

Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 27 March 2024

Hailing 79th Anniversary Armed Forces Day



NATIONAL

OVER 200,000 visitors made the pilgrimage to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda in Minbu (Sagu) Township of Mibu district in Magway Region during the festival days from the 5th waxing of Tabodwe to the 1st waning of Tabaung (until 25 March), according to the pagoda board of trustees.

The pagoda festival is being held for 64 days, from the 5th waxing of Tabodwe to the first day of the Myanmar New Year. The festival is crowded with visitors from different regions and states, for being the most well-known pagoda.

It holds the longest festival in Myanmar. During the festival days, the full moon day of Tabaung hosts the most significant number of visitors every year.

This year, the full moon day of Tabaung falls on a public holiday, so the accommodations are entirely housed with visitors, and some pilgrims stay at religious halls and monasteries. The stalls are also packed with visitors, like the bustling fete for buyers and sellers alike. The festival hosted over 200,000 visitors to date, said U Win Htay, chairman of the pagoda board of trustees.

According to the data on the pagoda, there are 207,030 visitors to the

Over 200,000 visitors flock to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda during festival days



(Above & below): Photos show an aerial panorama of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda, packed with visitors.

PHOTOS: MAUNG MAUNG (MINBU)

festival until 25 March. Among the total, 46,306 visitors are for overnight stays and 22,792 entry vehicles and motorcycles. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KTZH



Appointment of Indian Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Abhay Thakur as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Vinay Kumar.

Mr Abhay Thakur was born on 1 September 1969 and holds a Post Graduate in Industrial Engineering. In 1992, he joined the Indian Foreign Service as an Attaché/ Probationer on training and has held various diplomatic capacities at the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India as well as the Embassy of India in the Russian Federation, the Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom, the Indian Embassy in Israel, the Consulate-General of India in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. He also served as High Commissioner of India to Mauritius from August 2016 to January 2019 and to Nigeria from January 2019 to December 2021.

Since December 2021, he has been serving as Sous Sherpa of India for G20 in New Delhi. He is married with one son and one daughter. — MNA

ACCORDING to U Soe Win, a secretary of the U Bein Bridge maintenance team, the Taungthaman Thingyan Festival will take place at Taungthaman Lake, where the famous U Bein Bridge is located in Mandalay Region. The safety inspection and maintenance work for the bridge will reportedly commence in the last week of March.

MDY Taungthaman Lake to host Thingyan Festival

This year's Taungthaman Thingyan Festival will feature water pavilions, dance and entertainment pavilions, and a food donation program around



The photo shows the Taungthaman Lake and U Bein Bridge.

the Taungthaman Lake.

The bridge, constructed in the year 1211 of the Myanmar calendar during the reign of King Bagan of the Amara-

pura era, has 1,086 pillars and spans a length of 3,987 feet. It is over 170 years old and took two years to build. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla host dinner in honour of 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2024

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner in honour of the 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day for 2024 at the square of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

During the dinner, fireworks were launched from the Armed Forces Day parade ground and Bayintnaung Villa in honour of the 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

The Senior General and his wife cordially greeted attendees to the honorary dinner. They were Deputy Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation Colonel-General Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin

and party, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zwe Win Myint and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and wife, the Council Secretary and wife, the Council Joint-Secretary and wife, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, families of the Thirty Comrades, families of retired Commanders-in-Chief of Defence Services, retired senior military officers from



SAC Chair C-in-C of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets Russian Deputy Minister for Defence Colonel-General Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin at the dinner yesterday.



The Senior General cordially greets foreign attendees.



The Senior General warmly greets ethnic representatives.

Tatmadaw Army, Navy and Air, Independence Mawgun award recipients, advisers, deputy ministers, Tatmadaw member retired ambassadors, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, military attachés of foreign missions, representatives from the NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations, chairperson and officials from political parties, families and relatives of Aung San Thuriya title, Thiha Thura title, Thura title, military capability gallantry title and medal winners and families, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, transformed people's militia, original people's militia, border guard central advisory board members, officials of MPF, Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society, officials of ministries, those from YMBA, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group of Myanmar, artistes who participated in the dramas in honour of the Armed Forces Day, winners in the military song and marching song

contests, well-wishers, officials from Myanmar Press Council, motion pictures, theatrical and musical associations, Strategic Studies Group, university training corps, University for Development of National Races and guests.

Before and during the dinner, artistes from Myawady Entertainment Troupe and other artistes performed songs. After the dinner, the Senior General viewed the fireworks.

The Senior General and his wife and dignitaries enjoyed the performance of male and female military personnel in the drama at the Thabin Hall of Zeyathiri Beikman.

The Senior General and his wife presented flower baskets to the military personnel artistes and cordially greeted those present.

At night, emblems of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), military commands and aircraft, vessels, armoured vehicles, and three great emperors of Myanmar were illuminated in honour of the 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla greet retired senior military officers and their wives who will attend 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day Parade

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla yesterday morning paid respects to and greeted retired senior military officers and their wives staying at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day Parade on 27 March 2024.

The Senior General and his wife individually paid respect and greeted retired senior military officers and their wives, asked about their health and social requirements and fulfilled their needs.

At the meeting, the Senior General explained preserving

the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, building of the world's highest marble-carved Buddha image, construction of Maravi-jaya Buddha Park, efforts being made by Tatmadaw for forging peace and stability of the State, activation of the People's Military Service Law and the Reserve Forces Law, endeavours of the State Administration Council for overall development and long-term existence of religion and cultural heritage.

Retired senior military officers expressed their delights and pleasure at attending the Armed Forces Day parade, and the efforts of Tatmadaw in serving State responsibilities were recognized. — MNA/TTA



Photos showcase SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, along with his wife, warmly greets and engages in conversation with retired senior military officers and their spouses yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Notification No 63/2024

3rd Waning of Tabaung 1385 ME
27 March 2024

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council has conferred honorary titles and medals on the following persons: -

Military gallantry honorary title

Thura Title

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Lt-Col Tint Lwin Soe | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Major Htay Aung | Ministry of Defence |
| 3. No 874322 Sergeant Nyunt Win | Ministry of Defence |

Military capability honorary title

Gallantry certificate

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Colonel Nyan Lin Htet | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Lt-Col Zaw Myo Thant | Ministry of Defence |
| 3. Major Myo Htet Zaw | Ministry of Defence |
| 4. No 46425 Corporal/12 Kyi Phyo Wai | Ministry of Defence |

MPF capability gallantry medals

Ye Thura Medal

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Police Captain Tun Tun Win | Myanmar Police Force |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|

