

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Families of Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) hold second monsoon tree-growing ceremony

Families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) and relevant military commands have been holding annual monsoon tree-growing ceremonies since 2011 intending to contribute to environmental conservation and climatic conditions, creating shade and supporting the State economy on one hand.

The second monsoon tree-growing ceremony of families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) 2024 took place near Yezin Dam in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with the attendance of State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who planted a teak sapling.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla planted trees at the designated places together with SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and his wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Tatmadaw members and their families.

The Senior General and his



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the participation of Tatmadaw members and their families of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) Office in the second monsoon tree-planting event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

wife viewed the participation of Tatmadaw members and their families in the tree-growing movements.

Also present at the ceremony were Union-level dignitaries and their wives, senior officer trainees from the National Defence College, Tatmadaw members from offices and departments of the

Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and families.

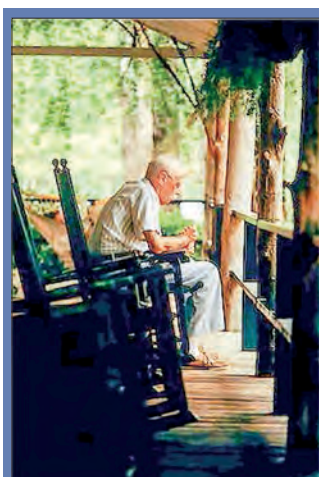
At the second tree-growing ceremony, they planted 900 teak saplings, 600 Mahogany saplings, 300 ironwood saplings and 600 Burmese padauk saplings, totaling 2,400.

Families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief

(Army, Navy and Air) have held tree-growing ceremonies 40 times from 2011 to 2024 including this second ceremony, planting 198,825 saplings in order to conserve the natural environment and ecosystems around Yezin Dam.

Likewise, relevant military commands grew precious sap-

lings, industrial crops, perennial trees, and shade and windbreak plants. In this regard, families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air), Tatmadaw command commanders and Tatmadaw families planted 162,520 saplings at Tatmadaw commands, regiments and units. — MNA/TTA



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By Yin Nwe Ko

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Manufacturing exports near US\$1.86B in Q1

NATIONAL

Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants holds 5/2024 meeting

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants, attended the 5/2024 coordination meeting of the central body in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, he talked about the previous meetings, drafting of the People's Military Service Rule (fifth draft) after receiving the recommendations of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, cooperation to offer suggestions for the rule (fifth draft) and plans to seek approval by submitting it to the relevant superiors.

He then mentioned the directives of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister regarding the

military training, and opening of training batches 1 to 3, the need to supervise not to enlist the people under eligible age and not to register by force by the relevant committees, ward/township administrators.

Vice-Chairman of the central body Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye also discussed the weaknesses and advantages of three trainings and preparations to conduct Training batch 4 successfully, and the attendees cooperated in the discussion.

In conclusion, the Admiral said the time frame has been set for further training and the inspections should be made via the checklists. The ward and village-tracts should check data on military training and the region



SAC Member Deputy Premier Union Defence Minister Admiral Tin Aung San chairs the fifth coordination meeting of the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants yesterday.

and district levels should assign the duty systematically. Moreover, actions will be taken against those who fail to join the training

after registering, those absent without leave after passing a medical checkup and those absent without leave after receiving

their own numbers. He finally stressed the need to summon the military servants correctly and systematically. — MNA/KTZH

SAC Member attends demonstration of paddy cultivation in Pantanaw



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung and officials view the paddy cultivation demonstration yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, accompanied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and relevant officials, attended the demonstration of paddy cultivation of the No 57 Agricultural Mechanization Centre (Pantanaw) of the Agricultural Mechanization Department, in Sutaungpyae

Village of Pantanaw Township in Maubin District yesterday.

The SAC member and party first observed the paddy cultivation demonstration, met with the local farmers and discussed matters related to meeting the target plantation.

They proceeded to 189.96 acres wide fish farm that boasts 92,000 fish in eight fish

farms in Kyontainggyi village in Pantanaw and made proper instructions.

Moreover, they headed to a 180-acre dwarf coconut plantation in Yinkadit village of Danubyu township and observed the plantation areas.

Similarly, the SAC member and party inspected the pig farming site of Htoo Htet Han Company Limited in Bawaing village-tract, Pantanaw Township, and officials from the pig farm explained the breeding processes.

Moreover, they attended the handover ceremony of inputs and quality seeds of crops for the 2024-2025 monsoon paddy using the State Economic Promotion Fund at the Community Centre in Pantanaw Township.

During the event, the SAC member met local farmers and presented inputs, seeds and one six-row hand-roll paddy transplanter. — MNA/KTZH

MoE Deputy Minister meets Sri Lankan Ambassador

DEPUTY Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint received Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Ponnampere Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampere at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed promoting the friendship between the two countries through educational cooperation between Myanmar and Sri Lanka, applied research collaboration aiding MSMEs, the establishment of partner universities and private university investment.

Director-General Dr Win Tun of the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education, the deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general and officials attended the meeting. — MNA/TS



Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint holds talks with the Sri Lankan ambassador yesterday.



NATIONAL

DPM MoFA Union Minister attends 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat in India



Deputy Premier and Union Minister U Than Swe shakes hands with Indian Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar during the Second BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat.

AT the official invitation of Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe participated in the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat which was held on 11 July 2024 in New Delhi, India.

The Heads of Delegation of the BIMSTEC Member States, Dr Mohammad Hasan Mahmud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Mr D N Dhungyel, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Bhutan, Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, Ms Sewa Lamsal, Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Mr

Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Mr Maris Sangiampong-sa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC were present at the Retreat.

During the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat, the Foreign Ministers cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters related to BIMSTEC Cooperation mechanisms as well as regional and global issues.

Their discussions focused on strengthening connectivity among the BIMSTEC Member States, cooperation in trade and

business, health, capacity building and collaboration in digital public infrastructure (DPI) including cross-border digital payment systems.

The Foreign Ministers also highlighted the importance of Food and Energy Security at the Retreat. Furthermore, they deliberated on the works of the BIMSTEC Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) on the Future Directions of BIMSTEC and the holding of the BIMSTEC Ministerial Meetings.

During the Retreat, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also updated the Myanmar Government's efforts to ensure peace,

development and democracy in the country and the latest developments taking place in Myanmar to the Heads of Delegation of BIMSTEC Member States. In his discussion, he encouraged other Member States to further enhance cooperation in combatting illegal drug trafficking and arms trade, human trafficking and online scamming.

On the evening of 11 July 2024, Minister of External Affairs of India Dr S Jaishankar hosted a dinner in honour of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and delegations of BIMSTEC Member States to the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat at Taj Palace Hotel in

New Delhi.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization established in 1997 and it comprises seven Member States namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The main aim of BIMSTEC is to promote economic cooperation among Member States of the Bay of Bengal region. Out of the current seven Sectors of BIMSTEC Cooperation, Myanmar is serving as the Lead Country in the "Agriculture and Food Security Sector". — MNA



The Second BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat in progress on 11 July 2024 in New Delhi, India.

CBM Governor receives Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe received Mrs Ponnampereuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampereuma, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar, at the meeting hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday.

They frankly discussed promoting trade and investment between the two countries and financial matters.

The permanent secretary and departmental heads of the Central Bank of Myanmar

were present on the occasion. — MNA/TS

Sri Lankan Ambassador Mrs Ponnampereuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampereuma calls on CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe yesterday.



