

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the group photo with Mr Daba Debele Hunde, Ambassador-designate of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Myanmar, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar and Ethiopia to enhance bilateral ties and cooperation

Ambassador-designate of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Myanmar presents his Credentials to SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepted the Credentials of Ambassador-designate of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Myanmar, Mr Daba Debele Hunde, at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

They cordially discussed the promotion of government-to-government cooperation, including diplomatic relations, culture, education, agriculture, health, tourism and sports sectors between the two countries, the political progress of Myanmar, and preparations to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Ministry 2 of the SAC Chairman's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Director-General U Zaw Tun Oo of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA/TTA

CBM sells \$5M to exporters, importers on 10 July

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$5 million for exporters and importers on FX trading platforms on 10 July, after selling \$5.4 million for those importing edible oil, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medications on online trading platforms on 3 July and \$5 million for exporters and importers on 2 July.

CBM pumped \$15.4 million into financial market within ten days.

CBM injected \$5 million and 40 million Thai baht in June and \$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.

According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat 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. — NN/KK

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MGMA invites members to join 2024 buyer delegation at Intertextile Apparel Fabrics Fair

NATIONAL

Myanmar Buddhist delegation meets its counterparts in China



Myanmar Buddhist delegation, representatives of the Chinese Buddhist Association and the Buddhist Academy of China pose for the documentary photo in Beijing.

A Myanmar Buddhist delegation, consisting of 15 monks led by the Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Venerable Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa, met the monks from the Chinese Buddhist Association and the Buddhist Academy of China in Beijing on 9 July to exchange views on religious matters.

The delegation had a meeting with the chairperson of the Chinese Buddhist Association, Venerable Yanjue, before paying homage to the sacred Buddha Tooth Relic at Lingguang Temple in Beijing. They also visited the Buddhist Academy of China to meet with the monks of the academy and exchange views on

religious matters.

Similarly, at the invitation of the Chinese Buddhist Association, the chairperson of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association, the Ovadacariya Sayadaw of the Shwedagon Pagoda Chairperson of the Yangon Region Sangha Nayaka Committee Dr Aggasami, along with three monks, attended the 60th anniversary celebration of the Lingguang Buddha Tooth Relic Temple from 18 to 22 June. Discussions during the ceremony also included the possibility of conveying the Buddha Tooth Relic to Myanmar for the fifth time.

— ASH/TH

Public Notification

Road Closures for 77th Martyrs' Day Commemoration on 19 July 2024

1. The commemoration of the 77th Martyrs' Day will take place at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, Yangon. From 4 am until the event concludes, the following roads will be closed on 19 July 2024: -
- West Shwegondine Road from old Yedashe Road
- Shwegondine Road from the Dhammazedi-Shwegondine intersection
- Martyrs' Road from West Shwegondine to U Htaung Bo Road
- U Wizara Road from U Wizara Roundabout to the U Wizara-Dhammazedi intersection.
2. Additionally, Natmauk Road will be temporarily closed from the Wingaba intersection and from the Pho Sein intersection. Bogyoke Museum Road will be closed from the Ngahtetgyi Pagoda intersection and from the Saw Maha intersection. Bo Cho Road will be closed from the Shwe Kyat Yat intersection, 5 am to 6 pm on 19 July 2024.
3. During the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Secretariat from 5 am to 6 pm on 19 July, the following roads will be closed: -
- Theinbyu Road from Bogyoke Junction to Merchant Road intersection
- Anawrahta Road from Bo Myat Tun Junction
- Maha Bandoola Road from Pansodan Junction
- Bo Aung Kyaw Road from Merchant Junction.
4. The public is advised to use alternative routes during the commemoration event.

Yangon Region Government

MoH Announcement on Severe Diarrhoea Outbreak Control in Yangon Region

ON-GROUND teams have been actively working to control the outbreak of severe diarrhoea in several townships in Yangon Region, under the close supervision of the Ministry of Health and with the assistance of the Yangon Region government. From 6 pm on 10 July to 6 pm on 11 July 2024, 84 new diarrhoea patients were admitted to hospitals in Yangon Region. Among them, 11 were confirmed to have severe diarrhoea, and all patients were reported to be in good condition. On 11 July 2024, 33 patients were allowed to discharge. Up to 6 pm on 11 July 2024, a total of 250 diarrhoea patients had been discharged from hospitals. Intensifying efforts to control the disease are ongoing.

Ministry of Health

Applications open for 2024-2025 at National University of Arts and Culture in Yangon, Mandalay

APPLICATIONS are open for the National University of Arts and Culture in Yangon and Mandalay for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

The 4-year Bachelor of Arts courses include music, theatrical, painting, sculpture, film, drama and other specialized subjects. The application form can be taken from July to November 2024.

Those who have passed the matriculation examination in arts or science, those who must be healthy physically to match with specialized subjects, those with passions of arts, and those holding citizenship scrutiny cards (citizens, nat-

uralized citizens, associate citizens) can be admitted to those first-year courses.

The application is available at 1/I, Aung Zaya Street, 26 Ward, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region. The application, matriculation examination pass certificate, grading and seven passport photos must be submitted by 8 July-14 November within office hours. The university entrance exam will be held at Swaltaw hall at 9 am on 20 November. Those who accepted admission to the university will be declared on the notice board on 22 November.

The first-year course for 2024-2025

AY will be conducted in the fourth week of November. For further details, individuals can enquire about day courses at the National University of Arts and Culture Yangon at 09 421012808 and the registrar through 09788189180 during office hours.

National University of Arts and Culture Mandalay will also open courses for music, theatrical, painting, sculpture, film and drama. Those who passed matriculation exams in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions and Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Shan states are entitled to apply for the courses.

The application forms can be bought on Shwesayan Pagoda Street, Ohnchaw Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region. The admission is from 1 July to 8 November. The university entrance exam will take place at 9 am on 12 November, and those who have accepted the admission will be notified on board on 14 November. The 2024-2025 academic year will commence in the fourth week of November. Individuals can enquire about day courses at the National University of Arts and Culture Mandalay at 09 250762203, and registrar through 09 400404172 during office hours. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Soe Win underscored that population data are essential for effective management to allocate natural resources and finance, construction of infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, health units, roads and bridges, care for those with disabilities and older persons and creation of employment opportunities.

Patron of the Central Census Commission Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the 2024 World Population Day at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General highlighted that the increasing global population brings food deficiency, shortage of drinking water, climate change, spreading of infectious diseases, worse impacts of natural disasters, inequality and high rate of poverty in addition to problems on the social standard gap.

He continued that the majority of developing countries are experiencing a lesser number of children, a shortage of labour and an increasing number of older persons due to a remarkable decline in birth rates. At the same time, some developing countries and least developed countries are also facing high birth rates, lower standards of education, a larger



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the 2024 World Population Day ceremony yesterday.

Census supports population and socioeconomic statistics to adopt correct policies, strategies and tactics

Population data contribute to ensuring correct voter lists, not losing opportunities for all eligible voters and successfully holding a free and fair general election.

