC delegates also observed 720 stone inscriptions in the Romanized language, and officials followed them and explained. The Union minister presented photos of

the Maravijaya Buddha Image to BIMSTEC national security chiefs as unique Dhamma gifts.

Likewise, they visited Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, observed the Myanmar artworks inside the temple and donated cash for the pagoda. The pagoda's trustees presented small Buddha statues to them.

Afterwards, they fed white elephants inside the pagoda precinct. They also visited the Myanmar Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) and the National Museum. — MNA/KZL

In-service & retired government
employees to receive additional allowance

26 July 2024

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar emphasizes the interests of the State and its people, and the government employees play vital roles.

Therefore, the government has allowed the salary raise and additional allowance for civil servants for their welfare. Government employees received additional allowance of K30,000 per month in addition to monthly salary starting October 2023. Currently, government employees will receive an additional allowance of K30,000 in addition to a monthly motivation of K30,000 beginning in August 2024. Moreover, the retired government staff are also allowed to receive additional allowance of K30,000 per month. The allowance will be granted on 1 August 2024.

Ministry of Planning and Finance

Matriculation certificates
created with QR code to
verify authenticity

QR code is added to matriculation certificates for 2024 in order to verify the authenticity of the certificate and the accuracy of data by scanning the QR code, according to the Department of Myanmar Examinations.

When the QR code is scanned, a website beginning with verify.dme.gov.mm will appear and a random six digits will be provided. The user needs to insert the six digits and click 'Submit' to check the certificate data. If the certificate is fake, the QR code will not work with

verify.dme.gov.mm, or it will go to another website, it warned.

If it is forged by copying QR from a certificate issued by the department, the original data and QR result will be different when it is scanned.

Even if it is a genuine certificate issued by the department and if the certificate's data and QR result on verify.dme.gov.mm is different, the user can contact the department's page messenger or qr@myanmar.exam.org by sending the certificate photo. — TWA/ZS

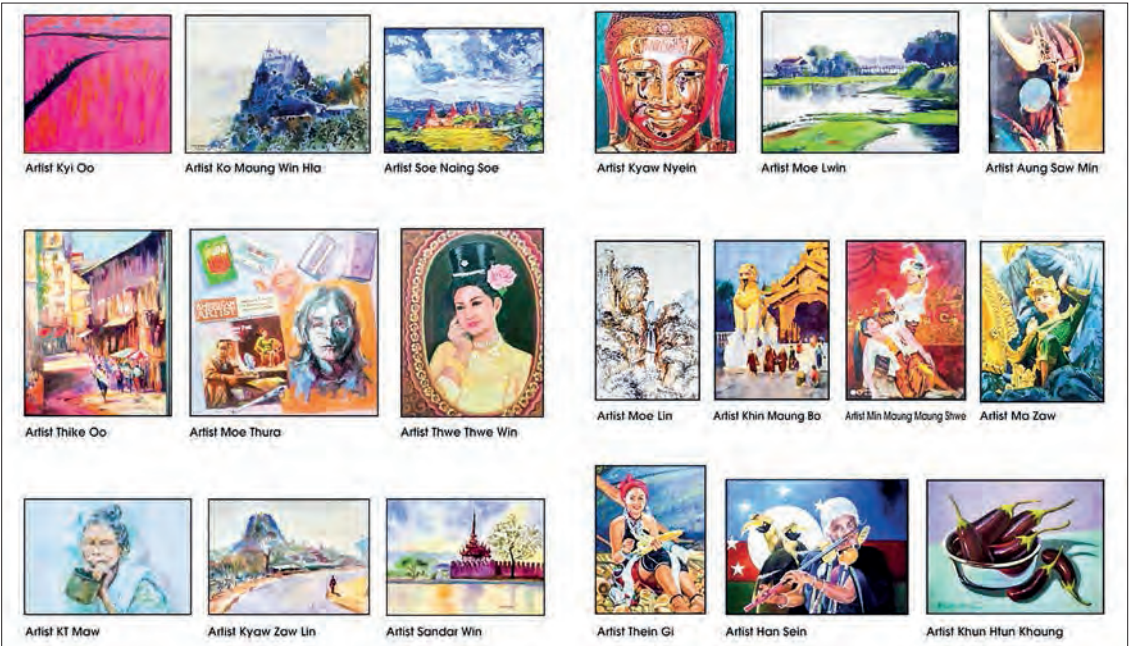
‘With Rain’ displays at
Artistic Space art gallery

THE group art exhibition titled ‘With Rain’ will be displayed at the Artistic Space art gallery in Botahtaung Township from 27 to 31 July.

The exhibition will feature the diverse paintings of 25 well-known artists.

“We’re inviting the audience to come and enjoy the creations at the ‘With Rain’ art exhibition,” said a representative from the Artistic Space Art Gallery.

This exhibition features colourful paintings by artists including Kyi Oo, Thaik Oo, Ko Maung Win Hla, Soe Naing Soe, Moe Thura, Thwe Thwe Win, Kayti Maw, Sandar Win, Kyaw Zaw Linn, Moe Linn, Ma Zaw, Khin Maung Bo, Win Maung Shwe, Moe Lwin, Theinga, Kan Tun Khaung, Moe Myint, Min Htet Naing, Kyaw Swar, Shan Lay, Hlaing One, Yin Chit Aye, Than Htaik Soe, Zin Wai Wai, and Tun Naing. — ASH/TRKM



Images showcase paintings in the catalogue of "With Rain".

NATIONAL



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the first meeting of the e-Government Steering Committee yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that efforts must be made to lessen threats and dangers of digital technology for individuals and societies and improve people-centred e-government services in order to grasp digital opportunities firmly.

The e-Government Steering Committee held the 1/2024 meeting at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with an address by Patron of the Steering Committee Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the e-government measure is a pillar that contributes to implementing the digital economy, which is the main drive for the economic growth of the State.

He continued that aimed at systematically developing ICT technology in Myanmar, the government initiated the Myanmar ICT Development Master Plan in 2005, the Myanmar ICT Development Master Plan in 2010 and the Myanmar e-Governance Master Plan (2016-2020) in 2016.

At present, the Senior General has retold that the e-Governance Master Plan (2016-2020) was revised to the Myanmar e-Governance Master Plan 2030 in conformity with the new policies of the State and new digital technologies.

Currently, he noted that Myanmar is giving government services and information to the people through the Myanmar National Portal, Myanmar National Trade Portal, and ministries' internet pages.

E-government initiative key to advancing digital economy

Myanmar provides government services and information to the public through the Myanmar National Portal, Myanmar National Trade Portal, and various ministry websites.

ICT infrastructures in the reform process of the communication sector gain development momentum, and people have access to government services through mobile communications.

He emphasized that the UN e-Government Development Index (EGDI) showed 134th rank of Myanmar in 2022 from 169th position among 193 countries worldwide in 2016. Moreover, Myanmar took 117th position in 2022 from 170th position in 2016 in the e-Participation Index (EPI) released by the United Nations, he added.

The Senior General stressed that the digital economy and digital government processes are challenges for the administrative and economic sectors, adding that all departmental organizations have to implement the reform process of the government harmoniously in order to meet the visions.

He disclosed that the projects on the Government Data Centre, Myanmar National Portal, One Map Myanmar Geo Portal, Government Cloud, Government e-Mail and e-ID showcase enhancement of capability of the government and information security as significant examples.

