

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Officials and volunteers release 50 roofed turtles into the Chindwin River for the sixth time, part of collaborative efforts by the Environmental Conservation Department and Upper Chindwin NGO to conserve this rare, endangered species. **PHOTO: KANU**

Myanmar protects over 1,000 endangered Burmese roofed turtles

BURMESE roofed turtle (*Batagur trivittata*), which can be found only in Myanmar, inhabits in the Chindwin River near Linpha Village in Khamti Township, Sagaing Region, and over 1,000 turtles are under protection.

Myanmar has over 1,000 roofed turtles across the nation. They are conserved under a caging system in the Chindwin River, and over 200 turtles are released every year. During the third week of June, 25 male roofed turtles and 25 female roofed turtles were released into Chindwin River for the sixth time.

The carapace of an adult roofed turtle can reach up to 58 centimetres in length. Its plastron is yellow or cream-coloured, while the head and neck are brown or dark green. The head is moderate in size with a slightly pointed snout, and the jaw tip is pale in colour.

The species of Burmese roofed turtles are located in the Ayeyawady,



A glimpse of a roofed turtle.

Chindwin, and Sittoung rivers and their tributaries.

In 2004-2005, the experts discovered

their eggs on the sandbank of Linpha mid-water pagoda about 20 miles from Khamti Township in Chindwin River. The Environmental Conservation Department and Upper Chindwin NGO cooperated to conserve these species.

There are about 300 turtle species in the world, whereas 32 are found in Myanmar and are distinguished into aquatic turtles and land tortoises. Marine turtles are classified into two varieties, freshwater turtles and sea turtles, depending on the ecosystem. Most of the aquatic turtles are generally omnivores. The IUCN Red List stated that Burmese roofed turtles are an endangered species, and now they are protected under Forestry Law.

“I am very proud of my country as it possesses roofed turtles that cannot be found in the world. The turtles bring benefits to the freshwater ecosystem,

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Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of SAC Chairman Prime Minister, Honorary Patron of MAAF, attends Myanmar Women's Contemporary Costume Show and Variety Dance

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Flooding emergency in Myitkyina prompts rapid rescue efforts, evacuations

BUSINESS PAGE 7



Animal product exports exceed US\$1M in nearly 3 months

NATIONAL PAGE 10

50% of companies miss deadline to repay COVID loan

MRF: Premium rice available at best prices in 3 major cities beyond NPT

MYANMAR Rice Federation notified on 30 June that premium rice Pawsan and Myanmar white rice Aemahta could be purchased at reference prices under the Good Rice and Good Price Programme in three big cities beyond the capital,

Nay Pyi Taw.

The federation is distributing Pawsan and Aemahta rice varieties in five to ten kilogrammes bags to retailers in those cities. The consumer can buy them at reference prices there.

Additionally, MRF's affordable rice scheme has reached the whole country, including Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady regions. All business entities such as rice millers, depots, shopping centres, supermar-

kets, mini-marts, wholesalers, and retailers are selling them at reference prices. Moreover, they provide doorstep delivery service in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay cities starting from 1 July. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Union Election Commission Statement

1 July 2024

ACCORDING to the review of the ministries concerned regarding the application of the Arakan National Party for the right to continue as a political party and registration under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, the Union Election Commission found that the party is contrary to the stipulations in Section 7 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The UEC cancelled the application of the party in accordance with the decision of the Union Election Commission Plenary Meeting 11/2024 under the Political Parties Registration Rules (g) on 1 July.
Union Election Commission



Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 16:30 hrs MST on 1-7-2024)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

ACCORDING to the 14:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of the Chindwin River at Hkamti has exceeded by about three inches (eight centimetres) above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about four feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

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



Visitors through one of the destinations in Mon State. PHOTO: AUNG MYO THU

Mon State attracts 900,000+ local and foreign visitors

MORE than 900,000 local and foreign travellers paid visits to Mon State from January to March 2024, an increase of 61 per cent more than the same period of last year.

Foreign travellers came from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and China.

Mon State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism manages the issuance of hotel licences, development of tourist destina-

tions, seasonal festivals, promotion of the tourism industry and creation of new destinations.

Local and foreign travellers mostly prefer to visit Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, Kyaikthanlan Pagoda, Taungwyne Hill, Kyaikkhami mid-stream pagoda, the reclining Buddha image in Winsein Tawya, Setse Beach, Zinkyai waterfalls and Hsinywa waterfall.

December, January,

March, and November are high seasons for travellers who want to visit eminent destinations. Hence, the directorate manages the convenient stay of travellers under the COVID-19 protocols and raises health awareness for visitors and hotel staff.

A total of 89 hotels and lodges in Mon State are ready to provide accommodation to travellers with 3,151 rooms. — Aung Myo Thu (IPRD)/TTA

COVID-19 report, 1 JULY 2024

NEW TESTS

37,395

NEW CASES

49

CASUALTIES

NIL

'The Glorification Workshop Demonstration' group exhibition to be held in Yangon

THE fourth group exhibition, titled 'The Glorification Workshop Demonstration', will be hosted by the Shwe Khit Oo Art Gallery in Kyauktada Township, Yangon, from 14 to 18 July, according to artist Nyi Nyi Tun.

A total of 18 senior artists will participate in the exhibition, creating paintings on-site. Painting enthusiasts are encouraged not to miss this event, he added.

The participating artists include Maung Tint Shoon, Ko

Maung Win Hla, Hla Tun Aung, Aung Thin Oo, Myint Oo, Thant Sin, Thu Wun, Myo Kyaw, Aung Thiha, San Tun, Nyi Nyi Tun, Aung Myo Myat, Sitt Moe Aung, Aung Win Htut, Soe Khaing, Aung Htet Lwin, Kyaw Zar Thit, and Aung Ko Htaik. — ASH/TRKM

The photo shows the third 'The Glorification Workshop Demonstration' group exhibition.



NATIONAL

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of SAC Chairman Prime Minister, Honorary Patron of MAAF, attends Myanmar Women's Contemporary Costume Show and Variety Dance

THE Myanmar Women's Contemporary Costume Show and Variety Dance was staged at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with the attendance of Honorary Patron of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, who is the wife of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister.

As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women's Day, which falls on 3 July 2024, the Myanmar National Women's Committee organized the Myanmar Women's Contemporary Costume Show and Variety Dance.

Participating belles in charming outfits created by famous designers participated in the show to the accompaniment of songs sung by renowned vocalists. Moreover, the entertainment was comprised of songs, costume shows, and one-act plays.



MWAF Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla greets the artistes at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

MWAF honorary patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and other honorary patrons presented flower baskets to the patron, chair and

vice-chair of the federation. The wife of the SAC Secretary and the wife of the SAC Joint Secretary presented flower

baskets to artistes, whereas Myanmar National Women's Committee Chair Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-

settlement Dr Soe Win gave the flower basket to the secretary of MAAF for organizing the event.

After the ceremony, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and officials cordially greeted the artistes.

Also present at the ceremony were MWAF honorary patrons Daw Khin Thet Htay and Daw Than Than Nwe, wives of SAC members, wives of Union ministers, the Union Auditor-General, the wife of Union Civil Service Board, wives of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and region and state chief ministers, wives of senior military officers, judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, women members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, deputy ministers and their wives, the deputy auditor-general, members of Anti-Corruption Commission, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, other dignitaries and guests. — MNA/TTA

Union Constitutional Tribunal Chair-led delegation arrives back from Russia



U Aung Zaw Thein, Chairman of the Union Constitutional Tribunal, attends the XII St Petersburg International Legal Forum on 26-28 June 2024.

AT the invitation of Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation Chairman Mr Valery D Zorkin, the delegation led by Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein attended the International Conference and the 12th International Legal Forum (XII St Petersburg In-

ternational Legal Forum) held from 26 to 28 June under the title "Protection of Rights and Constitutional Supervision" in St Petersburg, Russia, and returned to Yangon by air on 30 June.