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NATIONAL

DPM MoFA Union Minister participates in Myanmar-India-Thailand Trilateral Meeting in India

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, who is now in New Delhi to attend the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat, participated in the "Myanmar-India-Thailand Trilateral Meeting" which was held at 5:30 pm Indian Standard Time on 11 July 2024 at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi.

Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India and Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand also attended the "Myanmar-India-Thailand Trilateral Meeting".

At the "Myanmar-India-Thai-

land Trilateral Meeting", the Ministers cordially exchanged views on further strengthening the existing friendly relations, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas including trade and investment and cooperating more closely in BIMSTEC and international fora.

Furthermore, their discussions focused on connectivity projects including developments in the implementation of the Myanmar-India-Thailand Trilateral Highway, further enhancing cooperation among Myanmar, India and Thailand for stability along the border areas and pro-

viding humanitarian assistance.

Likewise, the Ministers exchanged views on further enhancing cooperation in combating illegal drug trafficking and arms trade, human trafficking and online scamming.

During the "Trilateral Meeting", the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs apprised them of the Myanmar Government's efforts to ensure peace, development and democracy in the country and the latest developments in Myanmar.

Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and



Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe (R) poses for the documentary photo alongside the Indian and Thai Foreign Ministers in India.

senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the Trilateral Meeting. — MNA

MIFER Deputy Minister receives Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar



The Sri Lankan ambassador calls on Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung received Mrs Ponnampereuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampereuma, Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Office No 1, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Both sides frankly discussed enhancing economic and investment cooperation, the investment sector, and the facilitation of financial matters between Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations also attended the meeting. — MNA

Myanmar delegates join ASEAN Parties Against Corruption meeting

MYANMAR Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Soe and representatives attended the 20th ASEAN Parties Against Corruption (ASEAN-PAC) meeting held at Ang Thong Hotel in Luang Prabang, Laos, on 9-10 July.

They also joined Strengthening Capacity on Investigation and Asset Recovery for ASEAN-PAC Authorities Coordination Meeting jointly held by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes-UNODC and the State Inspection Authority of Lao PDR-SIA on 11 July together with ASEAN-PAC members.

The meetings focused on approving the minutes of the 19th meeting of the ASE-

AN-PAC, held on 16 and 17 August 2023 during the alternate chairmanship of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACU) of Cambodia. ASEAN representatives underscored the issue of the official distribution of the ASEAN-PAC e-booklet and the implementation of the ASEAN-PAC 2023-2025 Action Plan.

In addition, they discussed the ASEAN-PAC Contact List, including the preparation for the 20th Leaders' Meeting to be hosted by the Corruption Eradication Commission of Indonesia-KPK in 2024, as well as the points to be prepared for the ASEAN-PAC workshop to be held in 2024.

The Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission stated the

agenda of the meeting and also presented the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission's anti-corruption activities, including cooperation with regional anti-corruption organizations, including the ASEAN Anti-Corruption Group ASEAN-PAC. Myanmar representatives discussed the signing of a memorandum of understanding with some member countries and the work to be done in the future.

The Myanmar delegates also attended the Strengthening Capacity on Investigation and Asset Recovery for ASEAN-PAC Authorities Coordination Meeting on 11 July, focusing on future agendas. — MNA/KZL



Myanmar delegates join the group photo session at the 20th ASEAN-PAC meeting in Laos.

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NATIONAL

1,599,364 acres reclaimed within specified period

A total of 1,599,364 acres that had not been utilized within the specified period were reclaimed, according to the Central Committee on Management of Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Lands.

After the enactment of the Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Lands Management Law (VFV Law), the central committee issued permissions for individuals to use a total of 2,741,279 acres. Additionally, during the specified period, a total of 15,993.64 acres that had not been utilized were confiscated, according to



The 14th meeting of the Central Committee on Management of Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands is in progress on 10 July.

the proceedings of the 14th meeting of the Central Committee on Management of Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Lands held on 10 July. Union Minister U Min

Naung, chairman of the Central Committee on Management of Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Lands, emphasized the importance of enforcing the collection of annual land tax levies once the land tax exemption period ends for those entitled to use it. He also urged specific actions to be taken regarding cases of land tax arrears and non-compliance with specified terms, emphasizing the confiscation of security deposits as national funds. — TWA/MKKS

Yangon townships to face 4-day power outage due to Phayagyi-Hlinethaya cable construction



This photo shows Phayagyi-Hlinethaya (500 kV) power line construction.

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation announced that due to the construction of the Phayagyi-Hlinethaya (500 kV) power line, some townships in Yangon Region will experience temporary power outages for four days.

During the construction period, the 230 kV

Myaungtaga-Hlawga, Myaungtaga-Watarya, and Myaungtaga-Hlinethaya power lines will be shut down daily from 6 am to 5 pm from 12 to 15 July.

Therefore, during operations, the 33 kV feeders originating from the 230 kV Hlinethaya main station, 230 kV Myaungtaga main station, 230 kV Western University substation, and 230 kV Kanaung main station will need to regulate their loads. As a result, there will be temporary power outages in certain areas of the following townships and areas: Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya (East and West), Shwelinpan, Htantabin, Seiky-Khanaungto, Dala, Twantay, Lakkhokgon, Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Kyaikhtaw, Hline, Kamayut, and Mayangon.

In addition, YESC has informed the public that there will be no prolonged power outages, and efforts will be made to minimize the areas affected by power outages. — TWA/TKO

Road closures planned for 77th Martyrs' Day ceremony

THE Yangon Region Government stated that there will be road closures in Yangon for the 77th Martyrs' Day ceremony on 19 July.

According to the statement, the Martyr's Day ceremony will be held at the Martyrs' Mausoleum located in Bahan township. It is reported that the road closures and detour roads for Western Shwegondine Road, Shwegondine Road, Azarni Road, and U Wisara Road will be planned starting from 4 am until the end of the ceremony on that day.

Similarly, it is known that the Natmuk Road near the Bogyoke Aung San Museum will be closed from Wingaba junction to Phoe Sein junction, the Bogyoke Museum Road will be closed from Ngahtetgyi Phaya Road junction and Saw Maha junction, Bo Cho Road will be detoured



This photo shows U Wisara Road which is planned for road closure on Martyrs' Day.

from Shwe Kyatyat junction.

Moreover, some roads near the Secretariat Building, where the flag-hoisting ceremony will be held, will be closed from 5 am to 6 pm according to the statement.

Therefore, the Yangon Region government informed drivers of using alternate routes for the Martyrs' Day ceremony because of the road closures. — TWA/TRKM

4 bodies recovered from boat accident near Bagaya Jetty

ACCORDING to the rescue workers, four bodies of those missing from the boat accident near Bagaya Jetty, Kyimyindine Township were recovered on 12 July.

"In the current situation, four bodies have been found. Rescue teams have found two bodies at Pazundaung Creek. We do not know whether they are the missing people from the boat accident or not. The weather is rainy, so it is difficult for rescuers to find them," said a Kyimyindine Township resident.

The dead bodies identify one student, one woman and two men. According to the report that one boat capsized about five nautical furlongs from Bagaya Jetty in Yangon River at 8:10 am on 10 July, search and rescue opera-

tions were carried out by rescue vessels from the western district fire stations.

Eight passengers between the ages of 15 and 37, including two 15-year-old students, were saved alive by rescue teams. A total of eight passengers, including a 12-year-old school girl, 16-year-old and 18-year-old school boys, and five passengers between the ages of 20 and 33, are missing as a result of the incident.

The regional government provided K200,000 to the families of the eight missing people and K100,000 to each of the rescued people.