Salient points from the speech of the Vice-Senior General at the 2024 World Population Day ceremony

1. Population data are essential for effective management for allocating natural resources and finance, construction of infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, health units, roads and bridges, care for those with disabilities and older persons and creation of employment opportunities.
2. The increasing global population brings food deficiency, shortage of drinking water, climate change, spreading of infectious diseases, worse impacts of natural disasters, inequality and high rate of poverty in addition to problems on the social standard gap.
3. This year's theme, "Helping vulnerable population in emergencies", aims to improve life safety, prestige and health to fulfil the requirements of those from vulnerable groups.

number of jobless people, and a high rate of poverty, he added.

He pointed out that this year's theme, "Helping vulnerable population in emergencies", aims to improve life safety, prestige and health for fulfilling the requirements of families and society from vulnerable older persons, girls, children, those with disabilities and poor persons.

sons, girls, children, those with disabilities and poor persons.

The Vice-Senior General spotted that UN member states have agreed to implement sustainable development goals adopted by the UN to overcome global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change,

environmental degradation, and lack of peace and justice.

He said that the majority of global countries, including technologically developing countries, conduct census-taking measures as usual to obtain these data.

He emphasized that the United Nations has issued the Principles and Recommendations to enumerate the census, adding that as population and socioeconomic data can be obtained from population census in different areas of the nation, collection of population census is essential for all.

The Vice-Senior General said the significant characteristic of the census is that it provides data to the minor administrative areas, such as wards and village-tracts. Data from the census can support statistics on population and socioeconomic data for adopting correct policies,

strategies and tactics as well as drawing projects, he added.

He recounted that the 2019 interim census was taken in order to know changes in socioeconomic data and compare data from these censuses before collecting one more census, and these data are helpful till today.

He underlined that Myanmar is making preparations to take population and household census from 1 to 15 October 2024 with the aim of ensuring firmness of estimated annual population data of the nation and taking correct data for sector-wise development projects and research works.

He continued that as the enumeration of the census is a single project for ensuring the availability of socioeconomic data, which is vital for adopting development projects and policies of the nation, it is necessary to strive for the successful undertaking of

the census-taking process as a national duty.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that population data will contribute to ensuring correct voter lists, not losing opportunities for all eligible voters and successfully holding a free and fair general election.

The Vice-Senior General noted that everybody needs to lend a helping hand to those from the vulnerable group, whereas regional authorities need to prepare emergency management plans.

Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing reported on the population's role in the development of Myanmar.

A video clip on helping vulnerable population in emergencies was presented.

The ceremony was also attended by SAC members, the chairman of the Union Election Commission, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers and departmental heads, diplomats, and officials.

After the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General visited the booths to mark the 2024 World Population Day. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Ethiopian Ambassador calls on Union Information Minister

AMBASSADOR of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Myanmar Mr Daba Debele Hunde paid a courtesy call on U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Information, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

They cordially discussed the signing of an MoU for cooperation in the media sector, broadcasting trustworthy news about the two countries, mutual cooperation in the agricultural industry, and the possibility of improving the relationship between the two countries.

Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung and departmental heads were also present on the occasion. — MNA/TS



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn receives Ethiopian Ambassador Mr Daba Debele Hunde yesterday.

Myanmar participates in 59th ASEAN-Dhaka Committee meeting



Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Kyaw Soe Moe taking part in the 59th ADC meeting.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Kyaw Soe Moe participated in

the 59th Meeting of the ASEAN-Dhaka Committee (ADC) at the Thai Embassy in Dhaka on 9 July.

The meeting reviewed the successful activities previously undertaken by the ADC and discussed proposed future activities, such as organizing ASEAN Day, ASEAN Family Day, and an ASEAN tree-planting event.

Participants also exchanged views on enhancing relations with the host country, Bangladesh, as well as on regional and internal developments in the respective ASEAN countries. — ASH/TMT

MoALI Union Minister receives Ethiopian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Mr Daba Debele Hunde, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Both sides discussed mat-

ters related to the development of agricultural production and technical cooperation.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and departmental officials were also present on the occasion.

— MNA/TS

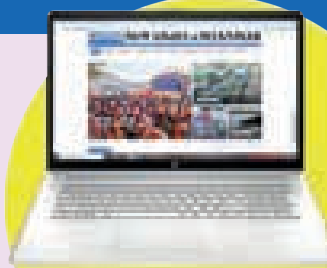


The Ethiopian ambassador calls on Union Minister U Min Naung yesterday.

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Global NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Joint Statement of 23 Political Parties

11 July 2024

1. The three northern alliance launched attacks named Operation 1027 in Shan State (North) in October 2023. Then, MNDAA/TNLA/AA and the armed groups restarted terrorist attacks called the second phase of Operation 1027, starting in June 2024, taking advantage of a ceasefire.
2. Currently, these terrorist groups commit acts of terrorism, such as killing innocent civilians, attacking major cities and non-military targets using heavy weapons and bomb drops, and threatening national races in their controlled areas.
3. We, political parties, consider these situations as follows: -
 - (a) The national people have been living in unity across the nation for a long time. However, these terrorist groups threaten and drive away other national races from their controlled areas. Such doings intentionally destroy the unity of national people who are living on the same land and drinking water from the same source, and obviously break the stipulation stated in Section 355 of the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar: "Every citizen shall have the right to settle and reside in any place within the Republic of the Union of Myanmar according to law".
 - (b) Driving away of other ethnic tribes by terrorist group from their controlled areas also breaks Article 13(1) of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state".
 - (c) Moreover, supervisors of these terrorist groups are also against the existing laws and constitution, ungrateful to the country, and breach international human rights.
4. Therefore, we, political parties, on behalf of the indigenous people across the nation, do not accept them and strongly oppose and condemn all the organizations that communicate with terrorist groups directly or indirectly.
5. Moreover, the relevant departments and organizations are urged to accelerate the momentum as follows: -
 - (a) Make efforts to announce these armed groups as terrorist groups not only in local but also in international countries.
 - (b) Declare the supervisors of these terrorist groups as terrorists, and communicate with ASEAN Police Forces, International Criminal Police Organization, and international police forces to carry out necessary measures.
6. Therefore, we, political parties, release this joint statement opposing and condemning MNDAA/TNLA/AA and their subordinates.

Digital Talent & Career Fair/Scholarship Programme (India) launched in Yangon

THE opening ceremony of the Digital Talent & Career Fair/Scholarship Programme (India) was organized at the Information and Communication Technology Research Centre of the Ministry of Science and Technology in Yangon yesterday.

At the event, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and the presidents of UMFCCI and the Myanmar Digital Economy and Association (MDEA) made remarks, respectively.

The Digital Talent & Career Fair/Scholarship Programme (India) is the very first University-Research-Industry (URI) Model jointly initiated by the Information and Communication Technology Research Centre and MDEA. It is a three-month internship programme for final-year students of the Universities of Computer Studies.

Moreover, the programme carries financial assistance for 83 students and scholarships for ten outstanding students

for the Professional Diploma in Java Programming Course. During the three-month internship, knowledge-sharing programmes for IoT, including software development, networking development, and AI (artificial intelligence), will be included.

The event features booths of 10 job-seeking companies, interviews and scholarship programmes for the Professional Diploma in Java Programming Course (India). — MNA/KTZH



A glimpse of the scenes from the opening event of the Digital Talent & Career Fair/Scholarship Programme (India).