The international conference was attended by chairpersons and chief justices of the

constitutional courts and chief justices of the member countries of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts (AACC) and equivalent institutions, including Myanmar and other invited legal scholars and heads of international organizations. They exchanged views on constitutional judicial experiences related to the protection of constitutional rights and freedoms and the application of the constitutional review system.

Chief justices from 30 countries, law ministers, judges and legal experts attended the 12th International Legal Forum. Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein and Member U Khin Maung Oo attended the international conference and the 12th International Legal Forum. — MNA/TS

MNREC Union Minister leaves for PRC to attend 4th China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation

THE Myanmar delegation led by U Khin Maung Yi, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, left for Yanqi, People's Republic of China, yesterday to attend the fourth China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation.

The forum will be held from 3 to 5 July in Yanqi, People's Republic of China, with the purpose

of connecting the three sectors of development among the countries of the Himalayan region, cooperation and harmonious development between humans and nature and environmental conservation. A total of 300 delegates from 12 countries will attend the fourth China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation. — MNA/TS



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi (front) is pictured before departing for China yesterday.

NATIONAL

Flooding emergency in Myitkyina prompts rapid rescue efforts, evacuations

DUE to heavy rains in the upper reaches of the Maykha and Malikha rivers in northern Myanmar, the water level of the Ayeyawady River began rising on the morning of 30 June. By 1 July, the water level in Myitkyina had exceeded 1,368 centimetres. In response, Tatmadaw personnel, police, fire brigades, and local social aid organisations are conducting rapid search and rescue operations.

As a result of the rising water levels, 30 flood evacuation centres have been established in monasteries and primary schools in Myitkyina and Arlam Village. At 10 am on 1 July, members of the Regional Disaster Management Committee organized vehicles, speedboats, and small boats to carry out search and rescue operations. The public was informed about the potential for further rescue operations and the possibility of the river rising again. Discussions were held regarding the quick relocation of residents in low-lying areas.

Subsequently, the chief minister, along with senior military officers, regional ministers, and departmental officials, coordinated with search and rescue



Photos (above & below right) show floods in Myitkyina and officials visit the evacuation centre yesterday.

teams to ensure the prompt evacuation of people from flooded areas. They also provided lunch boxes to residents in the Myothit Ward of Myitkyina, relocating them to Aungzay Yanaung Pagoda.

The chief minister and officials visited the 112 flood-evacuated households sheltered in the precinct of Aungzay Yanaung Pagoda to inspect their cooking and living conditions. They coordinated with officials to provide healthcare and other necessary

support.

Additionally, the Chief Minister and military officers checked the conditions and needs at the flood evacuation camp in Myaymyint Monastery, discussing the situation with the monastery's abbot.

On the morning of 1 July, the chief minister and his team also participated in cleaning activities at Zeelon Basic Education High School with members of the development committee, employees, and the Kachin State

Clean & Green Team.

The Ayeyawady River's water level started to rise on 30 June. By 6:30 am on 1 July, the water level rose to 1,368 cm by 3:30 pm exceeding danger level 1,200 cm. With the water level rising approximately eight centimetres (three inches) per hour, the Kachin State government is conducting search and rescue operations in low-lying areas and other vulnerable locations. Historical records show that Myitkyina experienced similar floods in 1979 when the highest water level reached 1,313 cm above the critical level, as well as in 1997 and 2014. — Kachin State IPRD/TKO



Mandalay Jetty expects river water to rise 6-10 feet in first 10 days of July

ACCORDING to the first ten days weather forecast for July, the Ayeyawady River water level at Mandalay Jetty is expected to

increase from six feet to 10 feet, according to Director U Kyaw Lwin Oo of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

(Upper Myanmar Branch-Mandalay).

The river water level measurement on 1 July showed the

Ayeyawady river water level at Mandalay Jetty reached 893 centimetres and was below 12 feet of its danger level.

"The monsoon rain starts in upper Myanmar by the end of the early monsoon season. The river water level will increase soon. The river water level increases in early monsoon period, and the flood starts. According to the records of river water level in the middle parts of Ayeyawady River, the water level is high between the second week of July and second week of August," he said.

During the past 24 hours, the water level increased up to eight feet in Myitkyina township, and it exceeded 152 centimetres (five feet) over the 1,200 centi-

metres of danger level, and it is expected to increase further two feet within two days. Similarly, the Ayeyawady River water at Mandalay Jetty is also anticipated to grow between six to 10 feet.

"The river water level at Mandalay Jetty may decline within one or two days, but it might increase later on 3 July. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology also released a statement saying the river water level can increase six to 10 feet within the first ten days of July," he continued. The Meteorology and Hydrology releases flood warnings in a timely manner so that the public can carry out necessary preparations. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/KTZH



The Mandalay Jetty is seen amid the rising water level in the Ayeyawady River yesterday.

NATIONAL

Myanmar protects over 1,000 endangered Burmese roofed turtles

FROM PAGE 1

and we have to protect them in their habitats. We tried to conduct public awareness programmes to help the public understand why the roofed turtles should be protected. Over 200 turtles are released into the natural land areas. There are over 100 in Myanmar. We are working with the Environmental Conservation Department to protect the species as they cannot be discovered in the world except Myanmar," said U Myo Min Win, in charge of Upper Chindwin Turtle Conservation Group.

The roofed turtle species

are not found in ASEAN countries. The Singapore Zoological Garden showcases Burmese roofed turtles, and Cambodia boasts similar roofed turtle species. Burmese roofed turtles are spotted in Yadanabon Zoological Garden, Yangon Zoological Garden and Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary. The roofed turtles can live between 60 to 100 years, their age can be determined by examining the stripes on the carapace.

Turtles have been on earth for about 260 million years, making them older than dinosaurs. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Photos depict a baby roofed turtle (L) and a male turtle (R).

Abbot conserves old Letpan tree found in Kyaukse

AN old red silk cotton tree (Letpan tree in Myanmar) has been found in Kyaukse township, Mandalay region, and a head monk is taking care of it, according to the Yenantha Dingar Brothers Tree-growing Parahita Group.

"This big tree is in Kyaukse. The head monk is taking care of it. It is probably one of the oldest trees in Myanmar. The staff officer of the Kyaukse Forest Department went there

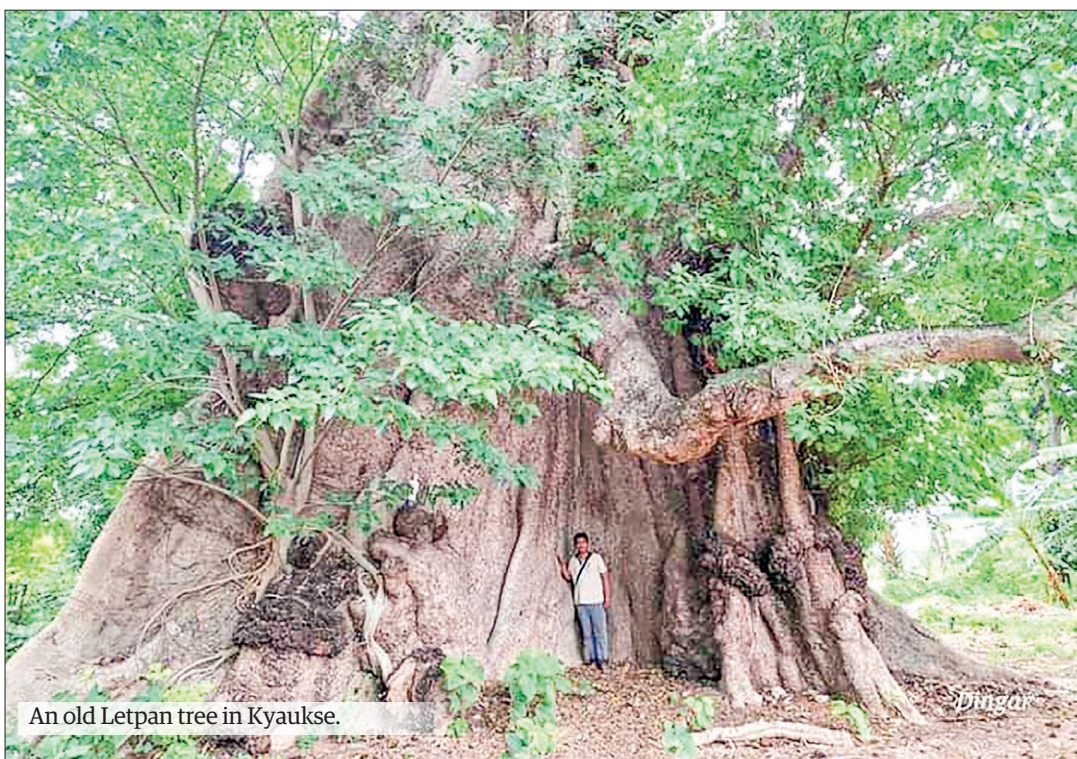
to measure it. No one knows about its presence. It is located near Ywapale village in Kyaukse. It may be one of Myanmar's oldest trees," said Ko Yenantha Dingar, the group founder.