Ye Bala Medal

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. La 182854 Police Sergeant Shwe Tun | Myanmar Police Force |
| 2. La 172214 Police Corporal Kyaw Moe Tun | Myanmar Police Force |
| 3. La 250007 Constable Ye Min Tun | Myanmar Police Force |
| 4. La 290877 Constable Myo Thet Tun | Myanmar Police Force |
| 5. La 297073 Constable Thet Paing | Myanmar Police Force |
| 6. Daw Khin Nwe Oo | Ministry of Defence |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 7. Daw Khin Mar Cho | Ministry of Defence |
| 8. Daw Khin Khin Soe | Ministry of Defence |
| 9. Daw Ohnma San Win | Ministry of Defence |
| 10. Daw Kyi Pyar Aye | Ministry of Defence |
| 11. Daw Win Mar | Ministry of Defence |
| 12. Daw Poe Hnin Yi Kyaw | Ministry of Defence |
| 13. Daw Aye Aye Mon | Ministry of Defence |
| 14. Daw Mi Aye | Ministry of Defence |
| 15. Daw Yamin | Ministry of Defence |
| 16. Maung Ye Myat Kyaw | Ministry of Defence |
| 17. U Shwe Min | Kachin State |
| 18. U Waw Paw Lay | Kachin State |
| 19. U Yaw Yah | Kachin State |
| 20. U Ngwa Tah | Kachin State |
| 21. U Lasar (aka) U Lari Saar | Kachin State |
| 22. U Aung Moe | Sagaing Region |
| 23. U Kyaw Htet | Sagaing Region |
| 24. U Saw Maung | Sagaing Region |
| 25. U Tun Tin | Sagaing Region |
| 26. U Zaw Lin | Sagaing Region |
| 27. U Myo Win Hlaing | Sagaing Region |
| 28. U Aung Kyaw Soe | Sagaing Region |
| 29. U Thet Pyin | Sagaing Region |
| 30. U Kyaw Lwin | Taninthayi Region |
| 31. U Tin Tun | Taninthayi Region |
| 32. U Myint Oo | Bago Region |
| 33. U Htay Aung | Bago Region |
| 34. U Zaw Naing | Magway Region |
| 35. U Bo Kyi Myint Tun | Magway Region |
| 36. U Kyaw Aye | Magway Region |
| 37. U Bo Hein (aka) U Myo Myint | Mandalay Region |
| 38. U Htet Myat Ko | Mandalay Region |
| 39. U Phone Myat Thu (aka) Kyauk Khe | Mandalay Region |
| 40. U Tin Tun Min | Mandalay Region |

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Notification No 64/2024

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The Chairman of the State Administration Council conferred the following honorary titles on the persons from the Russian Federation for their excellent performances in international military cooperation measures in order to build a modern Tatmadaw.

International military cooperation medals

Thiri Thihakyaw Title

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Lieutenant-General | Kshimovsky Alexander Aleksandrovich | Head of the Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation |
| 2. Major-General | Ilyin Evgeniy Yurievich | First Deputy Head of the Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation |
| 3. Admiral | Evmenov Nikolay Anatolyevich | Commander-in-Chief of the Navy |
| 4. Admiral | Liina Victor Nikolaevich | Commander of the Pacific Fleet |
| 5. Admiral | Kasatonov Vladimir Lvovich | Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Navy |
| 6. Vice-Admiral | Mukhametshin Igor Timerbulatovich | Head of Shipbuilding, Armament and Armament Operation, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Navy for Armament |

NATIONAL

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7. Vice-Admiral	Berezovsky Denis Valentinovich	Deputy Commander of the Pacific Fleet
8. Rear-Admiral	Tryapichnikov Vladimir Aleksandrovich	Head of the Technical Department of the General Staff of the Navy
9. Colonel	Penkin Maksim Vladimirovich	Head of the 5 th Department of the Main Directorate of International Military Cooperation
10. Colonel	Yurchenko Sergei Vladimirovich	Head of the Direction of the 4 th Directorate of the Main Directorate of International Military Cooperation
11. Colonel	Pavlenko Anatoliy Viktorovich	Representative of the General Staff of the Armed Forces
12. Colonel	Kurchenko Sergei Semyonovich	Defence Attaché at the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
13. Captain 1 st rank	Moroz Kirill Sergeevich	Head of the Service (Maritime Law and International Military Cooperation) of the General Staff of the Navy
14. Captain 2 nd rank	Yashin Dmitry Valerievich	Head of the Direction of the 5 th Directorate of the Main Directorate of International Military Cooperation
15. Captain 2 nd rank	Shilkov Vitaly Vasilyevich	Chief Expert of the 5 th Directorate of the Main Directorate of International Military Cooperation

Thiri Thurakyaw Title

1. Mr Saratov Sergei Nikolaevich		Referent of the Ministry of Defence'
2. Colonel	Izvekov Sergey Alexandrovich	Deputy Head of the Direction of the 5 th Directorate of the Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation
3. Captain 1 st rank	Egorov Mikhail Lvovich	Head of the Service (Submarine Operation) of the Technical Department of the Main Command of the Navy
4. Colonel	Yunusov Araz Yunusovich	Deputy Head of the Department Head of the group of the Department (Classified Communications Network) of the Directorate (Communications Planning) of the Main Communications Directorate of the Armed Forces
5. Captain 1 st rank	Ryabokon Roman Ivanovich	Head of the 4 th Division of the 3 rd Directorate of the Main Personnel Directorate
6. Captain 2 nd rank	Mironov Vyacheslav Andreevich	Head of the group of the 4 th Division of the 3 rd Directorate of the Main Personnel Directorate
7. Captain 2 nd rank	Sakhnevich Andrey Nikolaevich	Head of the Department of International Military Cooperation of the Pacific Fleet
8. Captain 3 rd rank	Spitsyn Pavel Aleksandrovich	Senior Expert of the 5 th Directorate of the Main Directorate of International Military Cooperation
9. Colonel	Bobrikov Sergei Leonidovich	Senior officer of the Engineering Troops Construction Department of the Directorate of the Chief of Engineering Troops of the Armed Forces
10. Colonel	Ryabov Alexey Vyacheslav	Chief Expert of the Division of Supply (artillery ammunition) of the Directorate (supply of missiles and artillery ammunition) of the Main Rocket and Artillery Directorate
11. Colonel	Matytsin Roman Sergeevich	Assistant to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army for International Military Cooperation
12. Lieutenant-Colonel	Ermolaev Mikhail Yurievich	Chief Inspector of the Service (International Military Cooperation) of the General Command of the Army

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

SAC Member DPM Union Defence Minister meets UN Interim Coordinator

STATE Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San received UN Interim Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Myanmar Mr Marcoluigi Corsi yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they frankly exchanged views on issues related to the implementation of the People's Military Service Law and the temporary relocation of UN staff working in Rakhine State. — MNA/TS



UN Interim Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Myanmar Mr Marcoluigi Corsi calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister Admiral Tin Aung San yesterday.