The Senior General highlighted that people could apply for digital payment, such as electronic banking services, and send monetary information, but this legitimacy and capability of accepting verification become challenges. Hence, it is necessary to prepare backup systems and disaster recovery systems so as to protect the loss of essen-

tial information data, he noted.

The Senior General stressed the need to turn out technological experts and connect the e-government system among ministries, regions and states.

Chairman of the e-Government Steering Committee Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo clarified the development of the e-government system in Myanmar; extension of internet service, connection of EDMS system among ministries, development of using mobile phones, drawing of Myanmar e-Government Master Plan 2030, security for information data, initiation of Myanmar Unicode system, enactment of the Cyber Security Law, efforts to provide digital service to the people and improvement of administration, social and economic sectors of the country and socioeconomic development of the people by e-Government Steering Committee.

Secretary of the Steering Committee Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Lu Mon reported on the development of the e-government process.

The meeting ended with a remark by Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council Member Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers, the general secretary of Myanmar Computer Federation and officials together with chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the e-Government Steering Committee meeting

1. E-government measures are a pillar that contributes to implementing the digital economy, which is a main drive for the economic growth of the State.

2. The government initiated the Myanmar ICT Development Master Plan in 2005, the Myanmar ICT Development Master Plan in 2010 and the Myanmar e-Governance Master Plan (2016-2020) in 2016.

3. The E-Governance Master Plan (2016-2020) was revised to the Myanmar e-Governance Master Plan 2030 in conformity with the new policies of the State and new digital technologies.

4. The digital economy and digital government processes are challenges for the administrative and economic sectors

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Sri Lanka to promote sector-wise cooperation

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and General Kamal Gunaratne, Secretary to the Defence Ministry of Sri Lanka, discussed the exchange of trainees between the two Tatmadaws.



State Administration Council Chairman Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives General Kamal Gunaratne, Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Sri Lanka yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing recounted that Myanmar held the Fourth Meeting of the National Security Chiefs of BIMSTEC with active participation from all member states. Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received General

al Kamal Gunaratne (Retd), Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Sri Lanka, at the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. At the meeting, they cordially discussed friendly relations between both countries, bilateral cooperation in diplomatic relations, and religious affairs. They also focused on

the exchange of trainees between two Tatmadaws of both countries and the enhancement of cooperation. They also exchanged views on the promotion of cooperation in the economic development of the two countries, holding the Fourth Meeting of the National Security Chiefs of BIMSTEC by Myanmar and

its active participation in the meeting together with other Member States, emphasizing further promotion of cooperation in all sectors between the two countries. Also present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for the Ministry 1 of the State Administration Council

Chairman's Office Admiral Moe Aung and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Secretary to the Ministry of Defence of Sri Lanka was accompanied by Mrs Ponnampereuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampereuma, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar, and officials. — MNA/TTA



Ambassador Mr Is-kander Azizov of the Russian Federation calls on SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win yesterday.

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Russian Ambassador to Myanmar

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Mr Is-kander Azizov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. At the meeting, they discussed the implementation of the processes in the special economic zone and generating electricity. They cordially exchanged views on political, economic and defence sectors, including expression of media in Russia on information about the progress of Myanmar and necessary information the Ambassador wished to know. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo and officials also attended the meeting. — MNA/TTA



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NATIONAL

Myanmar calls for collaboration to ensure food, energy security during 4th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting

THE Fourth BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting was held at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

National Security Advisor Union Minister for the Ministry 1 of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office Admiral Moe Aung, BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs Shri Ajit Doval of India, Ambassador Abdul Motaleb Sarker of Bangladesh, Mr Sonam Wangyel of Bhutan, Mr Harishchandra Ghimire of Nepal, General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) of Sri Lanka, Mr Ruchakorn Napapornpipat of Thailand and BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey.

Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung first made the opening speech, and national security chiefs of BIMSTEC members clarified the declarations for collaborative efforts in



The Fourth BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

solving the traditional security threats and non-traditional security threats.

The Myanmar representative then presented the

outcomes of the preliminary meeting for the Fourth BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting, while the BIMSTEC Secretary-General talked

about combatting terrorism and transnational crimes and progress in national security affairs. The BIMSTEC National

Security Chief openly discussed combatting terrorism and drugs, maritime security and cybersecurity, practical cooperation in information sharing in relevant security affairs, current security affairs in regions, and preparations to be made to overcome the coming security-related challenges.

In his concluding remark, Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung highlighted the facts urged by State Administration Council Chairman Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing regarding collaborative efforts of member countries for food security and energy security as a supportive measure to uplift the socioeconomic status of people.

Finally, all attendees posed for the documentary picture at the event. — MNA/KTZH

NSA & Union Minister receives BIMSTEC national security chiefs

ADMIRAL Moe Aung, National Security Adviser and Union Minister for the Ministry 1 of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office, received National Security Chiefs of the BIMSTEC States in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung met General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) from Sri Lanka and received Mr Ruchakorn Napapornpipat from Thailand separately.

During the meeting, they frankly exchanged views on the situation that will solve challenges that the countries are experiencing through cooperation between the countries on the se-



Photos show National Security Adviser and Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung receives BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

curity of the region, the current status of Myanmar's political development and preparations for

the successful holding of a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for the Ministry 1 of the State Ad-

ministration Council Chairman's Office Maj-Gen Khun Thant Zaw Htoo, and officials. — MNA/TS



Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung participates in the trade conference on 23 July 2024.

Myanmar attends India-ASEAN Trade Conference 2024 in India

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung attended, as a special guest, the India-ASEAN Trade Conference 2024 held on 23 July at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel

in Ahmedabad, Gujarat State, India.

The conference was organized by the Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO). During the event, Ambassador U Moe Kyaw Aung discussed economic cooper-

ation between the two countries, the promotion of investment and tourism, and the improvement of business communication between business people from both nations. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Russian Ambassador



DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Is-kander Azizov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the friendly bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, including the promotion of cooperation in science and technology, customs matters, trade, economics, investment, education and culture sectors, as well as closer collaboration in regional and multilateral contexts. — MNA

Russian Ambassador Mr Is-kander Azizov calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

NSA Union Minister hosts dinner for BIMSTEC delegates

NATIONAL Security Adviser and Union Minister for the Ministry 1 of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office Admiral Moe Aung hosted a dinner for BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs from member countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand and the BIMSTEC Secretary-General and their wives at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

National Security Chiefs Shri Ajit Doval from India, Ambassador Mr Abdul Motaleb Sarker of Bangladesh, Mr Sonam Wangyel from Bhutan, Mr Harishchandra Ghimire of Nepal, General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) from Sri Lanka, Mr Ruchakorn Napapornpipat from Thailand, BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey and their wives, deputy ministers and their wives who are members of BIMSTEC's Steering Committee for the successful holding of the Fourth National Security Chiefs' Meeting, and working committee members attended the dinner.

National Security Adviser Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung, BIMSTEC National Se-



curity Chiefs and spouses first toured around the booths displaying traditional Myanmar handicrafts at the M Gallery Hotel.

Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung then gave a welcome speech. During the dinner, artistes from the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed Myanmar cultural dances and traditional dances of BIMSTEC member countries with honourable songs.