The girth of its buttress root is more than 100 feet, and if it is allowed to grow naturally without being cut, it can be more significant than it is now, he said.

"This tree is quite big. No one dares to cut it down

because it is inside the monastery's compound. They will continue to look after it. After thorough measurement, it could break the world record," he said.

Myanmar consists of 41 per cent evergreen forest, 37 per cent mixed deciduous forest, 10 per cent dry forest, four per cent mangrove, five per cent timber and three per cent vacant land. — Thit Taw/ZN



An old Letpan tree in Kyaukse.

Private banks face action for exceeding CBM's housing loan limits

THE government makes concerted efforts to stabilize the local economy and all-round development. The Central Bank of Myanmar allows housing loans for a term of more than three years, depending on the total banking loans, aiming at offering a new loan system for private banks and creating opportunities for property ownership by the people.

However, some private banks grant large sums of housing loans, breaking the directives of the CBM for their own sake, and the CBM investigated the private banks. During the inspection, the following seven private banks are supposed to grant housing loans beyond the stipulations of the CBM.

YOMA Bank grants loans exceeding 11 per cent of the fixed amount of the Central Bank of Myanmar

Myanmar Citizenship Bank grants loans exceeding 8.94 per cent of the fixed amount of the Central Bank of Myanmar

AYA Bank grants loans

exceeding 1.96 per cent of the fixed amount of the Central Bank of Myanmar

SME Development Bank grants loans exceeding 1.01 per cent of the fixed amount of Central Bank of Myanmar

UAB Bank grants loans exceeding 3.38 per cent of the fixed amount of Central Bank of Myanmar.

Myanmar Metro Bank grants loans exceeding 0.39 per cent of the fixed amount of the Central Bank of Myanmar

CHID Bank grants loans exceeding 16.34 per cent of the fixed amount of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The responsible persons will supervise the return of the loans exceeding the fixed amount of CBM from the banks within the specific time, and these seven private banks will face action in accordance with the law.

They will be fined under Section 154 of the Financial Institutions Law, and the relevant officials of CBM will also be taken action for their weakness in the supervision of the private banks. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

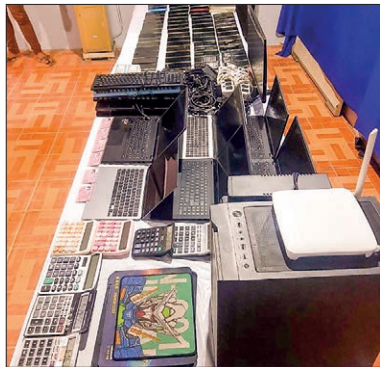
12 Myanmar citizens, 295 Chinese arrested for online gambling

THE combined team, comprising security force members, arrested 12 suspects involved in online gambling in Pyigyidagun Township of Mandalay Region on 27 June.

The team raided Ko Htin Shan's house in (Ga Gyi) ward, between 61st and 62nd streets, 117th Street in Pyigyidagun, and arrested 12 suspects, including Htin Shan, aged 32, owner of the house (who rents to suspects), and other participants in online gambling manager Yan Win Myint (aka) Kyan Wang



Photos (L & R) show undocumented Chinese nationals being arrested for online gambling in Tachilek.



Seized online gambling-related items in Pyigyidagun Township.



The online gambling station in Tachilek.

Yi, aged 21 from NanOoLwin ward of Patheingyi, supervisor Law Kwin Kywan, aged 26 from Kyonshan village in Laukkai, staff Zin Mar Htwe (aka) Yin Yone, aged 19 from Ward 4 of Tarmoenye together with six laptops, 63 handphones, K11 million, six ID cards and other materials.

Similarly, the combined team comprising security force members raided the house lo-

cated at No Ma-3/232 in Parsset Ward of Tachilek Township in Shan State (East) on 28 June. It arrested the undocumented 295 Chinese nationals, 288 males and seven females, together with 900 phones and other gambling-related materials.

Twelve Myanmar citizens and 295 Chinese who are involved in online gambling will face legal action under the law. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: Tatmadaw allegedly forces 30 people per ward into People's Military Service in Mandalay

THE subversive media outlets are intentionally spreading misinformation, claiming that Tatmadaw forcefully collected 30 people per ward to serve in the People's Military in Mandalay City.

Concerning the news, according to a responsible official of the relevant summoning People's Military servants body, the news is not accurate. Officials are only acting according to the laws that have been enacted regarding the People's Military Service Law.

Since the implementation of the People's Military Service Law, there have been reports of misinformation circulating on social media. These unsubstantiated claims, likely spread by



The screenshot validates misinformation.

those opposed to community stability, only aim to frighten the public with false information. — MNA/TRKM

Crackdown on illegal trade nets seizures worth millions in states/regions

UNDER the oversight of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illicit trade are effectively underway in compliance with the law.

On 28 June, a combined team led by the Customs Department conducted inspections at Yangon International Airport, seizing 42 bottles of undeclared perfume valued at K1.45 million.

Similarly, on 29 June, a combined team managed by the Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 4,130 gallons of gasoline (worth approximately K45.43 million) from 98 barrels near the Uttran River banks. Authorities are investigating under the Oil and Petroleum Products Law.

Also, on 29 June, at the Shwe Thanlwin checkpoint in Phayagyi Town, the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections, confiscating items including 1,150 kilogrammes of apples and 272 kilogrammes of oranges from China (valued at K8.67 million). Four Toyota HiAce vehicles transporting these goods (estimated value K80 million) were also seized. Proper customs procedures were followed.

On the same day, the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special



Confiscated illegal goods at Yangon International Airport.

Task Force seized a circular saw and related items (worth K500,000) used in illegal logging in Ingapu Township, Myanaung District. Legal action has been initiated.

Additionally, on 30 June, the Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections, seizing unlicensed vehicles, including Honda Fit, Toyota Crown, Lexus, and others (estimated value K98.7 million), along with ten unlicensed motorcycles (including a Shayan-125 and Yunde-110, valued at K4.7 million). Legal measures are followed.

Overall, between 28 and 30 June, the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 14 arrests, with items seized totalling approximately K239.457 million. — MNA/TMT

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YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate dips

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market declined a bit to K5,385 per viss this week ending 7 July from K5,400 recorded last week ending 30 June, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK



Consumers are seen purchasing palm oil at reasonable rates.



A container vessel is seen at Yangon Port.

Animal product exports exceed US\$1M in nearly 3 months

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, US\$1.57 million was earned from the export of animal products between 1 April and 21 June of the 2024-2025 financial year.

Myanmar exports a range of products including forest products, agricultural products, animal products, aquatic products, mining products, industrial finished products, and

other goods.