Sluggish foreign demand drives corn prices down

AS the demand faltered in the corn market, the corn price moved down to around K1,000 per viss in late March after it hit K1,200 per viss in early January 2024.

Myanmar exports corn to China and Thailand through the border and ships to China, India, Viet Nam, and the Philippines through maritime channels, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Thailand, the leading importer of Myanmar's corn, grants corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

Additionally, China has

been purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution programme.

Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted to export corn.

Myanmar shipped 934,883 tonnes of corn worldwide as of 29 December in the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, bagging US\$279.042 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar exported over two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam.



Myanmar exported over two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah, and Kayin states as well as Mandalay,

Sagaing, and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons: winter, summer, and mon-

soon. Myanmar's annual corn output is estimated at from 2.5 to 3 million tonnes. — NN/EM

Domestic gold price exceeds K4.3 mln per tical



The kyat depreciation to K4,000 against the US dollar drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023.

FOLLOWING the spot gold price rally to over US\$2,170 per ounce and kyat depreciation to approximately K3,740 against the US dollar on 26 March 2024, domestic gold price hit a fresh new peak of K4.31 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

Meanwhile, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the reference price at K3.7989 million per tical, showing a large gap of over K500,000 per tical with the actual market value.

The YGEA warned gold traders to halt business unless they make transactions below the YGEA's reference price, according to a notifica-

tion released on 16 March.

Those unscrupulous dealers are manipulating the market by misleading information. Authorities concerned are inspecting the cause of price fluctuations, and legal proceedings against them are being undertaken, the notification stated. As a result of this, the YGEA requested dealers to make gold transactions below the set reference price and avoid the spread of false news and price manipulation on 12 March.

The kyat depreciation to K4,000 against the US dollar drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023. — NN/EM

FDA warns of seven unregistered hazardous cosmetics for safety

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning regarding the seven unregistered cosmetics as it identified they contain hazardous substances and chemicals that are harmful to health and proven unsafe.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, the FDA has been monitoring the market systematically to ensure the quality of cosmetics that are considered safe for use. When the FDA inspected seven cosmetics that were distributed locally in 2023, they were found unregistered and contained harmful and prohibited chemicals that pose health risks. Therefore, the FDA warns the public of these unsafe cosmetics.

They are Y-CID/Diamond Meteor eyeshadow ball 03 5g, I U Beauty/lip gloss 04 4.8ml, Mila Color/Primer eyebrow kit 03 9g, Kiss Beauty/blush powder 2#, Sunset Beauty/eyeshadow palette 19.7g, Mila Color/Peach Sweet palette makeup



set 56g and Mila Color/Fresh Lemon 10 Color eyeshadow palette 01.

Those prohibited chemicals can cause skin irritation, swelling, rash, numbness, muscle cramps, fatigue, headaches, dizziness and depression. Prolonged exposure can also lead to kidney failure and other chronic diseases.

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

OPINION

Adopt pledge for shaping peaceful, prosperous nation

IN THE annals of Myanmar's history, the Tatmadaw has emerged as a stalwart companion to the people, standing steadfast since the nation's struggle for independence. Together, they have confronted colonial forces, neo-colonialists, and insurgents with unwavering determination.

The inception of Armed Forces Day on 27 March 1945 marked a pivotal moment in Myanmar's narrative, as General Aung San led a historic revolution against Fascist oppressors in collaboration with the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL). Now, after 79 years, this day stands as a testament to the synergy between the Tatmadaw and the people, shaping the course of Myanmar's history.

Throughout these decades, Myanmar has weathered diverse political systems and surmounted myriad challenges, both internal and external. Concurrently, the Tatmadaw has valiantly defended the nation against threats to its sovereignty and unity, demonstrating unwavering commitment to peace, stability, and the protection of its citizens.

Reflecting on Myanmar's past, it is evident that disunity, outdated governance, power struggles, and defence inadequacies once led to a loss of independence. Drawing from these lessons, it is imperative for all citizens and the government to recalibrate their mindsets and march steadfastly towards common goals.

Everybody needs to analyze that Myanmar lost its independence once due to a lack of unity among the ethnic people, the use of out-of-date administrative mechanisms, engaging in a power race, lack of global knowledge and weak defence capacity. Taking lessons from past events, all Myanmar citizens and the government have to change their concepts and mindsets to march forward to the goal steadfastly.

Realizing this vision demands a commitment to unity, solidarity, and the rejection of armed conflict. Each ethnic group within Myanmar's borders must pledge not only to secure their own well-being but also to contribute to the collective prosperity and stability of the entire nation.

All ethnic people residing in the Union of Myanmar cannot stand alone due to the fact that anyone does not have enough natural resources to stand tall among them. They all have to rely on each other to shape peaceful, prosperous societies by utilizing all natural resources from various parts of the nation. If so, they all have to unite each other without considering secession and emphasizing solidarity and prosperity. As such, all ethnic people have to pledge to shape a peaceful and stable society not only for themselves but for the whole Union.

THE word 'creativity' is still commonly popular among the youth of today. Creativity has always become an essential competence in almost every field of study rather than it is the most-liked capacity. Also, creativity is an important human characteristic, and perhaps it would be best if it is considered a process that requires mixed ingredients, personality traits, abilities and skills. Children can develop their creativity by being provided a creative environment through play, behaving creatively all by themselves, and getting praised for their creative efforts. A child's own interests are the very starting point of originality in the creative process.

The term 'creativity' has been defined from different perspectives. In general, creativity is a human attribute which makes highly creative people special and different from others to produce appropriate and novel things, deviating from past experiences and procedures, also being concerned with divergent thinking with producing a variety of ideas, tolerating what is not known and generating imaginative interpretations of situations that may be difficult to understand. Any child will be capable of creative achievement in some area of activity, provided that the conditions are right and he has acquired the relevant knowledge and skills. Children tend to engage in unique thinking with their intrinsic desire for new and better findings.

When taking account of young children, it is suitable to accept a broad definition of creativity. In this way, every child can be thought to have creative potential and even creative expression. What might constitute originality in the work of a young

child is of great importance as well. Only if so could a child prodigy be expected to come up with something new and valuable to society. On the other hand, each child's creative abilities may relate to his personal development. Hence, another suggestion for adopting the notion of creativity to suit young children is to put the emphasis on the creative process instead of the quality of creative products. Malaguzzi also said that creativity becomes more visible when adults try to pay more attention to the cognitive processes of children than to the results they achieve in various fields of doing and understanding.

