

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Honey for medicinal purposes from the Honey-based product factory under the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

## State-owned factory in Yangon Region produces 20 high-quality honey varieties

Twenty tonnes of Noni honey is annually exported to South Korea.



A state-owned honey-based product factory in the Yangon Region produces a total of 20 different types of high-quality honey-based products, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department. Each year, 20 tonnes of noni honey are exported to South Korea.

The factory, in operation since 1986, adheres to international criteria, man-

ufacturing a variety of honey-based products. These have been available in both domestic and international markets since the 2006-2007 financial year. The production strictly employs purified honey without any chemical agents and is supervised by traditional medical practitioners. U Aung Myint Oo, the factory's in-charge, highlighted its medicinal use, stating, "Most of them can be used for medicinal purposes."

"We manufacture 13 kinds of honey for medicinal purposes. Among them, noni honey has been exported to South Korea approximately 20 tonnes every year from 2006-2007 FY to 2022-2023 FY. Other types of honey have also expanded the market. There are plans to produce ten more honey-based instant juices" he added.

The thirteen types of honey for medicinal purposes produced by the state-

owned factory include garlic honey, ginger honey, bitter turmeric honey, Tinospora honey, Centella honey, liquorice honey, asparagus honey, lingzhi honey, propolis honey, ginseng honey, noni honey, grapefruit honey, and honey for the treatment of coronary thrombosis.

Furthermore, the domestic market receives honey-based tablets of alternative medicines, ointments, bee pollen cakes, and purified honey. — ASH/TMT

### NATIONAL

PAGE-5



K945.58M allocated for pre-monsoon season repairs on 19,540 houses

### BUSINESS

PAGE-7



Myanmar earns US\$278M from exports in Dec last week

## Sanyitwine: Myanmar's cultural pride and beauty

### Celebrating Myanmar's rich cultural heritage: traditions, arts, and identity

Myanmar people are renowned for appreciating traditional identities and valuing tangible and intangible aspects. The country's cultural heritage

is deeply ingrained in traditional arts like singing, dancing, composing, and playing music.

**SEE PAGE-2**

# NATIONAL

## National Objectives of 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2024

- To protect the perpetuity of the Union by the entire ethnic people through the Union spirit
- To join hands in harmony with the government, Tatmadaw, and the entire people to ensure the state stability and rules of law
- To promote all-inclusive livestock breeding-based manufacturing industries and MSMEs, ensuring the socioeconomic development of the entire ethnic people
- To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food security which are the two national visions
- To strive to emerge a modern and developing country, as well as a Union based on democratic and federal systems, by all ethnic nationals

## Mottos of 77<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2024

1. Unity is strength,  
Power of Union
2. Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float  
Ethnic brethren of the land joining hand in hand
3. Marching towards with unity  
Ensuring the destination of the Union
4. Let's firmly join hands among ethnic national brethren  
of the Union
5. Let's go forward with unity of the ethnic nationals

## Yangon Mayor inspects Livestock Special Zone Project in Twantay

CHAIRMAN of the Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Bo Htay visited the Livestock Special Zone Project near Talokhtaw village, Twantay township, at 8 am yesterday morning.

He inspected the numbers and situation of the animals in the three zones of the special project and ordered an increase in the numbers of animals, ensuring sufficient food for them.

Subsequently, the mayor and his team checked 71 dairy cows by MDP Co. in Zone 2, 500 layers and 186 goats from Twantay breeding field in Zone 1, and the fields of Napier grass and corn, along with 1,000 ducks by Golden Duck Company Limited.

Following these inspections, the mayor and the team met with officials from the district and township level departments and livestock entrepreneurs in Twantay breeding special zone. They discussed the current operation and plans for further expansion according to individual entrepreneurs.

In the afternoon, the mayor inspected the accumulation of roadside expansion with the silt produced from the re-excavating of a 3,000-foot length, 18 feet wide, and 8 feet depth water drain with a 21-tonne Amphibious Excavator on the southern side of Yangon-Pathein Road between Twantay Road and Taunggya Creek by the Engineering Department (Drainage Management) in Hlinethaya Township (West). The mayor also ordered improvements to the drainage system for cleanliness.

Furthermore, it is reported that the mayor and his team also observed a 62 feet length by 22 feet wide concrete bridge connecting with Yangon-Pathein Road at the top of Aung Mingala Street in No 6 quarter, Hlinethaya Township (East). — MNA/TRKM



## Sanyitwine: Myanmar's cultural pride ...

### FROM PAGE-1

Many individuals continue to practice traditional crafts such as lacquer-making and loom-weaving. Traditional activities like boat racing, martial arts like Lethwei, and cane-ball matches enjoy significant popularity among the youth.

Myanmar men and women take pride in wearing traditional attire and hairstyles, symbolizing cultural significance. They exhibit refined etiquette

through their manners and body language, reflecting their cultural heritage and societal values.

Among Myanmar's cultural identities, the Sanyitwine hairstyle, featuring a top knot with a circular fringe, holds particular significance. This unique haircut is cherished not only by locals but also by foreign travellers. It remains prevalent in villages like Set-Set-Yo in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, and Yepotegy in

Pwintbyu Township, Minbu District, Magway Region.

The enduring presence of ancient cultural values in modern times is commendable. These distinctive beauties, unique to Myanmar, have great potential to be proudly showcased on a global platform. The responsibility of preserving this rich legacy now falls on the shoulders of the younger generation. — Zaya Htet (Minbu)/NT





# NATIONAL



Pilgrims at the Shwedagon Pagoda are observed.

## Over 10.5 mln pilgrims visit Shwedagon Pagoda in 2023

ACCORDING to information provided by U Bo Thin, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda, more than 10.5 million domestic and international travellers visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in 2023.

The majority of the 80,380 foreign travellers visited the pagoda in March, November, and December, with the highest numbers coming from Thailand, the People's Republic of China, Laos, and Viet Nam, respectively.