After the dinner, the Union minister and BIMSTEC delegates presented the flower banquet to performers, exchanged souvenirs, and took a documentary group picture together. — MNA/TS



Photos (top and above) show the group documentary picture and delegates viewing the display at yesterday's dinner in Nay Pyi Taw.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 17:00 hrs MST on 26-7-2024)

ACCORDING to the (16:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Bago River at Bago has reached its danger level

28.87 feet (880 centimetres). It may continue to rise from the present water level by about 2½ feet during the next one day and

may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

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

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (14:00) hours MST on 26-7-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the North Bay of Bengal and adjoining Coastal areas of Bangladesh and Gangetic West Bengal, India. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and cross Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, India, during next two days. — DMH

NATIONAL

Union Information Minister inspects Pyinmana-Thabyay Taung MRTV retransmission station

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the Pyinmana-Thabyay Taung MRTV retransmission station in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union minister first heard presentations made by MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing and an official from the Ministry of Construction.

He then guided sector-wise cooperation in broadcasting programmes, correcting and releasing accurate information in a timely manner and completing construction projects within a fixed time.

He observed the land plot on which one four-unit two-storey staff housing will be constructed using capital expenditures of the 2024-2025 financial year, UpLink processes made by the ministries and received by MRTV (Tatkon) and transmission stations of FM radios and DVB-T2.

He also provided cash assistance to staff and inspected the staff housing and dormitories.

Moreover, he checked the basic camera operation short-term course conducted for four staff members of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, four female photo journalists and two staff members who will serve at China Radio International.

— MNA/KTZH

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— MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the Pyinmana-Thabyay Taung MRTV retransmission station yesterday.

Illegal consumer and intermediate goods, foodstuffs and vehicles confiscated

UNDER the supervision and control of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, illegal trade is being effectively prevented and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

On July 24 and 25, the Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force, under the management of the Customs Department, inspected 19 containers and discovered items that did not match the goods declared in the import declaration forms. These items included 880 Chinese-made Mascot brand high heels, 50 platform scales, and 856.8 square metres of ceramic wall and floor tiles, as well as three types of 23,200 kilogrammes FRP (fibreglass reinforced plastic) gratings, with an estimated value of K100,917,480.

A total of 9,792 Knight Horse bathing slippers made in Thailand (estimated value of K14,688,000) were found on a Hino truck (estimated value of K30,000,000) travelling from Mawlamyine to Yangon at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The quantity of these slippers exceeded the amount declared in the import declaration form. Additionally, 320 kilogrammes of fertilizer bags, believed to be ammonium nitrate,



Confiscated illegal goods in different states and regions.

100 cartons of dried noodles under the Nay Myo Win brand, 24 wooden doors, three wooden chairs, and one wooden altar (with an estimated value of K268,500,000), carried by a Nissan Diesel box truck (estimated value K40 million), were seized. The total estimated value of the seized items is

K454,105,480, and the action was taken in accordance with Customs procedures.

Therefore, on 24 and 25 July, a total of nine cases (estimated value of K454,105,480) were recorded, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/TKO

Drugs seized in Yangon Region, Shan State

POLICE seized drugs in North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region and Aungban, Kalaw Township of Shan State this week, as stated by the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team of anti-narcotics forces seized 700 stimulant tablets from a suspect named Aung Thu Phyoo in Ward A of North Okkalapa Township at 1:30 pm on 24 July.

According to further investigations, police confiscated Okkar Min at his house located in Ward A of North Okkalapa Township, Zaw Zaw Thein (aka) Zaw Gyi, together with 100,000 stimulant tablets at his home located in Waibagi Myothit Fourth Ward of North Okkalapa Township, Soe Soe Aye at her house in Ward A, North Okkalapa Township together with 400 stimulant tablets and 0.15 kilogramme of caffeine, 0.13 kilogramme of ketamine, 0.05 kilogramme of Ice and 0.048 kilogramme of Happy Water, and Ma Than Than Swe (aka) Lay Khin together with 10,000 stimulant tablets in Ward 4 of Waibagi Myothit of North Okkalapa Township respectively.

Likewise, police stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Ye Thiha near Thayetpu Village, Gabarni Village-tract, Aungban, Kalaw Township at 2 pm on 25 July and seized 20,010 stimulant pills. Offenders were prosecuted under the drug law. — MNA/KZL



Offenders are seen alongside confiscated drugs.

Conserve mangrove forests to improve natural environment

MYANMAR hosts 3.3 per cent of the world’s mangrove forests, covering 5,029 square kilometres, making it the seventh-largest mangrove country globally and the third in Southeast Asia. These mangroves offer numerous benefits, including food, water resources, medicinal plants, timber, and fire-wood. They also play a crucial role in environmental conservation by preventing landslides, enriching soil, and sustaining biomass.

World Mangrove Day, observed on 26 July each year, was established by UNESCO during its 2015 General Conference to highlight the importance of mangrove ecosystems. This day promotes the conservation and sustainable growth of mangrove forests, which are essential for human society and wildlife habitats.

Mangroves thrive in tropical and subtropical coastal areas, enduring high salinity, tidal flooding, and low oxygen levels. Only 110 species are classified as mangroves due to their unique adaptation to saline swamps. These trees have complex root systems that help them withstand tidal waves and provide habitats for various organisms, including fish and crustaceans.

In Myanmar, mangroves primarily flourish in Rakhine State, the Ayeyawady Delta, and the Taninthayi Region. Despite their importance, the area covered by mangrove forests has been declining. Currently, Rakhine State retains 76 per cent of its mangrove forests, the Ayeyawady Region 29 per cent, and the Taninthayi Region 98 per cent, resulting in 66 per cent mangrove coverage nationwide. Among 110 mangrove species worldwide, 54 are considered actual mangrove plants, with 32 species found in Myanmar.

Conserving mangrove ecosystems is vital for preventing coastline erosion, mitigating the impacts of tides and tsunamis, and reducing atmospheric carbon. A significant example of their importance is the 2008 Cyclone Nargis, which devastated Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, and parts of Mon State. Despite the destruction, some individuals survived due to the protective barrier provided by mangrove forests. This event underscored the need for mangrove conservation, prompting successive governments and relevant authorities to prioritize protecting and restoring these crucial ecosystems.

By conserving mangrove forests, Myanmar can enhance its natural environment, protect biodiversity, and safeguard coastal communities from natural disasters. Mangrove conservation efforts contribute to a healthier, more sustainable environment, benefiting both human and wildlife populations.

More than 15 million hectares of mangrove forests are located in global countries, but only 1-2 per cent of them are lost on a yearly basis. As such, it is necessary to nurture and conserve mangrove forests as part of saving the lives of humans and animals relying on mangrove forests and improving the natural environment.

Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

BY AUGUSTIN

IDIOMS are like colourful paintbrushes that add depth and expression to everyday conversations. They help convey meaning more vividly and succinctly than literal language alone.