Regarding the boat accident, the Jetty in charge and the boat driver are being investigated by the relevant authorities. — TWA/KZL



Rescue teams are searching for missing bodies from the boat accident near Bagaya Jetty.

Manufacturing exports near US\$1.86B in Q1

THE exports from the manufacturing sector topped US\$1.868 billion as of 28 June of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April 2024, indicating a sharp drop of \$247.369 million compared with that of the FY 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The finished industrial goods export declined from \$2.116 billion in the corresponding period last FY 2023-2024.

Myanmar ships manufacturing goods to foreign markets by two modes of transport (sea and land borders).

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials by CMP garment factories and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES comprise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery



Terminal cranes are in action for loading and unloading cargo at Yangon Port.

business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/KK

Kampaiti border trade aims to achieve US\$5 M in July

THE trade value at Kampaiti border post between Myanmar and China is expected to meet a target of five million US dollar in July 2024, comprising exports worth four million dollar and imports worth one million dollar, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The actual trade value in the first week of July was \$2.96 million, comprising exports worth \$0.9 million and imports worth \$2.049 million, performing over 59 per cent of trade target.

The main export items at Kampaiti border were tissue-culture banana, dried chilli, onion, dried mango slice, fresh areca nut, black cardamom, various pulses, tamarind with seeds and aluminum scrap. Meanwhile, capital



The Kampaiti border of Myanmar with China.

goods, intermediate goods, construction materials, consumer goods, fruits and

fuel oil were imported.

The trade value at Kampaiti border post was aimed to reach five million dollars in June in the 2024-2025 financial year, including exports worth \$4 million and imports worth one million dollar, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The actual trade value was \$15.336 million, comprising exports worth \$8.46 million and imports worth \$6.87 million, surpassing trade target.

A combined team including one stop service agencies and departments concerned are making efforts to ensure smooth trade flow and bolster exports. Kampaiti border checkpoint performed the third largest trade among Myanmar-China border posts. — NN/KK

CIFIT invites Myanmar business delegates

THE 24th China International Fair for Investment & Trade (CIFIT) that will take place in Xiamen, Fujian Province, China on 8-11 September 2024, invites participation of Myanmar business people to enhance bilateral investment, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

This fair will be held under the theme of "Further expanding bilateral investment, jointly facilitating global development". The event will focus on the Global Development Initiative, high-quality investment in China, green to low carbon development, multilateral and bilateral cooperation framework, digital economy and sustainable development.

Event organizing committee will construct a platform to facilitate and promote investment among countries. The committee will arrange a 18-square metre booth in the designated area for trade and investment officials and companies' representatives free of charge. The representatives must bear their travel cost themselves. Individuals can contact event details though shanzhanz@chinafair.org.cn.

Those interested businesspersons can submit their lists to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through contact number 067408622 and E-mail: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

Mon State produces over 45,000 tonnes of salt in 2023-2024 season

MON State's salt output exceeded 45,000 tonnes from 4,700 acres in the 2023-2024 salt production season.

Salt production season begins around December, halts in April sometimes due to heavy rain and ends in May. Salt harvesting businesses are found in Thanbyuzayat, Ye and Paung townships, Mon State.

Salt from Mon State is distributed to Mon State, Kayin State, Taninthayi Region and Mandalay Region. Fine salt rather than coarse salt is delivered to the Mandalay Region.

Twenty tonnes of coarse salt from Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State have been exported to Japan on a trial basis and 40 tonnes will be shipped to the Republic of Korea as well.

Sundried slat production blocks increased to 90 this year from 89 recorded last year. — ASH/KK



Salt farmers are harvesting salt in Mon State.

OPINION

Establish and conserve mangrove forests for generations

DURING the monsoon season in lower Myanmar, high tides cause significant landslides along rivers and creeks, creating shallow watercourses and dangerous sandbanks for waterway users. Tidal waves also erode the shores and banks. To combat these issues, planting mangroves along banks and shores is essential.

Mangrove roots help stabilize swamps and muddy areas, providing a natural defence against tidal waves and tsunamis. Additionally, mangrove forests and coastal ecosystems absorb carbon dioxide, mitigating climate change. These natural resources, including mangrove forests, coastal forests, and coral reefs, are invaluable to the country.

Currently, mangrove forests across the world are facing threats in all forms due to careless actions of humans, three to five times more than other forests. As mangrove forests can actually save lives and property in natural disasters, individuals of all societies need to emphasize the establishment of more and more mangrove forests to shape a safe and sound society for new generations.

The devastating impact of Cyclone Nargis, which caused massive loss of life and property in the Ayeyawady and Yangon regions, is a stark reminder of the protective benefits of mangrove forests. Many survivors owe their lives to these forests, and efforts to plant various mangrove species along banks and shores continue yearly to safeguard future generations.

In mangrove forests along coastal areas of Myanmar, one of the highest species can be seen as richness for mangrove trees among mangrove ecoregions in the Indian Ocean. There are 28 species of mangroves known from Myanmar alone, and the largest mangrove patch can be found in the Ayeyawady River Delta.

Myanmar boasts over 1.1 million acres of mangrove forests, ranking seventh globally and third in Southeast Asia for mangrove forest coverage. The country has designated 23,855 acres as protected public mangrove forests and 717,238 acres as mangrove forest reserves and protected areas. These efforts highlight Myanmar's commitment to conserving its vital coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.

Currently, mangrove forests across the world are facing threats in all forms due to careless actions of humans, three to five times more than other forests. As mangrove forests can actually save lives and property in natural disasters, individuals of all societies need to emphasize the establishment of more and more mangrove forests to shape a safe and sound society for new generations.

IDON'T know whose fault it is, Grandpa. Is it mine? Yours? Or your privileged grandson's? But I know that I am also guilty. I want to say sorry for everything I did even though you can't hear me anymore. I know... it's too late now...

My family, my uncle's family, and my grandparents lived in the same yard. My uncle and his family lived in my grandparents' house, and our house was next to theirs. There were no walls between the two houses, but rivalries and different religious beliefs created a deep distance between the two families. This distance led to something cold-hearted that now leaves me grieving.

One evening when I got back from school, I saw Grandpa sitting silently under the dim light on the bench in front of his house, staring somewhere unconsciously. It wasn't like him. On pleasant evenings, he would usually talk about his tedious adventures to his wife, my uncle, or his old friends, or he would sing hymns and pray to God to bless the family. But that evening, he seemed weary and still as a stone. I thought to myself that something was wrong with Grandpa because he seemed lonely.

I considered talking to him but then thought that there was no reason for me to do it for his sake since he had the family he loved the most by his side. I reasoned that what he did was none of my business since he had ignored me. So, I went into my house, feeling there was no point in accompanying someone who hurt my feelings. Since my cousin, the second grandchild, started school, I never

heard words of praise or encouragement from him. I tried hard to win his love, but I failed. Even when I showed him my achievements, he would boast about how his new grandson was doing great with his routines. Oh, how much I hated him!

