

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar, Russia foster further cementing diplomatic relations, friendly ties, cooperation

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation talked about further strengthening of friendly relations and cooperation as both countries have been cementing diplomatic relations for many years.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Andrey Rudenko of the Russian Federation at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They cordially discussed cooperation in peacefully applying nuclear technology, and collaborative efforts in generating hydropower and producing electricity from solar energy.

They also exchanged views on exchange of goodwill visits between State leaders and high-ranking officers of both countries, running of flights for promotion of tourism and trade sectors between the two countries, cooperation in improvement of social and education sectors, plans to supply sufficient volume of fertilizer to Myanmar, and further cooperation in bilateral relations.

Also present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo and officials. The Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs was accompanied by Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov and officials. — MNA/TTA



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gives gift to Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Andrey Rudenko at SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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More than 200,000 people visit museums from April 2023 to early February 2024

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Trekking season at Mount Taung Wine in Mawlamyine, Mon State, to conclude by end of February

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Weekly 5-night 6-day trip to Mt Hponkanrazi arranged amidst icy caps still enjoyable for nearly 3 months



Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) project completes 84 per cent

THE Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction is building Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) on the Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road, in Kunhing Township, Namsang District of Shan State (South), and now 84 per cent of construction work has been completed.

The new Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) No 5/282 about 70 ft from the 780 ft long old Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) is being constructed by 12 experienced engineers including Bridge Construction Task Force (3), Special Task Force (12) and the Deputy Director (Civil), and over 200 workers. **SEE PAGE-2**

New Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) construction site on Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road. **PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG**

NATIONAL

Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) project ...

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Currently, the foundation and sub-structure are completed and the installations of steel beam and steel box girder are in progress, according to the Deputy Director (Civil), in charge of bridge construction project.

The old Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) mainly connects Shan State (South) and Shan State (East) on Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Road, which is vital to access to Laos, Thailand and China through Kengtung and Tachilek from the central part of Myanmar. As the road is being used to transport goods, the Ministry of Construction has upgraded the bridges on the road to endure a load capacity of 60 tonnes.

Moreover, the old Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) was built in 1965 by Chinese and Myanmar engineers to mark the Myanmar-China Friendship. The construction took nine years from 1965 to 1974. The new Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) was constructed with the load ca-

capacity of 60 tonnes as the withstanding of the 45-year-old bridge has been reduced to 24 tonnes due to its deterioration.

The new Thanlwin Bridge (Takaw) is 351 metres long (1,151.631 ft), and is made of a steel box girder with reinforced concrete floor. The foundation is built of 2.74 metres Caisson Foundation and 1.5 metres bored piles. There are also seven spans with different width.

The bridge is 39.4 feet wide while 20 feet and six inches wide for carriageway, four feet and five inches wide for a sidewalk on each side, with a load capacity of 60 tonnes.

The waterway clearance of the bridge is 360 feet in width and 45 feet in height.

The bridge construction started in April 2018, and the Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road will also be a key road for the country's market economy as export-import products will be transported through the road and the bridge. — Pwint Thitsar/KTZH

Public notice for submitting objection

1. Mon Development Party with its headquarters located at No 9, Yadanadipa Ward, Razadariz Street, Hpa-an, Kayin State, applied on 16-2-2024 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In such an application, it is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.

2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

Union Election Commission



The flag design of the Mon Development Party

The emblem of the Mon Development Party



Versatile puppet master U Sein Tun Kyi

Patron of Myanmar Theatrical Association versatile puppeteer U Sein Tun Kyi passes away

THE Myanmar Theatrical Association recently announced the demise of the versatile puppeteer, U Sein Tun Kyi, due to old age on 16 February, marking an irreplaceable loss. He was 86 years old.

U Nay Win, the secretary of the association, stated that they contributed K500,000 towards the expenses for his funeral.

"Sayagi U Sein Tun Kyi was an outstanding puppeteer, skilled in both singing and emoting like an actor or actress while manipulating the puppets. He was a patron of our association and also served as a judge in performing arts competitions. While in Nay Pyi Taw for the competition, he received medical care from our association and the government. The association supported him not only in life but also in his demise," said U Nay Win.

Sayagi U Sein Tun Kyi dedicated his entire life to the advancement of traditional Myanmar puppetry. — ASH/TRKM

More than 200,000 people visit museums from April 2023 to early February 2024

ACCORDING to Director Dr Aye Aye Thin of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), there have been 210,300 domestic and foreign visitors to the museums under the Department of Archaeology and National Museum from April 2023 to early February 2024.

There are 32 museums under the Department of Archaeology and National Museum in Myanmar, with visitors primarily flocking to National Museums in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon,

the Archaeological Museum (Bagan), and the Cultural Museum (Mandalay).

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum is working on upgrading museums to become digital museums, aiming to facilitate viewing and learning for both local and foreign visitors.

Museums across Myanmar are open daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, except on Mondays and public holidays. — ASH/MKKS



The photo shows students and visitors at the museum.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise





SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Deputy Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China and Yunnan Province Governor Mr Wang Yubo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Deputy Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China and Yunnan Province Governor Mr Wang Yubo exchanged views on assistance of China in peace talks and peace process of Myanmar for ensuring peace and stability in the border region and the entire country.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Deputy Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China and Yunnan Province Governor Mr Wang Yubo at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed needs to effectively manage law enforcement for transnational crime, and peace and stability measures, collaborative efforts of both

China assists in ensuring peace and stability in border region and entire Myanmar

countries in eradicating online gambling and online scams at border regions with further cooperation plans, and requirements of cooperation between the two countries in prevention of narcotic drugs.

They also focused on exchange of goodwill visits between State leaders and high-ranking officers of both countries and forging bilateral cooperation, plans of further goodwill visits and enhancement of friendly relations, and arrangements of both governments to promote political trust and economic relations between the two countries.

Both sides talked about plans to

ensure betterment of border trade and smooth flow of commodities in order to promote bilateral trade as Myanmar and Yunnan Province share the long border line, arrangements of Yunnan Province to assist technological aid in development of agriculture and livestock farming tasks, and more smooth process in border trade based on kyat/yuan direct payment system.

They also frankly exchanged views on arrangements for construction of railways which plays a key role in trade process of both countries, smooth road transport, further promotion of coopera-

tion in electric power, energy, agriculture, flowery plant growing and other sectors between the two countries,

Also present at the meeting were Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn and officials. Deputy Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China and Yunnan Province Governor Mr Wang Yubo was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and officials. — MNA/TTA



MoC UM hosts working lunch to Governor of Yunnan Province

U TUN OHN, Union Minister for Commerce, hosted a working lunch to the delegation led by Mr Wang Yubo, Governor of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China at Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw Yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation in smooth flow of commodities emphasizing bilater-

al trade as Myanmar and China are friendly neighbouring countries as well as main trade partners.

The Deputy Minister for Commerce, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General of the Ministry of Commerce, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai and members of the Chinese delegation and officials attended the lunch. — MNA/TS

NATIONAL

Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee 1/2024 meeting

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, in his capacity as Chairman of Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee (MBSC), presided over 1/2024 meeting of the committee, yesterday.

First, the Union Minister said there are 178 microfinance institutions in regions and states, which have been operating their business activities in 2,245 wards and 26,986 villages in 263 townships, with 3.45 million of members and K1,835.954 billion remaining loans until January 2024.

The MBSC should supervise the licensed microfinance companies to follow the law, rules and regulations, procedure and directives in offering financial services, and should



DPM Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein speaking at Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee meeting 1/2024 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

facilitate the loan services of local banks for microfinance institutions to overcome the hardships in withdrawing cash

and receiving foreign loans due to COVID-19 and certain political issues.

It also needs to conduct

classification of loans and ease certain irrecoverable debt, allow corporate insurance representative of microfinance

institutions, digital monetary services, new loans and expansion of industry in other regions with potential businesses.

He then urged the microfinance institutions to disburse MSME loan for MSME development which is a priority of the government and carry out corporate social responsibility-CSR for members in addition to grant loan for the whole Supply Chain from planting to production processes.