U Bo Thin stated, "Normally, around 20,000 people visit the Shwedagon Pagoda daily on weekdays, and during weekends, the number surges to between 40,000 and 50,000 per day. Regarding foreign visitors, the monthly counts were 5,309 in January, 6,162 in February, 9,414 in March, 5,395 in April, 6,315 in May, 5,850 in June, 6,681 in July, 6,442 in August, 6,115 in September, 7,080 in October, 8,218 in November, and 7,399 in December, respectively".

Due to an increasing number of pilgrims, the Shwedagon Pagoda is now open daily from 5 am to 9 pm. — ASH/ TMT

## Myanmar film 'Hmaungtike' wins top prize at Lancang-Mekong International Film Week

ACCORDING to the director Cho Wut Yee, the Myanmar movie "Hmaungtike" was awarded the Outstanding Film award during the 5<sup>th</sup> Lancang-Mekong International Film Week held in Yunnan.

It was one of the two Myanmar movies shown in the Lancang-Mekong Film Festival held on 10 August 2023.

"I was happy as the

movie I directed was chosen as the outstanding film, and I feel grateful to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization that chose my movie to participate in the Lancang-Mekong film festival," said director Cho Wut Yee.

The "Hmaungtike" is a psycho-thriller movie, and the actors and actresses are Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Paing Takun, Ei Chaw Po and other artists. It was shown in the cinemas in May 2022.

The mentioned movie was listed as one of thirteen international movies and got a chance to show at the Hanoi International Film Festival (HANIFF) in November 2022. Moreover, it was chosen to be shown at the 31<sup>st</sup> "IFF Love Is Folly" international movie festival in August 2023 in Bulgaria. — ASH/TRKM



## Yangon City takes steps to conserve groundwater amid growing demand

THE Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of the Yangon City Development Committee is educating citizens in specific Yangon's townships to reduce groundwater usage due to its increasing consumption, leading to a decline in quality.

Daw Ei Khine Mon, Assistant Director of the department, stated, "With the growing populations in the new townships, there's a corresponding surge in water consumption. This has resulted in a decline in the groundwater table and its quality. In certain areas, the groundwater has deteriorated to the extent that it's unfit for human consumption".

She added that the department has been collecting freshwater in wells as part of a pilot project to replenish the groundwater.

Currently, the department supplies water to 33 townships in the Yangon municipal area through the surface water system sourced from reservoirs at Gyobu, Phugyi, Hlawga, and Ngamoeyeik. The collective daily consumption has exceeded 200 million gallons.



Yangon residents sinking the groundwater well.

In March 2021, the department initiated the Hlaing River-Hlawga water supply project to reduce reliance on groundwater during the summer.

Additional initiatives include building emergency

water reservoirs, distributing water through containers, gathering freshwater in wells to recharge groundwater, and providing education on collecting rainwater for future use. — ASH/NT

# NATIONAL

## MDY Property Agent Association holds its 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting

THE 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Mandalay Region Real Property Agent Development Association took place on 6 January at the Oriental House Restaurant in Mandalay. The event was attended by Chairman U Win Htay of the Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Patron U Tin Maung of the Mandalay Region Real Property Agent Development Association, Chairperson Daw Tin Tin Aye, and vice-chairs U Than Shwe and U Khin Maung Lwin, the secretary and members.

Initially, MRCCI Chair U Win Htay delivered a congratulatory speech, followed by Vice-Chair U Khin Maung Lwin of the Mandalay Region Real Property Agent Development Association giving the opening speech. The association's secretary outlined the missions and visions of the association. Representatives from Yadanabon Service Company and



Attendees pose for a documentary photo after attending the annual meeting of the Mandalay Region Real Property Agent Development Association of Mandalay Region on 6 January 2024. PHOTO: MAUNG AYE CHAN

Steel Stone Group of Companies, who support the association, also delivered introductory speeches.

The association's treasurer presented the annual financial statements, which the meeting attendees confirmed. Subsequently, certificates of honour were awarded to the donors. Towards the end, the Mandalay Region Real Property Agent Development Association chairperson delivered the concluding speech, and they had commemorative photographs taken together. The event ended with a joyful celebration of the lucky draw programme.

Since 2014, the association has been systematically organized by the central executive members to nurture competent real estate agents who adhere to the rules and regulations of the real estate industry through courses offered by the association. — Maung Aye Chan/TRKM

### Counter-argument to false information

## Fake news alert: Khit Thit Media alleged Tatmadaw by fabricated news

KHIT Thit Media fabricated fake news circulating via social medias claiming that Tatmadaw attacked a church by bombardment using airplane resulting eleven civilian casualties in which two kids included at Kanang smart village in Khampat town, Sagaing region.

Regarding the news, according to an official from the relevant area, it was learned that there was no fight and it was reported that the bomb dropped by the army was misinformation.

Reports indicate that media outlets supporting terrorists and spreading malicious news are fabricating and circulating false information. — MNA/TKO



A screen-shot of misinformation.

## Narcotic drugs seized in Tatkon, Dawpon townships


A combined team comprising anti-drug police force searched a motorcycle driven by Naing Htet Oo near Thechaung village of Tatkon Township, at 12.15 pm on 5 January and seized 3,900 stimulant tablets.

At 1:00 pm on that day, 2,600 stimulant tablets were seized from Aung Kyaw Moe (aka) Tet Kha, at the corner of Min Nanda and Setyon roads in Bamar Aye Ward of Dawpon Township.



Action was taken against those offenders under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KZW



Naing Htet Oo seen with seized stimulant tablets.



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# NATIONAL

## K945.58M allocated for pre-monsoon season repairs on 19,540 houses

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, a budget of K945.58 million will be allocated to repair 19,540 houses across nine regions and states before the onset of the rainy season.

Due to the prevalence of strong winds during the

pre-monsoon months of March, April, and May, resulting in roof damages and collapses, the government aims to undertake repairs, as stated by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Dr Soe Win during the project launch ceremony on 5 January.

From the 2016-2017 financial year to the 2022-2023 financial year, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement has already spent over K1.7 billion to repair more than 55,000 houses in 12 regions and states. — TWA/TKO



A house was damaged by strong wind on 21 April 2023 at Thamonkon village located in Natmawk township, Magway region.



Prevention measures against dengue fever in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. Health workers engaged in fieldwork in 2019, focusing on disease prevention and vaccination efforts.