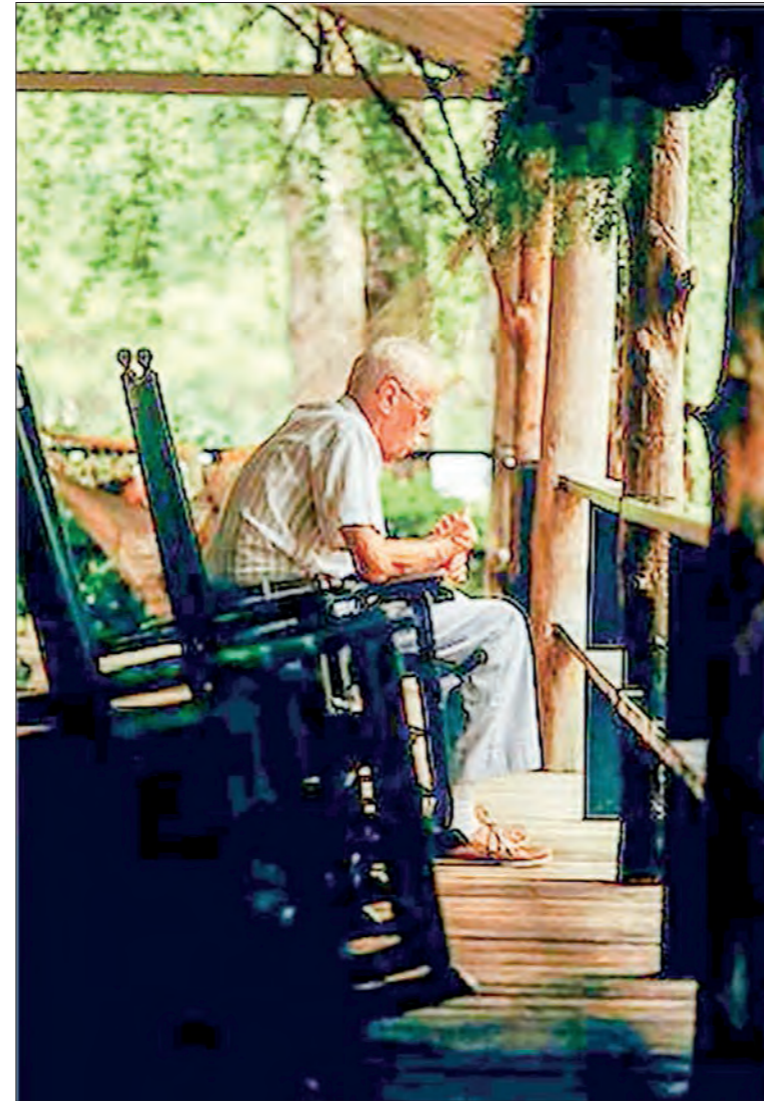
My grandparents had become my new shelter since my parents were usually fighting. As the eldest grandchild, I didn't want to lose my place as the family's favourite kid. Most of my sweet childhood memories were with Grandpa, Grandma, and their big black oil-painted wooden house. It was like a second home to me. Later, when Dad lost his job and our family faced a crisis, things turned upside down. Instead of helping, Uncle seemed pleased to become the breadwinner, and we were looked down on like underdogs.

Rivalries grew stronger, and I was no longer welcomed there. There was no more place for me at their breakfast table. I felt kicked out, replaced, and discriminated against by my trusted and beloved people. Since then, I guess all those pitiful feelings turned into jealousy, hatred, and frustration. Oh, how awesome my childhood was! Well, these things don't matter anymore. Those bitter days are gone. Besides, my family recovered since Dad went abroad.

Honestly, in the early days, I didn't care about how Grandpa was acting. Day by day, Grandpa still acted the same every evening, and I started feeling bad about myself for ignoring him. I wondered if I should talk to him since he looked sad. All the good times flashed in my mind and eased my bitterness

toward him. I murmured to myself that I was his granddaughter and that we used to have good times. But I questioned what I should say since it wasn't easy to make joyful small talk with someone who hadn't been in touch for years.

Anyway, I gathered my courage and greeted him, asking what he was doing. He replied that he was sitting, shortly but in a nor-



The memories of my grandfather's kindness and our time together will always remain with me. Although I can no longer express my feelings to him directly, I hope my silent prayers and apologies reach him somehow.

mal voice. I asked where Grandma was, and he said she was upstairs watching TV, keeping his eyes fixed somewhere far away. He seemed to be waiting for someone, perhaps Uncle. I awkwardly said goodbye and walked back to my house. That goodbye lasted for months. I tried not to look at the place he usually sat to avoid awkward eye contact.

One Sunday evening, I saw

two Christian preachers outside Grandpa's house. I murmured to myself, wondering why they were there and hoping it wasn't another preaching and thanksgiving. My grandparents and dad are Baptists, my mom is a Buddhist, and I chose to be agnostic. As a family tradition, the eldest grandchild needs to be at the family Thanksgiving. I asked Mom if she knew what was going on at Grandpa's house since I saw the preachers there. She calmly replied that Grandpa was suffering from TB

and on my depressing birthday, I decided to get out of my room and pray for me on my disappointing birthdays. He was sitting on the bench, looking so bony and unable to tell the long stories he loved. Grandma was beside him. I asked her how he was and if he was getting better. She replied that they were going to hospitalize him next week. I sat silently beside my grandparents for a few minutes, then left.

I wanted to give him a hug

gloomily sat inside on weekends, listening to the outside world. I heard my aunt from the next house muttering about how frustrating it was to cook for the whole family and disrespectfully talking to Grandma. I also heard their fights and Grandma crying on the phone while talking to Dad. I don't know if I was pleased to see these scenes. I'm not sure. But deep inside, I felt guilty and hated myself somehow.

Mom told me Grandpa had passed away in the afternoon. I asked calmly if there would be a

peacefully in his traditional costume among white flowers. I tried hard not to cry as I looked at his face while the priest recited the prayer. Memories of our beautiful days together flashed back, and I burst into tears. The words I never told him screamed in my mind, asking Grandpa to forgive me for not being good enough, for being a devil, and for not being able to take care of him. I wanted him to know that I tried and that I loved him, but I couldn't make it. I begged for his forgiveness.

A Heartfelt Apology

By Yin Nwe Ko

and suggested that I should go and be around them while praying because I was the eldest granddaughter.

I said I wasn't in the mood to go and went to my room. I was a bit frightened, thinking this might be a final goodbye to Grandpa, but irresponsibly and heartlessly, I didn't show up at their praying. Reflecting on those days, I can feel the ambivalence of my feelings: love and hatred (or pride inside the unconsciousness). After that day, Grandpa became part of my midnight thoughts. Mom sometimes went and cooked for them, but I still didn't show up. Every time I tried, something inside my mind pulled me back and tied up my feet.

One misty evening in Janu-

ary, on my depressing birthday, I decided to get out of my room and pray for me on my disappointing birthdays. He was sitting on the bench, looking so bony and unable to tell the long stories he loved. Grandma was beside him. I asked her how he was and if he was getting better. She replied that they were going to hospitalize him next week. I sat silently beside my grandparents for a few minutes, then left.

Now, the person I hate has become me. I was despicable as a grandchild who wasn't good enough for her grandparents. I heard Grandpa was in the hospital but didn't spend time with him. I spent my time going from home to school on weekdays and

funeral at home, and she replied no because he passed away in the hospital. She then rushed outside. I felt numb. Mom's phone rang, and it was Dad. I heard his sobbing voice as I picked up the phone. He cried painfully, saying he couldn't believe he didn't get to see Grandpa at his last breath. He hung up, not wanting me to hear him weeping. I couldn't stand it any longer as I heard his voice. I silently asked my dad to forgive me, feeling that I wasn't good enough for Grandpa. Three days later, our family, relatives, and friends gathered at the cemetery to send Grandpa off to peaceful heaven.