Then, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and relevant officials discussed the work plans of microfinance business, estimation to change interest rate, licence applications of three microfinance institutions, expansion and Mobile Financial Services permit.— MNA/KTZH

MIFER, ASEAN Secretariat jointly conduct ASEAN project development training

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw delivered an opening address at the ASEAN Project Development Training which was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and ASEAN Secretariat under ASEAN Development Fund on 20 February 2024 at the Hotel Aureum Palace, Nay Pyi Taw with 100 officials and trainees in attendance.

In the opening remarks, the Union Minister highlighted the importance of ASEAN Free Trade in global trade, consideration of new issues in response to digitalization and renewable energy in Free Trade Areas Negotiations, requirements of awareness and technical assistance especially for Cambodia,

Lao PDR and Myanmar for understanding these new issues, and the importance of learning for project proposal writing mechanism from the training. In addition, the Union Minister urged the participants to write project proposals that are required in respective fields, based on experience from the training.

The training will last from 20 to 22 February 2024. The technical experts from the ASEAN Secretariat will give lectures on overview of the ASEAN cooperation projects, the ASEAN project proposal template, formulating Project results in the proposal materials and the work plan for the implementation. During the training, the participants will get hand-on experience for de-



MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw poses for group photo after ASEAN Project Development Training in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

veloping project proposals.

The ministries related to the ASEAN Economic Pillar participate in the implementation and negotiations of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreements and ASEAN Plus One

Free Trade Agreements. New areas such as trade and labour, trade and environment are introduced in upgrading Free Trade Agreements and new Free Trade Agreement negotiations. Therefore, the knowl-

edge gained from this training programme will support the participants in writing project proposals that required for Myanmar and implementing the projects systematically.— MNA

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NATIONAL

Lacquerware Technology College marks centennial this year

By Dipa Linn

Derivation of the word “Yun” for lacquer

One has heard the word “Yun” frequently and thought about how it was derived from. The pronunciation and the word itself are appealing. It aroused his interest and curiosity. After he looked it up in the old records, he realized that it was named after Mr Yun from Manipur, Chiang Mai (Laos Shan race), who introduced the lacquer art to King Bayintnaung, according to a chronicle.

Bagan and Lacquer

Looking back to the history of Bagan, Myanmar’s saying goes that people have to argue over statements by carrying sticks as there is opposition, as usual. The information regarding Bagan and Lacquer contradicts the validity of the given statement. It is said that Bagan and lacquer art coexist in the Bagan.

Although lacquer has an attachment to ancient Bagan, lacquer was not included in Myanmar’s traditional arts and



Different types of lacquerwares displayed at showroom. PHOTO: DIPALINN

is home to lacquerware.

Some chronicles of the lacquer art revealed that it could be traced back to BC 1570- BC 1045, in which a kingdom of Shan was

tained as an intangible cultural heritage in the country, and it became a profession for living. Lacquer art has flourished since its introduction to Myanmar. U Tin, a retired assistant officer to a Bagan (Wundauk) in the Colonial era, was devoted to traditional arts. He tried establishing a lacquer art vocational school in Bagan to preserve the cultural heritage. He opened a self-help school after a fruitful discussion with the local artists, and then the state-owned college was opened in 1924.

Lacquerware Technology College producing artists in Bagan

The school was opened in 1924. The school was upgraded to an institute in 1995 and then to a college on 29 December 2003. The government changed the course duration of the lacquer art vocational school from three years to one year in March 1960. The school offered a one-year course every year from March 1960 to March 1965.

The college offers the following courses. Those enthusiastic with graduate (under 35 years) and post-graduate (under 25 years) education can join one-year and two-year diploma courses, respectively. Those who successfully accomplished the two-year diploma course starting from 2011 intake are entitled to attend the University of Cooperatives and Management (Sagaing and Thanlyin) and can receive a bachelor’s degree.

There are Economics, Commerce, Statistics, Management Studies, Cooperative Studies, ICT, Myanmar, English, Mathematics, Law, and Economic Geography faculties. The subjects related to lacquer include lacquer arts, base crafting, lacquer painting, Shwe Za Wah Yun, Kanyit Yun, lacquer floral and pattern, Panchi (traditional art of painting), Panpu (traditional sculpture) and international lacquer arts.

Cooperation with international institutions

Lacquerware Technology College-LTC (Bagan) had several affiliations and was made partner with Japan for lacquer craft exchange programmes in 1953. Between 2004 and 2017, in collaboration with the Asian Lacquer Craft Exchange Research Project of Japan, international lacquerware expos and technology exchanges were conducted. The LTC signed a Memorandum of Understanding 2013-2015 with Japan’s Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (TNRICP) for research activities of ancient lacquerware from the Lacquer Museum. In 2015, the LTC cooperated with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and Ms Doniela Bulgarelli, an expert from Italy, conducted a Lacquer Product design and development course for the staff of the college and lacquer businesspersons from Bagan.

Moreover, the LTC and Italy’s Accademia of Fine Arts (Turin) inked an agreement for handicraft exchange and research activities. From 2 to 4 September 2017, the LTC worked with Japan’s Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties for lacquer cultural exchanges, the Principal of the LTC (Bagan) elaborated.

Alumni on track for employment

The college produced 2,549 alumni between 1924-1925 and 2023-2024 academic years. Of them, 15 can set up their own businesses, 80 serve as civil staff, and 550 join private firms. Thirty among them are engaged in the lacquerware industry for a living. The college helped 675 people hunt for jobs.

LTC offers vocational intensive courses

The LTC offered vocational intensive courses to effectuate sustainable development in the lacquer industry, foster community development in Bagan, and create greater job opportunities. The courses comprise Shwe Za Wah Yun technology, black lacquer painting art, Kanyit Yun technology, floral and pattern design, wooden-based crafting, Japan lacquer technology and manufacturing of lacquer human utensils. The college opened its 26th batch between 2015-2016 and 2023-2024 Academic Years, with 445 trainees.

The principal affirmingly addressed that the goals and objectives behind the LTC are preserving lacquer arts and technologies, protecting them from extinction and passing them on to generations for sustainable development.

In collaboration with lacquer artists from affiliated colleges to meet international standards, the LTC recently marked its 100th anniversary, intending to become the central hub and heart of Myanmar’s lacquer industry. This article is written to honour the remarkable history of the LTC.

Translated by EMM



Lacquerware Technology College (Bagan).

crafts, “Ten Flowers”, in the Bagan dynasty. It was believed that the lacquerware or lacquer arts had not emerged yet. On the contrary, some researchers argued that the lacquer business started in the 11th century in the Bagan dynasty. As per the notebook written by the British officer named Sin in 1795, one can see the eye-catching sight of an array of lacquerware shops in Nyaung-U Township.

Sin said the daily use goods such as human utensils were lacquerware. Various small objects painted lacquer, such as trays, offering bowls, cups and betel boxes to large objects like furniture and royal lacquerware, were remarkably noted. Bagan, the land of architectural wonder,

believed to rule in China’s Yellow River valley. The earliest known piece of lacquer is believed to have been invented by that race. During 1555-1562, King Bayintnaung conquered Manipur, Bhamo, Zinme (now Chiang Mai) and Lin Zin (currently Lan Xang). Upstream of the Shweli River (Ruili) to Yunnan province, the skilled artists were taken to Myanmar. It was when lacquerware by locals from Chiang Mai or Laos Shan was first imported, and lacquer business started thriving in the country. This way, the evolution of lacquer with a long history was implied.

U Tin, founder of lacquer art school

The lacquer art was main-

NATIONAL

Myanmar to export dried areca nuts to India 200 tonnes monthly

ACCORDING to information reported by areca palm growers, Myanmar plans to export approximately 200 tonnes of dried areca nuts to India every month.

Preparations are underway to transport the first batch of 17 tonnes of dried areca nuts in a 20-ft container to obtain approval for quality. The plan has been agreed upon by India's Lax Corporation Company and local areca palm growers in Myanmar, as per the report.

Areca nuts are predominantly grown in the Taninthayi Region, Mon State, Ayeyawady Region, and Kayin State. Approximately 230,000 tonnes of areca nuts are produced annually.