## MoH reports dengue fever, malaria cases, emphasizes prevention efforts

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health, there were 16,130 cases of dengue fever reported in 2023 across five regions and states, including Yangon, Mon, Rakhine, Ayeyawady, and Nay Pyi Taw. Public participation in the prevention and control of dengue fever is crucial, and adherence to prescribed prevention activities is essential.

Historically, dengue fever cases were common among individuals under the age of 15. However, over the last decade, there has been a notable increase in cases among those over the age of 15. In 2020, there were 15,131

cases with 68 deaths. In 2021, reported cases dropped to 5,446, resulting in 36 deaths. In 2022, there was a significant increase with 24,971 cases and 97 deaths. The average annual death rate during this period was 0.4 per cent.

Similarly, there were a total of 158,004 malaria cases in 2022, and 137,216 cases from January to October 2023. As part of the anti-malaria plan, the Ministry of Health aims to have no Plasmodium falciparum infections by 2026, and by 2030, it is working towards the complete elimination of malaria. — TWA/KZW

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 7 January 2024)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and North Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 8 January 2024:** Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and Mandalay regions and Northern Shan and Chin states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Kachin, Shan and Chin states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 January 2024:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 January 2024:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 January 2024:** Generally fair weather.

## 2023 Myanmar Film Academy Award Ceremony set for 3 Feb in Nay Pyi Taw



Choosing receptionists for the 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards Ceremony takes place in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE 2023 Myanmar Academy Award Ceremony will take place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 (MICC-1), accommodating approximately 1,400 people, as announced by the Union Minister for Information during the coordination meeting of the Steering Committee on the 2023 Myanmar

Film Academy Award Ceremony at the Ministry of Information's assembly hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 January.

Multiple tasks have collaborated to ensure the ceremony's success, with the state sponsoring the required gold-for-gold statue brooches to be presented to Academy Award-winning artistes.

To determine the award recipients, 35 films underwent screening in the first stage, followed by 12 films in the second stage on 3 January, assessed by the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) judges. — TWA/TKO

# NATIONAL

## Planning Dept announces 50 job openings for deputy staff officers, LD clerks

THE Planning Department has announced 50 job vacancies, comprising 45 deputy staff officer positions and five lower division clerk positions, in a notice released on 6 January.

Eligible candidates for deputy staff officer roles must possess a degree in a business-related field, with a preference for male applicants. The five lower division clerk positions require applicants to hold a degree. The age limit for applicants is 30 years by 15 February, except for civil servants, who can apply up to the age of 35.

Completed application forms should be submitted to the main office or respective



The Planning Department of Ministry of Planning and Finance holds a meeting with its regional counterparts on 11 December 2023.

state and regional planning departments by 15 February. The department will release the list of eligible candidates for the written test, along with the

test date, venue, and language proficiency requirements, on its website and at state and regional planning department offices. — TWA/NT

## Ayeyarwady Bank offers loans to SMEs up to one billion kyats

THE Ayeyarwady Bank will provide AYA SME loans to SME entrepreneurs up to K 1 billion to improve local SME businesses, according to a statement released by the bank on 7 January.

AYA Bank said in a statement that it provides financial support for the development of the industrial sector, including small and medium enterprises while encouraging them to boost their productivity.

The bank provides four types of loans, and among them, demand loans are meant to increase productivity and profit, while overdraft loans are aimed at meeting short-term cash needs between creditors and debtors. Loans for investment and loans for SMEs with regular monthly income and shop owners will also be provided.

The bank has informed that the loan applicants must be SMEs having business licenses with more than two years of working experience, and the bank requires the

**လုပ်ငန်းတိုးမြှင့်အတွက်**  
အားပေးပါမည့် **AYA SME**

**SME ချေးငွေ**  
အလုပ်အကိုင်အတွက် ချေးငွေရရှိရန် အထောက်အကူပြုရန်

**SME ဆင့်ကဲ ချေးငွေ**  
အလုပ်အကိုင်အတွက် ချေးငွေရရှိရန် အထောက်အကူပြုရန်

**SME အရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံချေးငွေ**  
အလုပ်အကိုင်အတွက် ချေးငွေရရှိရန် အထောက်အကူပြုရန်

**AYA SME LOAN**  
အလုပ်အကိုင်အတွက် ချေးငွေရရှိရန် အထောက်အကူပြုရန်

**AYA Bank**  
အလုပ်အကိုင်အတွက် ချေးငွေရရှိရန် အထောက်အကူပြုရန်

SMEs to provide lands, buildings, condos or apartments as collateral to be eligible for a loan amount between K10 million and K1 billion. The interest

rate of loans will be charged from 10 per cent to 14.5 per cent, and the businesses can apply for loans at nearby AYA Bank branches. — TWA/TH

## Confiscated illegal items: Timbers, industrial goods, consumer goods and vehicles

THE combined teams managed by the Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed 3.596 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K125,860) near the detour to in Kengtung on 5 January and they took actions for this.

Besides, the combined teams managed by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force investigated 80 packages of 100 per cent Polyester Woven Fabric without any legal documents and other three kinds of goods (estimated value of K11 million) and one Mitsubishi Fuso

of K189 million worth of illegal goods were seized in eight cases, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force Committee. The combined on-duty teams captured three vehicles (approximately worth K70 million), heading to Yangon from Kyaikkhami and to Yangon from Myawady, carrying nine kinds of goods valued at K33.95 million, including 360 bags of Nescafe and 80 sets of PSI digital satellite receiver without official documents, at the Nyaungkhashay X-ray station on 5 January. The action was taken under the Cus-



Confiscated illegal items and a vehicle in Mandalay Region.

(estimated value of K20 million) that carried the mentioned illegal goods from Myawady to Yangon at X-Ray tollgate with the law of the customs. And, they also nabbed 3.297 tonnes of illegal timbers, 3.882 tonnes of hardwood and 4.252 tonnes of other types of wood (estimated value of K3.7 million) under the laws of the forest in the area of Nyaunglebin district and Pyay district.