မြို့လုံပေါက်
/mhaoloput/
• အားလုံးပဲ မင်္ဂလာပါခင်ဗျာ။ စိန်ရွှေရတနာဆိုင်တွေ မြို့လုံပေါက်နေချိန်မှာ မိမိုးဖလာအတိုင်း သွားနေတုံးပဲလား?...
• လောင်းကစားပိုင်းများ မြို့လုံပေါက်...
• နိုင်ငံရေးပါတီတွေ မြို့လုံပေါက်...
မိုးရာသီအစ အရိပ်ရသောနေရာများ ၊ မြက်ခင်းများ နှင့် ဆွေးမြေ့နေသောမြေဆီလွှာ များတွင် မြို့များပေါများစွာ ပေါက်ဖွားသည်ကို တွေ့ရတတ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် “ မြို့လုံပေါက် “ ဟူသော ပေါဟာရသည် ပေါများခြင်း သို့မဟုတ် တိုးပွားခြင်းကို ရည်ညွှန်းသည်။

- To grow like mushrooms
- To proliferate rapidly

At the start of the rainy season, it is typical to discover mushrooms growing abundantly in shaded areas and in decaying soil in meadows. Therefore, the term “growing like mushrooms” refers to being plentiful or prolific.

The Myanmar saying compares something to mushrooms appearing suddenly at the start of the rainy season. It vividly describes how mushrooms quickly grow in shaded places with decaying organic material when the rainy season begins.

In Myanmar culture, this natural occurrence symbolizes rapid growth and abundance. Therefore, when someone uses this idiom, they imply that something is growing or increasing rapidly and abundantly, similar to how mushrooms appear suddenly and in large numbers during the onset of the rainy season.

This idiom reflects a deep connection to nature and seasonal changes, highlighting the cultural understanding of growth and prosperity as something that can happen swiftly and abundantly under favourable conditions, much like mushrooms sprouting prolifically in the right environment.

USAGES:
Spread like wildfire
Definition: To rapidly and uncontrollably propagate or increase.
Example: “News of the scandal spread like wildfire through the office.”

Burgeoning like mushrooms after rain
Definition: Growing or multiplying quickly and abundantly.
Example: “Tech startups are burgeoning like mushrooms after rain in the city.”

Growing like topsy
Definition: Growing in an unplanned or disorderly manner.
Example: “The town’s population has been growing like topsy since they built the new highway.”

Mushrooming
Definition: Rapidly increasing or multiplying in number.
Example: “Chain stores are mushrooming all over the downtown area.”

Snowball effect
Definition: A situation where something increases in size or importance at an accelerating rate.
Example: “The protest started with just a few people, but soon it had a snowball effect, and thousands joined.”

Going through the roof
Definition: Increasing rapidly and substantially.
Example: “The prices of houses in this neighbourhood are going through the roof.”

Like greased lightning
Definition: Extremely fast or quick.
Example: “He finished the project like greased lightning, much to everyone’s surprise.”



အသံကောင်းဟစ်
/asan kaung hait/
အချို့သောလူများသည် မတရားမှုများတွင် ပါဝင်နေသော်လည်း ၎င်းတို့သည် ဖြောင့်မတ်ပြီး အသိစိတ်ရှိသူများအဖြစ် ပုံဖော်ကြသည်။ ကောင်းမြတ်ခြင်းကို ကျယ်လောင်စွာ ကြွေးကြော်ကြသည်။ မိမိကိုယ်ကို မိမိ ချီးကျူး ကြသည်။

- အသံကောင်းဟစ်သည်။ လေကြီးလေကျယ် စကားနာထိုးသည်။
- ထိုသူတွေကတော့ လက်တွေ့မကျ ရွှေ့စွန်းကိုက် ပျော်ပါးပြီး အသံကောင်းဟစ်နေကြသူတွေ....
- To shout out a good voice
- To call out loudly with a pleasant tone.
- To project a strong, clear voice.
- To vocalize loudly and with clarity.

Some individuals frequently engage in wrongdoing and injustice, yet they consistently portray themselves as righteous and conscientious. These people are said to have a loud voice proclaiming their goodness. Similarly, anyone who praises themselves despite their actual behaviour being contrary is also considered as such.

The Myanmar idiom referring to encapsulates a concept found in many cultures: the discrepancy between one’s actions and their self-proclaimed righteousness.

It vividly describes individuals who habitually engage in wrongful acts but vociferously assert their own moral uprightness. In essence, it highlights the hypocrisy and the disparity between outward claims and actual behaviour.

This idiom underscores a universal truth about human behaviour: actions speak louder than words. It critiques those who boast about their virtues while their deeds contradict their claims. Such individuals often seek to manipulate perception, projecting an image of righteousness to mask their moral failings

or to deceive others for personal gain or social acceptance.

In Myanmar culture, as in many others, this concept serves as a cautionary tale against hypocrisy and the dangers of false appearances. It encourages people to discern true character beyond superficial displays of virtue and to value integrity over outward showmanship.

USAGES:
Pot calling the kettle black
Definition: Criticizing someone for a fault that you have yourself.
Example: It’s somewhat hypocritical of him to call me lazy when he spends half the day napping.

Wolf in sheep’s clothing
Definition: Someone who appears harmless but is actually dangerous.
Example: Be cautious of him; he may seem friendly, but he’s a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

Practice what you preach
Definition: To follow the advice or beliefs that one gives to others.
Example: She always tells us to be punctual, but she herself is often late—she really needs to practice what she preaches.

Two-faced
Definition: Someone who is insincere, presenting one face in public and another in private.
Example: I thought she was my friend, but it turns out she’s quite two-faced, spreading rumours behind my back.

Holier-than-thou
Definition: Acting morally superior to others.
Example: He has a holier-than-thou attitude about charity work, yet he never volunteers himself.

Turn a blind eye
Definition: To ignore something intentionally.
Example: The manager turned a blind eye to the staff’s tardiness, even though it was against company policy.

Put on a show
Definition: To behave in a way that is not genuine, usually to impress or deceive others.
Example: She puts on a show of being a health enthusiast, but she secretly indulges in junk food every night.



မြွေမွေးခါးပိုက်ပိုက်
/mwha phayay hkar pite pite/
• To nurse a viper in one’s bosom
• To harbour a dangerous enemy unknowingly
• အဆိပ်ရှိတဲ့ မြွေမွေးမလေးမှန်း သိသိရက်ကြီးနဲ့ ခါးပိုက် ပိုက် လို့ တင်ထားဆဲ....

- မြွေမွေးကို ခါးပိုက် ပိုက်ထားရတဲ့ဘဝ ရောက်နေပြီ....
- “ဟာ... ဆရာ မြွေမွေး ခါးပိုက် မပိုက်ချင်ပါနဲ့ ” တပည့်တစ်ဦးက ဝင်ပြောလိုက်သည်....

It is believed that if someone keeps a dead female viper in their clothing, live baby vipers will emerge from the mother’s womb and try to harm the person. Therefore, figuratively speaking, taking care of a dangerous or ungrateful person is likened to nursing a viper in the bosom.

The Myanmar idiom “nursing a viper in the bosom” vividly illustrates the peril of nurturing someone or something dangerous or untrustworthy. Originating from a belief that keeping a dead female viper in one’s clothing can lead to live baby vipers emerging to harm the person, the idiom warns against harbouring potential harm or betrayal despite good intentions.

Figuratively, the idiom advises caution in relationships and dealings, emphasizing the danger of maintaining close ties with those who may turn out to be ungrateful, treacherous, or harmful. It underscores the idea that even well-intentioned care or support can backfire if directed towards someone who is inherently deceitful or untrustworthy.

Culturally, this metaphor resonates deeply in Myanmar, serving as a potent reminder of the need for discernment and self-protection in personal and professional relationships. It highlights the universal theme of trust and betrayal, cautioning individuals to be wary of hidden dangers that may lurk beneath seemingly benign appearances.