As the eldest grandchild, I got to see him before they closed the coffin. In the white coffin, he lay

I now understand my regret and sorrow. The memories of my grandfather's kindness and our time together will always remain with me. Although I can no longer express my feelings to him directly, I hope my silent prayers and apologies reach him somehow. Through this reflection, I have learned the importance of cherishing our loved ones while they are still with us. As I continue my journey, I will strive to honour his memory by embodying the compassion and love he showed me. Grandpa, I hope you can forgive me and know that you will always hold a special place in my heart.

(Credited to Patricia)

Turning Red Planet into green?

*Scientists have discovered that *Syntrichia caninervis*, a resilient desert moss, could potentially transform Mars into a habitable environment due to its ability to thrive under extreme conditions.*

AFUTURISTIC study conducted by Chinese scientists has shed light on the potential of using moss to transform Mars's barren red landscape into a lush green environment.

Scientists have recently found that *Syntrichia caninervis*, a desert moss that thrives in various extreme environments on Earth, is a promising pioneer plant for colonizing

extraterrestrial environments.

The study, conducted by researchers from the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), the National Space Science Centre, and the Institute of Botany under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), was recently published in the journal *The Innovation*.

Syntrichia caninervis is a globally distrib-

uted moss species that flourishes in harsh deserts, mountainous regions and circumpolar regions. It forms part of the biological soil crust.

Using samples from the Gurbantunggut Desert in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, one of the most concentrated distributions of *Syntrichia caninervis*, the researchers evaluated the moss's extraor-

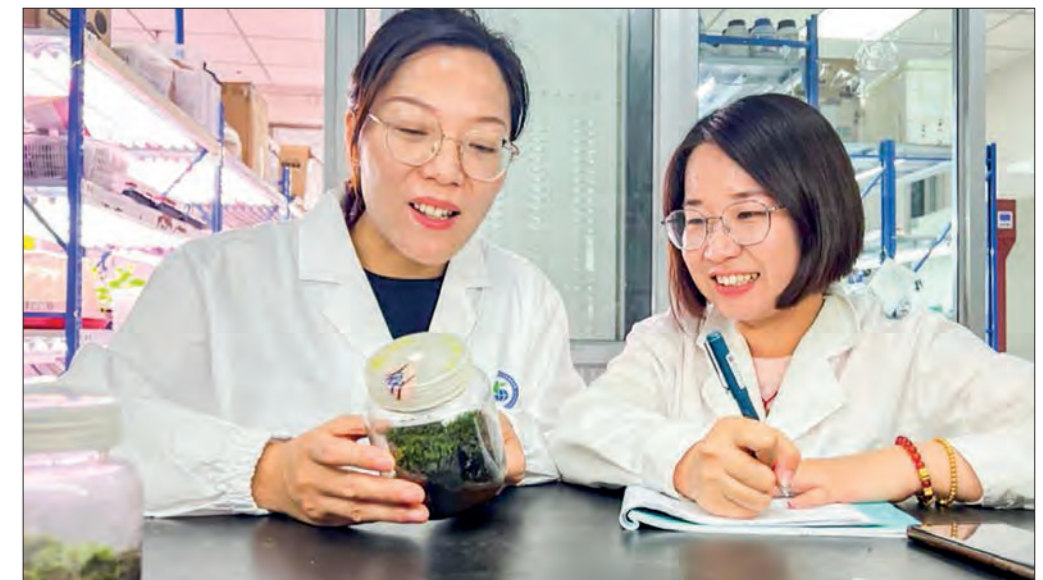
dinary resilience under extreme desiccation, ultra-low temperatures and intense radiation, as well as in a simulated Martian environment combining several of these stress factors.

They found that the moss has remarkable desiccation tolerance. Even after losing over 98 per cent of its cellular water content, it can recover photosynthetic and physiological activities within seconds after rehydration.

"We subjected this moss to an air-drying regimen in the laboratory. The plants appeared green when saturated with water; turned dark green and then black as the water was gradually lost, and turned green again only two seconds after rehydration," Li Xiaoshuang, a researcher at XIEG, said.

According to Li, the plant has the special power of "drying without dying" and "freezing without dying."

SOURCE: Xinhua



This research marks a significant step forward in understanding how biological organisms could potentially be used to transform and make habitable the inhospitable environments of other planets. PHOTO: XINHUA

NATIONAL

Bagan, Leshan sister city agreement under discussion



MYANMAR-CHINA bilateral discussion to sign sister city agreement between Myanmar's Bagan City in Mandalay Region and Leshan City in Sichuan Province this year took place on 9 July at Sichuan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism in Chengdu, China, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

U Kyaw Zeyar Lin, Myanmar Consul-General of the

Consulate-General in Chongqing met Mr Dai Yunkang, Director-General of the Sichuan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism regarding cultural exchange and cooperation in tourism development between Myanmar and Sichuan.

They exchanged ideas to sign a sister city agreement for Bagan and Leshan cities.

— ASH/KK

U Kyaw Zeyar Lin and Mr Dai Yunkang are seen discussing reaching Bagan-Leshan sister city agreement at the Sichuan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism.

Free admission and shuttle service for Gunsan Cultural Dance Festival 2024

MYANMAR Embassy to South Korea said in an announcement that it has received an invitation for Myanmar nationals living in Gunsan to come to enjoy the 2024 World Cultural Dance Festival and free admission and free shuttle service would be provided by the event organizing committee.

The embassy announced on 10 July that Myanmar nationals in Gusan are invited to the 2024 World Cultural Dance Festival.

Organized by the International Youth Fellowship (IYF) Cultural Dance Festival Preparation Committee, the event which is a global dance

competition and 16 countries will join to entertain with their traditional dances, will be celebrated at 7:30 pm on 19 July 2024 at Jeonju Indoor Stadium in Gunsan, said the embassy.

In the dance festival, Myanmar national dance team will participate and the 2024 World Cultural Festival Gunsan branch will provide free admission and free shuttle bus for Myanmar nationals who want to enjoy it.

Myanmar nationals in Gunsan can call 010 8353 3128 and 010 6261 3658 if they want to go to the festival, said the embassy. — MT/ZN



An advertising poster for the 2024 World Cultural Dance Festival.

Confiscation of illegal items: Teak, industrial equipment, food products, consumer goods and vehicles

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

On 10 and 11 July, teams from the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. They discovered the following items not declared in import forms: 15,900 kilograms of Chinese-made GI pipes (estimated value of K23,373,000), 14,600 kilograms of energy drinks from Singapore (estimated value of K253,200,000), and 40 types of weather forecasting accessories from China (estimated value of K12,430,000) found in a passenger's luggage at Yangon International Airport. Additionally, Korean-made beauty product JM Solution Glow Fill was seized from a vehicle traveling from Hpa-an to Yangon at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, along with 2,700 Spa Toner bottles (approximately K6,210,000) and one Mitsubishi Fuso truck transporting these items

(approximately K35,000,000). The total estimated value of the seized items amounts to K330,213,000. Customs procedures are currently followed to take appropriate action.

On 11 July, a combined task force led by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections and discovered 2.374 tonnes of illegal timbers in Bago and Toungoo. Among the seized items were 0.406 tonne of teak (approximately K1,505,066). The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 11 July, a combined task force managed by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections in Hlegu Township. They seized 3.334 tonnes of illegal timbers (approximately K3,334,200) near Yaytwingon village. Additionally, one Nissan UD truck transporting these timbers (approximately K30,000,000) was taken action under the Forest Law.

Furthermore, during the inspection at Ywathagyi Dry Port, two products (approximately K38,800,000) were



Confiscated illegal items in different states and regions.

intercepted. These goods included 10,000 kilograms of Chinese-made GI pipes and 110 Alpha air coolers from Thailand, lacking legal documentation.