Furthermore, the combined teams managed by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected and 1,350 Thailand made soap boxes without official documents (estimated value of K42 million), one Nissan Diesel Truck, one Cheng Long Tractor Head and one following truck (estimated value of K112 million) that were driving to Mandalay and Yangon near the Myitnge bridge of the entrance of the Mandalay city and the action was conducted under customs procedures.

During the period on 5 and 6 January, totally estimated value

toms procedures.

On the same day, the joint team confiscated two vehicles (estimated value of K75 million), travelling to Mandalay from Mongla, carrying 82 kinds of goods worth K160.942 million, including 1,800 kilogrammes of car parts (spring leaf) and 150 sets of wireless speakers near the Myitnge bridge on the outskirts of Mandalay, a Toyota Hiace mini bus (estimated value of K17 million), travelling from Thaton to Yangon, carrying 60 jerrycans of One-Shrimp brand palm oil (weighing 18-litre jerrycan each) worth K3 million without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint and an unregistered KENBO CZI motorbike (approximately worth K400,000) in Sagaing township. The action was taken under the Customs procedures and the Export and Import Law.

Fourteen arrests were made on 5 January, with an estimated value of K360.292 million, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/TRKM/MKKS



ACCORDING to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce, exports generated over US\$278 million from 23 to 29 December. The exported items included various agricultural produce such as rice, corn, rubber, black gram, green gram, pigeon peas, rice beans, red beans, blue beans, peanuts, chilli, ginger, tamarind, turmeric, and onions, reaching destinations like China, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Yemen, India, Bangladesh, and Viet Nam.

import grant for black grams and pigeon peas to March 2025, leading to increased demand this year. In the Indian market, one tonne of black gram is

## Myanmar earns US\$278M from exports in Dec last week

priced at 86,000/88,000 Rupees, and pigeon peas range from 90,500 to 93,000 Rupees. In the domestic market, pigeon peas



Rice bags are seen being organized at the warehouse.

India, a major Myanmar buyer of beans and pulses, has extended the independent

are priced at K 3.3 millions per tonne, and black gram with fair average quality is priced at K 3



Export cargoes are loaded onto the container ship at Hteedan Port in Yangon.

million per tonne this season. Export potential depends on the domestic requirements and price ranges of buyer countries.

Therefore, stakeholders, including farmers, manufacturers, exporters, associations, and departmental personnel, are collaborating to expand external markets.

In the public sector, 4,139 kilogrammes of jade sold to China and 3,918 kilogrammes sold to Australia from Myanmar's Gems Emporium were transported to the destined countries via air route within the week.

The private sector also exported lead, zinc, copper, and minerals worth \$8 million to

China, Thailand, South Korea, Malaysia, and Viet Nam.

The Ministry of Commerce urges relevant stakeholders, farmers, and departmental personnel to enhance the productivity of agricultural and livestock products, qualified raw materials, natural mining products, and increased investments. — MNA/TMT

## Foreign demand surge elevates new long chilli prices



Bell peppers are sundried in Wundwin Township.

THE new long chilli prices are rising due to strong export demand at the Myawady border.

The price is exorbitantly high, up to K70,000 per viss at the border. Subsequently, transport hurdles at the Myawady border raised freight rates to K550 per viss.

The opening price of a red long chilli from the Salin area was K13,500 per viss in December 2023. The price jumped to K14,000-K15,000 per viss in domestic markets.

Maritime transport is cost-effective, yet it takes longer to deliver than other modes of transport (road and air). Meanwhile, rail transport is more affordable than road freight. Yet, it cannot reach

some areas without a rail network. Air freight incurs higher costs compared to ship freight yet has limited capacity. Chilli fetches in the western border areas. Despite the high cost of air cargo, it reaps a significant profit, citing the domestic chilli market news.

The prices at those borders are K50,000 per viss higher than those in Yangon's market, with a gross profit of K30,000 per viss.

The prices of new ordinary Mohtaung chilli and those processed in cold storage facilities are the same at K11,000 per viss, Ko Hla Han, a chilli depot owner from Seinpan Street in Bayintnaung Depot, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). — TWA/KK

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# OPINION

## Keep promise for lending and borrowing loans

The Union government demonstrated its commitment to economic advancement by approving the transfer of K100 billion from the COVID-19 special loan fund to the State economic promotion fund in November 2023. This decision aligns with the fund's objective of bolstering the economic sectors of both State-owned and private enterprises nationwide.

Simultaneously, on 26 October 2023, the State economic promotion fund allocated K100 billion to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation as capital for implementing the oil crop cultivation project, focusing on groundnut, sesame, and sunflower crops.

This contribution augmented the State economic promotion fund, raising its total to K552 billion from the initial K452 billion. Officials must systematically disburse loans and collect debts to preserve the fund's capital. The capital funds issued by the State economic promotion fund should be efficiently utilized to contribute to enhancing the State economy.

Creditors and debtors are benefiting each other. Both of them should not be ungrateful. If not, their relations will be ruined, and their interests will deteriorate in various means. As a noble truth, borrowers must pay back their debts to the creditors without fail. Creditors must consider various reasons for debtors with empathy and compassion for cementing their relations. If so, both sides will have a booming economy.

Acknowledging the potential impact of unavoidable natural disasters, such as cyclonic storm Mocha, officials need to consider the losses incurred by individuals and organizations that borrowed from the fund. In cases of significant impact, officials should contemplate exemptions for those affected, balancing the fund's financial integrity with compassion.

The State economic promotion fund, established with substantial contributions from the government's capital fund and cash donations from well-wishers, emphasizes the responsible allocation of funds. To achieve success and development, stakeholders must ensure that allotted funds and loans are directed efficiently towards relevant sectors, preventing any loss or misuse.

Furthermore, borrowers are urged to repay loans to the fund promptly, with the only acceptable reasons for

the delay being the distinct impacts of natural disasters or armed conflicts. The fund's sustainability relies on the collective ability of borrowers and organizations to uphold their promises, ensuring the fund remains intact and operational in the long term. Loyalty and commitment are essential factors in stimulating economic growth.