Ultimately, the idiom encapsulates timeless wisdom: the importance of vigilance in assessing the true nature of those we choose to trust, as nurturing the wrong entity can lead to unexpected harm and consequences.

USAGES
Bite the hand that feeds you
Definition: To harm someone who has helped or supported you.
Example: “After all the help and advice he gave her, she bit the hand that fed her by spreading rumours about him.”

Stab someone in the back
Definition: To betray someone’s trust or confidence.
Example: “He thought they were friends, but they stabbed him in the back by revealing his secrets to everyone.”

Snake in the grass
Definition: A deceitful or treacherous person who hides their true intentions.
Example: “Watch out for him; he’s a snake in the grass who will smile to your face and then betray you when you least expect it.”

Sell someone down the river
Definition: To betray someone’s trust or loyalty, especially for personal gain.
Example: “He promised to support us, but in the end, he sold us down the river to secure his own promotion.”

Wolf in sheep’s clothing
Definition: Someone who appears harmless or friendly but is actually dangerous or deceitful.
Example: “He seemed like a nice guy at first, but he turned out to be a wolf in sheep’s clothing, scamming everyone in the neighbourhood.”

Burn bridges
Definition: To destroy one’s relationships, often irreparably.
Example: “She burned bridges with her colleagues by spreading false rumours, leaving her with no allies when she needed help.”

NATIONAL

Clarification on situation of northern Shan State by Information Team Leader of State Administration Council

I am going to explain the situation in northern Shan State today.

MNDAA terrorists launched attacks in Lashio and surrounding areas on 3 July. In doing so, they conducted the firing of rockets and bomb attacks with the use of drones on residential areas of ordinary people rather than military positions. The lives and property of people were lost. Religious edifices, roads and bridges, public hospitals and clinics and schools were damaged. Thirty people, including five children, were killed, and 55 people were injured in Lashio alone. Our national race people were forced to escape the fighting by leaving their houses, shops and businesses they had built with their savings for many years and many generations. Currently, a large number of national race people have run away from such areas and taken shelters in other towns and villages, including PyinOoLwin, Taunggyi and Mandalay, because MNDAA, TNLA and AA terrorists and their allies PDF terrorists have targeted towns and villages. It can be seen that the government, local administrative bodies, volunteer social assistance organizations, and private well-wishers are offering assistance to them. I would like to say that I am proud of the Myanmar spirit and willingness of national race people along their ways to stand with and offer assistance to those who were displaced by attacks of insurgents. While people with the Union spirit and Myanmar spirit are doing so out of their humanitarian spirit, it is disappointing to see that exiles, organizations and media that rely on foreign countries are supporting insurgents who are destroying the lives and property of the people like robber gangs. It can clearly be seen how wicked and destructive those who are happy to see the deaths and losses of the people and destruction of property, public roads, bridges, schools, places of worship like pagodas, monasteries and religious buildings are to our country and our people. All people must cooperate and oppose them resolutely.

It can be seen that the MNDAA ter-



SAC Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

rorist group yesterday announced that they had occupied Lashio. An official from the Tatmadaw Information Team has explained that the news was fabricated for propaganda purposes. Within a short time after the announcement of the MNDAA, a Bamar traitor organization called the BPLA echoed the news and destructive media, and those who rely on foreign countries launched propaganda campaigns massively as usual. Uniquely, a large number of propaganda campaigns were also launched in Chinese language on TikTok and WeChat pages. It is necessary for all our people and security organizations to understand the aim of these saboteurs and why they spread the fabricated news massively.

MNDAA, TNLA and PDF terrorist groups suffered a large number of deaths, injuries and losses during the fighting in Lashio, Nawnghkio, Kyaukme and Hsipaw areas in July, and many of them fled away. So, they arrested national-race people, including children, older people and IDPs, in villages they occupied and forced the people to fight for them. That caused losses of lives and property again. Therefore, they are doing so to cover up their real situation and low morale. Here, I would like to remind you that those who were unlawfully recruited by MNDAA,

TNLA and other terrorist groups can run away from them to safe places. The Tatmadaw and our security organizations can guarantee their lives and security.

When terrorists attacked Lashio and related areas, people from all over Myanmar, including local people and even the Chinese people, protested their bandit-friendly act. Therefore, they fired rockets and heavy weapons at houses and in the neighbourhoods where the people lived and scared the people away. They entered public places pretending to be civilians. It was done to break down the opposition of the public and the unity and opinions of our ethnic people.

In addition, it was done to get more aid from the local and foreign organizations backing them.

Today, they entered some parts of Lashio in civilian clothes, changed into uniforms, and walked around the city, showing flag hoisting. They toured some places in Lashio City by car and took pictures and videos to spread propaganda.

The public, Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members and people's militia who are bravely fighting for the lives of the people and the nation in this region need to know about it.

MNDAA, TNLA, and combined terrorist groups are attacking the lives and property of the local ethnic people. They are committing racial discrimination, arbitrary occupation and forced recruitment of soldiers to death in the areas they illegally invaded. You will see that they are attacking each other to control the territory. In which areas where they invaded unlawfully, and are the socio-economic lives of the local people improving? I want to question whether it is safe. It is only the bandits who are defeating the people of the national race by relying on weapons.

Tatmadaw is an army that emerged with the independence of Myanmar. Working together with the ethnic people to achieve Myanmar's independence, we sacrificed life, blood and sweat. At the time when Myanmar gained independence, the government was called the Yangon gov-

ernment due to various insurgent groups. Tatmadaw cooperated with the people of the responsible national race to safeguard the freedom of the country and the sovereignty of the people of Myanmar. Among the 14 military commands in the Tatmadaw, the North-East Command is fine in its tradition. It defeated the Kuomintang invasion from abroad. It repeatedly defeated the invasions of the Communist Party of Burma. It is the military command that helped the local, national race people to free from the oppression of the warlords and opium kings.

At this time today, according to the situation and the times, it can be seen that the bandit war royalism has been seen clearly with various disguises, propaganda and racism. It is also seen that those who have a destructive spirit towards this country and the public, the nefarious conspiracy of unfaithful scumbags and organizations, are supporting warlordism. These issues are about to end. It's like a fire that's about to go out. They are spreading false propaganda so that the fire that is about to be gone out is spreading. We need to be aware of these. Everyone needs to work together. The national race people, Tatmadaw, MPF members and militia forces must work together to wipe out the terrorists who sneak into towns and villages pretending to be civilians. The State and people are valued and proud of military personnel, members of the Myanmar Police Force, militia forces, ethnic organizations and ethnic peoples, who are fighting at great risk across the country. Ensuring the protection of ethnic communities is crucial for victory.

As long as Myanmar exists, Tatmadaw will be there. As long as the Tatmadaw exists, Myanmar must be sustained and strengthened. The property, life and social and economic life of the public must be secured. While the entire ethnic population is united and working together, "Let's protect our land to make the motherland stable and peaceful".

Thank you all.

Kayin State holds disaster drills, opening flood relief camps

RELEVANT organizations in Kayin State have conducted drills to give quick responses to floods and other natural disasters, and flood relief camps have been opened, according to an official from the Myanmar Social Relief Association — Hpa-an.

At 9 am on 24 July, a flood-like search and rescue drill was held at Kanthaya and Zwegapin Hall in Kayin State, with the aim of ensuring a quick response and assistance in the event of a flood or other natural disaster.