Never should creativity be underestimated. Creativity helps teach cognitive skills and scientific thinking. Creative thinking outside of the box covers imagination, the basic use of a scientific method, communication, physical dexterity and exertion, problem posing, problem-solving, making interpretations and applying symbols, which contribute to future literacy skills, too. Creative expression provides many opportunities for describing emotions and working through those emotions to gain relief and understanding of them. In young childhood, creativity is often a social act of improving a sound knowledge

How to Facilitate a Child's Creativity

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

of social rules like give and take or cooperation. Working with art materials promotes fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination. Furthermore, children will be able to learn new vocabulary and usages as well as to associate pictures with words by engaging in creative play or projects, which should boost language expressions and comprehension. Finally, creative activities enable children to study grouping and classification, as well as physical properties, objects, and effects.

So, which components are involved in the process of creative thinking? Most theorists find a number of components in the creative process, particularly imagination, originality, i.e. the ability to turn out ideas and products that are new and unusual, productivity, i.e. the ability to generate a variety of different ideas through divergent thinking, problem-solving, i.e. the application of knowledge and imagination to a given situation, and finally, the ability to produce an outcome of value and worth. According to Alvino, creative thinking is characterized by four components: fluency or generating many ideas, flexibility or shifting perspective

easily, originality or conceiving something new, and elaboration or building on other ideas. Up-grade fluency provides children with plenty of opportunities that stimulate the thought process. Fostering flexibility allows opportunities in abundance to explore and experiment. Such an allowance for experiments and mistakes unleashes their creative thinking and a sense of wonder. If children are provided with a variety of supplies and experiences to promote originality, they ought to use their imagination and creation. To be said better, elaboration means the ability to extend ideas, giving children new ways of conducting old ideas and activities.

We cannot guarantee that children think creatively even though they have creative ability, especially if they fear new thinking or do not want to be creative. According to Lee, the characteristics in relation to creative behaviours include curiosity, running the risk, independence, and task commitment. According to Paradise et al., the four behaviours preparing the mind for creativity are learning something new every day, seeking out constructive criticism, in-

cluding or leaving a problem alone for a while to allow the brain to work on it, and putting knowledge to work. As Lara and Cruz said, highly creative individuals display such exploratory behaviour when encountering novelty as getting optimistic, being tolerant of uncertainty, pursuing their intensity, assuming responsibility, directing to their goals, having to be able to utilize resources, self-acceptance and congruence, and showing empathy and integrated consciousness. Burnard also stated five behaviours towards creative learning, namely the capacities to ask questions, make connections, imagine what might be, explore opinions and reflect critically.

Fundamental to the creative environment is the encouragement of children's play, Mellou believed. Play is deeply featured in many of the discussions about creativity in young children. Imaginative play, especially role play, and free choice of activities seem to be the key components of the early childhood setting in connection with creativity. As Prentice suggested, active involvement is a key feature. Louisell and Descamps once emphasized four features of the environment that contribute to creative experiences: the amount of weight which is

placed on openness with feelings, the way success and failure are regarded, the quantity of enjoyment experienced by participants, and how well tolerant open-ended experimentation and discovery learning along with the increased confusion and talks are accompanied. Again, two aspects of the environment should be taken into consideration - the physical environment and the emotional environment. Among these, the stimulation offered by a child's physical environment is important, and the more important atmosphere is an emotional environment where creativity is valued.

Most writers on creativity advocate that it is possible to encourage or even to inhibit the development of creativity in young children. Children are apparently more creative before they enter KG. But then, this leads to the question of whether there is a natural consequence of children maturing and becoming constrained by social conventions or their experiences in the KG somehow cause the decline. Creativity is closely bound up with an individual's personality and emotional life, and it is more than just thinking skills. Some children may find it difficult to express their creativity, so their behaviour can be observed by identifying where the difficulty lies and devising an action plan. As there are three types of thinking - creative, critical and logical, any advance in literature and science would not have been seen if only creative thinking had not arisen through the ages of human history. Let us facilitate children's creativity in many potentially colourful ways, therefore!



Letter from China: Why China's electric tricycles are winning consumers overseas

IMAGINE a vehicle that allows for effortless driving and has space for both passengers and cargo, is easily affordable and does not require fuel. Sounds enticing doesn't it? But it's not imaginary — What

A worker assembles electric tricycles at a workshop of Jiangsu Guowei Motorcycle Co Ltd in Xishan district of Wuxi City, east China's Jiangsu Province, 15 February 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

I'm describing is a Chinese-made electric tricycle.

Not long ago, a US resident ventured out on one such a tricycle, eliciting curiosity and admiration from neighbours. The electric tricycle has a sleek design,

These tricycles cost only \$600 and are made in large quantities for sale overseas.

practical performance and an unusual warning sound: "Please pay attention, I'm backing up!" Video clips of the vehicle have garnered significant attention on social media platforms overseas, with some netizens even hailing it their "dream vehicle".

Yet as the buzz grows, I find

myself pondering why this vehicle, which has long been popular across China, has only recently made waves overseas.

If you were to journey into China's rural areas, you would find that these vehicles are almost ubiquitous.

The electric tricycle that has

wowed US residents is made by Jiangsu Guowei Motorcycle, Co Ltd which is located in the Xishan district of Wuxi City in east China's Jiangsu Province. And it is priced at a modest 600 US dollars.

Stepping into a Guowei workshop, I encountered a bustling scene of production and

meticulously assembling electric tricycles in minutes.

Rows of pristine blue tricycles stood ready to be shipped to overseas markets, including the United States. My visit gave me a sense of the company's vibrancy.

SOURCE: Xinhua

LETTER TO EDITOR

Matric English Texts

Dear Editor

Thank you for publishing my article 'Matriculation English Texts 1968-69 to 2018-19: A Retrospect and Possibility for Research' on 14 March 2024 of GNL.M. Due to space reasons, the cover photos of (1) *Six Tales from Shakespeare* and *Seven Inventors*, (2) *Wuthering Heights* (abridged, simplified version), (3) *Thirty Burmese Tales* and (4) Grade X English Text (for the years 2020-21) which I have sent were not included together with my article. If possible, I request that those photos be shown here.

I have two brief updates regarding my article. An elder cousin of mine who had studied and matriculated from St Paul High School, later No 6 State High School (Botahtaung), stated that the name of the writer of the Letter to the Editor in *The Guardian* (Rangoon), which was published on or around 20 October 1972 was not E W Walton but E W Halton. My cousin U Hla Myint, an Advocate, was apparently a former student of Mr Halton at St Paul High School, and if that information is correct, I stand corrected.

I mentioned the 'origin' and meaning of the phrases *Shin Mway Noone* and *Akyan Koan Galon Sar Chet* from Sayagyi Dr Htin Aung's *Thirty Burmese Tales*. Another phrase whose meaning I discern from Dr Htin Aung's book is the phrase *La Nga Poke Phan* ('The Moon is captured by the dog *Nga Poke*'). One wonders how many among the few hundred thousand students had to read the book as a compulsory English text in the early to mid-1950s (who would now be age in their eighties) and those students who had to study the exact text in the early to late 1990s (who would now be age in their late thirties/early forties) knew the meaning of the above Myanmar phrases before they read it in Dr Htin Aung's book.