Ethiopian Ambassador calls on MoIP Union Minister



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing receives the Ethiopian ambassador yesterday.

U Myint Kyaing, Union Minister for Immigration and Population, met Mr Daba Debele Hunde, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two sides discussed the situation of finding and rescuing Ethiopian citizens who entered Myanmar illegally and deporting them without taking any

action based on the friendship between the two countries, as well as the possibility of cooperation between officials of the two countries to prevent human trafficking and illegal entry.

They also frankly exchanged views on the conditions for cooperation in immigration-related activities between Myanmar and Ethiopia. — MNA/KZL

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

Diarrhoea awareness programmes launched in markets in Yangon

The Ministry of Health stated that there have been 115 patients with diarrhoea as of 10 July.



The prevention of severe diarrhoea underway in the markets of Tamway Township on 10 July.

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is conducting diarrhoea awareness programmes at markets throughout the Yangon Region.

YCDC and the Public Health Department, in cooperation with township departments, have carried out health education and posted information about severe diarrhoea at the markets in Botahtaung

Township, Tamway Township, Thingangyun Township, Thuwunna, South Okkalapa Township, and Kyimyindine Township.

Since 25 June, some patients with symptoms of severe diarrhoea have been admitted to hospitals in certain townships in the Yangon Region. This is being managed with the close supervision and support

of the Ministry of Health and the instruction of the Yangon Region government. Special attention is being given to schools, factories, workshops, monasteries, nunnery schools, nursing homes, charity centres, training schools, and boarding houses to prevent the spread of severe diarrhoea.

The environmental cleanliness of markets in Yangon Region is being checked with checklists to address necessary demands promptly. At public hospitals, systematic medical treatment is provided to ensure that patients with diarrhoea receive essential care, with particular emphasis on providing medicines and infection control activities.

According to the Ministry of Health, the number of patients in some townships in the Yangon Region was 63 on 6 July, 44 on 7 July, 60 on 8 July, 64 on 9 July, and 115 on 10 July, with 87 of these patients discharged on 10 July. — TWA/TKO

Agencies urged to submit workers' details for Apr-Dec 2023 by 15 July

FROM April to December 2023, there are more than 380 agencies that have not sent the personal information of the workers and they are required to send them before 15 July, Safe Migration has informed.

On 11 July, Safe Migration announced the list of 388 agencies that have not even sent the employment contracts and stated that those which have not sent any worker abroad must also report before 15 July 2024 to dolmigrationsending@gmail.com.

On 9 June 2024, when the list of agencies that have not yet sent the monthly report for May was released, Safe Migration informed that it would be better to return the license if the agency cannot work as per the license's conditions as it was a disturbance in their duty to work with.

In addition, these listings play an important role and thus the agencies should follow them with respect, it said. According to reports published by Safe Migration on 9 June, there are 565 licensed overseas employment agencies in Myanmar. — MT/ZN



Myanmar migrant workers are seen at the Kawthoung jetty.

Monywa residents use sandbags to stop Chindwin River embankment leak

WATER leaks at some parts of the Chindwin River embankment in Monywa in Sagaing Region and residents have built retaining walls with sandbags, a Monywa resident told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

According to the weather forecast by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology on 11 July, the Chindwin River will rise about 1-1.5 feet above existing levels in Mingin, Kani and Monywa townships and fall about 12-14 feet below existing levels in Kalewa, Maw-



Caption: Photos show officials and residents retaining the river water with sandbags.

laik, Phaungpyin, Homalin and Khamti townships in the second week of July.

“The embankment leaks at the opposite of Aqua Pura water supply factory at the north of Denko filling station near Thala-wady jetty. We could hold the water by building a retaining wall with sandbags. The water still flows forward,” said an official.

Respective officials and residents have cooperated in building the retaining wall in areas where leaks occurred, in an attempt to prevent them from entering the river water into the town. The river embankment in Monywa is more than eight miles long and it's built concretely about three miles in the downtown. The embankment flooded in 2015 and monks, residents and officials cooperated in retaining more than 100,000 sandbags and successfully preventing flood. — Thit Taw/ZS

MGMA invites members to join 2024 buyer delegation at Intertextile Apparel Fabrics Fair

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) cordially invites member factories and companies to participate in the Buyer Delegation Visit at Intertextile Apparel Fabrics Fair(s) 2024, MGMA announced on 10 July.

Buyer Delegation Visit at Intertextile Apparel Fabrics Fair(s) 2024, one of Asia's biggest fairs, organized by Messe Frankfurt (Shenzhen) Co Ltd, will take place on 27-29 August at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (Shanghai), China.

The fair will include Intertextile Directions Trend Forum, panel discussion, seminar series and dialogues regarding Design and Trends, Sustainability Issues, Technology and Solutions, Market Information and Business Strategies, Brand Concepts, Innovative Ideas and China International Fabrics Design Competition & China International Fabrics Creation Competition.

Interested companies and factories can register to participate in the fair through the contact number of Daw Khin



Workers sew garments at the manufacturing facility.

Thandar Aung, an event and PR officer, at 09 758451158 by 23 July as MGMA needs to process visa matters.

Under arrangements of MGMA and Messe Frankfurt (Shenzhen) Co Ltd, participants

who will come along with a buyer delegation visit will be borne only complementary two-day accommodation and transportation to business matching and networking events. The delegation will depart from Myanmar on 26

July. Air ticket and other costs will be covered themselves. Complementary hotel offer is based on first come first served basis. Those with late registration will not be considered, MGMA notified. — NN/KK

Agricultural export earnings cross US\$1.39 bln in Q1

MYANMAR'S agricultural exports totalled US\$1.39 billion in the first quarter of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

The figures rose from \$843.6 million recorded in the corresponding period last FY, showing a sharp increase of \$549.426 million.

Myanmar carries out international trade through border and maritime trade channels. It exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods.

Myanmar exports agri-



The figures rose from \$843.6 million recorded in the corresponding period last FY, showing a sharp increase of \$549.426 million.

cultural produce, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods through maritime and border trade channels. At the same time, it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in

order to boost exports. The priority sectors of the NES include agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/KK

Myanmar foreign trade shows surplus in Q1

EXPORTS were worth US\$3.5 billion, and imports were valued at \$3.27 billion in the first quarter of this financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, totalling \$6.8 billion. Yet, there is a trade surplus of nearly \$254.9 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The total trade balance was valued at \$8.3 billion in the year-ago period. Therefore, the figures indicated a significant drop of \$1.5 billion compared with that of last FY.

The seaborne trade in

Q1 amounted to \$5.48 billion, decreasing from \$5.6 billion. Meanwhile, border trade value declined to \$1.32 billion from \$2.69 billion, showing a decrease of \$1.37 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods. — TWA/KK



Trucks are seen at the Myanmar-China border.

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OPINION

ARTICLE

Emphasize rescue, relief, and rehabilitation in the aftermath of disasters

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology recently warned residents in Shwegu, Bhamo, Katha, Phaungpyin, Mawlaik, Mogaung, Myitkyina, Khamti, and Homalin townships to be cautious of water overflow from the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers, as well as Nanyin and Nankaung creeks. Globally, people are facing impacts of severe climate challenges, including heatwaves, droughts, and storms.