Bangladesh is the primary purchaser of areca nuts, and Myanmar exported nearly 2,000 tonnes to Bangladesh in the 2021-22 financial year, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce. — TWA/TMT



Two female farming workers are seen drying areca nuts.

Action to be taken against unlicensed private health businesses

DURING a meeting with heads of offices of township medical services department in Yangon on 17 February, Dr Myat Wunna Soe, the Secretary of the Central Committee for Private Healthcare Services and Director-General of the Department of Medical Services, stated that private healthcare services without proper licences will face legal action.

He emphasized that township officers of Medical Services Department must ensure that no healthcare services operate without licences in their respective townships. They should facilitate the application process for licences if needed and take appropriate



Dr Myat Wunna Soe, Director-General of the Department of Medical Services, meets heads of township medical services department in Yangon on 17 February.

action against non-compliance with regulations. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of delivering quality healthcare services at reasonable costs.

As secretaries of the township healthcare services supervisory committees,

the heads of township medical services department have the authority to approve business licences, oversee licence renewal, conduct periodic field inspections, and ensure health businesses adhere to the conditions outlined in their licences. — TWA/TKO

Trekking season at Mount Taung Wine in Mawlamyine, Mon State, to conclude by end of February

THE trekking season at Mount Taung Wine in Mawlamyine, Mon State, will conclude at the end of February, according to local charitable organizations. The season typically begins in December and ends in February, attracting travellers from both near and far this year.

Visitors are allowed to trek the mountain on foot from 5 am to 9 am, with motorcycle and car parking available at the mountain's base free of charge. Moreover, the entry path has been widened from 14 feet to 24 feet to enhance the convenience of trekkers.

The Sasana Nwe Foundation has advised Mount Taung Wine visitors to refrain from smoking while walking, to dispose of rubbish properly in designated bins, and for vendors not to conduct sales activities on the concrete road.



Trekkers and views of Mount Taung Wine.

Additionally, they are encouraged to avoid selling alcohol, beer, and food with strong cooking odours.

At present, the area experiences a high number of locals engaging in

trekking activities during both morning and evening hours. This activity not only benefits health but also offers a breathtaking view of clouds from the peak. — TWA/NT

Myanma Railways prepares for arrival of new carriages for Yangon circular trains

MYANMA Railways has announced the arrival of six DEMU (diesel-electric multiple unit) carriages in first batch purchased from Spain in early February.

These carriages, along with RBE carriages, are intended for use on the Yangon circular railway. However, the height of the platforms for circular railway and the ladders of the carriages are not suitable for passengers to embark and disembark easily. Therefore, Myanma Railways plans to raise the platforms at the stations to accommodate both DEMU and RBE carriages, as they are slightly higher than the current platforms for circular trains.

Currently, these carriages are being renovated at the locomotive factory in Insein Township for use of them in the future.

Before these carriages, purchased from abroad, can be used, necessary adjustments must be made to ensure that the wheels of the carriages and the width of the rails align perfectly, allowing the trains to operate smoothly and safely. — TWA/MKKS

11,000 Myanmar workers to be sent to Korea through EPS system

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Labour, about 11,000 Myanmar workers have been recruited to be sent to Korea through the EPS system this year.

Union Minister for Labour U Myint Naung spoke to the workers who will go to work in Korea through the EPS system on 17 February at an overseas employment orientation course in Dagon

Myothit (North) Township. Government foreign employment agencies are sending workers to Korea through the EPS system and 10,611 people were sent to manufacturing, agriculture, livestock, and construction sectors in 2023.

This year, about 11,000 people will be selected and sent as labour recruitment quota for Myanmar. According to

the Ministry of Labour, efforts are being made to speed up the process of sending more Myanmar workers to South Korea and seek suitable jobs. The Ministry has provided training to a total of 444,928 trainees from 2017 to 31 January 2024 in the opening of the Foreign Work Orientation Course for workers who are going to work abroad. — TWA/KZL

YGEA to commence 31st gold training course for free on 1 March



In January 2021, the domestic gold fetched the highest price of K1,336,000 per tical on 6 January. It reached the lowest price of K1,316,000 per tical on 28 January.

THE Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) will offer a gold training for free at its office at No 42/50 on Shwebontha Street, Pabedan Township between 1 and 10 March.

Additionally, an awareness course (12th Batch) of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) will be opened as well.

The respective experts

will share education and knowledge about gold mining, gold refining, gold trading, opening gold shops and refinery, gold mortgage, gold rate calculation, gold/silver coins and jewellery items.

Those enthusiastic can take out enrollment forms free of charge at the office of the association.

As the number of the trainees is limited, they can contact YGEA's contact

numbers: 09450049282 and 09251992727 for further details.

The precious metal dealers' licences can be sought only with the completion certificate of the AML/CFT course, according to the directive (2/2022) in accord with the Section 3 (G) of the Chapter 2 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs' Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering.

The YGEA handed over 21 applications for precious metal dealers' licences to the registration board in Pabedan, Lanmadaw and Latha townships on 1 April.

U Myo Myint, chair of the YGEA, handed over 21 applications for precious metal dealers licence to the authorities concerned from the General Administration Department and the respective registration boards of Lanmadaw (1 application), Latha (1 application), Pabedan (19 applications). — NN/EM

CBM sells eight million US dollar, 200 million Thai Baht on 19 Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold eight million US Dollar and 200 million Thai Baht on 19 February again.

The CBM injected over US\$59.38 million and 650 million Thai Baht into the financial market in the past 20 days. The CBM pumped in \$13 million on 1 February in the financial market, five million dollars and 50 million Thai Baht on an online trading platform for the exporters/importers on 2 February, \$11 million and 200 million Thai Baht on 5 February, eight million dollars on 8 February, \$5.38 million on 14 February and nine million dollars and 200 million Thai Baht on 15 February. The CBM sold \$68.33 million, 313.5 million Thai Baht and 4.2 million Chinese Yuan in January 2024.

The reference exchange rate set by the CBM is K2,100 against a US dollar, while it was valued at approximately K3,570 at the over-the-counter market. The exchange rates stand at K100 per Thai Baht and K490 per Chinese Yuan at present. The CBM allowed the authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online forex trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December. Additionally, the outward remittance procedures must adhere to the rules and regulations specified by the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. — NN/EM



Kyat depreciates at some K3,600 per USD at over-the-counter market

KYAT devaluation against the greenback hit approximately K3,600 on 20 February at the Over-the-Counter market.

The Kyat-Dollar exchange rate was K3,500 in early February. The exchange rate showed an increase of around K90 in the past two weeks.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) intervened in the currency market by selling the dollars into the financial market to steer the dollar gains in the forex market.

The CBM injected over US\$59.38 million and 650 million Thai Baht into the financial market in the past 20 days.

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ers/importers on 2 February, \$11 million and 200 million Thai Baht on 5 February, eight million dollars on 8 February, \$5.38 million on 14 February, nine million dollars and 200 million Thai Baht on 15 February, and eight million US Dollar and 200 million Thai Baht on 19 February.

The CBM sold \$68.33 million, 313.5 million Thai Baht and 4.2 million Chinese Yuan in January 2024.

Meanwhile, the reference exchange rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar is K2,100.

Last 5 December, the Central Bank of Myanmar allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate forex exchanges freely as per the market rate determined by the market force of the supply and demand.

Additionally, the CBM no-



Central Bank of Myanmar.

tified that outward remittance must comply with the rules and regulations of the Foreign Exchange Management Committee.

The dollar gained to around K4,000 on 19 August 2023.

According to the Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, only those entities holding foreign exchange dealer licence are allowed to deal in foreign currency and traveller's cheque. Those holding foreign

currencies without valid licence and permits will face legal actions under the law, according to the CBM's notification released on 21 August 2023.

According to the notification (7/2014) dated 30 September 2014 issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar, affirming stating that under the stanza 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, domestic residents are allowed to keep US\$10,000 in maximum

or equivalent amount of foreign currencies for six months. If those foreign currencies that have been unused for over six months have to be exchanged in local currency at the market price through the authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts.