The judicious management of loans and funds is pivotal for the success of the State economic promotion funds. The fund can play a vital role in fostering a resilient and thriving State economy through adherence to promises, efficient resource allocation, and a compassionate approach to unavoidable adversities.

Creditors and debtors are benefiting each other. Both of them should not be ungrateful. If not, their relations will be ruined, and their interests will deteriorate in various means. As a noble truth, borrowers must pay back their debts to the creditors without fail. Creditors must consider various reasons for debtors with empathy and compassion for cementing their relations. If so, both sides will have a booming economy.

# Congratulation on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar)

By Dr Than Lwin Tun, Ministry of Health

*The CSA-UM plays a critical role in shaping the capabilities, professionalism, and effectiveness of the public administration sector, which in turn directly impacts a country's overall development.*

The Civil Service Academy, Upper Myanmar (CSA-UM) was founded on 7 February 1999 and is now 25 years old. It is situated in Zeepingyi village, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region. It is located on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road and is about 24 miles far from Mandalay. The area occupied by the CSA-UM is 905.10 acres. There is the Yadanabon Cyber City in the East, Central Institute of Fire Bridge in the North and Northwest, the Police Officer Training Institute of Myanmar Police Force, Zeepingyi Village in the West and Paypin Village in the South and Southwest.

The CSA-UM plays a critical role in shaping the capabilities, professionalism, and effectiveness of the public administration sector, which in turn directly impacts a country's overall development. The following of CSA-UM could be significant from a national de-

velopment perspective:

- **Quality of Public Administration:** It provides training and education to aspiring civil servants. This ensures that government officials possess the necessary skills, knowledge, and ethical values to execute their duties effectively. A competent civil service enhances the quality of public administration, leading to more efficient and effective governance.
- **Policy Implementation:** Trained civil servants are better equipped to understand and implement government policies, programs, and projects. This ensures that development initiatives are executed in a systematic and organized manner, minimizing delays, corruption, and inefficiencies.
- **Capacity Building:** It focuses

on capacity building, enhancing the skills and competencies of civil servants at all levels. This includes leadership, decision-making, communication, problem-solving, and project management. A highly skilled civil service is essential for formulating and executing development strategies.

- **Institutional Strengthening:** It contributes to institutional strengthening within the government and establishes a formalized training structure that continuously improves the capabilities of civil servants, allowing government institutions to adapt to changing circumstances and challenges.
- **Meritocracy and Transparency:** It promotes meritocracy by selecting and training candidates based on their

qualifications and abilities. This enhances transparency and fairness within the civil service, leading to more accountable and responsible governance.

- **Knowledge Sharing and Networking:** It serves as a hub for knowledge sharing and networking among civil servants and facilitates the exchange of best practices, lessons learned and innovative ideas that can be applied to various development projects and initiatives.
- **Public Trust and Confidence:** The CSA-UM supports professional and well-trained civil service that builds public trust and confidence in government institutions. When citizens believe that civil servants are competent and committed to the public good, they are



Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar)

more likely to engage positively with development efforts and contribute to the nation's growth.

- **International Collaboration:** The CSA-UM regularly engages in international collaborations and partnerships, allowing for the exchange of experiences, methodologies, and best practices. This exposure to global governance trends can develop the academy's curriculum and contribute to adopting innovative approaches to national development.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Civil Service Academy in Upper Myanmar on reaching its remarkable 25th anniversary. This milestone is an authentication of the strong commitment, dedication, and hard work of all those who have contributed to the success and growth of the academy over the years. The CSA-UM plays a pivotal role in shaping the future leaders of our nation, and its 25 years of excellence are evidence of the high standards of education and training provided. The academy's commitment to fostering professionalism, ethical

leadership, and public service values is truly commendable.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, let us reflect on the academy's achievements, the countless lives it has positively influenced, and the lasting impact it continues to make on our society. The academy's dedication to producing competent and principled civil servants is important in building a strong and effective government. We extend our sincere appreciation to all the faculty, staff, and administrators who have played a crucial role in the academy's success. Your hard

work, passion, and commitment to excellence have absolutely contributed to shaping the future of our nation.

In addition, the CSA-UM serves as a cornerstone for building a capable, accountable, and effective civil service. Its impact extends beyond training individuals; it shapes the entire public administration landscape, influencing policy implementation, governance quality, and overall national development outcomes.

## Antibiotic resistance to Mycobacterium abscessus can be addressed using new technique: Study

*The rising prevalence of Mab infections highlights the urgent need for innovative treatments. The researchers have developed new spectinomycin formulations that overcome the primary resistance mechanism, efflux.*



Researchers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital are addressing the problem of antibiotic resistance in Mycobacterium abscessus (Mab). ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

The issue of antibiotic resistance in Mycobacterium abscessus (Mab) is being tackled by researchers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The increasing prevalence of this infection which is naturally resistant to antibiotics underscores the pressing need for innovative treatments.

To combat this, the researchers created novel spectinomycin formulations that circumvent

efflux, the primary mechanism causing resistance. Today's Proceedings of the National Academy of Science published the work.

### Compromised lung function

Mab infections are increasingly found in health care settings. Such infections can be hazardous for patients with compromised lung function, such as in cystic fibrosis, or who are immunologically compromised, such as in childhood cancer. These infections are treated with long courses of antibiotics and can result in poor outcomes. The emergence of Mab and other similar pathogens presents a growing and deeply concerning public health threat because there are few effective therapeutic options and a limited drug development pipeline.

"We chemists are in a race against the pathogens. We make stronger antibiotics, and the pathogens become more resistant," said corresponding author Richard Lee, PhD, St. Jude Department of Chemical Biology and Therapeutics.

Scientists at St. Jude modified the naturally occurring antibiotic spectinomycin to create analogs, comparable but structurally distinct N-ethylene linked aminomethyl spectinomycins (eAmSPCs). These synthetically created eAmSPCs are up to 64 times more potent against Mab than standard spectinomycin.

### Structure-based drug design

"By re-engineering the molecule through structure-based drug design, we and our collabor-

ators have adapted the antibiotic to increase its activity," Lee added.