From 1 April to 21 June of the current financial year, the total revenue from exports amounted to US\$3,211.407 million. — TWA/TKO

CBM injects US\$5M, 40M Thai baht into financial market in June

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$5 million and 40 million Thai baht for exporters and importers on online trading platforms in June.

CBM pumped \$10 million, 30 million baht and 22.5 million yuan into markets in May through online trading platforms.

CBM injected \$3 million, two million yuan and 54 million baht into the financial market in April. It also sold \$18 million, 12 million yuan and 312 million

baht in March, \$77.38 million and 850 million baht in February and \$68.33 million, 313.5 million baht and 4.2 million yuan in January 2024, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and stopping the currency devaluation.

CBM sold \$181.71 million, 1,599 billion baht and 40.7 million yuan in the first half of 2024.

According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to com-

bat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. Additionally, the outward remittance procedures must adhere to the rules and regulations stipulated by the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. — NN/KK

Myanmar to launch year-round golf tourism, capitalizing on weather advantages

ACCORDING to U Aung Aye Han, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, plans are underway to introduce golf tourism in Myanmar.

"We are planning to launch golf tourism in Myanmar. Currently, Myanmar has many world-class golf courses. Un-

like other countries, Myanmar can operate golf tourism year-round without weather or financial restrictions. For example, in countries like Russia and Korea, bad weather during winter prevents people from playing golf, suspending the sport. During such times, we can invite them to Myanmar to enjoy golfing in

milder weather," said U Aung Aye Han.

Globally, there are over 50 million golfers, and revenue from golf tourism reached US\$5.44 billion in 2023. According to the World Tourism Federation, this revenue is expected to reach US\$5.88 billion by 2024. — ASH/MKKS



The photo shows foreign tourists playing golf in Myanmar.

OPINION

Preserve water resources for future generations

EARTH is composed of 29 per cent land and 71 per cent water, making water a critical resource for all living beings, especially humans. It's imperative that everyone understands the importance of conserving the natural environment, which directly supports life on Earth.

Humans, more than any other species, are responsible for the well-being of the planet. This responsibility stems from our extensive use and exploitation of natural resources. Therefore, it's crucial for humans to actively engage in the conservation of these resources and the preservation of cultural heritages worldwide.

Currently, many species are facing the threat of extinction. According to a 2020 press release by the International Environmental Conservation Society, 25 per cent of mammals, 27 per cent of seabirds,

and 27 per cent of coral reefs are critically endangered. It's estimated that by 2100, more than half of these endangered species could vanish. Human activities have led to the over-extraction of 30 per cent of global fish resources, causing a significant decline in fish populations. Additionally, water pollution poses a serious threat to water resources and ecosystems. Around 80 per cent of the waste found in water bodies originates from inland areas, endangering aquatic life. Countries worldwide, including Myanmar, are implementing the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. The 14th goal focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources. Long-term plans are necessary to ensure the sustainable development of natural resources and to prevent marine pollution, addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

The livelihoods of over 3 billion people depend on the biodiversity of coastal regions and oceans. These natural water areas are habitats for countless species. Therefore, it is essential to protect and preserve these waters, which are vital for all living beings. Conserving water resources is a shared responsibility that requires global cooperation and long-term planning. By preserving these resources, we ensure a sustainable future for all species, including humans. Protecting our natural environment is not just an obligation but a necessity for the survival and prosperity of future generations.

Myanmar shares borders with the Bay of Bengal, the Rakhine coast, the Ayeyawady deltaic area, the Mottama Gulf, and the Taninthayi coast, which possess long coastal lines and waters. It is an excellent chance for Myanmar to implement various businesses concerning marine and aquaculture for the production of foods and other products for local consumption and export. In this regard, everybody needs to be united in doing business. If so, Myanmar can show off its capacity and creativity in manufacturing various products that meet the set standards.

REDUCING bad cholesterol, or low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, is crucial for maintaining a healthy heart and preventing cardiovascular diseases. What your cholesterol levels should be and what a good target level for you depends on things like your age, whether you have any health conditions and your risk of cardiovascular disease. Reducing bad cholesterol often involves a combination of lifestyle changes and, in some cases, medication. The following are at least three major ways to lower your bad cholesterol "3C":

➤ Change your Dietary Habits

❖ **Eat heart-healthy foods:** Focus on consuming foods that are low in saturated fats and trans fats. Replace them with healthier fats, such as monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats.

❖ **Increase soluble fibre:** Foods high in soluble fibre help good cholesterol levels. Exam-

ples include oats, barley, beans, fruits (especially apples, oranges, and pears), and vegetables.

❖ **Consume more omega-3 fatty acids:** Found in fatty fish like salmon, mackerel, and sardines, as well as flaxseeds, chia seeds, and walnuts, omega-3s can help improve heart health.

❖ **Eat more nuts:** Almonds, walnuts, and other nuts can improve good cholesterol levels.

❖ **Increase plant sterols and stanols:** Found in fortified foods like certain margarines, orange juice, and yogurt drinks, these substances help good cholesterol levels.

➤ Change your lifestyle:

❖ **Exercise Regularly:** Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic exercise a week. Activities like brisk walking, running, cycling, and swimming are effective.

❖ **Maintain a Healthy Weight:** Losing excess weight can help lower LDL cholesterol levels.



Found in fatty fish like salmon, mackerel, and sardines, as well as flaxseeds, chia seeds, and walnuts, omega-3s can help improve heart health. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK**

Even a small amount of weight loss can make a significant difference.

❖ **Quit Smoking:** Smoking cessation improves high-density

lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol levels, which can help lower LDL cholesterol indirectly.

❖ **Alcohol Drinking Limitation:** Excessive drinking can in-

crease LDL cholesterol levels. So, you need to follow the alcohol drinking limitation for your health strictly.

❖ **Manage Stress:** Chronic

How to reduce your bad cholesterol

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

stress can negatively impact cholesterol levels and overall heart health. Practise stress management techniques such as yoga, meditation, deep breathing

exercises, and other relaxation methods.

➤ **Consult with Medical Doctors**

❖ **Regular Health Check-ups:** Regular check-ups with your healthcare provider can help monitor cholesterol levels and ensure that you are on the right track with your cholesterol-lowering ways.

❖ **Regular Medications:** If lifestyle changes aren't enough, your doctor may prescribe medications to help lower cholesterol levels. You may need to take medicines regularly.

Implementing these lifestyle changes can significantly impact your cholesterol levels and overall cardiac health. It's important to consult with a healthcare professional before making any major changes to your diet or exercise routine, especially if you have underlying health conditions. In addition, please always consult with your healthcare provider before making significant changes to your diet, exercise routine, or medication regimen. They can provide personalized advice based on your individual health needs and risk factors.

Diverse Student Learning Styles

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

STYLE refers to a certain manner or way of doing something which is typical or representative of a person. In the context of educational psychology, learning style is a student's characteristic behaviour of giving attention and performance to process and acquire information, knowledge, or new experience. Peterson interpreted learning style as a preferred approach to learning by a student. As Gregore asserted, every individual is born with their own learning style. He even said that family inheritance and the environment play important roles in formulating an individual's learning style. Sex, age, personality, parents' way of nurturing, community culture, and the school are also integrated into learning styles.

According to Slavin, learning styles can be distinguished into two main categories: dependent learning style and independent learning style. Students who are dependent learners emphasize all patterns of cognitive learning and accept them totally. They perceive a situation or pattern in an overall manner; accept a general opinion;

count on their extrinsic motivation for learning activity; are sensitive towards others' opinions or advice; are willing to be led by people who praise them highly; do not have the initiative to learn, depending a lot on the motivation and instruction of teachers; are unable to determine the learning objective on their own; and possess the attitude of following order as well as learn whatever is taught with no question. Those learners prefer to learn together with their peer group in smaller units. The suitable instructional strategies for them are class teaching, demonstration, lecture, and group activities.