Myint Zan



NATIONAL

Union Ministers join XIII International Forum ATOMEXPO 2024

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw attended the XIII International Forum ATOMEXPO 2024 held in Sochi, Russian Federation on 25 March together with Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Thit Lin Ohn and officials.

First, the Myanmar delegation, led by the Union Ministers, along with the attendees, visited the international nuclear-related exhibitions displayed at the forum, asked questions, and discussed what they wanted to know.

Next, the Union Ministers attend the launching ceremony of the XIII International Forum ATOMEXPO 2024, as well as the Plenary Session of the Forum, with the topic named "Clean



The XIII International Forum ATOMEXPO 2024 underway in the Russian Federation on 25 March 2024.

Energy: Creating the Future Together".

In the afternoon, Union Minister U Nyan Tun had a dis-

cussion with Grigory Nazarov, Director General of NovaWind JSC Company, about renewable energy wind and small hydro-

power plants to be invested in Myanmar.

The Union Minister also discussed the thermal power

plant with Andrey Rozhdestvin, Director General of JSC Rusatom Energy Projects Company.

The XIII International Forum ATOMEXPO 2024 is discussing all aspects of the modern nuclear energy industry and its further development. Leaders of the world's atomic energy industry and international representatives, as well as Russian and foreign companies and key experts in the nuclear field, attended the forum.

Traditionally, the Forum programme is an international congress and an exhibition of goods and services for the nuclear and related industries, so it is also an international conference aimed at discussing outstanding issues of the world's nuclear industry.— MNA/KZL

53rd Independence Day & National Day reception of Bangladesh celebrated in Yangon



The reception of Bangladesh's 53rd Independence Day and National Day celebration in progress yesterday in Yangon.

THE 53rd Independence Day and National Day reception of Bangladesh was held yesterday at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon.

The ceremony commenced with the National Anthems of both the Republic of Myanmar and Bangladesh, followed by a welcome speech by the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, Dr Md Monwar Hossain. Afterwards, attendees were entertained with traditional Bangladeshi cultural dances.

Afterwards, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and his wife, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo and his wife, along with the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar and his wife, cut a commemorative cake to celebrate Bangladesh's 53rd Independence Day and

National Day.

The Yangon Region chief minister and his wife, the deputy minister and his wife, and the ambassador and his wife then took a commemorative photo with the attendees. Following this, the ambassador and his wife hosted a dinner for those who attended the ceremony.

The Yangon Region Government Development Affairs Minister U Bo Htay and his wife, Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Moe, who have agreed to be appointed as the Myanmar ambassador to Bangladesh, and his wife, ambassadors from foreign embassies in Yangon, chargé d'affaires, resident representatives of the United Nations and invitees attended the ceremony.— MNA/TH

Myanmar Embassy official shares cultural, investment insights at Howard University

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs disclosed that U Thet Win, the chargé d'affaires ad interim at the Myanmar embassy in Washington, DC, delivered a presentation on Myanmar's cultures, traditions, and investment prospects at Howard University on 23 March.

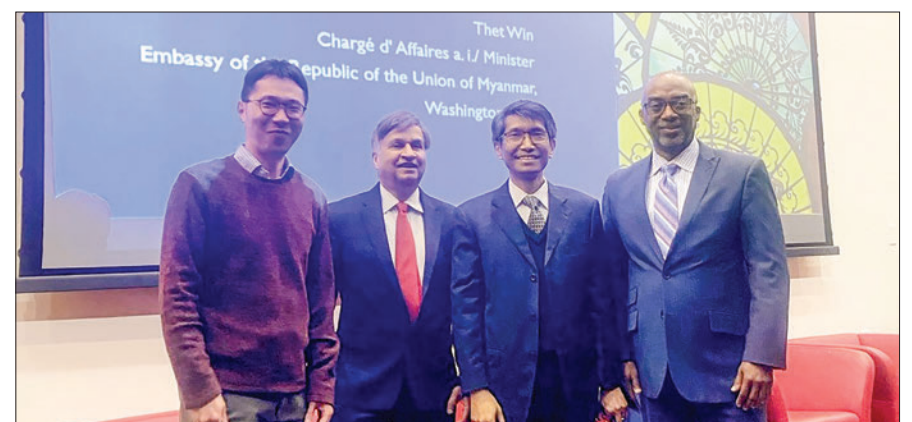
At the invitation of the Centre for Global Business Studies at Howard University's School of Business, U Thet Win presented an "Overview of Myanmar and Economic Opportunities" to economics students.

During his visit, U Thet Win also met with Dr Anthony D Wilbon, Dean of the School of Business, and Professor Dr Narendra R Rustagi, Director of the Centre for Global Business Studies, to

explore potential educational collaborations.

The Myanmar chargé d'affaires provided insights into Myanmar's foundational aspects, including its cultures, customs, traditional music, festivals, cuisine, UNESCO-recognized sites, trade, economy, and opportunities for foreign direct investment (FDI). Approximately 150 students attended the event.

Following his presentation, there was a Q&A session, followed by a display of Myanmar traditional lacquerware and handicrafts, distribution of trade information pamphlets, and serving of traditional Myanmar tea to guests.— ASH/TMT



Myanmar chargé d'affaires U Thet Win seen together with responsible personnel.

NATIONAL



Shwesettaw Mannchaung Elephant Camp showcases pachyderm performance

SHWESETTAW Mannchaung Elephant Camp conducted an elephant performance show for the first time to entertain the Minhlakyin villagers from Minbu (Sagu) Township who make a pilgrimage tour to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda using bullock carts, according to an official of the elephant camp.

Locals from Minhlakyin village make pilgrimage tours to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda using bullock carts this year as a tradition, and they made a tour with the use of 37 bullock carts on 21 March this year. They built camps near their bullock carts by Mann Creek until 1st wanning of Tabaung to pay homage to two sacred footprints of the Lord Buddha daily.

“We made the very first entertainment with four clever elephants on 26 March, aiming at raising knowledge of locals and children of Minhlakyin village about the harmony between the elephant and people in addition to the skills of elephants, and

Captured in photos (top & above), visitors are treated to a captivating variety show featuring smart elephants from the Shwesettaw Mannchaung Elephant Camp. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG (MINBU)**

we also want to honour them as they preserve the traditions of residents to date in the use of bullock carts on their pilgrimage tour. In the coming year, we will

welcome them with elephants and entertain them,” said U Htet Naing Aung, assistant manager of the camp.