Together with disaster management

teams, the Myanmar Fire Services Department, nursing teams from the Myanmar Red Cross, the Myanmar Social Relief Association, the Marga Social Aid Group, social rescue members and responsible personnel participated in the demonstration.

"Because of floods in Kayin State, organizations have been working together to carry out rescues harmoniously and in an appropriate manner. Water has started to enter the low-lying areas in Hpa-an. It is raining again. We are monitoring the situation," said the official. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Field meetings set for areas with most outstanding loans



MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw presides over the meeting on the economic impacts of COVID-19 on 24 July 2024.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, there will be meetings in regions, including Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, which have the most significant number of remaining loans after the three-year term of the COVID-19 loan.

The Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations said at the meeting on the economic effects that may occur due to COVID-19, held on 24 July, that loans from the COVID-19 Fund are national finance, so people are obligated to repay them. There is no plan to extend the loan period for companies and enterprises that have to repay the loan principal and interest after the loan period has exceeded three years.

Loan repayments increased between June

and this July after notification through the state newspaper that K50 billion of the state's revolving fund and K150 billion from the general surplus fund were released from K50 billion to K150 billion for a total of K100 billion.

Officials will hold field meetings in the regions, including Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region, which have the most remaining loans and will cooperate with the relevant regional governments to ensure that the loans are quickly repaid.

Loans from the COVID-19 Fund to the live-stock sector, including fish and shrimp farming, and loans to the film, music, theatrical, press and media sectors are coming to the deadline; thus, ministry officials are urged to proceed accordingly. — TWA/KZL

Over 6,000 online businesses registered by July 2024

AS of July 2024, more than 6,000 online businesses are officially registered, according to the Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce.

The department is conducting the registration process in accordance with the Consumer Protection Law and other existing laws to ensure that consumer rights are protected in the online sales sector in Myanmar.

To apply for a registration certificate for businesses selling online under the Essential Supplies and Services Law, an introduction and awareness ceremony for the registration application system, as per notifications 50/2023 and 51/2023, was held on 2 October 2023 at the hall of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

Additionally, starting on 1 January 2024, the department announced that action would be taken against unregistered online sales. — TWA/TKO



The introduction and awareness ceremony of the registration application system is in progress on 2 October 2023.

MAJA opens applications for Asahi Shimbun Scholarship

THE MAJA Education Centre is now accepting applications for the Asahi Shimbun Scholarship for April 2025.

Anyone who meets the following requirements can apply: passed JLPT N4 and above (certificate is required), above 18 years old and under 25 years old, passed at least Grade 12 (passed university first year and above), unmarried, without having tattoo, having good health, PV passport holder or received QR code for PV, motorcycle licence A holder or going to receive the A licence in next two months. Those who have already applied for school visas or other kinds of visas to Japan and those who were rejected COE are not eligible.

The duration of accepting applications is from 25 July to 9 August 2024. Applicants can submit their applications using Google Forms, and scholarship details will be sent to the Gmail address filled in on the Google Form. — MT/ZS

Yunnan Exchange Event on Geographic Indication for South and Southeast Asia held



High-ranking officials and officials from South and Southeast Asia are seen posing for a documentary photo at the event.

MYANMAR Consul-General U Thwin Htet Lin attended the Yunnan Exchange Event on Geographic Indication for South and Southeast Asia held at Yunnan Haigen Convention

Centre in Kunming City on 27 July 2024, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Under the guidance of Yunnan Market Supervision and Administration Bureau, China Certification & Accreditation Association (CCAA) and Yunnan Certification and Accreditation Association jointly declared the 2024 Commodity list with Yunnan's Geographic Indication at the event. Then, officials introduced trademarks that were selected as the first batch of brand awareness programmes for a campaign, "A Hundred Companies in a Thousand Villages", to the attendees. — ASH/KK

NATIONAL
BUSINESS

Yangon Region approves
four new investments,
creating 1,491 jobs

ACCORDING to U Nyi Nyi Min, Secretary of the Yangon Region Government, the region has approved three new foreign investments and one Myanmar citizen investment in July 2024, resulting in the creation of 1,491 new jobs.

“At the Yangon Region Investment Committee meeting 7/2024 held on 25 July, one investment by a Myanmar citizen in the hotel service sector and

three foreign investments in industrial production sectors were approved. These four new investments totalled K1,210 million and \$2.704 million. They will generate 1,491 job opportunities,” said U Nyi Nyi Min.

The report highlights an increase in both existing and new investment amounts, as well as a rise in the workforce during this period. The Yangon Region Investment Commit-



This photo shows authorities inspecting factories and workplaces in Yangon Region.

tee reviews and approves new Myanmar and foreign investments monthly, in line with laws, rules, and regulations, to foster job creation within the region. — ASH/ TMT

Kawthoung border trade crosses \$28M+
by 22 July

MYANMAR’S Kawthoung border with Thailand reached over US\$28.48 million as of 22 July this month, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Fisheries exports in Kawthoung are operating with a free-on-board (FOB) system. There is always a trade surplus at the Kawthoung border. The main export items are various fish, shrimp, squid, crab, anchovy and oil palm.

The border was set to achieve a trade target of US\$20 million for July, and actual trade value has already surpassed the trade target.

The Ministry of Commerce has been prioritizing trade promotion. Thailand grants zero tariffs for maize imports between 1 February and 31 August yearly. Myanmar conveys maize directly from Yangon Port to Ranong Port. Some are exported through the Kawthoung border as well.

Myanmar sent 87,748 tonnes of maize worth \$20.622 million to Ranong



Border trade thrives via Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong maritime channel.

via Kawthoung border as of 22 July.

Kyat-baht trade settlement is also operational in the Kawthoung border with authorized dealers (A Bank, MEB, KBZ and AYA).

The Kawthoung border performed the fourth-largest trade between Myanmar and Thailand, according to the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics. — NN/KK

Local pears
outsell imported
varieties

RATHER than imported pears, the trading of local pears, which are cheaper, are sold well.

Thailand pear and Chinese pear are also available in the market, though locally-produced Aungban pear has been in high demand. “Both Thai pear and Chinese pear are imported. Among them, Myanmar pear produced from Aungban is highly consumed. All kinds of Myanmar fruits are cheap, and the trading is better, too. Myanmar pear is harvested only this month and will no longer be available in the next months,” said the owner of Pyae Sone Aung fruit trading from Aungban.

In July, pears produced from Naung-taya are transported to the Aungban wholesale trading centre and Yangon’s Thirimingala Market. Pears are categorized depending on the fruit’s size and price in the consumer’s favour.

The yield of pear produced from Naungtaya has decreased this year due to weather change compared to 2023, and pear, avocado, orange and Sunkist are commercially grown at orchards in Naungtaya. — Thit Taw/ZS



A farm worker picks pears at an orchard in Naungtaya.

Myanmar businesses invited to EWEC Trade Fair
2024 in Da Nang

EWEC International Trade, Tourism and Investment Fair (Da Nang 2024), which is scheduled to be held on 2-7 August 2024 in Da Nang, Vietnam, cordially invited Myanmar businesspeople, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

This fair aims to promote cooperation in economic, trade, tourism and investment sectors between Vietnam and ASEAN countries, as well as international partners.

Myanmar representatives can enjoy two booths for free at the fair.