In 2024, Afghanistan, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Oman, UAE, and many other countries experienced devastating floods, rendering thousands homeless and causing significant property damage; even the governments of these countries conducted proper management to defy the natural disasters.

The World Meteorology Organization (WMO) of the United Nations reported a significant increase in natural disasters over the past fifty years, resulting in substantial economic losses. From 1970 to 2021, severe climatic conditions and flooding have led to 11,778 natural disasters. United Nations surveys indicate that 74 per cent of natural disasters between 2001 and 2018 were water-related, with over 2 billion people affected by flooding from 1998 to 2017.

Myanmar, located in a disaster-prone area, frequently faces various natural disasters. Besides fires, floods and inundations cause the second-largest losses. From June to October every year, many parts of the country experience river overflows and flooding due to monsoon winds and heavy rains.

Despite current flooding in some regions, water levels in rivers and creeks are expected to recede soon. The most crucial phase after flood-

ing is rehabilitation. Authorities must prioritize search and rescue operations during disasters and adapt their relief and rehabilitation measures afterwards. Without proper disaster preparedness and management, communities will suffer significant loss and damage.

The rising trend of natural disasters worldwide, exacerbated by climate change, necessitates a robust focus on rescue, relief, and rehabilitation. Effective disaster management, including timely warnings, efficient rescue operations, and comprehensive rehabilitation strategies, is vital to mitigate the impact of such events on affected communities.

In fact, emergency response to disasters, especially flooding, is of great importance. Hence, local authorities and people need to join hands in rehabilitation and reconstruction so that society can normalize the daily routine of the people through the collaborative efforts of charity organizations, social organizations, and security forces. If so, society will successfully overcome the challenges of natural disasters with proper management of rescue, relief, and rehabilitation for all in order to minimize loss and damage to property and the casualties of people as much as possible.

Education Systems

Around the year 1961-62, according to the state education system, I had the chance to start learning English in the 5th Grade. At that time, the average age of students in the 5th Grade was around 10 or 11. We could read and write Burmese quite well, along with fundamental mathematics. Typically, KG to 4th Grade was in State Primary School, 5th Grade to 7th Grade was in State Middle School, and 8th Grade to 10th Grade or Matriculation was in State High School.

State Middle School

After passing 4th Standard, I moved from primary school to State Middle School in Meiktila Township. Our courses changed a lot, especially in English, Algebra, and Geometry. Of all the compulsory subjects, I was most interested in English. I noticed that our English teachers, except for Headmaster U Kyaw Nyein, had also learned English starting in the 5th Grade. So, I was not satisfied with their pronunciation as they naturally inclined towards Burmese sounds. The headmaster taught English only in the 7th Grade, and all students, including my elder brother and sister, were afraid of his rank and style of teaching.

During my 5th Grade in middle school, I was lucky to have the opportunity to learn English grammar and composition from my cousin, who had passed matriculation many years ago. He provided me with a solid foundation in English grammar and composition, which gave me the confidence to pursue self-study. During the summer holidays, right after the final examination of 5th Grade, I borrowed the old 6th-grade English textbook from my sister and studied it on my own during the long break. I could read and understand almost all the chapters before the start of the next school term. I also obtained a valuable English composition exercise book, although I cannot recall how I got it. I read it and completed all the exercises in the book as a general foundation. I am sure that students in the mission schools in Myanmar at that time may not have needed to study as diligently as I did.

Enhancing English Skills Through Editorials

By THAN HTUN (Geoscience Myanmar)



Editorials from The Global New Light of Myanmar.

During my early studies, I consistently ranked first in English in monthly examinations. Living in a rural area meant access to English books was limited to school textbooks. After completing sixth Grade, I delved into my sister's seventh-grade English textbook to prepare for the upcoming school term. I meticulously studied its comprehension passages and completed all exercises diligently throughout the entire summer break, along with revising my previous English composition exercises.

Upon entering seventh Grade, our respected Headmaster, U Kyaw Nyein, began teaching our English class. With around 40 students, most were typical learners except for my close friend Soe Myint, who excelled in mathematics and had a knack for dressing sharply since primary school. The headmaster would read each chapter aloud and explain in Burmese when needed. After reading, he

would challenge us: "Stand up; if you can fill in the first line of the exercise, you may sit." Having prepared over the summer, I quickly filled in the blanks and sat down. Recognizing my readiness, the headmaster singled me out to confirm my answers. This pattern repeated with each new exercise, and I consistently stood alone as the only student to complete the tasks correctly. As a result, I maintained my top position in English throughout the school year, repeating my first-place performance from the previous year.

Life often turns out quite different from our expectations. During my middle school years, the government granted a stipend for outstanding students in high school. For three years in high school, outstanding 7th-grade students had to sit for an examination, and those who passed would receive a stipend. Unfortunately, our headmaster moved to a new middle school in town before the mid-term

of my 7th Grade. I noticed that the deputy headmaster elected Soe Myint for the scholarship examination. This news deeply saddened and depressed me. I struggled to sleep, lost interest in my studies, and did not share my frustration with my parents.

A few months later, a new headmaster took over at our school. He was a young, qualified, and quiet teacher. One early morning before class, I approached him and asked why, despite achieving first place in all subjects in the monthly exams, I had not been selected for the scholarship examination. The headmaster explained that the decision had been made before he arrived and that he couldn't help. After hearing his remarks, I felt even more upset and considered giving up on my school lessons. However, I managed to pass the 7th Grade with flying colours.

State High School

I moved to No 1 State High

School in Meiktila town just after finishing middle school. On the first day, I learned that the high school syllabus had changed, and we needed to decide whether to study science or arts. Although I thought arts subjects would be easier, I was drawn to studying a science combination of physics, chemistry, and mathematics despite being weak in math. If I had chosen arts, I would have had to move to No 2 SHS immediately. I preferred No 1 SHS as it was more convenient for me to study there.

In the 8th Grade, we were introduced to physics, chemistry, and mathematics by newly graduated teachers from various universities. My impression of the education system was relatively low, and due to previous negative experiences, I wasn't entirely interested in my studies. Despite the teachers' efforts, nearly half of the students failed the exams because the science subjects were new to us. Although I passed, the failure of so many classmates was a wake-up call for me. I resolved to approach my future studies with renewed enthusiasm and dedication.

In 9th Grade, known as the 'High School Final', which was directly controlled by the board of education, only a few per cent of students passed annually. That was the first significant step in higher education, so I studied hard, just as I did in middle school. During 9th Grade, I had the opportunity to study under excellent teachers, U San Shwe and Daw Yin Mya. U San Shwe was very patient and kind to students. He taught English textbooks thoroughly, sentence by sentence and word by word. He often spent almost a month on a single paragraph, providing examples and exercises. Both he and Daw Yin Mya taught us English grammar, composition, and essay writing. Their generous and stimulating teaching gave us a strong foundation in English. I am deeply grateful

to our teachers for their kind guidance.