Those illegally holding foreign currencies are to face legal actions under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the CBM warned again. — NN/EM

OPINION

ARTICLE

Strategize for enhancing cooking oil production in Myanmar

PRESENTLY, the annual consumption of palm oil in Myanmar stands at an estimated one million tonnes. Despite local farmers cultivating oil crops like groundnut, sesame, canola, and sunflower, the yearly production hovers around 400,000 tonnes. Consequently, the nation imports approximately 700,000 tonnes of palm oil, valued at US\$600 million, annually from Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands.

The government encourages local farmers to prioritize the cultivation of oil crops, aiming to achieve self-sufficiency in cooking oil production and reduce yearly imports. To support this initiative, the government has provided loans from the State economic promotion fund as capital to local farmers, intending to alleviate challenges associated with oil crop cultivation. However, despite these efforts, the import volume of cooking oil has not seen a decline, and such imports persist to this day.

Myanmar's farmers currently tend to approximately 800,000 acres of oil crop plantations, capable of yielding 690,000 tonnes of cooking oil. If all oil crop outputs are dedicated to cooking oil production, the country could achieve 126.2 per cent oil sufficiency. Further optimization leading to the target production of all oil crops could result in an impressive 249.5 per cent oil sufficiency, reducing the import value of cooking oil.

In fact, oil crops can be grown within four months, and they can be cultivated in a double-cropping pattern on a yearly basis. Hence, it is necessary to seek the best way to grow oil crops successfully in order to produce a sufficient volume of cooking oils.

Despite possessing cultivable lands, necessary inputs, a consistent supply of agricultural water, and a pool of human resources, Myanmar has not been able to produce a sufficient volume of cooking oils. Consequently, it is imperative for farmers to intensify their efforts in oil crop cultivation and address the production gap.

Groundnut, among sesame, sunflower, canola, and Niger, boasts the highest rate of per-acre yield. However, sunflower surpasses groundnut and sesame in oil production. Thankfully, Myanmar's climate supports the cultivation of these three oil crops. This presents an opportunity for farmers and local authorities to enhance the production of cooking oil.

Farmers and local authorities have to realize its potential as a self-sufficient hub for cooking oil production. The strategic cultivation of oil crops, coupled with the effective utilization of available resources, will reduce dependence on imported cooking oil, ensuring long-term domestic sufficiency.

In fact, oil crops can be grown within four months, and they can be cultivated in a double-cropping pattern on a yearly basis. Hence, it is necessary to seek the best way to grow oil crops successfully in order to produce a sufficient volume of cooking oils. If so, oil sufficiency can meet local demand as well as reduce import oil tonnage, cutting spending on foreign currency.

Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

By Augustin

IDIOMS and expressions are vital in daily chats, carrying cultural insights and adding zest to language. They paint vibrant pictures, making conversations memorable and fostering better connections.

These linguistic tools enrich the language, making discussions lively and diverse. Using idioms helps us grasp different cultures and eases social interaction.

In human communication, words weave understanding and unity. Conversations are like rhythmic dances, bridging gaps and creating a harmonious mix of shared experiences.

Language allows us to connect, express, and delve into our thoughts, promoting unity and embarking on a collective journey of humanity.

တံခွန်စိုက် (tamhkwancaik)
stative verb
တံခွန် (n) + စိုက် (v)
ကြောင်းတူ သံကွဲများ
စိုက်စွဲ, နိုင်, စေတီစွဲ (all verbs)

MYANMAR MEANING

- (ပြိုင်ပွဲတွင်)ထူးချွန်စွာအနိုင်ရရှိသည်။

- ပြိုင်ပွဲများတွင်တံခွန်စိုက်ခဲ့သူ။
- This word is translated into English as follows: -

Win the championship; Become a champion; place a streamer.

Typically, instead of a canopy, a streamer is placed atop a spire or on the roof of a pandal, serving as a symbol of supremacy or superiority. Therefore, achieving victory or champion status in games and other activities is metaphorically likened to placing a streamer at the pinnacle.

Idioms, sayings, and expressions related to "Win the Championship":

- "Take home the trophy".
- "Climb to the top of the podium".
- "Seal the victory".
- "Secure the title".
- "Capture the crown".
- "Claim the championship".
- "Emerging as the reigning champion".
- "Earn the laurels".

Idioms, sayings, and expressions related to "Be-

come a Champion":

- "Rise to the occasion".
- "Achieve greatness".
- "Attain championship status".
- "Wear the champion's mantle".
- "Ascend to the pinnacle of success".
- "Join the ranks of champions".
- "Earn one's stripes".
- "Embrace victory and glory".

IDIOMS

Explanation: "Bring home the bacon" is an idiom that means to achieve success, earn a living, or provide financial support for one's family.

- Example Sentences:
- After years of hard work, John finally brought home the bacon by landing a high-paying job.

- Winning the championship not only brought home the bacon for the team but also brought immense pride to the fans.

Explanation: "Take the crown" is an idiom that signifies achieving victory, winning a competition, or becoming the champion.

- Example Sentences:

- After a fierce battle, the young athlete managed to take the crown and become the undisputed champion of the tournament.

- The singer's outstanding performance helped her take the crown in the talent show, impressing both the judges and the audience.

MORE IDIOMS

- "Hit the jackpot".
- "Seal the deal".
- "Victory is in the bag".
- "Strike gold".
- "Claim the top spot".
- "Cross the finish line first".
- "Have the last laugh".
- "Champion of the world".

ပြားရည်နှင့် ဝမ်းချ

pja : jei ne.wun: cha
|
စကားပုံ

ပွေးကိုင်းဖြင့် ဝမ်းမနုတ်ဘဲ
ပြားရည်ချိုချိုဖြင့် ဝမ်းသက်စေ
သကဲ့သို့ ချိုသာစွာပြောဆိုနှစ်သိမ့်၍
မနှစ်မြို့ဖွယ်အရာကို လက်ခံအောင်
နားချသည်။

- causative verb
- ပြား (n) + ရည် (n) + နှင့် (part) + ဝမ်း (n) + ချ (v)
- Figurative

MYANMAR MEANING

သူတစ်ပါးကို တစ်စုံတစ်ရာ လိုက်လျော၍ကျေနပ်နှစ်သိမ့်စေသည်။
ကျေနပ်နှစ်သိမ့်စေပြီးအလိုသို့ပါ အောင်ဆွဲဆောင်သည်။

To offer honey in order to induce someone else's bowel movement.

USAGE IN MYANMAR

ပြားရည်နှင့်ဝမ်းချလိုရာ ကျေနပ်ပါလား။

ENGLISH MEANING

Placate; Soothe. It's typical to use aloe or senna, often combined with other ingredients, as a purgative, though the odour and flavour can be quite disagreeable. However, if the purgative is crafted with pleasant ingredients to mask the unpleasantness, the experience may be less objectionable. Similarly, deceiving someone under the guise of comforting words is likened to offering honey to induce bowel movements.

ENGLISH IDIOMS, SAYINGS, EXPRESSIONS

- "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down." - This idiom suggests that making something unpleasant more bearable can be achieved by adding something enjoyable or pleasant to it.

MYANMAR USAGE

- ဒေါင်ကျကျပြားကျကျ ဝမ်းတိုင်းထောင်ဘဝကို အားကျတယ်။
- လောကံခံစားထက် ကြံကြံခံနိုင်သူ။
- Person inured to vicissitudes of life.
- A toy figurine that consistently returns to an upright position after being thrown randomly symbolizes someone who consistently stages a comeback.
- A beloved toy cherished by many children in Myanmar is the Pyit-taing-htaung, a unique hollow doll resembling an egg with a painted baby's face on the top half and a weighted lower

likening it to the experience of swallowing a bitter-tasting pill.

"Selling snake oil." - This expression describes the act of deceiving or misleading others by promoting something as effective or beneficial when it is actually worthless or harmful.

"Sweet talk." - This term refers to using flattering or persuasive language to deceive or

half, often containing lead. This design ensures that no matter how the doll is tossed, it consistently returns to an upright position.

Consequently, individuals who exhibit resilience, remain steadfast in the face of challenges, and consistently bounce back from adversity are likened to the

- "Turn defeat into victory." - This idiom suggests transforming a loss or failure into a triumph or success, emphasizing resilience and determination in the face of challenges.