For details, individuals can visit the website www.itpc.danang.gov.vn and register with the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through contact number 067 408622 and email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

China Coast Guard departs for fisheries patrol in North Pacific

This marks their ninth annual inspection to enforce fishery laws.

TWO ships dispatched by the China Coast Guard (CCG) on Friday set out for this year's patrol mission to enforce fishery laws on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean.

The CCG ships, which departed from Qingdao in east China's Shandong Province, will carry out a 45-day patrol, said the CCG, adding that this year is CCG's ninth patrol for such inspections.

Over the past years, they have undertaken the inspections under relevant United Nations General Assembly resolution and the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the



China Coast Guard ships the Qushan and the Haimen will take part in fisheries patrols. **PHOTO: CHINA COAST GUARD**

North Pacific Ocean, the CCG said.

Efforts have been made to crack down on ille-

gal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean, contributing

to the fishery order and the sustainable development of fishery resources, added the CCG. — Xinhua

Washington urges Israel to extend cooperation with Palestinian banks

THE United States on Thursday called on Israel to extend its cooperation with Palestinian banks for another year, to avoid blocking vital transactions in the occupied West Bank.

"I am glad that Israel has allowed its banks to continue cooperating with Palestinian banks, but I remain convinced that a one-year extension of the waiver to facilitate this cooperation is needed," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday, on the sidelines of a meeting of G20 finance ministers in Rio de Janeiro.

In May, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich threatened to cut off a vital banking channel between Israel and the West Bank in response to three European countries recognizing the



Bank Of Palestine Head Office - Ramallah, Palestine. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/FILE**

State of Palestine.

On 30 June however, Smotrich extended a waiver that allows co-operation between Israel's banking system and Palestinian banks in the

occupied West Bank for four months, according to Israeli media.

The Times of Israel newspaper reported that the decision on the waiver was made at a cabinet

meeting in a "move that saw Israel legalize several West Bank settlement outposts".

The waiver was due to expire at the end of June, and the extension permitted Israeli banks to process payments for salaries and services to the Palestinian Authority in shekels, averting a blow to a Palestinian economy already devastated by the war in Gaza.

The Israeli threat raised serious concerns in the United States, which said at the time it feared "a humanitarian crisis" if banking ties were cut.

According to Washington, these banking channels are key to nearly \$8 billion of imports from Israel to the West Bank, including electricity, water, fuel and food. — Xinhua

BRIEFS: BIZ

Boeing finalizes 737 MAX guilty plea deal

BOEING has completed an agreement with the US Justice Department to plead guilty to criminal conspiracy in connection with two fatal crashes of its 737 Max jetliners, according to a recent court filing.

Boeing admitted it defrauded the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that evaluated the 737 Max "by dishonest means" and provided "incomplete and inaccurate information" to the group about the plane's flight-control software and how much training pilots would need for it, said the agreement filed in federal district court in Texas on Wednesday.

Boeing agreed to pay a criminal fine of 243.6 million US dollars, in addition to the same amount in fines it paid under a deferred prosecution agreement reached with the Trump administration in 2021. — Xinhua

Record first half passenger numbers for Heathrow

LONDON Heathrow airport said Wednesday it served a record 39.8 million people passengers in the first half of the year, with net profit soaring despite a dip in revenues.

Passenger numbers were up 7.3 per cent on the same period last year as Europe's busiest airport welcomed new airlines and benefited from demand having more than doubled in recent years, the facility said.

Heathrow, which ranks seventh in the world and is Britain's largest airport, added it had experienced its busiest ever day on 30 June with 268,000 passengers taking to the skies on more than 1,300 flights.

The hub saw revenues decline 2.9 per cent compared to first half 2023, yet net profit in contrast rose 26 per cent year-on-year to 228 million pounds (\$290 million). — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HL AMBITION VOY.NO. (VHLA03)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HL AMBITION VOY.NO. (VHLA03)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-1** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

WORLD

China, Russia, Laos pledge concerted efforts to safeguard common interests

Wang Yi emphasized the rapid changes and uncertainties in the world, including a transforming international system and a slow global economic recovery.

CHINA, Russia and Laos on Thursday pledged to enhance cooperation to safeguard the common interests of the three countries, contributing to regional stability, prosperity and response to risks and challenges.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith made the remarks during a trilateral meeting in the Lao capital Vientiane, where a series of meetings of foreign ministers of southeastern and eastern Asian countries are being held.

At the trilateral meeting, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, highlighted a world of accelerating changes unseen in a century, with new turbulences ahead, a transforming international



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith attend a trilateral meeting in Vientiane, Laos, 25 July 2024. The meeting was chaired by Saleumxay. **PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA**

al system, and a sluggish global economic recovery.

He cited rising hegemonism, unilateralism and protectionism, and

the undercurrents of “small courtyard and high wall” and “decoupling and breaking chains,” coupled with persisting regional

conflicts as among pervading destabilizing, uncertain and unpredictable factors around the world. — Xinhua

Paris braces for Olympics opening ceremony as rail network ‘sabotaged’



Passengers gather at Gare Montparnasse in Paris after the French high-speed network was targeted by acts of ‘sabotage’. **PHOTO: THIBAUD MORITZ / AFP**

THE Paris Olympics are set to open in a spectacular and unprecedented ceremony on the river Seine on Friday but hours before the show France’s rail network was paralyzed by what officials said were acts of sabotage.

The parade on Friday evening will see up to 7,500 competitors travel down a six-kilometre stretch of the Seine on a flotilla of 85 boats.

But early Friday, French rail operator SNCF said the country’s high-speed network had been targeted by “malicious acts” aimed at paralysing the system. Transport Minister Patrice Vergriete said it was an “outrageous criminal act” and Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera described the attacks as “downright appalling”. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka announces first presidential vote

SRI Lanka’s first presidential elections will be held in September, the election commission said Friday.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe will face at least two rivals campaigning against austerity measures imposed under an International Monetary Fund bailout plan.

The commission said in a gazette notification that candidate nominations will be accepted on 15 August for a 21 September poll.

Its schedule sets out a five-week campaign. More than 17 million Sri Lankans over the age of 18 are eligible to vote. — AFP

Forest fire hits town in Canada

A forest fire at a major national park in western Canada reached an evacuated town on Wednesday evening, with the army preparing to send in reinforcements.

The fire was spreading through Jasper National Park and destroyed several buildings in the town of Jasper, which had been evacuated on Monday night, according to park officials. “Significant loss has occurred within the townsite,” a post on the park’s page said on social media platform X. “Firefighters remain in town and are working to save as many structures as possible and to protect critical infrastructure,” including the Trans Mountain Pipeline, it said. Authorities have not specified what infrastructure was destroyed. — AFP

Journalists strike before Olympics

JOURNALISTS at some of Australia’s largest newspapers launched a rare five-day strike Friday, downing tools ahead of the Olympic opening ceremony due to a rancorous pay dispute.

The strike hit the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and Australian Financial Review, in one of the most significant acts of industrial defiance to hit Australia’s troubled news sector in years.

It is estimated hundreds of journalists employed under the umbrella of Nine Entertainment have deserted newsrooms in major cities Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. — AFP

Brazil records world’s first Oropouche virus deaths

BRAZIL has recorded the world’s first Oropouche virus deaths, the country’s health ministry said Thursday, after two women died of the illness spread by infected flies and mosquitos.