One day in June 1965, I discovered my name in the daily newspaper's list of those who passed the high school final examination. I was so happy and excited to achieve such a difficult award. The exam was hard to pass; less than 10 per cent of the candidates succeeded during that time. I knew that my position was within reach of higher education, intending to earn a degree soon. I focused on my matriculation courses, especially English, along with Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry.

In the metric class, we were fortunate to learn English under the guidance of teacher U Kyi Soe, who holds a BA BED degree specializing in English. He taught us English grammar, composition, essay writing, and paragraph writing. Saya U Kyi Soe's English pronunciation was clear and precise, and he provided us with many comprehension exercises. We all enjoyed his class and felt free to ask him anything we wanted to know. The most interesting lesson was when he introduced us to editorials from newspapers to help us learn current usages, idioms, slang, and colloquial English. He brought various daily newspapers to class and distributed one to each student. Holding a newspaper himself, he guided us through the editorial, explaining the rich vocabulary, phrasal verbs, and speeches of world leaders found in English newspapers. He read an editorial aloud, thoroughly explaining it sentence by sentence and phrase by phrase. He then encouraged us to read the entire newspaper casually and later analyze the editorials in detail, focusing on their English usage, style, grammar, and contemporary idioms.

One morning in class, our beloved teacher, U Kyi Soe, suggested we cut out editorials from various newspapers without considering the date of issue

and keep them together with clips. The next day, we bought new or old English newspapers from the market, mostly from shops that used old newspapers for wrapping. We could buy them cheaply as they were sold by weight. I recall that most of them were The Guardian newspapers at that time. We cut out the editorials with scissors, bound them together with paper clips, and brought them to the classroom the next day.

Our teacher was delighted and commended us for our enthusiasm in English, appreciating our willingness to follow his guidance. From that time on, we read editorials both in class and at home whenever we had time. Teacher U Kyi Soe encouraged us to read our selected editorials aloud one by one, explained their meanings and how the writers conveyed the themes and had us note down his explanations in our notebooks. Additionally, Saya introduced us to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) for better English pronunciation – the phonetic key served as our guide to pronounce vocabulary correctly, enabling us to study independently. By following our teacher's guidelines, we all became familiar with English from a broader perspective and gained confidence in self-study. Simultaneously, our English skills significantly improved by studying editorials from English newspapers. My teacher's method of teaching English remains fresh in my memory, along with his kindness.

Teacher U Kyi Soe told us that English idioms, proverbs, and expressions are important parts of everyday English. They come up all the time in both spoken and written English. As idioms do not always make sense literally, you will need to familiarize yourself with the meaning and usage of each idiom. Therefore, you may need a lot of work despite learning idioms being fun, especially when you compare English idioms to your language. You can find all the above valuable knowledge from daily newspapers and editorials that you read daily.

After passing my final high school examination, I moved

University and Ministry

to Mandalay for higher education. While attending the Arts and Sciences University of Mandalay for a BSc (Geology) degree, I regularly read daily English newspapers. I was fortunate that we studied all geology subjects in English. Upon graduation, I moved to Yangon to join the Ministry of Mines. In Yangon, I had access to more books and resources for studying English, and I attended Spoken English classes. U Aung Kyaw's 'Su Su and Tu Tu' English class taught me spoken English based on newspaper reading, including editorials and IPA phonetics.

I had a significant opportunity to study spoken English with BBS U Hla Bu, a retired famous announcer of the Burma Broadcasting Service in the 1960s. He taught us advanced courses in phonetics, listening, and retelling radio talks, plays, and editorials. I also visited the USIS Library to borrow and read English books, including novels and short stories, and I listened to both VOA and BBC radio stations daily.

Additionally, I was assigned to the UN Tin/Tungsten Projects, where I had the chance to interact with UN experts from various countries, including Canada, America, Holland, Israel, Germany, and Britain, who all spoke English. I had the opportunity to buy both old and new English newspapers, such as the Bangkok Post and The Straits Times from Thailand, while I was in Mergui, Bokpyin, and Kawthoung in the Tenasserim offshore fields. I read all the editorials whenever I had time. As a counterpart geologist to expert geologists, I gained extensive experience in mineral exploration. Consequently, my English proficiency improved, enabling me to manage a Joint Venture Programme with foreign companies successfully from 1995 to 2004.

My lifelong ambition and determination to achieve excellence in English never faded. It inspired me to continue my journey of learning and teaching English to this day. I dedicate this article to all former and current editors of English newspapers.

NATIONAL



This picture depicts the Shwedagon Pagoda being thronged with pilgrims.

500,000+ pilgrims visit Shwedagon Pagoda in June

MORE than 500,000 pilgrims from both local and international locations visited the Shwedagon Pagoda to pay homage in June, according to U Bo Thin, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

“On regular days, nearly 20,000 pilgrims visit the Shwedagon Pagoda daily, while on weekends, the number rises to about 40,000-50,000. At least 150 foreign travellers visit each day, mostly from China, Thailand, and Vietnam,” said U Bo Thin.

“Since past ten years, we have been installing CCTV cameras to ensure that devotees

can worship peacefully at the Shwedagon Pagoda. There are currently about 280 installed CCTV cameras. In 2018, we added approximately 300 more high-quality and upgraded CCTV cameras,” he added.

Due to the increasing number of pilgrims, the Shwedagon Pagoda is now open from 5 am to 9 pm to allow visitors to pay homage peacefully.

Altogether, 546,954 devotees visited Shwedagon in January, 526,883 in February, 816,454 in March, 685,503 in April, and 576,346 in May. — ASH/MKKS

EVs, e-motorcycles arrive at Yangon Port



The newly arrival of battery electric cars seen at Yangon Port.

WITH the approval of the Steering Committee on National-level Development for Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, KIA EV-6 imported by Super Seven Stars Motors Industry Co Ltd whereas Faw Audi and Q4 E Tron-40 by Win Motor Myanmar Co Ltd, Dongfeng Nissan by Asia Pacific Automaker

Corporation Co Ltd, BYD Atto 3 by Essential Motors Co Ltd, Geely Riddara RD6 by Grand Sirius Co Ltd and Aima electric motorcycles by Myanmar Arr Thit Man Motor Co Ltd, arrived at Yangon Port. Vehicles were allowed to be claimed according to the procedures yesterday. — MNA/KTZH

Social aid groups offer disaster relief training

ACCORDING to Ma Shwe Lei, chairperson of the Shwe Myittta Association, social aid groups are conducting training to improve individual skills in flood disaster relief.

“We are here to help the people. We all are rescuers from water when natural disasters occur. Instead of formal training, all those who are involved in water rescue get together to practise together,” said Ma Shwe Lei, who organized the drill.

The operations are different in water rescue and land rescue, and rescue operations must always be practised. Rescue operations are carried out in the midst of life-threatening situations, so efforts must be made to improve individual skills, she said.

“Lay Maung, who is known as the father of the rescue circle, gave us another training. Saya Toe Gyi is also included,” she said.

In addition, the young

people who are new to the rescue team are trained together so that rescuers themselves do not become second victims.

“There are more new young people joining the rescue team. For the new ones, we practise together with

them. We train them what to do in the water and what to avoid. The most important thing is that the rescuers do not become second victims. That is why we are practising together,” she said. — Thit Taw/ZN



Training for flood disaster relief in action.