- "Rolling with the punches." - This expression describes adapting and persevering through difficult situations or setbacks, much like how a boxer moves with the force of punches without being knocked down.

- "Never say die." - This phrase conveys a refusal to give up or surrender, emphasizing determination and perseverance even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

- "Back on one's feet." - This idiom describes someone who has recovered from a setback or difficulty and is once again functioning normally or successfully.

- "Rising to the occasion." - This expression signifies someone who meets challenges or adversity with strength and determination, ultimately achieving success despite initial setbacks.

SOURCES:

- မြန်မာစာလုံးပေါင်းသတ်ပုံကျမ်း (မြန်မာစာအဖွဲ့) ၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)
- Myanmar Idioms, written by Saya Hla Thamein
- THEIDIOMS.COM
- MMPROVERBS.PRO



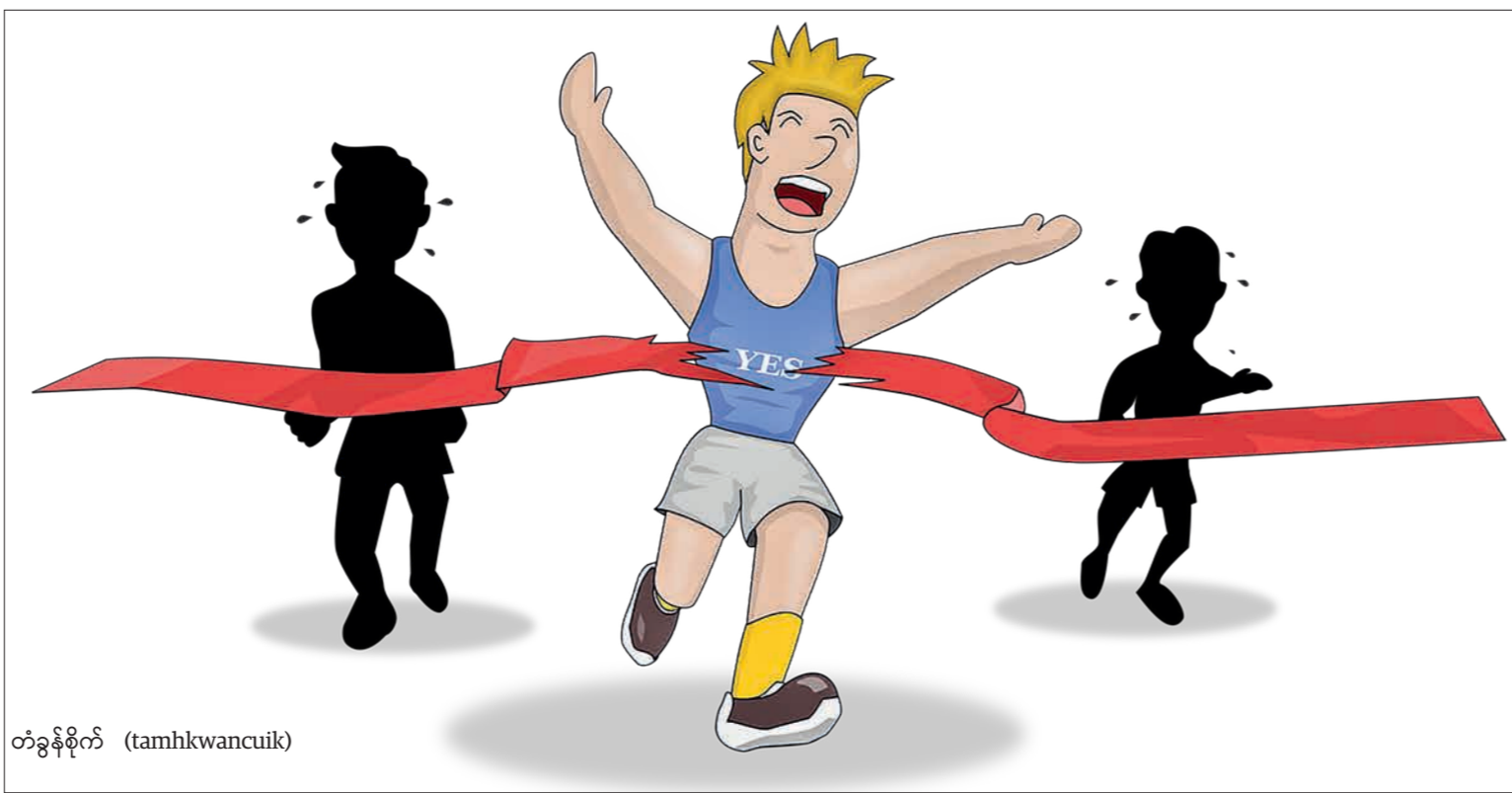
ဝမ်းတိုင်းထောင် (pactuing:htaung)

manipulate others, similar to offering honey to disguise deceitful intentions.

- ဝမ်းတိုင်းထောင် (pactuing:htaung)
- common noun
- ဝမ်း (v) + တိုင်း (part) + ထောင် (v)
- Figurative

MYANMAR USAGE

- ဒေါင်ကျကျပြားကျကျ ဝမ်းတိုင်းထောင်ဘဝကို အားကျတယ်။
- လောကံခံစားထက် ကြံကြံခံနိုင်သူ။
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တံခွန်စိုက် (tamhkwancaik)

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NATIONAL

Regional workshop on women's advancement in ASEAN member states held in hybrid format

A regional workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of the National Mechanism for the Advancement of Women in ASEAN Member States (AMS) was conducted in a hybrid format at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement office yesterday.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, members of the Myanmar National Committee on Women's Affairs, personnel from other relevant organizations, and representatives of AFXB (Myanmar) attended the event in person.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection



The workshop on advancement of women in ASEAN countries in progress yesterday.

of the Rights of Women and Children, along with representatives from the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee and other regional bodies, participated virtually.

The Union Minister highlighted that hosting the workshop in the ASEAN region demonstrated Myanmar's commitment to implementing projects outlined in the ASEAN

Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan (2021-2025) and would contribute to achieving objectives outlined in the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF).

Following this, Mr Chua Choon Hwa, the Deputy Undersecretary for the Policy Division of the Malaysian Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development, delivered the opening address on behalf of the ACW Chairperson. Subsequently, ACW representatives from various ASEAN member states shared their experiences, best practices, and challenges in realizing the AGMSF.

Representatives from the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations (Myanmar), ASEAN Women's Entrepreneurs Network, and AFXB (Myanmar) also underscored the importance of collaboration in advancing women's development and highlighted its benefits.

Additionally, representatives from the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community discussed their initiatives for promoting gender equality and inclusivity across multiple sectors.

The workshop concluded with a closing remark by the Director-General of the Department of Social Welfare. — MNA/NT

Myanmar, Russia see mutually beneficial sector-wise cooperation



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo meets Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Andrey Rudenko.

THE Myanmar-Russia Political Consultations co-chaired by U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Mr Andrey Rudenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, was held yesterday afternoon, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two sides cordially exchanged views on the closer collaboration between Myanmar and Russia, the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation including in the spheres of defence and security, judicial and legal, transport, trade, industry and investment, banking,

mass-media, education, science and technology, health, culture, tourism and people-to-people linkages, the broadening of cooperation in the regional and multilateral fora as well as the recent developments in Myanmar. This Consultations is held under the Plan of Consultations (2022-2024) which was signed between the two Foreign Ministries in 2022.

The Consultations was attended by the senior officials from the respective Ministries.

After the Consultations, the Deputy Foreign Minister hosted a dinner in honour of the Russian delegation at the Hilton Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

MoHT UM attends workshops on sustainable tourism through MSMEs development, St Petersburg-Myanmar tourism development

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine yesterday attended the Workshop on Sustainable Tourism through MSMEs Development, together with officials and MSMEs entrepreneurs and officials of ASEAN-Japan Centre at Tongapuri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the event, the Union Minister talked about two projects of ASEAN-Japan Centre in 2023 regarding the Sustainable Tourism through MSMEs Development and Resource Development and proper opportunities for local MSMEs development through tourism.

Then, Programme Director Mr Chairat Liengkajornkiet of ASEAN-Japan Centre made a remark.