Vehicles carrying these products, one Nissan Diesel truck and one Hino Profia truck (approximately K65,000,000), have been detained and legal proceedings initiated under the Export-Import Law. In total, the seized items amount to an estimated value of K137,134,200.

Therefore, on 10 and 11 July, 12 cases (approximately K468,852,266) were seized, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/TKO

SUMMARIES: LIFESTYLE

China utilizes population data to improve social assistance

AN unemployed leukemia patient surnamed Huang in Liuzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, was relieved to hear that the local government had granted her medical assistance and other temporary help.

Rather than seeking social assistance on her own, Huang was instead contacted by local civil affairs authorities after they reviewed a list of patients with excessive medical expenses.

According to the Liuzhou Big Data Development Bureau, the city has integrated data shared by multiple departments, such as medical insurance, rural revitalization and human resources, to establish an early warning system for low-income people in need of assistance. Liuzhou and a number of other cities around China responded to the central government's October 2023 demand to strengthen the dynamic monitoring of the low-income population and improve the tiered and classified social assistance system.

The central government guideline categorizes low-income people in need of assistance into different tiers based on their degree of difficulty and the assistance includes support for basic livelihood, medical care, education, housing, employment, disaster relief and emergency support. — Xinhua

Türkiye detains 47 suspects over artefact smuggling

TURKISH police have detained 47 suspects in large-scale operations against an international artefact smuggling network, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said Thursday.

Following operations conducted in 24 provinces, the police seized 6,325 ancient coins and 997 other historical artifacts in the western Izmir province, Yerlikaya said on X.

The minister added that the suspects obtained historical artefacts belonging to Türkiye through unlawful excavations and illegally sold them to auction houses abroad to gain unfair profits.

An examination of the suspects' bank account movements revealed that five auction houses in Europe and the United States transferred approximately 72 million liras (\$2.19 million) in foreign currency to the ringleader of the organization and his family members.

Some 1,057 historical artefacts of Turkish origin seized in Croatia in 2020 and returned to Türkiye were also taken abroad as part of the organization's activities. — Xinhua

American mountaineer found mummified in Peru

THE preserved body of an American mountaineer — who disappeared 22 years ago while scaling a snowy peak in Peru — has been found after being exposed by climate change-induced ice melt, police said Monday.

William Stampfl was reported missing in June 2002, aged 59, when an avalanche buried his climbing party on the mountain Huascaran, which stands more than 6,700 metres (22,000 feet) high. Search and rescue efforts were fruitless.

Peruvian police said his remains were finally exposed by ice melt on the Cordillera Blanca range of the Andes.

Stampfl's body, as well as his clothes, harness and boots had been well-preserved by the cold, according to images distributed by police.

His passport was found among his possessions, allowing police to identify the body. — AFP

S Korea's population aged 65 and older tops 10 million

A super-aged society is defined as one where more than 20 per cent of the population is aged 65 or older.

SOUTH Korea's population aged 65 and older topped 10 million, coming closer to a super-aged society, the interior ministry said Thursday.

The number of officially registered residents aged 65 or higher reached 10,000,062 on Wednesday, according to the Ministry of the Interior and Safety.

The age group accounted for 19.51 per cent of the total population that stood at 51,269,012.

The proportion of the elderly continued to go up from 11.79 per cent in January 2013 to 13.60 per cent in January 2017, 15.48 per cent in December 2019, and 17.45 per cent in April 2022.

South Korea drew near to



An instructor (L) of an education programme helps a participant learn about LIKU, a robotic teaching facilitator, at a senior citizen welfare centre in Yangcheon District of Seoul, South Korea, 16 November 2020. PHOTO: WANG JINGQIANG/XINHUA

a super-aged society that refers to a country with more than 20 per cent of the population aged 65 or higher.

Men aged 65 or higher numbered 4,427,682, lower than female peers at 5,572,380. — Xinhua

Spire of French landmark Rouen cathedral on fire

A fire broke out Thursday on the spire of Notre-Dame de Rouen Cathedral in the capital city of France's Normandy region, according to local authorities.

The city's mayor Nicolas Mayer-Rossignol posted a photo of the spire in smoke on X Thursday noon. "All public resources are mobilized," the

Metropole Rouen Normandie said on its official X account.

According to initial information, the fire was caused by "bad handling" on the restoration site of the metal spire, local media reported.

"The site is complex because of this height with very important scaffolding structures," French news channel

BFMTV reported, citing Richard Duplat, chief architect of Historic Monuments.

He told BFMTV that the workers were scraping the metal parts of the spire to repaint them. In 2019, a fire broke out on the roof of the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral while restoration works were carried out. — AFP



Rouen Cathedral. PHOTO: DAVID VAN/X

ECONOMY WORLD

S Korea's tax revenue falls in Jan-May

South Korea's tax revenue for the first five months of the year saw a decline, largely attributed to increased corporate tax benefits.

SOUTH Korea's tax revenue fell for the first five months of this year due to higher corporate tax benefits, government data showed Thursday.

Tax revenue stood at 151.0 trillion won (\$109.5 billion) in the January-May period, down by 9.1 trillion won (\$6.6 billion)

compared to the same period of 2023, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Corporate tax collection dipped by 15.3 trillion won (\$11.1 billion) in the five-month period on the increased tax benefits for companies.

Income tax revenue gained

300 billion won (\$217.5 million), while revenue from value-added tax climbed by 5.3 trillion won (\$3.8 billion).

Total revenue, including tax and non-tax revenues, increased by 1.6 trillion won (\$1.2 billion) to 258.2 trillion won (\$187.2 billion) in the five-month period.



The logo of LG Electronics at the company's headquarters in Seoul, South Korea. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ JUNG YEON-JE/AFP/FILE**

Total expenditure expanded by 310.4 trillion won (\$225 billion). 23.0 trillion won (\$16.7 billion) to — Xinhua

France says needs 25 bln euros budget cuts to keep deficit promise



The French finance ministry ordered spending cuts within days of Macron's election defeat. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE French government, under EU pressure for overspending, said Thursday it needed a total of 25 billion euros in budgetary

cuts this year to keep its promise of getting deficits back under control.

President Emmanuel Ma-

cron's government, which lost its parliamentary majority in Sunday's snap election, has come under intense scrutiny by the EU Commission over its deficit and debt levels.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told reporters that this year's total projected cuts, worth \$27.1 billion, were needed for France to lower its deficit to the government's 5.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) target this year, revised from an earlier 4.4 per cent.

France's deficit last year, at 5.5 per cent of GDP, was worse than forecast because of weaker tax receipts. — AFP

Syria, Saudi Arabia resume regular flights after 12-year hiatus

SYRIA and Saudi Arabia have resumed regular flights after a 12-year hiatus, media reported on Wednesday. The first flight of Syrian Airlines arrived at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on Wednesday, the state-run Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported.

The restoration of regular flights between the two countries is seen as another step towards developing closer bilateral ties, SANA reported, citing Syrian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ayman Soussan. The official said the move facilitates communi-



King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

cation between both countries.

In May, Saudi Arabia appointed a new ambassador to Syria. Last year, the Syrian gov-

ernment restored the work of its embassy in Riyadh and appointed a new ambassador in December. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Global trade helpdesk launches Chinese version for small businesses

THE Chinese version of the Global Trade Helpdesk is now available, providing essential trade data to help small businesses navigate international markets, developers said Thursday.

Developed by the Geneva-headquartered International Trade Centre (ITC) and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), the Chinese version of the platform integrates information from 11 partner agencies.