NATIONAL

MoE conducts surprise fuel station inspections with mobile labs

THE Petroleum Products Supervision and Inspection Department of the Ministry of Energy is conducting surprise checks at filling stations using Mobile Fuel Lab vehicles to ensure compliance with quality standards and accurate measurements for the benefit of the public.

A total of 261 petrol stations across various regions and states were examined by the Mobile Fuel Lab vehicle during the 2023-2024 financial year.

Additionally, quality and measurement tests will be undertaken at 360 petrol stations



Photos (L & R) show surprise inspections in progress at Yangon's petrol stations.

in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay Regions, as well as

600 filling stations in other regions and states. From April to June, a total of 345 fuel stations were checked for quality and measurement. — MNA/TRKM

Effective seizure of illegal goods in Yangon Region and beyond

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to prevent and prosecute unlawful trade continue effectively in accordance with the law.

On 9 July, a combined team managed by the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Myanmar Industrial Port. They seized 4,500 vials of Tramagesic 100 injection and two other items, which are valued at K103 million. Another team also confiscated 20 ticals of gold (Academy brand), which lacked documents worth K90 million. Legal action has been taken in accordance with Customs procedures.

On 10 July, a combined team under the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force inspected and seized an unregistered Nissan Wingroad vehicle worth approximately K3.5 million near Yan-



Confiscated illegal items.

gon Dental Medicine University in Thingangyun Township, and the action was taken under the Import/Export Law.

On 10 July, another team under the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force inspected and seized one unregistered Jialing-90 motorbike and one unregistered Luojia-110 motorbike worth K600,000 and the action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

Additionally, on the same day, a combined team under the

Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force inspected and seized three unregistered Honda Fit cars worth K23.5 million in Myeik Township.

Similarly, on 10 July, a team under the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized illegal hardwood weighing 7.058 tonnes, other wood weighing 5.329 tonnes worth approximately K5.5 million in Toungoo District and Thayawady District, and one unregistered tractor valued at K1.5 million in Pyay District. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Import-Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that ten arrests were made on 9 and 10 July, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K227 million. — MNA/TMT

300 blocks of heroin seized in Tachilek



Three offenders seen alongside confiscated heroin and vehicles.

A total of 300 blocks of heroin weighing 105 kilogrammes worth over K1.5 billion was impounded in Tachilek, Shan State (East), as stated by the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team consisting of the anti-narcotics police stopped and searched the two Toyota Crowns and found 300 blocks of heroin weighing 105 kilogrammes worth K1.575 billion

from Sai Wunna, Nyi Lin (aka) Aik Htun and Aung Win in Weinkyauk Ward, Tachilek, at 5:30 pm on 9 July.

According to further investigation, the drugs were to be carried from Namsang, Shan State (South) to Tachilek, Shan State (East). Legal action has been taken against them, and those involved in the case are being investigated. — MNA/KZL

Counter-argument to false information



The screenshot validates misinformation.

Subversive media spread false claims about security forces in Ye Township

MALICIOUS media are circulating misinformation, falsely claiming that security forces killed a man and arrested two others to use as human shields on 8 July in Ye Township, Mon State.

In reality, security forces conducting operations were attacked by terrorists us-

ing heavy weapons from Point-193 Hill in Ye Township. During the ensuing clashes, terrorists retreated eastward with casualties. After the clash, the body of a terrorist, along with an M-16 magazine and five bullets, was recovered. No civilians were killed or arrested, according to an official from the

security forces.

Therefore, the subversive media are intentionally fabricating false stories and spreading propaganda on social networking sites to mislead the public about the actions of the security forces in the area. — MNA/TKO

ECONOMY WORLD

2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat in New Delhi bolsters Bay of Bengal regional cooperation

This event will gather Foreign Ministers from BIMSTEC nations to discuss and enhance cooperation across various sectors such as security, connectivity, trade, investment, and people-to-people contacts in the Bay of Bengal region and its littoral.



Bay of Bengal regional cooperation highlights India's pivotal role with its ports serving as crucial hubs in regional trade.

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will host his counterparts for the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat in New Delhi on 11-12 July.

The Retreat will present an opportunity for the Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC nations to discuss avenues to broaden and deepen cooperation in various sectors, including security, connectivity, trade and investment, people-to-people contacts etc in the Bay of Bengal region and littoral, according to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The first edition of the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat was held in Thailand's

Bangkok on 17 July 2023.

The MEA noted, "BIMSTEC brings together seven countries of South and South East Asia for multifaceted cooperation."

BIMSTEC is a regional organization that connects countries around the Bay of Bengal to promote economic growth, trade, and cooperation in areas like transport, energy, and counter-terrorism.

It aims to strengthen relationships and foster economic development among its member states, which include- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. — ANI

Vietnam records fastest growing number of millionaires: report

Between 2013 and 2023, Vietnam saw a remarkable increase in its millionaire population, nearly doubling to 19,400 individuals, marking the fastest growth globally.



As Ho Chi Minh City continues to evolve and expand, it remains a beacon of opportunity and progress, driving Vietnam's economy towards a promising future on both national and international stages. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

VnExpress reported Wednesday, citing a new report by British investment migration consultancy Henley & Partners.

Meanwhile, the Southeast Asian country has 58 centi-millionaires (those with US\$100 million or more in assets) and six billionaires, said Henley & Partners. The Vietnamese government has set the goal of having at least 10 businesspeople named on the list of the world top US dollar billionaires and five among Asia's most influential entrepreneurs by 2030.

The Wealth Report by Knight Frank, released in March, estimated that Vietnam had approximately 750 ultra-high-net-worth individuals in 2023, a 2.4 per cent increase from 2022. Knight Frank projects that by 2028, the figure will reach around 980, a 30 per cent increase from 2023. — Xinhua

THE number of millionaires in Vietnam virtually doubled between 2013 and 2023, at the fastest rate globally, to 19,400,

Syria restores core part of agricultural infrastructure after war

SYRIA has restored the bulk of its agricultural infrastructure destroyed during the war, Syrian Minister of Agriculture Hassan Katana told Sputnik.

"Agricultural production is affected by many factors, including the destruction of infrastructure and institutions that supported production, which was happening since the beginning of the war. Much of this has been rebuilt, including research and veterinary centers, a number of

factories supporting production, and where possible, water supply infrastructure," he said.

The main problem for agriculture in Syria is still the "provision of means of production and the increase in their cost, a decrease in the technological level and wear and tear of agricultural machinery, rising prices for imported equipment, its shortage and the increased cost of servicing existing equipment," Katana said. — SPUTNIK



Syria has largely reconstructed its agricultural infrastructure following its destruction during the war. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Over US\$80 billion of deals inked at China trade fair

Since its inception in 1993, the CLZITF has evolved into a prominent platform for fostering economic and trade relations along the Belt and Road.

THE 30th China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair (CLZITF) concluded on Wednesday in northwest China's Gansu Province, with deals worth about 604 billion yuan (about US\$84.7 billion) inked.

The figure is 7.7 per cent higher than that for last year's edition of the trade fair.

First held in 1993 in the provincial capital Lanzhou,

the CLZITF has emerged as a major event for Belt and Road economic and trade cooperation.