The elephants greeted the

visitors individually, played musical instruments, danced with Pathein parasols, played football, performed the U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe dance and took batch-

es together with the children during the performance. Moreover, the Minhlakyin residents fed the elephants. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KTZH



MoRAC to offer folk music, dance courses at NUAC (Yangon/Mandalay)

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture announced that the National Universities of Arts and Culture (NUAC) in Yangon and Mandalay will introduce courses in folk music and dance representing various Myanmar nationalities – Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan – commencing from this finan-

cial year.

Courses in folk music and dance specific to Kayin, Mon, and Rakhine cultures will be offered at NUAC in Yangon, while those representing Shan, Kachin, Chin, and Kayah cultures will be available at NUAC in Mandalay.

An official from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture revealed that the universities are collaborating with professional dance and music experts, as well as ethnic lit-

erature and culture groups, to develop the curriculum and guidelines for these courses. Additionally, permissions have been granted to hire tutors for these new subjects.

Currently, representatives from NUAC in Yangon and Mandalay are engaged in discussions with ethnic literature and culture groups from various states to seek advice and define the curriculum for the folk music and dance courses. — ASH/ TRKM

Photos depict Kayin's traditional dance "Done".

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

Chilli pepper prices on downward trend

Chilli pepper stocks are piled up at cold storage facilities and depots on the weak demand.

THE chilli pepper prices further dropped to K4,500-4,600 per viss from K5,000 at Bayintnaung's chilli pepper market, resulting from the daily ample supply from delta regions these days.

There is no space available to store the chilli peppers in cold storage areas in some industrial parks. Stacks of chilli pepper stocks are seen on the roadside and at the depots, unlike in previous years, leading to the price plunge, said a warehouse owner told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prices of long chilli peppers move in the range between K4,500 and K6,500 per viss depending on the different varieties on 26 March. Meanwhile, the bell pepper prices were K9,000-11,000 per viss, and the Moehtaung chilli pepper was valued at K7,500-8,200 per viss.

That is an unusual event in history, as the chilli pepper supply exceeded the demand, causing piles of stocks outside of the warehouses. U Hla Tin, a trader who saw that sight, told the GNLM. Of the commodities whose



Chilli pepper sacks seen being piled up in front of a warehouse in the Bayintnaung area on 26 March 2024.

prices are declining in late March 2024, chilli pepper might reap a loss for growers. Traders who

kept the chilli pepper stocks made a remarkable profit in 2022. For now, the traders are

closely observing the chilli pepper market on a daily basis. — TWA/KK

IRD to scrutinize outward remittances over US\$10,000 for tax compliance

THE Internal Revenue Department announced that outward remittances worth more than US\$10,000 can be passed only after scrutinizing the tax payment and tax clearance certificates.

The authorized dealers have been checking the person, entity, individuals, companies, and institutions remitting over \$10,000 (equivalent amount of other foreign currencies) if they are tax compliant and if they seek a tax clearance certificate starting from 1 May 2023, the IRD's notification stated.

Those remitting must also declare necessary statements for each type of remittance and payment.

Form SAS-1 of the IRD regarding profit transfer, goods transaction, profit, licence, brand name, lien, payment for trademark and service fees, taxpayer registration issued by the IRD for new taxpayers, statements for withholding tax payment or exemption evidence from the relevant tax offices must be attached as well. — TWA/EM



A domestic bank processing outward remittance.

Myanmar's shrimp exports approved by China's Customs



Saltwater shrimps en route to China.

THE General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) has granted approval for the export of Myanmar's farm-produced saltwater shrimps, as confirmed by the Fisheries Department.

In 2023, six companies obtained licences for exporting white saltwater shrimps after

reaching an agreement with GACC.

During this month, one of these companies has already exported 124 tonnes of shrimps valued at US\$372,000 in two separate shipments.

Shrimps are typically frozen within containers for export. Exporters often find themselves

compelled to lower prices due to intense competition within China, which accounts for 30 per cent of Myanmar's marine product market and involves over 60 companies.

Figures from the Ministry of Commerce indicate that marine products generated \$675.9 million in revenue during the first 11 months of the 2023-24 financial year. Myanmar exports more than 20 fish varieties, shrimps, and crabs to 45 countries, including China, Japan, Thailand, and European nations. Regarding land transportation, exports are facilitated through various border gates, including Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik, and Maungdaw. — TWA/NT

RDD advances electrification plan for remote villages

ACCORDING to the Rural Development Department, the small-scale power supply system is under implementation to provide electricity to villages that cannot get access to electricity from the national grid within 10 to 15 years as they are more than

ten miles away from it.

Under the small-scale electric power supply system, villages seeking electricity are required to cover 20 per cent of the cost, while the winning company of the tender contributes another 20 per cent, with the govern-

ment funding the remaining 60 per cent.

It has been disclosed that a budget of 20 billion kyats will be allocated for electrifying 900 villages nationwide during the upcoming 2024-2025 financial year. — TWA/TKO

World Bank highlights reform priorities for Thailand's growth

THE World Bank on Monday launched its Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) Update for Thailand, highlighting five reform priorities for the Southeast Asian country to revitalize growth amid an enduring downturn.

The report entitled "Shifting Gears: Towards Sustainable Growth and Inclusive Prosperity" identified the five reform priorities as building strong human capital; creating a competitive and innovative economy; unlocking growth in secondary cities; en-

sureing sustainable and climate-resilient development; and strengthening fiscal institutions and public finance.

"These reforms are pivotal for Thailand to ascend to the status of an advanced economy in the foreseeable future, characterized by greater societal equity and a more sustainable, climate-resilient economy," said World Bank Country Manager for Thailand Fabrizio Zarcone.

The report highlighted that to become a more innovative and inclusive

economy, Thailand must improve learning outcomes and close skills gaps by increasing education spending, optimizing resource allocation, and aligning education with labour market needs.

Thailand must also enhance tech competitiveness, strengthen competition regulations, attract skilled professionals, and empower small and medium-sized enterprises through increased access to finance for innovation, according to the report. — Xinhua



A general view shows residential and commercial buildings in Bangkok on 2 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Japanese chocolate snack-shaped translator earphones to go on sale



Photo taken in Narita, Chiba Prefecture, on 25 March 2024, shows wireless earphones designed after Meiji Holdings Co's chocolate snack "Kinoko no Yama". PHOTO: KYODO

WIRELESS translator earphones in the shape of the beloved Japanese mushroom-shaped chocolate snack "Kinoko no Yama", sold as "Chocorooms" in the

United States, will hit the shelves this week, food manufacturer Meiji Holdings Co said Monday. Only 3,500 units of the devices, which can translate 74 languages alongside having conventional earphone functions such as enabling users to listen to music, will go on sale at noon Tuesday on "Makuake", a website that promotes new merchandise, at the price of 29,800 yen (\$190).