The Union Minister also



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine poses for documentary photo together with workshop participants yesterday.

attended the Workshop on St Petersburg-Myanmar Tourism Development marking 76th anniversary of establishment of Myanmar-Russia diplomatic ties online in the same evening.

Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov sent a video message to the meeting.

During the event, the Union Minister highlighted the enhancement of Russia-Myanmar relations and cooperation, tourism related data for Russian tourism entrepreneurs, participation of Myanmar in international travel expo to be held in Russia and bilateral tourism promotion. — MNA/KTZH

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

NATIONAL

SAC Information Team leader clearly unveils no plan to recruit women for military service now

LEADER of Information Team of the State Administration Council Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun clearly disclosed that, at present, women will not be recruited for military service.

He then made an explanation about People's Military Service Law, saying that Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing clarified matters related to the aforesaid law in meeting with officials from political parties on 13 February, officials of YMBA on 17 February and Myanmar diplomats on 14 February.

The Senior General reiter-



Leader of Information Team of State Administration Council Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

ated that a suitable amount of strength will be recruited for the military services in the set age limit not to be a burden for the State and the people. People need to take care of instigations based on unfounded information and criticisms.

In meeting with ambassadors, the Senior General disclosed measures of the Reserve Forces Law for recruiting war veterans. In this regard, only suitable war veterans will be assigned for military service. Moreover, the Senior General stressed the need to have political, economic and military might for building a country and its per-

petuity. To do so, the economic might plays a key role for possessing the aforesaid might.

The Information Team leader said that the government will properly apply the political, economic and military might. In this regard, malicious media and some EAOs spread misinformation to cause instability of economic life and fear of the people.

He continued that according to the law, the Tatmadaw will recruit some 60,000 people from the eligible persons for military service. In this regard, they must serve the military service in turns. — GNLM/TTA

Counter-argument to false information

Fake news accuses Tatmadaw of killing 7 civilians with heavy weapon attacks in Hsihseng

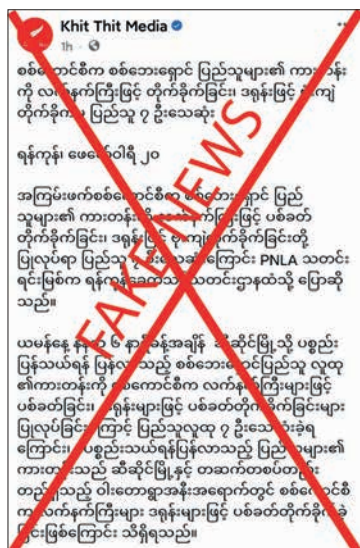
PEOPLE in a convoy fleeing from the clash was attacked by the security forces with heavy weapons and drones and seven people were killed due to the bombardment by drones in Hsihseng, Shan State (South) yesterday morning. According to the source of the PNLA, which is committing terrorist activities in Hsihseng, Khit Thit, a malicious news media, is trying to mislead the public.

Regarding the above news, according to the statements of the residents of Hsihseng, there was no shooting by the security forces yesterday morning with heavy weapons and no drone attacks.

In January 2024, the KNDF, PNLA, and PDF terrorists attacked the town of Hsihseng and attacked security bases and combined security forces operating for the local stability and security, and openly carried

out terrorist acts.

As the local people who do not accept such acts of violence are protesting their actions, they are intentionally spreading fake news through social networking sites to mislead the local people.—MNA/KZL



A screenshot text mentioned by malicious Khit Thit media.

Weekly 5-night 6-day trip to Mt Hponkanrazi arranged amidst icy caps still enjoyable for nearly 3 months



Trekking in Myanmar.

THERE are two months left for the opportunity to enjoy dense snow caps by climbing the snow-capped Mount Hponkanrazi, and they will organize a weekly 5-night 6-day trip from PutaO, according to an official from the Trekking in Myanmar.

The snow melts from the end of April or early May and the frost season starts in November, so there are two or three months left to climb the

ice-capped mountain, he said. "Most people come from Yangon to climb here. Some are from Mandalay," he added. People can come to PutaO by Yangon-Mandalay-Myitkyina-PutaO flight on Saturday and continue by motorbike to Ziyadam village. On the way back, they will have to travel by motorbike from Ziyadam village to PutaO and then take the same flight on Friday. Those wishing to climb can

book two or, three weeks or a month in advance and a package tour of PutaO-Hponkanrazi-PutaO for 5 nights and 6 days will cost K 1.2 million per person including K 300,000 as an advance payment. If a climber who has booked and made the advance payment fails to climb before the trip, he/she may join the other batches of the same trip. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Freshwater hybrid shrimp pilot farming successful in Ayeyawady Region

U Tun Win Aung, Head of Department of Fisheries in Labutta Township, reported on the successful pilot farming of freshwater hybrid shrimps in the Ayeyawady Region.

As Labutta Township in the Ayeyawady Region is situated along the coast, seawater shrimp farming has been successful, benefiting from the high influx of seawater. However, in response to the increasing local demand and a thriving market, the pilot farming of hybrid freshwater shrimp has also demonstrated promising results.

U Tun Win Aung stated, "Seawater shrimp farming is primarily conducted in areas at high salinity levels, including Labutta Township. However, there is a growing trend toward freshwater hybrid shrimp. These hybrid shrimps are not the original species of Myanmar. The shrimps can be bred commercially, with from 80,000 shrimps up to 100,000 shrimps on a one-acre plot. The breeding cycle takes just six months, after which these shrimps can be sent to the market. Cold storage facilities operate not only for export but also for local



The photo shows marketable lobsters and shrimps bred in Ayeyawady Region.

consumption. The shrimp weight range from one and a half ticals (24 grammes) to three ticals (49 grammes). Despite being situated in a high-salinity area, pilot farms of freshwater hybrid shrimp have yielded promising results. Shrimp farming in this region is steadily increas-

ing, with shrimp farmers from other salinity areas also coming to learn about freshwater shrimp farming."

It is reported that freshwater hybrid shrimps are being bred on 115 acres of land on a trial basis in Labutta Township. — ASH/TMT

Myanmar introduces Thanakha at National Multicultural Festival 2024 in Australia

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently reported that Myanmar participated in the National Multicultural Festival 2024 held on 17 February in Canberra, Australia, where traditional Myanmar cosmetic 'Thanakha' was introduced.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim Daw Zar Zar Min Thaw and staff of the Myanmar embassy in Canberra, along with diplomats from other ASEAN embassies, took part in the ASEAN showcase. At the festival, Myanmar exhibited paintings in gold and silver embroidery, Myanmar harps, lacquerwares, gemstone paintings, traditional jewellery items, Patheon parasols, and handicrafts. The Myanmar embassy provided explanations to guests about the traditional handicrafts and also introduced the traditional use of Thanakha. — ASH/TMT

K3 billion worth of stimulant tablets seized in Kyaikto township

A total of 1.5 million stimulant tablets valued at K3 billion were seized in Kyaikto Township, as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, conducted a search of a Hyundai minibus travelling from DaikU to Hpa-an, driven by Khaing Zaw Tun accompa-

nied by Naing Zaw and Nanda Tun, near Mayanchaung village in Kyaikto Township at 10:30 am on 15 February. Police seized 1.5 million stimulant tablets.

After interrogation, police arrested Zaw Myo Naing (aka) Danyin, who had the drugs carried, at his house in DaikU Township at 4 am on 16 February. A Hyundai Grace was also confiscated.

The perpetrator confessed that the seized drugs were to be transported from Shan State to Kayin State through DaikU Township in Bago Region.

Legal proceedings have been initiated against the offenders, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend others involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



Suspects seen with seized stimulant tablets and vehicles in Kyaikto Township.

Over K1.64 billion worth of Happy Water seized in Mandalay Region

A total of 13.68 kilogrammes of Happy Water valued at K1.64 billion was seized in Mandalay Region, as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, conducted a search of AD Van travelling from Mandalay-Lashio near Kyaukchaw village at 9:30 am on 12 February. Police seized 13.47 kilogrammes of Happy Water.