Last year it attracted more than 1,600 enterprises from home and abroad, and the figure surpassed 2,200 during this year's edition.

"Over the past decade, Lanzhou has undergone great changes. The trade fair has also attracted

an increasing number of enterprises from various countries and regions," said Maryna Anikeyeva, an entrepreneur from Belarus, who attended the fair in 2014 for the first time as a member of the Belarusian trade delegation.

This year, Anikeyeva, general manager of JSC "Molochny Mir", a multinational operating in the dairy product sector across



A Belarusian band performs before the Belarus booth during the 30th China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair in Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu Province, 6 July 2024. PHOTO: XU HAOF/XINHUA

over 30 countries and regions, visited Gansu to seek more partners and expand their presence in the local

market. "A dairy company in Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture of Gansu has

invited us to visit their factory and discuss cooperation details," she said. — Xinhua

Cambodia registers 1,614 electric vehicles as of June 2024

CAMBODIA has registered a total of 1,614 electric vehicles (EVs) as of June 2024, said a news release from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport on Tuesday. The three most popular EV brands in the Southeast Asian country are China's BYD, Japan's Toyota and Tesla, the news release said, adding that the kingdom had recorded 658 BYD, 261 Toyota and 186 Tesla EVs.

"From day to day, EVs



Chinese-made Hongqi electric vehicles are displayed at a showroom in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 11 September 2023. PHOTO: VAN POV / XINHUA

have gained momentum in Cambodia, as more and more people are interested in using them," the news release said. "Using EVs saves on fuel costs, with low or zero emissions."

Currently, EV charging stations are available at 18 locations in the country.

According to the news release, the kingdom has registered 914 electric scooters and 440 three-wheeler electric vehicles so far. — Xinhua

House sales down in 13 EU countries in 2023: Eurostat

HOUSE sales in the European Union dropped for the second consecutive year in 2023, with the largest decrease of 44.3 per cent recorded in Luxembourg, the European statistical office Eurostat said on Tuesday.

"In 2023, the number of housing transactions decreased in 13 out of the 16 EU countries for which data are available, compared with 2022.

This marks the second consecutive year that the majority of reporting countries have registered drops in sales.

The largest decreases in the number of transactions in 2023 were recorded in Luxembourg (-43.3 per cent), Austria (-26.4 per cent), Hungary and Finland (each -24.5 per cent)," the office said in a statement.

However, in Cyprus, Poland and Ireland, the number of house purchase transactions increased by 31 per cent, 3.9 per cent and 0.6 per cent, Eurostat added. — SPUTNIK

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V HE LE VOY.NO. (0UV8IS1NC)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HE LE VOY.NO. (0UV8IS1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-7-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (425W)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (425W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-7-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S MAERSK A/S</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (181N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (181N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-7-2024 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE</p>
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ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

PM Modi invites Austrian companies to invest in India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited Austrian companies to invest in India across sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, green technologies, fintech, and innovation. **PHOTO: PTI/ANI**

DURING his official visit to the European nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited Austrian companies to invest in India, to strengthen the economic ties between the

two nations, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Both Prime Minister Modi and Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer jointly addressed Austrian and Indian CEOs at a

round table business meeting in Hofburg Palace, Vienna on Wednesday.

PM Modi also underscored the “potential for collaboration” between Indian and Austrian

The visit included participation in the India-Austria Business Meeting, gathering around 40 businesses to foster deeper trade relations.

companies in Vienna.

“PM highlighted significant potential for collaboration between Indian and Austrian companies in various sectors including infrastructure, renewable energy, green sectors, new and emerging technologies, fintech, start-ups, innovation among others. He invited Austrian companies to invest in India,” the MEA said.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Modi and Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer participated in the India-Austria Business Meeting, bringing together around 40 businesses from both nations to explore new economic opportunities and strengthen bilateral trade relations.

PM Modi arrived in Vienna on Tuesday evening for a

day-long State visit. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the visit marked the first bilateral visit of Prime Minister Modi to Austria.

Chancellor Nehammer also praised India’s advancements in infrastructure and digitalization.

“It is impressive to look at India’s success when it comes to infrastructure digitalization in society and developing infrastructure at an enormous pace. Today’s Business Forum which is taking place right now, about 40 businesses from India and Austria are coming together to engage in new cooperation and identify new economic opportunities,” he said addressing the India-Austria joint press statement. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia to issue military response to deployment of US long-range missiles in Germany

RUSSIA will issue a military response to the plans of the United States to deploy long-range missiles in Germany, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Thursday. “The nature of our reaction will be determined in a calm, professional manner. The military have already begun working on the matter. We will, of course, analyze which specific systems will be discussed... We will determine a military response to this new threat,” Ryabkov told reporters.

The US long-range missiles could be the ground-based versions of the Tomahawk cruise missile and the SM-6 missile, the diplomat explained. — SPUTNIK

Israel strikes Hezbollah targets in Lebanon

THE Israel Defence Forces (IDF) reported that, during the night, Israel Air Force (IAF) fighter jets attacked two terrorist infrastructures of the air defence system of the terrorist organization Hezbollah in the areas of Janta in deep Lebanon and Rashit in southern Lebanon. Also, IAF warplanes attacked a Hezbollah weapons warehouse in the area of the village of Kfarkela in southern Lebanon.

The attacks came after two people, a married couple, were killed on Tuesday when Hezbollah fired 40 rockets on the Golan. — ANI

China strongly opposes NATO's Washington summit declaration: spokesperson



NATO heads of state meet during the NATO 75th anniversary summit at the Walter E Washington Convention Centre in Washington DC, on 10 July 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHINA deplors and strongly opposes the Washington summit declaration of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which hypes up tensions in the Asia-Pacific region and is full of bellicose remarks with a Cold War mentality, a Chinese foreign ministry

spokesperson said Thursday.

Its content related to China is filled with bias, smearing and provocations, said spokesperson Lin Jian, adding that China has lodged solemn representations with NATO. — Xinhua

SPORTS

King Charles III urges England team to spare fans Euro 2024 'drama'

King Charles III congratulated the England football team for reaching the Euro 2024 final and humorously advised them to secure victory without causing further nerve-wracking last-minute drama.

KING Charles III has congratulated the England football team on reaching the final of Euro 2024 and jokingly urged them to win the tournament without any nerve-shredding last-minute drama.

Britain's head of state sent the team his "warmest congratulations" after their 2-1 win against The Netherlands on Wednesday evening and his "very best wishes" for Sunday's final against Spain.

But he urged them

to play with the nation's blood pressure in mind after fans endured the suspense of a last-gasp equalizer in the second round against Slovakia, a penalty triumph against Switzerland in the quarterfinal, and Ollie Watkins' 90th-minute winner to send them through to the final.

"If I may encourage you to secure victory before the need for any last minute wonder-goals or another pen-

alties drama,



Please England do not leave the goals till the last minute jokes delighted King Charles III. PHOTO: AFP

I am sure the stresses on the nation's collective heart rate and blood pressure would be greatly alleviated!" he said.

"Good luck, England."

Charles's son, William, who is president of the Football Association, singled out Aston Villa

striker Ollie Watkins for praise after he came off the bench to score the winner.