On the other hand, students who are independent learners place the importance of detailed analysis in every section of learning materials. Apparently enough, they make perceptions analytically; are interested in determining the learning objective on their own terms; are not sensitive towards others' opinions or devices; possess intrinsic motivation; are able to manage their own learning; have critical and creative thinking skills; and learn on their own initiative. Those learners prefer to

learn and think of problems all by themselves. Hence, the appropriate teaching strategies for them are experiment study, inquiry-discovery and problem-solving.

By Murnford and Honey, learning styles are divided into four major types: activist, reflectivist, theorist, and pragmatist. Firstly, activist learners involve themselves actively and aggressively in their learning activities. They possess important and hasty attitudes; have strong, inquisitive instincts, especially towards new things in the environment; move fast and quickly to respond; like to search for new experiences through individual effort to achieve the goal; are very energetic, flexible and open-minded; are of strong intrinsic motivation and often take initiative to solve problems themselves; and hold critical and creative thinking skills. They even involve themselves in such activities as practical training, sports, games, and co-curricular activities. Thus, the good teaching strategies for them are in-

quiry-discovery learning, project, problem-solving, practical work, class discussion, brainstorming, buzz session, simulation, and role-playing.

Secondly, reflectivist learners tend to observe, think and make their own reflections on what is being perceived in the environment. They also possess critical and creative thinking skills; like to interpret and evaluate a certain concept, principle, conclusion, or project all by means of their own reflection; are given to search for universal truths; have got cautions, alert attitude and always think carefully of various alternatives for problem-solving; are good listeners but slow to response; learn and work in a systematic way; and do not make a decision or conclusion hastily. Those learners enjoy taking up subjects such as history or language and involve themselves in project activities or outdoor research work. As such, the proper strategies for instruction to them are problem-solving, inquiry-discovery activity, project,

and discussion.

Thirdly, theorist learners wish to use principles and theories to derive generalizations or conclusions. They possess rational and logical thinking, disciplined attitude, and objective character; they are not creative but emphasize the use of the left brain to process information, like to design hypotheses, test them and draw conclusions based on concrete evidence and proofs, like tracing the cause and effect of how an event occurs; and are interested in studying the occurrence of phenomena in the surroundings. These learners usually study mathematics, science, logic, geography, and history. The essential strategies for teaching them are induction and deduction methods, the exchange of opinion through discussion, and the collection of data to analyze or interpret so as to derive a conclusion through research study.

Fourthly, pragmatist learners possess a practical attitude and emphasize facts or truths based on the existing theory, law or principle. They give special emphasis to the application of those existing theories, laws or principles in real-life situations. They adopt practical approaches, earnest and down-to-earth; emphasize facts, proofs, and truths as the learning



Learning style in educational psychology encompasses both inherent tendencies and environmental influences that shape how individuals process information. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: PEXELS**

objective; believe that seeing is better than hearing; lay emphasis on how to use and use a certain thing; are more expressive than creative; and like to make comparisons. Also, such learners tend to use concrete materials to carry out learning activities. The nice instruction strategies for them are practical activities, a material-centred strategy that includes electronic materials, charts, and

diagrams, and a deductive method that involves the application of specific examples in the actual situation.

By examining the six learning styles mentioned above, a teacher will be able to draw a lesson plan based on these styles. Alternatively, student learning styles can be included in teachers' instructional methods in accordance with the nature of subjects. Of course,

NATIONAL

50% of companies miss deadline to repay COVID loans

APPROXIMATELY half of the companies failed to repay the loan granted by the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The government initiated the COVID-19 fund for businesses stricken by the coronavirus impacts starting in April 2020, with K50 billion allocated from the country's revolving fund and K150 billion from the 2019-2020 Financial Year General Reserve Fund. The loan was earlier set to pay off within one year at a one per cent interest rate.

The government granted six six-month extensions to repay the loan on 17 March 2021 for the first time, another six months stretching the second time on 11 September 2021 and one more year extension on 4 November 2022. Some businesses failed to repay the loan for over three to four years.

In order to remedy the economic impacts caused by COVID-19, the committee disbursed the loan to the businesses under the approval of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Com-



The office signage of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) in Yangon.

merce and Industry and region and State Chambers of Commerce and Industry through the Myanma Economic Bank and six private banks. Those entities must pay off the loan from which they took them out.

A total of 5,990 pandemic-stricken businesses have been disbursed K158.44 billion from April 2020. Only 1,205 of them paid them off as of May 2024. Some 1,326

have not paid back in full, whereas 3,459 entities still missed multiple payments. The committee notified them to pay back at their respective banks as soon as possible.

Only K75 billion of K200 billion worth of loans have been settled so far. The committee urged those companies that fail to repay the loan to make payment by 1 July 2024. — TWA/KK

EJU exam applications open on 1 July

FOR the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students, which is scheduled to be held in November this year, applications will be accepted from 9:30 am to 4 pm commencing on 1 July until 26 July, announced by the exam organizing committee, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni.

EJU will be held on 10 November, and subjects will be categorized into science and arts. Science includes Japanese as a foreign language, science and mathematics, and arts include Japan and the world, and mathematics

and Japanese as a foreign language. The fee for all subjects is K60000.

Applications can be submitted to MAJA Head Office, No 2B (4), Snow Garden Housing, Thumingala Road, Thingangyun Township in Yangon and 09 262602121, 09 428612151, and Mandalay Branch, 1st Floor, Block 1, Unit 6, Mingala Mandalay, Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay and 09 255162533.

Data filling needs to ensure accuracy, and corrections cannot be made after submission. Candidates have to answer the subject they chose in the application, said MAJA. — MT/ZS



Some students are preparing for the exam.

Social aid groups, fire brigades rush to evacuate flood victims in Myitkyina

DUE to floods in Myitkyina, Kachin State, social aid groups and fire brigades have been rushing to evacuate victims to safe areas, according to local social aid groups.

The upper reaches of the Ayeyawady River have been experiencing heavy rains for several days, causing the water level to rise and flooding villages along the river, including Myitkyina.

After receiving information that the Ayeyawady water level rose and flooded Legon, Kyetpaungchan and Rampu villages of Myitkyina from about 8 am on 30 June, permanent firefighters and auxiliary members from Myitkyina township began a search and rescue operation, and water level continued to rise more on 1 July.

"Myitkyina is flooded. Some are trapped. Many people are asking the group for help. Some houses are now underwater. We



Photos depict flooding and victims being evacuated to safe areas.

are now evacuating and relocating property. As Kyetpaungchan and Rampu are close to the river, water is constantly coming in via ditches. The water level is still rising. These are the main flooded areas. All the people

from social aid groups, Parahita groups and fire brigades are helping in different areas. That is only happening in Myitkyina. Right now, it is not very dangerous. Water is rising, but we don't know what happens in the

evening. If it rises more, it can be dangerous," said an official from a social aid group.

According to the statement of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology on 1 July, for the first ten days of July, rising

Ayeyawady water level forecasts include six to 10 feet in Myitkyina, Bhamo, Shwegu, Katha, Thabeikkyin, Mandalay, Sagaing and Myinmu, and 10 to 12 feet in Pakokku, NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan and Pyay, four to five feet in Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun, while other forecasts include rising Chindwin water level of eight to 13 feet in Khamti, Homalin, Phaungpyin, Mawlaik, Kalewa, Mingin, Khamti and Monywa, rising Myittha water level of 5.5 feet in Kalay, rising Dokhtawadi water level of one to three feet in Shwesayan and eight feet in Myitnge, rising Sittoung of two to three feet in Toungoo and Madauk, two feet of Shwegyin in Shwegyin, 2.5 feet of Thaugyin in Myawady, one to three feet of Ngawun in Ngathaingyoung, Thaboung and Pathein, two feet of Toe in Maubin, and 3.5 feet of Bilin in Bilin. — MT/ZN

Chinese tea culture event held in Jordan

A promotion event of Chinese tea culture was held Sunday here in the Jordanian capital with fascinating music and dance performances and ethnic costumes on display featuring the distinctiveness of southern China's Yunnan Province.