According to investigation, police arrested two drug traffickers — Pyae Phyo Aung (aka)

Seng Lyan with a motorbike in Myitphya Ayeya bus terminal in Myitkyina township and Zarni Myo Naing (aka) Zarni with 210 grammes of Happy Water and a Lexus in Myitkyina township — at 1 pm on 14 February.

The perpetrator confessed that the seized drugs were to be transported from Shan State to Kachin State through Mandalay Region. Legal proceedings have been conducted against the offender, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend others involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



Seized packets of Happy Water displayed in Mandalay.

Malaysia aims to draw more EV manufacturers as it seeks to become regional hub

MALAYSIA aims to draw more electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers as it seeks to become a regional hub for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), an official said on Tuesday.

Citing favourable conditions in Malaysia making it highly conducive to support multinationals' region-

al hub ambitions, Malaysian Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz said in his keynote address at an automotive event here.

"Apart from our strategic location, good infrastructure and rule of law, we also have a highly-established electrical and electronics (E&E) indus-

try, which has been reliably feeding the other industries, including aerospace, renewable energy and EVs," he said. He added that the regional EV market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of about 33 per cent from around 500 million US dollars in 2021 to 2.7 billion dollars by 2027. — Xinhua

Boeing announces Dreamliner deal at Singapore Airshow

BOEING said Tuesday that Thai Airways had placed an order for 45 Dreamliner aircraft, the first major deal announced by the embattled US plane-maker at the Singapore Airshow.

It was one of several purchase agreements unveiled on the first day of Asia's biggest airshow where European plane-maker Airbus is showcasing the A350-1000

and China is presenting its first domestically produced passenger jet. With its C919 aircraft, Beijing is seeking to challenge the decades-long dominance of Airbus and Boeing while reducing its reliance on foreign technology.

In addition to the 45 Dreamliners for Thai Airways, Boeing announced that Royal Brunei Airlines had ordered four of the 787 aircraft.

It did not provide a value for the deals. At list prices, the Thai order would be worth \$13.16 billion, but customers usually get a discount when making bulk aircraft orders.

Thai Airways chief executive Chai Eamsiri said the planes would be equipped with the latest fuel-efficient engines to help the carrier cut its carbon emissions. — AFP

Electric vehicle sales lose market share in Europe



Employees control an assembled electric vehicle at the plant of Neapco Europe in Dueren, western Germany, on 22 August 2023. PHOTO: AFP

THE market share of electric vehicles dropped below 11 per cent in Europe last month, despite an increase in sales as the overall auto market rebounded, data released on Tuesday by the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) showed.

A total of 92,741 elec-

tric vehicles were sold in Europe last month, an increase of 28.9 per cent from January last year.

That gave electric vehicles a 10.9-per-cent share of the overall market, down from the record 14.6 per cent for 2023 as a whole. An end to an environmental bonus for electric cars in Germany

available to households made them much more expensive compared to traditional internal combustion engine vehicles.

The sale of diesel vehicles, which has been declining for the past few years, moved ahead of electric vehicles in terms of market share at 13.4 per cent. — AFP

British Petroleum to invest 1.5 bln USD in Egypt for development, exploration activities

ENERGY giant British Petroleum (BP) planned 1.5-billion-US dollar new investments for development and exploration activities in Egypt, the Egyptian presidency said on Monday.

The announcement was made after a meeting in Cairo between Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and BP Chief

Executive Officer Murray Auchincloss in Cairo, said the statement.

During the meeting, Auchincloss announced that there is a potential for an additional 5 billion US dollars in investments over the coming years, according to the statement. He affirmed BP's keenness on further boosting its invest-

ment in the field of oil and gas exploration in Egypt, adding that Egypt stands as a priority destination for the company's exploration investments.

For his part, Sisi said that BP's activities are aligned with Egypt's goal of transforming into a regional hub for energy production and trade. — Xinhua

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **ZIBO NAB Agrochemicals Limited** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "Our Farm Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Our Bifen 10 EC	Bifenthrin 10% EC	F2023-4077

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture MAC Chem (Asia) Co., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Mega Wiki	Shwe Knowin	Azoxystrobin 25% SC	Full	F 2019 - 2047

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address : **Mega Grow International Co., Ltd.**

No. 216/222, 9 - FLOOR, B8-C8, Bo Myat Tun Housing, Mahabadoola Rosd, Pazudaung Township, Yangon Region. PH: 01-292772

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.018N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.018N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Israel pounds Gaza ahead of UN truce vote



This picture taken from Rafah shows smoke billowing over Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip during Israeli bombardment on 20 February 2024, amid continuing battles between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAEL hit Gaza with air strikes on Tuesday as world powers grappled with how to broker a ceasefire ahead of a UN Security Council vote that was expected to be blocked by a US veto.

A total of 103 Palestinians were killed in the past 24 hours of Israeli strikes and ground combat in the besieged Hamas-ruled territory, its health ministry said.

The United Nations has sounded the alarm over the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, warning that food shortages

could lead to an “explosion” of preventable child deaths.

More than four months of relentless fighting have flattened much of the coastal territory, pushed 2.2 million people to the brink of famine and displaced three-quarters of the population, according to UN estimates.

“How many of us have to die... to stop these crimes?” said Ahmad Moghrabi, a Palestinian doctor in southern Gaza’s main city, Khan Yunis. “Where is the humanity?”

Global powers trying to

navigate a way out of the spiralling crisis have so far come up short, with a push later Tuesday for a UN ceasefire resolution facing an expected US veto.

After months of struggling for a united response, all EU members except Hungary called Monday for an “immediate humanitarian pause”.

They also urged Israel not to invade Gaza’s southernmost city of Rafah, where nearly 1.5 million Palestinians are sheltering, many in makeshift tents. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamas leader arrives in Cairo to hold talks on Gaza truce

HAMAS leader Ismail Haniyeh on Tuesday arrived in Cairo to hold talks with Egyptian officials on the Gaza truce.

Hamas said in a brief statement sent to Xinhua that Haniyeh arrived in Cairo at the head of a delegation from the movement’s leadership.

It added that the talks will focus on the political and on-the-ground situation in light of the aggressive conflict in Gaza and the efforts made to stop the aggression, provide relief to citizens, and achieve the goals of the Palestinian people.

The Hamas leader on Saturday accused Israel of impeding efforts to achieve a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, saying that they “showed full flexibility in dealing with these issues, but it is clear so far that Israel continues to procrastinate in the negotiations.” — Xinhua

10.8 mln children in need of humanitarian aid in Ethiopia: UN

THE United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said on Monday that 10.8 million children in Ethiopia are in need of emergency humanitarian aid in 2024.

In its latest Ethiopia Humanitarian Situation Report, the UN agency said at least 20 million people, including about 10.8 million children, are in need of emergency humanitarian aid in 2024.

UNICEF also said it needs 535 million US dollars to address the multiple and growing challenges facing vulnerable populations and to help avert the disastrous consequences of overlapping crises in Ethiopia in 2024.

The funds are needed to meet basic food needs, provide reproductive health services, give vaccinations for children, and provide clean water for families in need, it added.

“The year ahead will continue to bring many challenges to the people of Ethiopia. New and ongoing drought, conflict, and disease epidemics are compounded by increasing food insecurity and forecast flooding events,” the UNICEF report warned. — Xinhua

World needs ‘trillions’ for climate action: COP28 president

THE world needs “trillions” of dollars to spur on the green transition and tackle global warming, the head of last year’s COP28 climate talks said Tuesday, warning that political momentum can evaporate without clear action.

COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber hailed progress made at UN negotiations last year in Dubai, where countries agreed to triple global renewables capacity this decade and “transition away” from polluting fossil fuels.

But the deal lacked im-

portant details, including on funding, putting the onus on this year’s COP29 meeting in Azerbaijan.

With impacts accelerating as global heat records are smashed, experts say that funding agreed this year will also play an important role in encouraging governments to toughen up their decarbonization targets.

Jaber said finance was “the key enabler of positive change at the speed and scale” needed.

“But not normal scale finance — we need finance at every level,” he said, at

an event in Paris organised by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Countries are expected this year to hammer out a new target for the amount of annual support rich nations will provide to poorer ones for their energy transitions and adaptation to climate impacts from 2025.