The confectionery maker hopes the wearable device will further improve the brand recognition of its mushroom-shaped snack, which has a crispy biscuit stem capped with rich chocolate on top and is currently sold in about 10 countries, including Singapore and the United States. — Kyodo

Sweden's Northvolt starts building battery gigafactory in Germany

THE Swedish battery manufacturer Northvolt on Monday started to construct its 4.5 billion-euro (4.9 billion US dollars) plant of electric vehicle (EV) batteries in Germany's northern state of Schleswig-Holstein.

The plant is due to start operation in 2026. With a designed maximum annual production capacity of 60 gigawatt hours (GWh), it will supply battery cells for up to 1 million EVs a year.

Germany contributed 902 million euros to the construction. "Investments like Northvolt's are of strategic importance for our country and for Europe," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said at the ground-breaking ceremony. He noted that the production of quality cars remains the country's backbone, which requires domestic production of battery cells.

The gigafactory is expected to create 3,000 jobs directly and another

10,000 in the area around the factory. Faced with growing locational disadvantages due to high energy costs, Germany is eager to draw foreign investment. According to the German Economic Institute (IW), only 22 billion euros were invested in the Europe's largest economy last year, the lowest level in a decade, while net investment outflows have steadily increased in the past three years. (1 euro = 1.08 US dollars) — Xinhua

Indonesia continues building MSMEs comprehensive database

INDONESIA is continuing to build a comprehensive database of integrated cooperatives and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which has so far reached 13.4 million, the ministry said on Tuesday.

"Data collection continues, by name and by address," said Siti Azizah, Deputy for Entrepreneurship at the Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Ministry.

Censuses and surveys carried out directly by visiting business actors one by one have reached 215 districts and cities. A total of 9.1 million data have been collected in 2022 and another 4.3 million in 2023, in classifications, including entrepreneur identity, type of business, production process, finance, human resources and marketing. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.022N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.022N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2404S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2404S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

European countries beef up anti-terror measures in wake of Moscow attack

EUROPEAN countries including Italy are stepping up security in the wake of the recent terrorist attack that killed over 130 people in Moscow.

On Monday, after a meeting concerning public order and security, the country's interior ministry ordered police forces to intensify surveillance activities.

While the security threat level in Italy had already been raised to maximum in the immediate aftermath of the Moscow terrorist attack on Friday night, the latest measures are focused on boosting safety over Easter.

At least 10.5 million Italians are expected to travel over the Easter holidays, from 29 March to 1 April, according to a survey by Italy's hotel and tourism association Federalberghi.

Many foreign tourists also visit Italy in this period, with this number estimated at 3.3 million



Italian soldiers stand guard in front of the Arch of Constantine in Rome, Italy, 25 March 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

during Easter 2023.

Particular attention will be paid to places "with the largest gatherings and transit of people, as well as to all sensitive targets," such as airports, train stations, and cultural and religious sites, the interior ministry said. Italian security and intelligence forces were also urged to continue "carefully monitoring activity on the web ... to identify any risky situations."

Similar measures were also announced in France on Sunday, where Prime Minister Gabriel Attal decided to upgrade the "Vigipirate" plan to "urgent attack" level. The decision comes just a few months ahead of the Olympic Games, to be held in Paris in July. Vigipirate is the key tool in France's anti-terrorism system, and involves both public and private entities in security efforts. — Xinhua



In this aerial image, the steel frame of the Francis Scott Key Bridge sits on top of a container ship after the bridge collapsed, Baltimore, Maryland, on 26 March 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bridge in US Baltimore city collapses after boat collision, 7 people in water

THE Francis Scott Key Bridge in the US city of Baltimore collapsed early Tuesday after a large ship collided with it, and local authorities were trying to rescue at least seven people.

According to a video posted on X, formerly Twitter, a large ship crashed into the bridge and caught fire before sinking, sending several vehicles into the Patapsco River.

"All lanes closed both directions for incident on I-695 Key Bridge. Traffic is being detoured," the Maryland Transportation Authority posted on X. The Baltimore Fire Department's communication director Kevin Cartwright said that emergency responders were searching for at least seven people who were believed to be in the water, according to the AP.

Authorities received 911 calls around 1:30 am local time (0530 GMT) reporting that a ship travelling outbound from Baltimore had struck a pillar on the bridge, causing it to collapse, while several vehicles were on the bridge at the time, said Cartwright. — Xinhua

1 dies after consuming Japan drugmaker's health supplements

ONE person has died from kidney disease after apparently consuming dietary supplements produced by Kobayashi Pharmaceutical Co for about three years, the Japanese drugmaker said Tuesday.

The person, whose place of residence, gender and age were not disclosed, purchased a total of 35 packages of the company's supplements containing "beni-koji" red yeast rice that have been recalled due to reports of kidney and other health problems. The person bought

"beni-koji cholestest help" on a regular basis by mail order from April 2021 to February 2024, the Osaka-based company said, adding it is examining the causal relationship between ingestion and death.

The company was informed of the person's death via an email from the deceased's relatives on Saturday, it said.

This is the first time that the Osaka-based company has reported a death with a possible link to the supplements, after it last week voluntarily recalled

five products, including about 300,000 packages of the "beni-koji cholestest help."

The company also said about 50 more people have been hospitalized after consuming the supplements, in addition to 26 reported as of Sunday.

The nationwide voluntary recall has been extended to include food items and seasonings that feature "beni-koji" as an ingredient, as it is used for various purposes such as colouring and flavouring. — Kyodo

Appeals court in New York slashes bond in Trump business fraud case

AN appeals court in New York on Monday cut the bond in US former President Donald Trump's business fraud case more than by half and granted a ten-day period for coming up with the smaller bond.

Trump, his two sons, one business associate and business organizations need to fulfil a bond of 175 million US

dollars within ten days rather than paying a total of 464.576 million dollars, according to a ruling by an appellate panel under the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

The latest ruling is seen as a win for Trump and his assets probably will avoid being seized by New York Attorney General Letitia James, the plaintiff in

Trump's business fraud case.

Trump said on Monday that he respected the decision, and cash or a bond would be put up very quickly.

Earlier, Trump's lawyers told the appeals court that it was impossible to post the bond in full and proposed a bond of 100 million dollars instead. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Paris Olympics to cost taxpayers 3-5 billion euros: auditor

THE Paris Olympics this year are expected to cost the state between 3-5 billion euros (\$3.2-5.4 billion), the French national auditor said Tuesday as new figures revealed the country's widening debt levels.

"We still don't know the cost of the Olympics," Pierre Moscovici, the head of the auditing body, told France Inter radio. "These games will cost between three, four or five billion euros".

Moscovici had estimated in January last year that the ultimate cost to taxpayers would be "around three billion euros", which represented an increase from government budget estimates at the time of 2.44 billion euros.

The bill for every Olympics often expands in the latter stages of preparations as unbudgeted costs appear or extra funds are needed to accelerate unfinished building work.