Speaking at the opening of the event, Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Chen Chuandong said the Chinese history of making and drinking tea dates back almost 5,000 years, and the spread of tea worldwide has fostered exchanges and fusion between civilizations, including those of the Arab world.

Yang Cheng, deputy director of the Yunnan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, proudly introduced six tea processing techniques and associated social practices of his prov-

ince, including the traditional Pu'er tea processing techniques and the three-course tea tradition of the Bai ethnic minority.

He noted the six techniques were part of the "traditional tea processing techniques and associated social practices in China" enlisted in 2022 as a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage, expressing hope that the event will help deepen the understanding of Yunnan's ethnic cultures among the Jordanian people and promote cultural exchanges and collaboration between Jordan and Yunnan, China.

The event, which was held in the China Cultural Centre in Amman and runs until 2 July, saw its opening attracting more than 300 participants from China, Jordan, and other countries. — Xinhua



An exhibitor makes tea during a promotion event of Chinese tea culture in the China Cultural Centre in Amman, Jordan, on 30 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA



Climbers make their way up Mt Fuji's Yoshida Trail on the Yamanashi Prefecture side of the mountain on 1 July 2024 as this year's climbing season starts. PHOTO: KYODO

Mt Fuji climbing season starts with new fees, control on numbers

MT Fuji's climbing season started Monday when one of the four main hiking trails opened, with local authorities for the first time charging entrance fees and restricting numbers of climbers to ease congestion.

Yamanashi Prefecture now accepts a maximum of 4,000 climbers per day on the Yoshida Trail, the most commonly used route up the 3,776-metre mountain, and charges 2,000 yen (\$12). The route to the summit is expected to remain open through 10 September.

A gate has been set up at the 5th station to close the trail

between 4 pm and 3 am to anyone without a prior overnight reservation in a mountainside hut.

The move was made to deter "bullet climbing", or the attempt to reach the summit and return without sleeping mid-climb.

According to the city of Fujiyoshida in Yamanashi Prefecture, around 160,000 people used the Yoshida Trail last year.

Designated as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site in 2013, Japan's highest peak straddling Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures is a popular tourist destination.

The new measures address the problem of congestion caused by a surge in the number of climbers.

"We are extremely worried about a kind of domino effect accident," said Yamanashi Gov Kotaro Nagasaki at a press conference in June ahead of the start of the climbing season.

The official climbing season of the other three trails on the Shizuoka Prefecture side is scheduled to begin on 10 July.

The weather disappointed climbers on the first day of the season, with the mountain shrouded in heavy cloud. — Kyodo

Tourists feeding New Zealand's native birds pose threat to kea: study

A new research published on Monday found that tourists' irresponsible behaviour around kea, New Zealand's native birds, such as feeding them, poses a potential threat to the species' survival.

Well-meaning tourists are often unable to resist the temptation to feed kea despite awareness that they should not, according to the research by the University of Canterbury (UC) Business School.

With tourist locations located in proximity to kea populations, there is more likelihood of kea being exposed to human food through stealing, soliciting and scavenging food, said UC researcher Richard Aquino.

This puts kea at an increased risk of involuntary poisoning from toxins meant for their predators, Aquino said.

These findings will help inform social marketing campaigns to encourage respon-

sible visitor behaviour and support the protection of native birds, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, he said. These findings by Aquino and UC Professor Girish Prayag have been integrated into the curriculum of the Bachelor of Commerce in Tourism Marketing and Management, such as the course of sustainable tourism enterprises and destinations, at the UC Business School. — Xinhua

Royal birthday celebrations begin with flag hoisting in Brunei

A giant national flag was hoisted on Monday in Brunei to mark the start of the 78th birthday celebrations of Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

According to the local daily Borneo Bulletin, the flag was hoisted at the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex's open area. Brunei's Minister of Home Affairs Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin as

the guest of honour officiated the handover of the giant national flag, and then the flag was hoisted by personnel of the Royal Brunei Navy.

Brunei is an oil-rich country located in the northern part of the Borneo island, with a population of 450,000 and a high level of social welfare. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

8th China-Eurasia Expo concludes with fruitful results

THE eighth China-Eurasia Expo concluded on Sunday in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. According to the organizer, the event yielded fruitful cooperation outcomes, with the total contractual value exceeding 610 billion yuan (about US\$83.9 billion).

More than 360 cooperation projects were signed during the expo, involving new energy

and new materials, electronic information technology, the coal chemical industry, textile and clothing, trade logistics, and other fields.

The five-day expo drew representatives from 50 countries, regions, and international organizations. It showcased over 6,000 varieties of products. Sideline events, including six forums, were held.

This year's expo, covering

an area of 140,000 square metres, encompasses four major exhibition zones: investment cooperation, international exhibition, special industries, and equipment manufacturing.

During the previous seven expos, more than 12,200 domestic and foreign exhibitors from more than 70 countries and regions exhibited, attracting 2.16 million visitors. — Xinhua



A staff member (R) introduces agricultural products to an exhibitor at the 8th China-Eurasia Expo in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 28 June 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Growing Russia, China interest in Africa to provide economic boost to continent — US Investor



2nd Russia-Africa Summit and Economic and Humanitarian Forum. A participant at the ExpoForum Congress and Exhibition Centre. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

THE increasing global interest in Africa, particularly from China and Russia, will boost economic growth on the con-

continent, renowned US investor Jim Rogers told Sputnik.

“Many countries are starting to invest in Africa,

to trade with Africa,” Rogers said.

The investor emphasized the significance of Chinese investors' presence across Africa. Rogers noted that China and Russia, as well as other nations, have intensified efforts to deepen their involvement in Africa.

The countries of the collective West have expressed on multiple occasions concerns about Russia's expanding diplomatic, military and economic ties with Africa.

In response, Russian officials have said that the history of colonialism prevents the West from seeing Africa as an independent geopolitical player. — Sputnik

Indonesia posts annual inflation of 2.51% in June

INDONESIA posted a 2.51 per cent annual inflation rate in June, down from the previous month's 2.84 per cent, but still within the central bank's target range of 1.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent, Statistics Indonesia (BPS) said on Monday.

“The annual inflation rate in June 2024 was 2.51 per cent, reflecting an increase in the consumer price index from 103.68 in June 2023 to 106.28 in June 2024,” said BPS Acting Chief Secretary Imam Machdi at a press conference.

Core inflation remained steady at 1.90 per

cent, with the consumer price index rising from 102.25 in June 2023 to 104.19 in June 2024.

Price increases in food, beverages and tobacco contributed 4.95 per cent to the inflation rate, driven by global commodity price hikes and uncertain weather conditions.

Ajib Hamdani, an economic policy analyst at the Indonesian Employers Association, noted that the inflation slowdown is in contrast to the June annual trend, where inflation typically rises amid demand-boosting school holidays. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korea's online shopping rises in May

SOUTH Korea's online shopping rose in single digits in May due to solid demand for food, travel, car accessories and e-coupon services, statistical office data showed Monday.

Shopping in cyberspace stood at 20.87 trillion won (US\$15.1 billion) in May, up 7.7 per cent compared with the same month of last year, according to Statistics Korea.

Transaction of agricultural, livestock and fishery products in cyberspace soared 25.0 per cent, while demand for food and beverage expanded 16.1 per cent in the cited month.

Online demand for travel and transport services grew 11.7 per cent, and the online transaction of e-coupon services gained 13.9 per cent amid the spreading trend to provide gifts such as coffee and cake through e-coupons.

Online purchase of car accessories surged 75.0 per cent, but those for footwear, computers, sports and leisure items, mobile devices and culture and leisure services shrank in single figures.