Overcoming efflux to make a more effective antibiotic

Through their work, the scientists unravelled the mechanism of action by which eAmSPCs are more effective: they circumvent efflux. Efflux is the process that cells use to get rid of a drug — imagine pumping water out of a flooded basement — and is a significant mechanism by which cells become resistant to therapy.

The N-ethylene linkage structure of the eAmSPCs plays a critical role in how the compounds avoid efflux, suggesting that longer linkages modify how the compound is pumped out of the cell. This ultimately shifts the balance toward higher concentra-

tions of eAmSPC within the cell and thus enhances antimicrobial efficacy.

### Non-tuberculous mycobacteria

"Over the past two decades, we've seen a massive increase in the number of infections caused by non-tuberculous mycobacteria like Mab," said co-first author Gregory Phelps, PharmD, St. Jude Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. "We had a place to start with this naturally occurring antibiotic, which, through modification, we've made much more efficacious against this clinically relevant pathogen."

SOURCE: ANI



## SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

# ISRO begins New Year with another success, XPoSat precisely placed into intended orbit

*The PSLV-C58 vehicle precisely placed the satellite into its intended orbit at 650 km with a 6-degree inclination.*



ISRO successfully launched the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) to study X-ray emissions from celestial sources. **PHOTO: ANI**

MINUTES after the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) to study X-ray emission from various celestial sources was launched successfully, ISRO announced that the lift-off was normal.

Addressing the scientists after the successful launch of the mission, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chief S Somanath said the PSLV-C58 vehicle placed the satellite precisely into the intended orbit of 650 km, with a 6-degree inclination.

“From this point, the orbit of the PSLV will be reduced to a lower orbit, where the upper stage of the PSLV which is now described as POEM will carry out experiments with nine of the onboard payloads and that will take some time,” Somanath added.

He said the orbit is “excellent” and the distance from the targetted orbit is just 3 kms in circular orbit of 650 kms. Inclination is 0.01 degree, which is one of the excellent conditions.

He also apprised that the solar panel of the launched satellite has been deployed successfully.

The satellite that was launched from Sriharikota spaceport on Monday at 9.10 am, as scheduled, among others, would offer insights into space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from various celestial sources.

The objective of the mission is to measure polarisation of X-rays in the energy band 8-30keV emanating from about 50 potential cosmic sources through Thomson Scattering by POLIX payload. — ANI

## Vitamins discovered in rivers offer hope for salmon with thiamine deficiency disease



The findings, published in the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology, suggest a novel aspect of the physiological puzzle surrounding Chinook salmon in California's Central Valley. Spring Chinook Salmon. **PHOTO: MICHAEL HUMLING/ U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE**

RESEARCHERS at Oregon State University identified vitamin B1 generated by bacteria in rivers, which may provide hope to vitamin-deficient salmon populations.

The results were reported in the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology.

The study in California's Central Valley, according to the authors, is a fresh component of an important physiological puzzle involving Chinook salmon, a keystone species with major cul-

tural, ecological, and economic significance in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

Christopher Suffridge, senior research associate in the Department of Microbiology in the OSU College of Science, and PhD student Kelly Shannon investigated thiamine concentrations and microbial populations in Sacramento River basin waterways. Thiamine, often known as vitamin B1, is a chemical that is essential for cellular activity in all living creatures. — ANI

## Research shows new knowledge about ice sheet movement can shed light on sea level rise

*The Greenland ice sheet, constituting nearly half of the northern hemisphere's fresh water, is experiencing melting due to rising Earth temperatures, contributing to global sea level rise.*

THE Greenland ice sheet is enormous, making up nearly half of all fresh water in the northern hemisphere. But rising temperatures on Earth are causing it to melt — and the world's oceans to rise. As such, the ice sheet's movements are closely monitored.

Using extensive satellite measurements, researchers from the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) and the University of Copenhagen's Niels Bohr Institute have conducted a study that shows how movements of the ice sheet appear to be closely linked with meltwater flow beneath the ice.

Using artificial intelligence, the researchers analysed ice movements that they can now divide into four categories based on move-



Researchers from the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) and the University of Copenhagen's Niels Bohr Institute have utilized satellite measurements to reveal a close connection between the ice sheet's movements and the flow of meltwater beneath it. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

ment patterns. According to the researchers behind the study, this information has been missing from our understanding of why the velocity of ice at the same site

can change over time, which is an important piece of knowledge for making more precise climate models for, among other things, sea level rise. — ANI

## Roadside concerts become a hit in SW China's Guizhou

*Guiyang's roadside concerts offer a unique musical experience with no superstars or ticket requirements, allowing everyone to participate on stage.*



Despite the cold weather, these concerts attract numerous tourists and residents, creating a lively atmosphere in bustling streets and tourist attractions in the capital city of Guizhou Province. **PHOTO: YOUTUBE**

NO superstars. No tickets. Everyone can sing on the stage. Different from regular concerts, roadside concerts in Guiyang, capital city of

southwest China's Guizhou Province, allow people to immerse themselves in music.

Despite the cold weather, the roadside concerts in Guiyang still attract a lot of tourists and residents to watch performances on bustling streets and in tourist attractions.

Roadside concerts in the city date back to 1937, when some musical organizations taught the masses to sing anti-Japanese songs that helped arouse their fighting will during the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

This hit came from a roadside performance.

On the eve of a big concert, some music enthusiasts from across the province gathered in advance and sang songs in an underground passageway of the city's Guanshanhu District.

Without tickets or fences, young people held hands together, singing and dancing. Videos showing their relaxing and cheerful performances quickly went viral after being posted on social media.

"We were amusing ourselves and didn't expect to become the highlight of the summer," said Yang Zhi, initiator of the show and lead singer of the local band "Zhe Er Gen".

"Guiyang has a good vibe for music, and many bands enjoy street performances. This is a tradition that has been passed on for many years," Yang added. — Xinhua

## Record crowd in new women's North American hockey league

*A world-record crowd of over 13,000 fans witnessed Minnesota's 3-0 victory over Montreal in the new North American women's ice hockey league, marking the largest-ever attendance for a professional women's ice hockey game globally.*

A world record crowd of more than 13,000 fans turned out on Saturday to watch Minnesota defeat Montreal in the new North American women's ice hockey league.