It provides data on imports, market dynamics, tariffs, regulatory requirements, and insights into trade finance, e-commerce marketplaces, and digital payment systems.

The platform helps Chinese businesses navigate global trade complexities and seize international market opportunities. Small businesses, typically holding a modest export share, can now make informed decisions and expand their global presence.

The platform also offers targeted training programmes and monthly sessions across China to support businesses in entering and competing in new markets.

"We have been delivering on our original mandate of making trade information more accessible to small businesses globally for six decades. We're now building on that work to support small businesses in China," said Pamela Coke-Hamilton, executive director of ITC, which operates as a joint agency of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations (UN). — Xinhua

Japan core machinery orders fall 3.2% in May

JAPAN'S core machinery orders fell a seasonally adjusted 3.2 per cent in May from the previous month, down for a second straight month, government data showed on Thursday.

Private-sector orders excluding those for ships and power equipment, closely watched as a leading indicator of corporate capital spending, came in at 857.8 billion yen (\$5.31 billion), said the Cabinet Office.

By sector, manufacturers' orders rose 1.0 per cent and those from non-manufacturers slid 7.5 per cent partly because of the loss of demand in the communications industry for items such as computers, the data showed. — Xinhua

Malaysia's wholesale, retail trade sales rise 7.1% in May

MALAYSIA'S wholesale and retail trade sales expanded by 7.1 per cent year on year to 147.9 billion ringgit (US\$31.48 billion) in May, official data

showed Thursday. The Department of Statistics Malaysia said

in a statement that the increase was driven by the retail trade sub-sector, which rose 8.7 per cent to register 64 billion ringgit.

Meanwhile, wholesale trade grew by 4.7 per cent to 65.1 billion ringgit. Motor vehicles increased by 10.5 per cent to 18.8 billion ringgit.

For monthly comparison, wholesale and retail trade went up two per cent from the previous month, supported by motor vehicles and wholesale trade growth of 8.8 per cent and two per cent, respectively. (one ringgit equals \$0.21). — Xinhua



People pose for photos in front of a Christmas tree in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 23 December 2021. PHOTO: CHONG VOON CHUNG/XINHUA/FILE



Customers shop at a shopping mall in Bangkok, Thailand, 17 May 2020. PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA/FILE

Thailand's consumer confidence drops to 9-month low in June

THAILAND'S consumer confidence fell for the fourth consecutive month in June, hitting the lowest level in nine months, due to concerns over a slowing economy growth and political uncertainty, a survey showed on Thursday.

According to the survey of 2,243 respondents conducted by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the consumer confidence index dropped to 58.9 last month from 60.5 in May as all components of the index decreased.

Consumers were worried about high living costs, mainly owing to rising fuel prices amid a sluggish eco-

nomie recovery, said the President of the university Thanavath Phonvichai.

Political uncertainty stemming from a court case that seeks to remove Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin from office might impact the implementation of the government's stimulus measures, including its flagship cash handout scheme through a digital wallet, Thanavath told a news conference. However, the acceleration of budget disbursements and public investments could restore economic growth and consumer confidence in the third quarter of this year, he noted. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (909N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (909N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-7-2024** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (822N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (822N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-7-2024** 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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOOKYANG EXPRESS VOY.NO. (Y2407F)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOOKYANG EXPRESS VOY.NO. (Y2407F)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-1** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW HIGHEST MARINE CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (230N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (230N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-7-2024** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC RUSHMORE VOY.NO. (1050086)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC RUSHMORE VOY.NO. (1050086)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-7-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-3** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



The meeting took place during a two-day retreat aimed at strengthening cooperation among the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) member states.

PHOTO: ANI

PM Modi, BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers discuss ways to strengthen regional cooperation

The meeting, held in New Delhi, focused on key areas such as connectivity, energy, trade, health, agriculture, science, security, and people-to-people exchanges.

FOREIGN Ministers from the BIMSTEC member countries held a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed ways to strengthen regional cooperation, including connectivity, energy, trade, health, agriculture, science, security and people-to-people exchanges.

During the meeting, PM Modi conveyed full support to Thailand for a successful BIMSTEC Summit. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, Pabitra

Margherita, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval also attended the meeting.

In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "Glad to meet BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers. Discussed ways to strengthen regional cooperation, including connectivity, energy, trade, health, agriculture, science, security and people-to-people exchanges. Conveyed full support to Thailand for a successful Summit."

Foreign Ministers from the BIMSTEC member countries have gathered in the national

capital for a two-day retreat meeting to bolster cooperation among Bay of Bengal countries. BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven member states – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

On Thursday, S Jaishankar welcomed colleagues from across the world for the second Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Foreign Ministers' Retreat being held in Delhi on 11-12 July. — ANI

COVID still kills 1,700 a week:

WHO emphasized the importance of maintaining vaccination efforts, especially among vulnerable populations.

COVID-19 is still killing around 1,700 people a week around the world, the World Health Organization said Thursday, as it urged at-risk populations to keep up with their vaccinations against the disease.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus sounded a warning on declining

vaccine coverage.

Despite the continued death toll, "data show that vaccine coverage has declined among health workers and people over 60, which are two of the most at-risk groups," the UN health agency's chief told a press conference.

"WHO recommends that people in the highest-risk groups

receive a COVID-19 vaccine within 12 months of their last dose."

More than seven million COVID deaths have been reported to the WHO, though the true toll of the pandemic is thought to be far higher.

COVID-19 also shredded economies and crippled health systems. — AFP

SUMARIES: world

Indonesia tightens cybersecurity after ransomware attack

THE recent cyberattack in Indonesia that massively disrupted its national data system has urged the country to strengthen its cyber resilience and evaluate its digital technology policy.

Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Hadi Tjahjanto said on Friday that the government would carry out digital security improvement and strengthen the system capabilities of its national data centre.

"We are making the data centre with the ability to have multiple back-ups, layered back-ups with good security. We want it to be a system that cannot be hacked. This will continue to be done to support the government's performance in serving the public," Tjahjanto said in a press conference.

Indonesia's Ministry of Communication and Informatics is currently preparing to execute what it calls as "tenant redeploy", improving the digital security in governance in accordance with stricter standard operating procedures. "We'll execute it from August to September 2024," the ministry's Director General of Informatics Applications, Ismail, said on Thursday. — Xinhua

12 killed, 65 missing in Nepal's landslides

TWELVE people were killed and 65 others went missing after their buses were swept away by landslides in separate incidents on Thursday night and Friday morning, local police said.

On Thursday night, seven members of one family and three others died in landslides in Pokhara of Kaski district, while another person lost her life in Madi Rural Municipality of the district, said Basant Kumar Sharma, spokesperson for the district police.

"We have recovered 11 dead bodies from three places in the district," Sharma told Xinhua.

Meanwhile, 65 passengers went missing after two buses were swept away by landslides in Chitwan district on the Mugling-Narayanghat stretch of a highway that connects Kathmandu with the rest of the country.

One bus with 24 passengers aboard was enroute to Kathmandu from Birgunj, while the other carrying 41 passengers was going to Gaur in Rautahat district from Kathmandu.

"Both buses are suspected to have fallen in the Trishuli River. Rescue teams that include divers have been mobilized to trace them," Bhesh Raj Rijal, spokesperson for the district police, told Xinhua. — Xinhua



The global death toll from COVID-19 has surpassed seven million reported deaths, with significant impacts on economies and healthcare systems worldwide. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ SHUTTERSTOCK

SPORTS

Myanmar's Tun Min Aung wins ONE Friday Fights 70

THE ONE Friday Fights 70 tournament organized by the ONE Championship ran on 12 July in Bangkok, Thailand, and Myanmar fighter Tun Min Aung won the bout.