Mobile shopping through smartphones increased 7.8 per cent over the year to 15.51 trillion won (\$11.3 billion) in May, accounting for 74.4 per cent of the combined online shopping. — Xinhua

Saudi Aramco signs US\$12.4B deals for shale gas field development

SAUDI Aramco announced Sunday that it has awarded 16 contracts worth around US\$12.4 billion for the phase-two development of the kingdom's largest unconventional gas field Jafurah.

The Saudi energy giant said in a statement that the contracted projects involve the construction of gas compression facilities and associated pipelines, as well as the expansion of the Jafurah Gas Plant, including gas processing trains, utilities, sulfur, and export facilities.

The contracts also include the construction of Aramco's new Riyas natural gas liquids (NGL) fractionation facilities in Jubail to process NGL received from Jafurah, said the statement, without detailing with which entities and when the contracts were made.

Aramco has also signed 15 lump-sum turnkey contracts totalling 8.8 billion dollars to build 4,000 kilometres of pipelines and 17 new gas compression trains by 2028 to expand one of its biggest energy projects, Master Gas System, by size and total capacity. — Xinhua

Japan land price rises over 2% for 1st time amid post-COVID recovery

THE average land price in Japan rose 2.3 per cent in 2024 from a year earlier, government data showed Monday, surpassing two per cent for the first time and marking the highest annual rate of increase since the current calculation method was introduced in 2010.

The third consecutive year of increase comes as the economy continues to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, with booming inbound tourism also supporting solid demand for condominiums in urban areas.

The National Tax Agency's annual survey of prices per one square metre of land facing major roads is used to calculate

inheritance and gift taxes. It is based on data compiled by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and reflects land transactions.

Out of the 47 prefectures, 29 observed higher average land prices as of 1 January, four more than last year. Fukuoka topped the list of prefectures this year with a 5.8 per cent increase, followed by Okinawa at 5.6 per cent and Hokkaido at 5.2 per cent.

Meanwhile, average prices dropped in 16 prefectures, with Wakayama seeing a decline of 1.0 per cent, Ehime 0.8 per cent, and Toyama and Kagoshima each 0.7 per cent.

The survey also



The land in front of Kyukyodo stationery store in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district, the most expensive area in Japan for the 39th year, is pictured on 25 June 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

showed that among prefectural capitals, 37 saw land prices in their prime locations increase, with those in

Saitama and Chiba topping 10 per cent.

As the impact of a 1 January earthquake that

hit Ishikawa Prefecture hard in central Japan was not reflected in the latest survey, the agency

will announce a separate adjustment rate for approximately 21,000 square kilometres of land in Ishikawa and nearby Niigata and Toyama prefectures to help reduce the tax burden of affected areas. The price of land on Kaminarimon Street in Tokyo's downtown Asakusa district, a popular tourist area, rose 16.7 per cent from the previous year on the back of an increase in foreign visitors.

The most expensive area in Japan for the 39th year was in front of Kyukyodo stationery store in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district. It was appraised at 44.24 million yen (\$275,000) per sq metre, up 3.6 per cent from the year before. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (821N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (821N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2024** 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.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (229N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (229N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Over 500,000 intl tourists visit Cambodia's famed Angkor in first half of year

A total of 521,950 international tourists had visited Cambodia's famed Angkor Archaeological Park in the first half of 2024, up 35.3 per cent from 385,769 over the same period last year, said a press statement on Monday.

The ancient park made 24.35 million US dollars in revenue from ticket sales during the January-June period this year, up 36.2 per cent from 17.87 million dollars over the same period last year, said the state-owned Angkor Enterprise's statement. —Xinhua

Vietnam earns nearly US\$3 bln from rice export in first half of year

VIETNAM exported 4.68 million tones of rice in the first six months of this year, earning US\$2.98 billion, Vietnam News Agency reported Monday, citing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The figures reported a volume increase of 10.4 per cent and a value surge of 32 per cent over the same period last year. —Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NADEEN VOY.NO. (2524)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NADEEN VOY.NO. (2524)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICES (S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2408S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2408S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2024** 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

Correction of the special resolution date

With regards to the announcement of "Notice for Members' Voluntary Winding Up" of PHINMA EDUCATION MYANMAR LIMITED" that was published on Page 13 of the "Global New Light of Myanmar" on 1 July 2024, we would like to correct the date of the special resolution to be read as 26 June 2024.

Except for the special resolution date corrected above, there are no other changes in the notice.

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Seven dead after storms lash France, Switzerland and Italy



An aerial picture taken on 30 June 2024 shows the A9 motorway A9 partially flooded near Sierre, western Switzerland. Ferocious storms and torrential rains that lashed France, Switzerland and Italy this weekend have left five people dead, local authorities said on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**

FEROCIOUS storms and torrential rains that lashed France, Switzerland and Italy this weekend have left at least seven people dead, local authorities said on Sunday.

Three people died after tor-

rential rains triggered a landslide in southeastern Switzerland, police in the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino said Sunday.

Elsewhere in Switzerland, a man was found dead in a hotel in Saas-Grund in the southwest

canton of Valais, police said, adding that he was probably taken by surprise by a sudden rapid rise in floodwater.

Images published in the online publication 20minuten showed parts of the town cov-

ered in a thick layer of mud and rocks.

Another man is also missing in Valais, police said.

In France, three people in their 70s and 80s died in the northeastern Aube region on Saturday when a falling tree crushed the car they were travelling in, the local authority told AFP.

A fourth passenger was in critical care, it added.

Switzerland's civil security services said "several hundred" people were evacuated in the southern canton of Valais and roads closed after the Rhone and its tributaries overflowed in different locations.

The situation in Valais was "under control" Sunday, Frederic Favre, the official responsible for civil security, told a press conference, but he warned that it would remain "fragile" for the next several days.

Emergency services were assessing the best way to evacuate 300 people who had arrived for a football tournament in the mountain town of Peccia, while almost 70 more were being evac-

uated from a holiday camp in the village of Mogno.

The poor weather was making rescue work particularly difficult, police had said earlier, with several valleys in the southern cantons of Ticino and Valais near the border with Italy, inaccessible and cut off from the electricity network.

In Ticino, some 400 people — including 40 children from a holiday camp — had to be evacuated from risk areas and taken to civil protection centres.

The federal alert system also said part of the canton was without drinking water.

Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis, who is from Ticino, said the repeated disasters "have touched us deeply".

It's the worst flooding experienced in the canton since 2000 when 13 people were killed in a mudslide which destroyed the village of Gondo.

Scientists say climate change driven by human activity is increasing the severity, frequency and length of extreme weather events such as floods and storms. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Far-right wing party leads 1st round of France's snap legislative elections: projections

THE French far-right wing party National Rally (RN) is leading the first round of France's snap legislative elections held on Sunday, according to projections published by research firm Elabe.

According to the projections, RN and its allies have gained 33 per cent of the votes, which should give them between 260 and 310 seats in the National Assembly. Following the RN, the New Popular Front (NFP), the left-wing parties electoral alliance, should have gained 28.5 per cent of the votes with between 115 and 145 seats in the future National Assembly. — Xinhua

Israel releases around 50 Gazan detainees, including Al Shifa Hospital director

ABOUT 50 Palestinian prisoners arrested during the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine were released on Monday, including the director of Gaza's largest hospital, Israeli sources confirmed.

An Israeli security official, speaking anonymously to Xinhua, stated that the prisoners were released from various Israeli facilities, including the military detention camp of Sde Teiman in the south, where many Palestinians arrested during the ongoing conflict were held. — Xinhua

Greece fights dozens of wildfires in 'most difficult day of year'

FIREFIGHTERS were battling a series of wildfires near the Greek capital Athens on Sunday evening, as the country braces for another scorching summer.

Greece faces a tough wildfire season after its warmest winter and earliest heatwave on record, with temperatures hitting 44°C (111°F).

"Today in Attica two extremely dangerous fires that broke out in residential areas and spread rapidly due to strong winds in Keratea and Stamata were tackled," Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vasilis Kikilias said late on Sunday.