Under the threat of strikes,

the French government is currently negotiating one-off bonuses for public sector staff who will work during the Games, with pay-offs to the police alone set to cost up to 500 million euros.

The overall cost for the Paris Games, including private and public money, was most recently estimated at around nine billion euros, up from a budgeted 6.6 billion euros when the city was selected in 2017.

Making cost comparisons between Games is difficult because of a lack of transparency with figures and the complexity of comparing investments across countries.

But a 2020 study by academics at the University of Oxford concluded that every summer Games since 1960 had gone over budget, with the average sports-related costs ending up between two and three times (172 per cent) the original estimate. — AFP



This photograph taken in Paris on 21 March 2024 shows a view of the Paris' city hall decorated with Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games' posters. **PHOTO: AFP**

Team Myanmar to play 4 intl warm-up matches before Asian Cup



The Myanmar futsal team players are seen in their training session. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar national futsal team will play four international friendly matches before the final stage of the 2024 Asia Cup futsal tournament, which will be played in April.

Team Myanmar began training with 20 preliminary players on 18 March for the final stage of the Asia Cup futsal tournament. It will have four international warm-up matches: two in Yangon and two in

Thailand.

The Myanmar squad will further play two friendly matches against the Afghanistan national team on 30 and 31 March at the National Stadium 1 (Thuwunna) in Yangon. The friendly match, which will be held on two consecutive days, will start at 3 pm.

Next, the Myanmar team will leave for Thailand, which will host the Asia Cup futsal

tournament on 5 April, and will play two more friendly matches against the Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan teams, who are allowed to compete in the final stage of the Asia Cup.

The Myanmar national futsal team is managed by Thailand's Boonlert Charoenwong, who is the head coach, and the team is composed of talented players. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Spain coach De la Fuente: We learn more from defeats

SPAIN coach Luis de la Fuente put a positive note on his side's 1-0 defeat to Colombia on Friday night and looked ahead to Tuesday's friendly against Brazil in Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, which will be his last chance to look at players before naming his

squad for this summer's European Championships.

"Defeats hurt, but we learn more from defeats than from a win, and the Colombia game was good for us. We have to try things, as we don't have many chances to do that," commented De la Fuente, who argued

that his side had played well for 45 minutes against Colombia.

"We have learned from the circumstances. We want to continue learning and improving. If we had scored some in the first half, we would still have seen another game," he insisted. — Xinhua

Socceroos guarantee progression in AFC qualification for FIFA World Cup

AUSTRALIA has guaranteed its progression to the third round of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup with a victory against Lebanon on Tuesday.

The Socceroos beat Lebanon 5-0 in Canberra to make sure of a top-two finish in Group I in the second round of AFC qualifying for the 2026 World Cup, securing their progression to the third round as well as qualification for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

In front of a sell-out crowd of 25,023

people — a new record for any football match at Canberra Stadium - the Socceroos got off to a perfect start, taking the lead in the second minute through striker Kusini Yengi.

Despite controlling the game, the Socceroos were not able to add to their lead before the break but capitalized on chances in the second half, scoring four

times in 34 minutes including a brace from veteran winger Craig Goodwin. It marks the ninth win in the last 11 matches for the Socceroos and their ninth clean sheet in that streak.

The Socceroos will play Bangladesh away on June 6 and Palestine in Western Australia on June 11 in their final Group I fixtures. — Xinhua

Australia's Kusini Yengi (R) scores a goal past Lebanon's goalkeeper Mustafa Matar during the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier football match between Australia and Lebanon at Bruce Stadium in Canberra on 26 March 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**





UN Security Council adopts resolution demanding ceasefire in Gaza for Ramadan

THE Security Council on Monday adopted a resolution that demands an immediate ceasefire in Gaza for the holy month of Ramadan.

The resolution won 14 votes in favour among the 15 members of the council. The United States, which had previously vetoed three draft resolutions that would have called for or demanded a ceasefire in Gaza, abstained on Monday, allowing the draft to pass.

At the adoption of the resolution, there was a round of applause in the chamber, which was a rare occasion.

Resolution 2728 was the first Security Council resolution that demands or calls for a ceasefire in Gaza after the flare-up of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Gaza on 7 October 2023. Some 32,333 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and nearly 75,000 Palestinians injured since 7 October, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza.

Resolution 2728 demands an immediate ceasefire for Ramadan respected by all parties, leading to a lasting sustainable ceasefire.

It also demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, as well as ensuring humanitarian access to address their medical and other humanitarian needs. It further demands that



Representatives vote on a draft resolution during a Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters in New York on 25 March 2024. The Security Council on Monday adopted a resolution that demands an immediate ceasefire in Gaza for the holy month of Ramadan. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

the parties comply with their obligations under international law in relation to all persons they detain.

Resolution 2728 emphasizes the urgent need to expand the flow of hu-

manitarian assistance to and reinforce the protection of civilians in the entire Gaza Strip. It reiterates the Security Council's demand for the lifting of all barriers to the provision of humanitarian

assistance at scale, in line with international humanitarian law as well as Security Council Resolutions 2712 and 2720 concerning humanitarian delivery in Gaza. — Xinhua

Iran & Russia's collaborative success: Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant

BUILDING the first unit of Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in cooperation with Russia has been one of the most important achievements in Iran's energy sector, Deputy Chairman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Hossein Derakhshandeh told Sputnik in an exclusive interview on the sidelines of ATOMEXPO-2024 international forum. "Iran has made significant achievements in the energy sector, one of which was the commissioning of the first power unit of Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in cooperation with Russian specialists. Last year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the operation of the first unit of Bushehr NPP, and during these 10 years the power

plant has achieved record figures in producing electricity without the use of fossil fuels," the deputy chairman said. According to Derakhshandeh, the first unit of

Bushehr NPP is a good example of international cooperation and, among other things, a creative approach to cooperation in the nuclear field. — SPUTNIK



A handout picture provided by the Iranian presidency on 8 October 2021 the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, southeast of the city of the same name, during the visit of the country's president. **PHOTO: IRANIAN PRESIDENCY / AFP**

Japan attempts to revive Moon lander after second lunar night

JAPAN'S space agency said on Tuesday it will try to revive its Moon lander after a second frigid, two-week lunar night, following a surprising awakening last month.

The unmanned Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) touched down in January at a wonky angle that left its solar panels facing the wrong way.

As the sun's angle shifted, it came back to life for two days and carried out scientific observations of a crater with a high-spec camera.

But the probe, which was not designed for the freezing, two-week-long lunar nights,

when the temperature plunges to minus 133 degrees, was shut down in early February.

It was then woken up weeks later before being put back to sleep in early March, ahead of another scheduled operation attempt.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said on Tuesday that it hoped "there will be enough sunlight on the solar cells to start up SLIM around this evening".

"The project team will begin operations today to restart SLIM after the second lunar night," it said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. — AFP