Tun Min Aung fought against Vietnamese fighter Tuan Quoc Tran and won by technical knockout in the third round. The young Myanmar fighter had his best fight since the start of the

bout. The result of this match was crucial as he was defeated in his first bout after working with ONE Championship. Although there was no difference in fighting ability between the two, Tun Min Aung's elbow shot at one minute and one second of the third stanza made the Vietnamese fighter unable to continue the fight, and Tun Min Aung won.

For Tun Min Aung's victory by knockout, he received an additional bonus of 350,000 Thai baht from ONE Championship organization CEO Chattri Sit-yodtong.

Tun Min Aung is also the brother of Myanmar Lethwei star Tun Tun Min and ONE Friday Fights Myanmar fighter Tun Min Naing (aka) Sulaiman. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Tun Min Aung delivers a knee kick to the Vietnamese fighter.



This photo showcases the home and away jerseys of the FCT Futsal Team to be worn in the MFF Futsal Championship 2024.

36 teams represent MFF Futsal Championship 2024

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal Championship 2024 will run with 36 teams, as stated by the football federation. The tournament will kick-start at the MFF futsal turf in Yangon.

A total of 36 teams including 10 teams from MFF Futsal League I, 12 teams from MFF Futsal League II, six teams from Mandalay Futsal League, and eight quarterfinalists from Max Energy Amateur Cup 2024 will compete in the tourney. The team that wins the championship will book a ticket to the ASEAN Futsal Club Championship.

Home and away jerseys of the FCT Futsal Team to be worn in the MFF Futsal Championship 2024 are mainly sponsored by Super Seven Star Co Ltd, KIA Myanmar. As a silver sponsor, Futsal Lover's Sports Floor sponsored a training ground.

The futsal committee will announce the exact date of the MFF Futsal Championship 2024. — TWA/KZL

Spanish attacker Dani Olmo 'not afraid' of Jude Bellingham ahead of EURO 2024 final

AHEAD of the final match of the EURO 2024, Spanish attacker Dani Olmo said that he is not afraid of the presence of England midfielder Jude Bellingham.

Spain will take on England in the final match of the EURO 2024 at the Olympiastadion Berlin on Sunday.

In an interview to El Larguero, Olmo showered praise on Bellingham and said that he is the 'reference point' of English foot-

ball. The Spanish attacker added that he is a 'player to be taken into account' in the final of the prestigious tournament.

"I'm not afraid. Bellingham is a reference point there, football is played through his boots. He is always in the thick of things. He is a player to be taken into account, but I don't fear a n y - one," Olmo was quot - ed by Goal.com as ANI saying. — ANI



Olmo praised Bellingham as the 'reference point' of English football, acknowledging his influential role on the pitch.

PHOTO: ANI

Myanmar, Indian women end at 1-1 draw

THE second warm-up match between the national teams of Myanmar and Indian women took place at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna in Yangon yesterday afternoon. The match ended at a 1-1 draw through the goals scored by both teams in the second half.

Although these were warm-up matches, Uki Tetsuro, Head Coach of the Myanmar women's team deployed the first line-up of players from the first match without using youth players and new generation ones.

The Head Coach of the Myanmar women's team lined up ten players from the first warm-up match including captain Khin Marlar Tun, M y o Mya Mya Nyein (goalkeeper), May Thet Mon Myint, Yu Yu Naing, Zun Yuya Oo, Yupa Khaing,

Phyu Phyu Win, Naw Htet Htet Wai, Yin Lun Eain, San Thaw Thaw and Win Theingi Tun.

Both teams could not translate their chances into goals. In the 47th minute, the Indian team scored an opening goal. But, two minutes later, striker Win Thein Tun equalized the score for Myanmar. In the remaining minutes, as both t e a m s

could not change the result with more goals, the warm-up match ended with a 1-1 draw. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA



Myanmar striker San Thaw Thaw (white) vying for the ball to pass the defender of the Indian team. PHOTO: MFF

PM Modi, BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers discuss ways to strengthen regional cooperation

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WORLD

UN projects world population to peak within this century



Crowds of tourists on Thailand's Maya Bay beach on 9 April 2018. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ LILLIAN SUWANRUMPHA/AFP**

ACCORDING to the World Population Prospects 2024: Summary of Results published on 11 July, it is expected that the world's population will peak in the mid-2080s, growing over the next sixty years from 8.2 billion people in 2024 to around 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s, and then will return to around 10.2 billion

The world's population is expected to peak in the mid-2080s at around 10.3 billion, decreasing to approximately 10.2 billion by the end of the century, which is 6 per cent lower than previously estimated.

by the end of the century.

The size of the world's population in 2100 is now expected to be six per cent lower — or 700 million fewer — than an-

anticipated a decade ago.

"The demographic landscape has evolved greatly in recent years," said Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General

for Economic and Social Affairs. "In some countries, the birth rate is now even lower than previously anticipated, and we are also seeing slightly faster declines in some high-fertility regions. The earlier and lower peak is a hopeful sign.

This could mean reduced environmental pressures from human impacts due to lower aggregate consumption. However, slower population growth will not eliminate the need to reduce the average impact attributable to the activities of each individual person."

In 2024, global population trends show significant shifts with declining fertility

rates, notably in major countries like China.

Since 1990, average global fertility has dropped by nearly one child per woman. Over half of countries now have fertility rates below replacement level, with China, Italy, Korea, and Spain experiencing ultra-low rates under 1.4 births per woman. Populations have peaked in 63 countries including China, Germany, Japan, and Russia, with projections of a 14 per cent decline over the next three decades. Another 48 countries like Brazil, Iran, Türkiye, and Vietnam are expected to reach peak population between 2025 and 2054. — UN.ORG

Biden mistakenly refers to Ukraine's Zelensky as Putin during introduction at NATO event



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, right, reacts after being introduced as Russia's President Vladimir Putin by Joe Biden during a Ukraine Compact event at the NATO.

PHOTO: AFP

PRESIDENT Joe Biden mistakenly referred to Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky as Russian President Vladimir Putin during a NATO event in Washington.

"And now I want to hand it over to the President of Ukraine who has as much courage as he has determination. Ladies and gentlemen, President Putin," Biden said when introducing Zelensky to the podium on stage.

Biden immediately corrected himself, saying that he was so focused on beating Putin.

The NATO leaders standing behind Biden appeared confused by Biden's mistake as most of them withheld their applause. A White House press pool reporter in the room said the audience "gasped" at Biden's mistake.

This mishap occurred as Biden faces major backlash in his reelection campaign over concerns about his cognitive state and ability to serve another four years in the White House. Biden, 81, is the oldest US president in history and would be 86 at the end of a potential second term.

A growing number of Democratic lawmakers are calling on Biden to drop out of the presidential race. — SPUTNIK

"EXERCISE JOINT SEA-2024"

China, Russia hold joint exercise

CHINESE and Russian armed forces started a joint exercise in the waters and airspace near Zhanjiang city in south China in early July, said a spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defence on Friday.

"Exercise Joint Sea-2024" is conducted according to China-Russia annual military engagement plan and bilateral agreement, and scheduled to last until around mid-July, said Zhang Xiaogang, the spokesperson, at a press conference. It aims to demonstrate the resolve and capabilities of the militaries in jointly addressing maritime security threats and preserving global and regional peace and stability, he said.

It will further deepen China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era, Zhang said — Xinhua