"What a beauty, Ollie! Congratulations England! EURO2024 Finalists," wrote the Prince of Wales, who supports the Birmingham club.

William is likely to travel to Berlin for the final.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, an Arsenal fan who watched some of the game while attending a NATO summit in Washington, has confirmed he will also travel for the match. — AFP

WHEN Stefanos Tsitsipas dropped out of the world's top 10 in February this year, tennis purists mourned the final nail in the coffin of the one-handed backhand, once the

One of a kind: Musetti revives dying art at Wimbledon

sport's signature shot.

It had carried Pete Sampras and Roger Federer to 15 Wimbledon titles between them and was the weapon of choice for Stan Wawrinka when he captured three majors. Federer described the absence of one-handers in the top 10 as a "dagger" to the sport.



One of a kind: Italy's Lorenzo Musetti eyes the ball. PHOTO: AFP

"I felt it. That one was personal. I didn't like that," 20-time major winner Federer told GQ magazine when the top 10 was stripped of one-handed backhands for the first time in more than 50 years. "But at the same time, it makes the one-handers – Pete Sampras, Rod

Laver, me – it makes us special as well that we've carried the torch, or the flag or whatever, for as long as we did.

"So I love seeing players with one-handers like Stan (Wawrinka) and Richard Gasquet and Tsitsipas. Dominic Thiem has a wonderful one." — AFP

Colombia 'hungry' for Copa America glory: Rodriguez

JAMES Rodriguez heaped praise on his teammates after 10-man Colombia clinched a 1-0 victory over Uruguay on Wednesday to book a place in the Copa America final.

Rodriguez provided his

sixth assist of the tournament — a Copa America record — when his in-swinging cross was headed in by Jefferson Lerma in the 39th minute. But the Cafeteros were forced to play the entire second half

with 10 men after Daniel Muñoz was sent off in first-half stoppage time for a second yellow-card offence. "The game got very difficult, but we defended well when we needed to," Rodriguez told

reporters after the match at Bank of America Stadium. Colombia, who are undefeated in 28 matches, will meet Argentina in the final at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium on Sunday. — Xinhua

Largest Refugee Paralympic Team to compete at Paris 2024

THE International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has announced eight athletes and one guide runner who will represent the IPC Refugee Paralympic Team (RPT) at the upcoming Paris Paralympic Games.

"All Paralympians have stories of incredible resilience," said IPC President Andrew Parsons. "But the stories of these athletes and their journeys as refugees surviving war and persecution to compete at the Paralympic Games are off-the-charts awe inspiring." The eight athletes, based in six countries and regions, will compete across six sports.

They are Zakia Khudadadi (Para taekwondo), Guillaume Junior Atangana (Para athletics), Ibrahim Al Hussein (Para triathlon), Salman Abbariki (Para athletics), Hadi Darvish (Para powerlifting), Sayed Amir Hossein Pour (Para table tennis), Amelio Castro Gueso (Wheelchair fencing), and Hadi Hassanzada (Para taekwondo). "The Refugee Paralympic Team offers a model for all of us. No matter how difficult their circumstances, these athletes have found a way to compete at the very highest level of Paralympic sport. In these eight athletes and one guide, we have the strongest and best-prepared Refugee Paralympic Team in history," said RPT Chef de Mission Nyasha Mharakurwa. — Xinhua



For India, BIMSTEC represents interlinking of Neighbourhood First, Act East Policy and SAGAR vision: Jaishankar



BIMSTEC focuses on regional grouping, sectoral cooperation, and people-to-people exchange. Howrah bridge and the tourists passing below. An iconic landmark in Kolkata, the Howrah Bridge is a huge steel bridge over the Hooghly River. It is considered to be one of the longest cantilever bridges in the world. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ XPLRO**

Jaishankar emphasized the need to swiftly enhance regional cooperation, acknowledging the importance of open and candid exchange of ideas among member nations.

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar articulated India's strategic alignment with the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), highlighting its significance within the country's broader geopolitical frameworks like – Neighbourhood First, Act East Policy and

SAGAR vision.

“For India, BIMSTEC represents the intersection of its ‘Neighbourhood First’ outlook, the ‘Act East Policy’ and the ‘SAGAR’ vision. Each of these endeavours is being purposed with a specific focus on the Bay of Bengal, where collaborative potential has long remained underrealized,” said Jaishankar addressing the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers’ Retreat in New Delhi on Thursday.

He added, “Our challenge is to change that for the better, and to do so rapidly. The retreat is meant to exchange ideas openly, candidly and fruitfully. We all benefited from the last such exercise in Bangkok.”

The Minister stressed the Summit's importance, noting, “This one now has a particular importance as it serves to prepare strong outcomes for the Summit to be held later in the year. Our message should be clear – that we are all determined to infuse new energies, new resources and a new commitment into cooperation among the Bay of Bengal nations.”

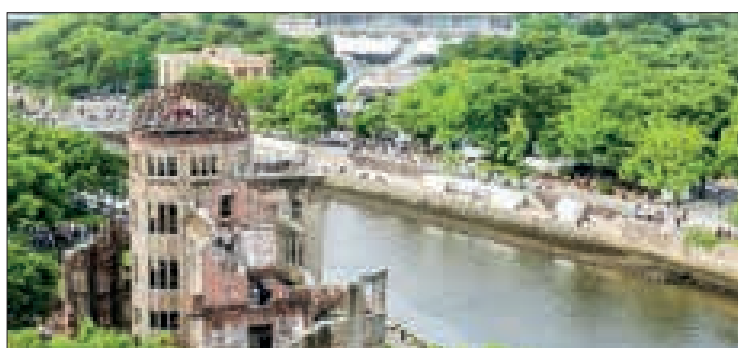
Highlighting the recent developments within BIMSTEC, Jaishankar noted, “The BIMSTEC Charter, for a start, has come into effect from 20 May this year. Global and regional developments also make it imperative that we find more solutions amongst ourselves.”

— ANI

Eastern religions join call for ethical AI

SECT leaders from major Eastern religions on Wednesday signed on to a Vatican-led code for AI ethics that also includes major tech companies at a ceremony in the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

The “Rome Call for AI Ethics” says artificial intelligence should be developed “with ethical principles to ensure it serves the good of humanity”, given concerns over the impact on warfare, elections and employment. More than a dozen leaders from various religions with roots



More than a dozen leaders from various religions with roots in Asia gathered at the Peace Park in the western Japanese city. **PHOTO: JJI PRESS/AFP**

in Asia, including Buddhist, Sikh and Shinto groups, gathered at the Peace Park in Hiroshima, which was decimated by a US nuclear bomb attack in 1945. — AFP

BOOSTING FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION

Vietnamese president arrives in Laos for state visit

PRESIDENT of Vietnam To Lam, accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, arrived in Lao capital Vientiane on Thursday for a two-day state visit.

In response to the invitation from Lao President Thongloun Sisoulith, the Vietnamese president is paying a visit to Laos to enhance the friendship, solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, Lao National Radio reported on Thursday. During the visit, To Lam will hold meetings and discussions with senior leaders of Laos, including Thongloun Sisoulith, who is also General Secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee, Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, and President of the National Assembly Saysomphone Phomvihane. — Xinhua