He said there was no longer an active front in Stamata, north of Athens, though there were some minor reignitions in the eastern area of Keratea.



A man uses a tree branch to extinguish a fire after a wildfire broke out in Keratea, near Athens, on 30 June 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

He said "ground forces will remain in the field throughout the night."

Since Sunday midday, the authorities have called for the evacuation of at least eight areas near the capital, with flames destroying cars and houses.

Ert channel reported that a 45-year-old man died from a cardiac arrest while trying to flee fires in suburban Athens.

According to the police, the man was found unconscious in the yard of a house in Rodopoli and taken to hospital where he died. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar U-16 football team resumes training for Asian Cup U-17 qualifier, MNL U-20 Tournament

MYANMAR U-16 boys' team resumed its training on 1 July to take part in domestic and international tournaments this year.

The team started training after the 2024 AFF U-16 Championship held in Indonesia. The squad formed with 30 players is under training at the camp.

The U-16 team with the title of Junior Lion FC will take part in the MNL U-20 Tournament. The squad secured two wins in two games at the MNL U-20 Tournament. The competition will continue in the first leg matches.

This year, the Myanmar U-16 team will compete in the 2025 Asian Cup U-17 qualifier as the second international match to be held in coming October. So, the players are taking training for both tournaments.



Myanmar U-16 players are seen in a training session in preparation for taking part in the 2025 Asian Cup U-17 qualifier. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar U-16 was included in the same group as Vietnam, Cambodia and Brunei in the AFF U-16 Championship held in June. The squad dropped out of the competition with

one win and two losses.

Head Coach Japanese national Mitami is handling the Myanmar U-16 and giving training to existing players. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA



Myanmar football star Kyi Lin. PHOTO: YUFC

Yangon United team welcomes new local players

YANGON United Football Club, which is preparing for the Myanmar National League 2024-2025 season, has recruited new domestic players. Team Yangon resigned former players winger Kyi Lin and striker Kaung Sithu as well as defender Aung Zeya and midfielder Saw Aung Myo Htun. Kyi Lin, a long-time Yangon United player, returns to Yangon after playing for Rakhine United in the 2024 MNL League Cup Championship.

Also, Kaung Sithu, who started his professional career at Yangon United, moved back to his old club after playing for Yadanabon FC, Zeyar Shwe Myay FC, Zwegabin FC, Southern Myanmar FC and Rakhine United FC.

Defender Aung Zeya played for Ayeyawady United FC for a long time, then moved to Hanthawady United for one season, and this time, he arrived back at Yangon United again. Also, Saw Aung Myo Htun has played for the Yangon United U-21 team. Yangon United team is making the necessary preparations to be successful in the upcoming MNL Championship.

— Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Bellingham, Kane rescue England from shock Euro 2024 exit to Slovakia

ENGLAND escaped an embarrassing last-16 exit at Euro 2024 thanks to Jude Bellingham's overhead kick before Harry Kane struck in extra-time to grab a 2-1 win over Slovakia on Sunday.

The Three Lions have been hyped as one of the favourites as they bid to end a 58-year wait for major tournament glory but looked set to go out with a whimper to Ivan Schranz's 25th minute goal.

However, Bellingham's moment of inspiration five minutes into six added on in stoppage time breathed new life into Gareth Southgate's reign as Eng-

land boss.

Kane then headed in just a minute into extra-time to set up a quarter-final meeting with Switzerland on Saturday.

"That's the desire and the attitude from the boys. It looked tough for a second there but you keep going," said Kane. "Jude does what Jude does and what an unbelievable goal."

Southgate looked set to fall on his sword after steadfastly refusing to make changes to a side that stumbled through as winners of Group C despite scoring just two goals in three games.

Kobbie Mainoo was introduced for

his first competitive start in Southgate's only change and he paid the price with another lacklustre display lacking in any speed or invention for long spells.

"We want to be better," said Southgate. "I'm not going to hide from that but the spirit and character was there for everybody to see and we're still in there fighting."

The one saving grace of England's performances in the group stage was that a makeshift defence had held up well, conceding just once in three games.

However, they were torn to pieces early on by a Slovakia side ranked 45th in the world.

England did not heed a couple of warnings as David Hancko and Lukas Haraslin were wasteful with big chances. — AFP



Photo provided by the Badminton Association of Indonesia (PBSI) shows badminton players observing a moment of silence in memory of the Chinese badminton player Zhang Zhijie at the Badminton Asia Junior Championship in Amongrogo Sport Centre, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 1 July 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Young Chinese shuttler dies after collapsing on court at Asian Junior Championships

THE Asian and Chinese governing bodies of badminton both mourned the passing away of Chinese teenage shuttler Zhang Zhijie who collapsed on the court at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2024 held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Badminton Asia on Monday said in a statement: "China's Zhang Zhijie, a singles player, collapsed on the court during a match in the evening and was

sent to the hospital where he passed away at 23:20 local time yesterday. Zhijie was playing a group stage match against Japan when he collapsed and was attended to by the tournament doctor and medical team. He was taken in the standby ambulance in less than two minutes and sent to the hospital," said the statement.

Badminton Asia expressed "sincere condolences to his parents, family, and the Chinese Badminton Association (CBA)," adding that "The world of badminton has lost a talented player."

The 17-year-old Zhang, a member of China's badminton youth team, won the men's singles title at the Dutch Junior International in March this year. — Xinhua



South Korean military says DPRK fired two ballistic missiles

NORTH Korea launched two ballistic missiles, including a short-range one, eastward Monday, South Korean news agency Yonhap reported citing the country's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The short-range ballistic missile flew about 600 kilometres (372 miles), while another missile flew about 120 kilometres (74 miles), the report added.

On Wednesday the DPRK reportedly launched an unspecified ballistic missile towards the Sea of Japan. Citing a military source, Yonhap later reported Pyongyang had test-fired a hypersonic missile, but the test apparently failed since the missile only flew about 250 kilometres (155 miles).

On Thursday North Korean state-run news agency KCNA reported that the North Korean Missile Administration had "successfully" carried out a separation and guidance control test of individual mobile warheads one day prior.

— Sputnik



Patients receive treatment at Al-Shifa hospital's dialysis centre after its rehabilitation in Gaza City on 11 June 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hospitals in Gaza may shut down in 48 hours due to fuel shortage

HOSPITALS, medical centres and oxygen stations in the Gaza Strip could shut down within 48 hours due to a lack of fuel needed to run generators, the enclave's health ministry said on Sunday.

Officials also called on the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to intervene quickly to provide fuel and generators.

On 7 October 2023, Hamas launched a large-scale rocket attack against Israel and breached the border, attacking both civilian neighbourhoods and military bases. Nearly 1,200 people in Israel were killed and some 240

others abducted during the attack. Israel launched retaliatory strikes, ordered a complete blockade of Gaza, and started a ground incursion into the Palestinian enclave with the declared goal of eliminating Hamas fighters and rescuing the hostages. As many as 120 hostages were believed to be still held by Hamas in Gaza, 43 of whom are dead.

More than 37,800 people have been killed and over 86,900 others have been wounded in Israel's military operations, local authorities said. — Sputnik

Japan successfully launches new H3 rocket with observation satellite



JAPAN successfully launched Monday its new flagship H3 rocket carrying an Earth observation satellite from a space centre on a southwestern island, in a boost to the country's space aspirations following the vehicle's failed debut last year. The domestically manufactured H3 rocket No 3 lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture at 12:06 pm, releasing its first stage about five minutes later. The satellite then separated about 16 minutes later at an altitude of about 613 kilometres.

The signal from the Advanced Land Observing Satellite-4, also known as Daichi-4, was received at the Santiago Station in Chile at 12:59, and its Sun Acquisition Mode was confirmed to be operating normally, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. — Kyodo

Japan's H3 rocket No 3 carrying an Earth observation satellite lifts off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture on 1 July 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**