Minnesota's Grace Zumwinkle celebrates scoring against Montreal before a world record crowd on Saturday. **PHOTO: DAVID BERDING/AFP**

A total of 13,316 spectators — the largest ever attendance for a professional women's ice hockey game anywhere in the world — packed the Xcel Energy Centre in Saint Paul to watch Minnesota's 3-0 victory.

The attendance comfort-

ably eclipsed the previous record of 8,318, set on Tuesday when Ottawa hosted Montreal.

Saturday's attendance figures capped a successful first week for the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL), which launched on Monday. — AFP

## Excessive coal consumption leads to rise in respiratory diseases in Afghanistan's Bamyan



Locals and experts in central Bamyan province are expressing concerns about a surge in respiratory illnesses linked to the excessive handling, loading, and burning of coal. **PHOTO: ANI**

*Dr Faroghudin Amini, chairman of the provincial facility's Antani Department, notes an increase in patients with heart and respiratory issues, allergies, flu, sore throats, and other conditions.*

CONCERNS have been raised by certain locals and specialists in the central Bamyan province regarding the rise in respiratory illnesses brought on by the excessive handling, loading, and burning of coal, as reported by Pajhwok News.

The method of loading coal in residential areas is against environmental and urban rules, according to Qudratullah Raha, the founder of the Bamika Higher Education Institute in Bamyan.

This practice has potentially resulted in hazardous effects on the environment.

Speaking about the spike in patients, Dr Faroghudin Amini, the chairman of the provincial facility's Antani Department, mentioned that patients with heart issues, respiratory issues,

allergies, the flu, sore throats, and other conditions frequently visited the facility.

He thought that rising air pollution from burning coal and cars was the primary cause of the rise in respiratory issues.

According to Provincial EPD Head Muhammad Ibrahim Dadfar, one of the serious problems of this season is the rise in environmental pollution. He also stated that all citizens and businesses must abide by local and environmental rules.

He said that the majority of the coal loading and unloading facilities in the Qarghna Tou area had been relocated outside of residential areas in order to reduce environmental pollution, as reported by Pajhwok News. — ANI

## Addressing health, lifestyle variables might minimise the risk of young-onset dementia: Study

A wide range of risk factors for young-onset dementia have been found by researchers. The findings call into question the concept that genetics is the only cause of the disease, paving the way for novel preventative techniques.

The large-scale study identified 15 risk factors, which are similar to those for late-onset

dementia. For the first time, they indicate that it may be possible to reduce the risk of young-onset dementia by targeting health and lifestyle factors.

Relatively little research has been done on young-onset dementia, though globally there are around 370,000 new cases of young-onset dementia each year. — ANI



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Italy's inflation slows, business sentiment improves in 2023: ISTAT

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed optimism, stating that she believed Italy's economy would outgrow the European Union's in 2024, while ISTAT predicted a 0.7 per cent growth for the Italian economy this year.

ITALY'S economy appears to have ended 2023 on a mostly positive note, with inflation continuing to slow, and consumer and business confidence on the rise, the latest data of Italy's National Statistics Institute (ISTAT) showed.

ISTAT reported on Friday that provision calculations of prices in the country showed a 0.6 per cent increase compared to the same period a year earlier.

For the full year, prices were on average 5.7 per cent higher than in 2022. Energy prices had a smaller impact, climbing by an average of 5.1 per cent year-on-year.

In her year-end address on Thursday, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said she believed the

Italian economy would outgrow that of the European Union as a whole in 2024. ISTAT predicted the Italian economy would grow 0.7 per cent this year.

Italy's inflation rate stood at 5.9 per cent, 5.4 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively from July to September, but slowed down to 1.7 per cent, 0.8 per cent and then 0.6 per cent in the last three months of 2023 after the government's anti-inflation plans entered into force.

In the "anti-inflation quarter", consumer prices were reduced on a basket of basic necessities.

When plans for the "anti-inflation quarter" were launched in September 2023, the government said it retained the option to ex-



People walk past tourist information in various languages including Chinese near the Colosseum in Rome, Italy, on 26 March 2023. PHOTO: JIN MAMENGN/ XINHUA/FILE

tend the measures into 2024.

ISTAT's survey of consumer and business confidence also showed a positive note for the end

of the year, in what the institute called "a widespread improvement". Consumer confidence rose to 106.7 points from 103.6

points a month earlier, while business confidence climbed to 107.2 points in December from 103.5 points in November. — Xinhua

## Global maritime trade sails into geopolitical storm

Major shipping companies are rerouting trade away from the Red Sea and Suez Canal, which typically handles 12 per cent of global trade.



International maritime trade is facing challenges due to Huthi rebel attacks on ships in the Red Sea, leading to a reduction in ship availability and a surge in freight rates. PHOTO: AFP

INTERNATIONAL maritime trade has hit stormy waters as attacks by Yemen's Huthi rebels on ships in the Red Sea has reduced the availability of ships, causing freight rates to surge.

Most large international

shipping companies have decided to reroute trading to avoid the Red Sea and Suez Canal through which 12 per cent of world trade usually passes.

The Huthis say the strikes are in solidarity with Palestin-

ians in war-ravaged Gaza, which Israel has bombarded relentlessly for three months, in what it says is a campaign to destroy militant group Hamas.

Danish shipping giant Maersk said Friday that it would divert all vessels around Africa instead of using the Red Sea and Suez Canal for the "foreseeable future" after Yemeni rebels attacked its merchant ships.

Vessels are circumnavigating Africa via the Cape of Good Hope, which extends the journey between Asia and Europe by 10 to 20 days on average, according to Arthur Barillas, general manager of Ovrsea, a freight organizer. — AFP

## Oversupply casts a shadow on global petrochemicals in 2024

THE global petrochemicals industry faces headwinds in 2024 as economic uncertainty, weak operating rates, and oversupply continue to limit the prospects for a robust recovery.

According to S&P Global Commodity Insights, despite signs of demand stabilization, chemical makers are cautious about predicting the pace of recovery amid persistent challenges.