The women from the state of Bahia in northeast Brazil were “under 30 years old, with no comorbidities, but who had signs and symptoms similar to a severe case of dengue,” the ministry said in a statement.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention website states there are currently known outbreaks of Oropouche in parts of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba and Peru. — AFP

SPORTS



Paris braces for 'most incredible' Olympics opening ceremony

PARIS is gearing up for what promises to be the most incredible Olympics opening ceremony ever. The 2024 Summer Olympics, officially the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad and officially branded as Paris 2024, is an upcoming international multi-sport event scheduled to take place from 26 July to 11 August 2024 in France, with some competitions starting on 24 July.

What to know about the Opening Ceremony:

- For the first time, the opening ceremony will not take place in a stadium. Instead, athletes will arrive via boat and cruise down the Seine River.
- France has heightened its security, with approximately 40,000 police and military personnel deployed for the Games.
- More than 10,500 athletes from 200 national teams are competing across 329 events held over 19 days. — AFP

Mongolia creates giant flag for Paris 2024

MONGOLIA has created a giant national flag for the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic Games to support its athletes and promote the landlocked country to the world.

According to a statement from the Mongolian National Olympic Committee, more than 30 athletes are expected to compete in nine sports at the Olympic Games.

The flag, covering an area of 44,777 square feet (4,160 square metres), was stretched out at Bogd Khan mountain located in Ulan Bator on Friday, aiming to set a new Guinness World Record. — Xinhua

Team GB complains about food in Paris

DESPITE stories of Michelin starred chefs helping prepare the menus in Paris, Andy Anson, the British Olympic Association's chief executive, has complained that the food in the Olympic Village "is not adequate", with complaints over small portions and a lack of high-protein foods.

"There are not enough of certain foods: eggs, chicken, certain carbohydrates," Anson told 'The Times' newspaper.

He also complained about "the quality of the food, with raw meat being served to athletes. They have got to improve it over the next couple of days dramatically," he said. — Xinhua



A view of buildings at the Paris 2024 Olympic village on its inauguration day in Saint-Denis, northern Paris. **PHOTO: LUDOVIC MARIN/POOL/AFP**



Torchbearers pose for group photos after the Olympic Village torch relay in the Olympic Village in Paris, France, 26 July 2024. **PHOTO: LEAH MILLIS/POOL/XINHUA**

IOC President and Olympic legends participate in torch relay in Olympic Village

THOMAS Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and Chinese Olympic champions Lin Dan, Wu Jingyu and Zhang Hong participated in the torch relay in Olympic Village on Friday.

"For me, it is the most moving experience I ever made with the torch relay," said Bach.

"In particular, after the two last ones which had to be without public, but here, in the middle of the heart of the games in the Olympic village, and to see all these athletes excited and getting ready for the games. Great moment!" he added.

The torch relay in the Olympic Village started outside the dining hall. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the WHO was the first torchbearer.

At the half-way point, 10 members of IOC Athletes Commission and seven IOC Legends, including three Chinese Olympic champions and Spanish basketball star Paul Gasol, took over the flame and each of them had a unique interactive move with the torch. — Xinhua

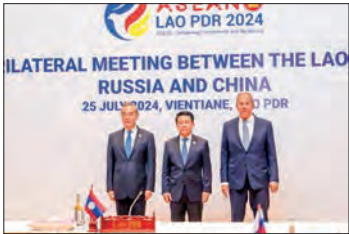
New Olympic champions assured in Saturday's cycling time trials

TWO new Olympic champions are assured on Saturday in the men's and women's cycling time trial, which will also be an example of the gender equality at the Paris Olympic Games.

Neither of the defending champions from Tokyo are competing in Paris, with women's gold medal winner, Annemiek van Vleuten of the Netherlands having retired, while Slovenia's Primož Roglič wasn't selected.

For the first time ever men and women race over the same course in a time-trial, with both tackling a 32.4-kilometre route, that takes in some of the best views of the City of Lights, starting and finishing at the Pont Alexandre III and including Notra-Dame, the Place de la Bastille, the Chateau de Vincennes and the south bank of the Seine.

Not that the 35 men and 35 women who are competing will have much time to enjoy the sights as they flash around a course that looks to be designed for speed, with only a minor height gain of 150 metres and a handful of technical curves that will serve to favour the best bike handlers. — Xinhua



Most Germans oppose US missile deployment, move may spark protests: Politician

Ralph Niemeyer, chairman of the German Council for Constitution and Sovereignty, mentioned that similar debates occurred in the 1980s and warned that the move might negatively affect Chancellor Olaf Scholz's reputation.

A MAJORITY of Germans disapprove of the plans to host long-range US missiles in the country and may want to protest the move, Ralph Niemeyer, chairman of the German Council for Constitution and Sovereignty, told RIA Novosti. The Pentagon said on 10 July that starting 2026, the US would begin episodic deployments of long-range weapons in Germany as part of planning for enduring stationing of these weapons in the future. This includes SM-6, Tomahawk and developmental hypersonic missiles. “We are completely against this as an organization, but the majority of German nationals are strongly against the deployment of any missiles as well,” Niemeyer said. A survey published by Stern magazine on 16 July showed that 47 per cent of Germans were concerned that US missile deployment would increase the risk of war between NATO and



Niemeyer that similar discussions on missile deployment took place in the early 1980s and suggested that the move could hurt the public image of Chancellor Olaf Scholz. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Russia, while only 17 per cent said it would not. Niemeyer that similar discussions on missile deployment took place in the early 1980s and suggested that the move could hurt the public image of Chancellor Olaf Scholz. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told media over the weekend that it would be too “naive” of Germany to say “no” to what she described as enhanced deterrence and additional counterweapons. — SPUTNIK

Japan eyes steps to limit ash fall damage in event Mt Fuji erupts

THE Japanese government started Friday studying measures to mitigate damage from ash falls in Tokyo and its surrounding areas in the event of a large-scale eruption of Mount



Moss pink flowers are seen in full bloom at the foot of Mount Fuji in Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi Prefecture, on 28 April 2019. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

Fuji, aiming to compile guidelines later this year. An ash fall could paralyze urban infrastructure by disrupting rail networks and causing extensive power outages, and the government wants local governments and businesses to use the measures as a reference when adopting preventive steps. “It is important to consider various possibilities, as a volcanic disaster would cause events that we have never yet experienced in our lifetimes,” Toshitsugu Fujii, emeritus professor at the University of Tokyo, told a meeting. — Kyodo

POLLUTION TOLL ZONE

Air pollution falls after London vehicle curbs: mayor

LONDON'S Mayor Sadiq Khan on Thursday claimed success for his expanded pollution toll zone for motor vehicles, pointing to a drop in levels of a harmful air pollutant since its controversial introduction. Levels of nitrogen oxides from cars were 13 per cent lower than they would have been had the widened pollution charging scheme not been introduced, according to a City Hall report. For vans the figure was seven per cent. Khan's expanded scheme mirrored similar low-emission zones to improve air quality in more than 200 cities in 10 countries across Europe. For both vans and cars, the reduction in nitrogen oxide levels was the equivalent to removing 200,000 cars from the road for one year, according to the report, which covers the first six months of the expansion. Khan faced a fierce backlash to his Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) scheme when he expanded it to areas of outer London last August. — AFP