The failure of wealthy nations to meet their previous goal of \$100 billion per year by 2020 has soured trust, with indications the target was likely reached only in 2022. — AFP



Participants attend a COP28 a plenary session at the United Nations climate summit in Dubai on 13 December 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Germany's Andreas Brehme, 1990 World Cup winning goal scorer, dies

ANDREAS Brehme, whose 85th-minute penalty sealed victory for West Germany over Argentina in the 1990 World Cup final, died overnight into Tuesday at the age of 63, his former club Bayern Munich said.

"FC Bayern is deeply shocked by the sudden death of Andreas Brehme," the club said in a statement.

"We will always keep Andreas Brehme in our hearts. As a world champion and as a very special person".

A versatile left-back, Brehme spent two seasons with Bayern Munich between 1986-88, winning the Bundesliga in 1987.



From left, West German defender Andreas Brehme, captain Lothar Matthaeus and Pierre Littbarski celebrate the victory during the World Cup final between West Germany and Argentina on 8 July 1990 in Rome. West Germany earned its third World title, after 1954 and 1974, beating the defending champions 1-0. **PHOTO: DANIEL GARCIA / AFP**

Brehme left a mark for teams across Europe, playing for Kaiserslautern and Inter Milan, as well as Bayern, Saarbruecken and Real Zaragoza. But the defender's footballing journey began in his hometown of Hamburg at HSV Barmbek-Uhlenhorst, a small club from a working class neighbourhood.

Brehme's remarkable ability with both feet was down in part to the influence of his father and coach, Bernd. In Italy, Brehme will be remembered for the partnership he formed with compatriots Juergen Klinsmann and Lothar Matthaeus at Inter Milan.

"Ciao Andi, forever a legend," said the club for whom Brehme made more than 150 appearances, winning the Serie A title and a UEFA Cup. — AFP

Yangon Region team wins ISR Myanmar Traditional and International Equestrian Championship



Jockeys competing in different events of equestrian championship in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: AUNG MYINT (IPRD)**

THE Inter-State/Region Myanmar Traditional and International Equestrian Championship, in honour of the 77th Anniversary of Union Day, concluded in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

The final games of the senior and junior dressage, galloping and pony galloping of the international and tra-

ditional events was held at the event. After the games, an awarding ceremony was held and winners, first-runners up and second-runners up grabbed their medals plus certificates and cash awards. Next the winning team Yangon Region lifted the trophy as they secured the championship title.

The winner Yangon Region team

garnered eight gold medals, four silver medals and three bronze medals while the first-runners up Mandalay Region team secured four gold, two silver and four bronze medals. The second-runners up Bago Region team won one gold, one silver and four bronze medals. — Aung Myint (IPRD)/KZL

Games of the Future hits 7 million viewers on Chinese platform



PHOTO: GAMES OF THE FUTURE

THE inaugural press conference for the Games of the Future was held in Kazan, featuring insights from Kazan Mayor Ilсур Metshin, Head of the Games of the Future Igor Stolyarov, and Sports Director Vladislav Ershov on the final preparations and expectations for the tournament. Chinese LGD Gaming's Dota2 team leader Jiang Yifei, Ak Bars' digital hockey player Maxim Pestushko, and Inter's digital hockey player Ivan Rybchik who responded to journalists' questions.

For the Games of the Future Kazan prepared eight competitive venues, including the Kazan Expo, training arenas, and accommodation for participants with 33 hotels and the Universiade Village. This setup efficiently leverages the legacy of past major events, showcasing Kazan's readiness to host a groundbreaking event that merges the physical and digital worlds in sports competition.

Responding to a suggestion to regularly host the Games of the Future in Kazan, Ilсур Metshin smiled and said,

"After all, this is not Sabantuy (a traditional Tatar festival). But I hope that we will host the Games of the Future again sometime".

The sporting programme of the Games of the Future kicked off on Monday, 19 February, with participants competing in disciplines such as YOTA Phygital MOBA, Dota 2 and Liga Stavok Phygital Hockey. The first set of awards will be up for grabs on 22 February during the Indoor Cycling discipline. — Games of the Future



Wind-powered Dutch ship sets sail for greener future

THE world's first chemical tanker ship fitted with massive rigid aluminium "sails" has left Rotterdam, its owner hoping to plot a route to bringing down the shipping industry's huge carbon footprint.

The MT Chemical Challenger, a 16,000-tonne chemicals transporter set sail from Antwerp for Istanbul on Friday, and will undergo sea trials along the way.

Built in Japan and kitted out with four giant 16-metre-high (52 foot, 6 inch) sails similar to aircraft wings, the tanker's owners hope to cut fuel consumption by 10 to 20 per cent as the sails will allow the ship's captain to throttle back on the engine.

"As an avid sailor myself, I have been thinking for a long time how we can make our industry more sustainable," said Niels Grotz, chief executive of Chemship, which operates a fleet of chemical tanker vessels mainly between US ports in the

Gulf of Mexico and the eastern Mediterranean.

"Today we launch our first wind-assisted chemical tanker, which we hope will serve as an example to the rest of the world," Grotz told AFP at the ship's unveiling.

Global shipping — which burns diesel and other bunker fuels — contributed around 2.0 per cent of the world's carbon emissions in 2022, the International Energy Agency said.

New guidelines by the International Maritime Organization said shipping emissions needed to be cut by at least 40 per cent by 2030 and down to zero by around 2050 if the Paris Climate Accords are to be achieved.

"Shipping has always been extremely competitive and it will be a struggle to reach these targets," admitted Grotz, who added the company was unlikely to "make money" on its latest project. — AFP



This photograph taken on 16 February 2024, shows a view of the 16,000 ton MT Chemical Challenger ship of Dutch shipping company Chemship BV, a chemical tanker equipped with sails in Rotterdam. **PHOTO: AFP**



This photo taken on 17 February 2024 shows a scene of the 37th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly of the Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AU launches second-decade implementation plan of Agenda 2063

THE African Union (AU) has launched the Second 10-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, outlining major continental priorities and targets for the next 10 years.

The plan, also known as the decade of acceleration running from 2024 to 2033, was adopted during the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the AU held from 17 to 18 February at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

The AU described the launch of the second-decade implementation plan and its priorities as a historic milestone for the African Union, its members, and all African citizens.

"The Second 10-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 is a bold and ambitious roadmap for Africa's transformation. It is a manifestation of the collective will and determination of the African people to shape their destiny," it said.

The plan mainly outlined seven ambitions of how the African continent aims to achieve its key priorities in the next 10 years, aligned with each of the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063.

"By 2033, Africa wants to be prosperous, integrated, democratic, peaceful, cultured, people-driven, and influential," the 55-member continental organization said.

The plan also identified the realization of flagship projects

such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the African Passport, the Grand Inga Dam, the Single African Air Transport Market, the African Virtual University, the Pan-African E-Network, and the African Outer Space Strategy.

According to the AU, those flagship projects will enhance regional integration, economic diversification, innovation, competitiveness, as well as social inclusion and cohesion.

The AU said the launching of the plan, as a collective reaffirmation of the African dream of unity, dignity and prosperity for all, serves as a call for all stakeholders to join hands and work together to make Agenda 2063 a reality. — Xinhua

Death toll of overworked election staff in Indonesia rises to 84

INDONESIA'S Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said on Tuesday that the number of local poll administrators who reportedly died from exhaustion increased to 84.

The minister said that he

obtained the figure from the country's General Election Commission and the Elections Supervisory Agency between last Wednesday and Sunday.

Indonesia conducted its single-day presidential and legis-

lative elections last Wednesday.

Sadikin added that the death percentage of poll workers in the 2024 elections was 74 per cent lower than in the 2019 elections where hundreds of election staff died.

Around 6.8 million election staff in the 2024 elections, he said, had gone through medical screening and 6.4 million workers were declared healthy. Meanwhile, 400,000 others were classified as high risk.

"The highest risk is hypertension. Many have this. The second is heart diseases," he said, adding that the screening activity had helped reduce the death percentage of poll administrators in the 2024 elections. — Xinhua