Weak economic growth and

oversupply in 2023 resulted in subdued demand for most petrochemicals, exacerbated by severe inventory destocking and weak overall demand.

While there are hopeful indications of demand stabilization, the trajectory of recovery remains uncertain.

Higher inflation, interest rates, and geopolitical tensions further contribute to the challenges and risks faced by chemical producers. — ANI



The global petrochemicals industry is encountering challenges in 2024, with economic uncertainty, low operating rates, and oversupply hindering a robust recovery. PHOTO: ANI



Visitors select books during the 10<sup>th</sup> China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair in east China's Shanghai, 17 November 2023. **PHOTO: XIN MENGCHEN/XINHUA**

CHINA'S retail sales of books totaled 91.2 billion yuan (about 12.84 billion

US dollars) in 2023, up 4.72 per cent year on year, according to an annual re-

port on the book market issued on Saturday.

The report said that

## Book retail sales in China up 4.72 % in 2023

*Liu Cixin emerged as the bestselling author for the year, according to a report issued by the Publishers Association of China and the Book and Periodicals Distribution Association of China.*

short-video platforms became the second-largest book sales channel, following e-commerce platforms, and bookstore sales continued a downward trend.

There were 180,000 new titles on the book market last year, a 7.3 per

cent increase from 2022, according to the report.

Many new comic books — for children and for adults — were published, covering topics such as science, psychology, history, life and traditional culture, the report said.

Liu Cixin became the bestselling author of 2023, it noted.

The report was issued under the guidance of the Publishers Association of China and the Book and Periodicals Distribution Association of China. — Xinhua

## French supermarket bars Pepsico products over 'unacceptable' price hikes

SUPERMARKET chain Carrefour has stopped selling Doritos, Pepsi and other Pepsico brands at its stores in France, Belgium, Italy and Spain amidst a dispute over price hikes, an industry source said Friday.

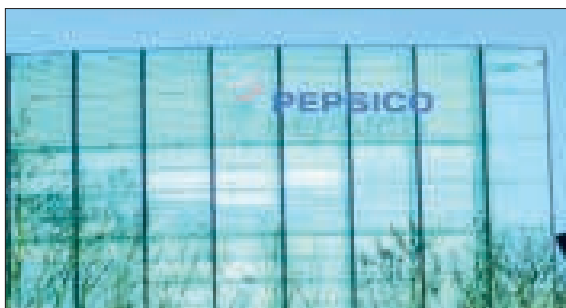
"We no longer sell this brand due to unacceptable price increases," say tags on shelves in Carrefour's French stores where the Pepsico products once stood.

The source said the move also affected stores in Belgium, Italy and Spain.

It means consumers will no longer be able to find the iconic products alongside Pepsico names such as Lay's potato chips, Lipton tea, Quaker Cereals and 7Up.

French retailers are locked in annual negotiations with big food industry firms on prices and other conditions regarding their sale in supermarkets.

"We've been in discussion with Carrefour for many months and we will continue to engage in good faith in order to try to ensure that our products are available," a Pepsico spokeswoman said, declining to comment further on the talks. — AFP



Carrefour, a supermarket chain, has halted the sale of Pepsico brands, including Doritos and Pepsi, in its stores across France, Belgium, Italy, and Spain due to a dispute over unacceptable price increases. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Airlines Scramble to Ground Boeing 737 MAX 9 After New Setback

JUST a week after Boeing urged airlines to inspect all 737 MAX airplanes for a possible loose bolt in the rudder control system, an Alaska Airlines jetliner heading from Portland to California had a part of its fuselage blown off shortly after takeoff. The flight made an emergency landing, with several passengers requiring medical attention.

Boeing appears to be headed for more reputational and revenue loss as airlines scramble to



An Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 MAX 9 plane sits at a gate at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on 6 January 2024 in Seattle, Washington. **PHOTO: STEPHEN BRASHEAR/AFP**

ground a version of the airplane maker's most

popular 737 MAX 9 jetliner.

After the US regulator, the Federal Aviation Administration, on Saturday temporarily grounded 171 Boeing 737 MAX 9 jetliners for safety checks in the wake of a recent incident involving a brand-new Alaska Airlines jet, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) also adopted the directive. The EASA noted, however, that none of the EU airlines "currently operate an aircraft in the affected configuration." — SPUTNIK

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (062N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (062N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-1-2024** 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 CNC JAWA VOY.NO. (0UVU3E1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CNC JAWA VOY.NO. (0UVU3E1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-1-2024** 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.

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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Thailand eyes 8 mln Chinese tourists in 2024 with visa waiver

*The visa exemption is expected to enhance travel connectivity, resulting in more flights, reduced airfares, and ultimately contributing to achieving the year-end target for Chinese visitors to Thailand.*



A Chinese tourist takes photos at the Grand Palace scenic spot in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 October 2023. **PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA**

THAILAND is targeting 8 million tourists from China this year, as the country will waive visa requirements for Chinese citizens starting 1 March, Thai government spokesperson Chai Wacharonke said on Friday.

The response to the visa waiver announcement on Tuesday was excellent, with an over 90 per cent spike in the number of searches for Thailand on a major Chinese travel platform, Chai said in a statement.

The visa exemption will increase the number of flights between the two nations, lowering airfares and helping boost Chinese visitors to meet the year-end target, he added.

Thailand had previously granted temporary visa waiver status for visitors from China, which was set to end on 29 February 2024.

The Southeast Asian country welcomed 28 million foreign tourist arrivals last year, including 4.56 million visitors from Malaysia and 3.51 million from China, the two largest source markets, according to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

Tourism plays a crucial role in the kingdom's economy, with 1.2 trillion baht (about 34.52 billion US dollars) in revenue generated from foreign visitors in 2023, the ministry data showed.

In pre-pandemic 2019, Chinese tourists accounted for about 28 per cent of the nearly 40 million foreign tourists to Thailand. Tourism accounts for about 12 per cent of the country's GDP. — Xinhua

## Iran, Russia planning to create joint investment committees

*Russian and Iranian national wealth funds are collaborating to form joint investment committees for various projects, including those related to oil, gas, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and high-tech sectors.*

RUSSIAN and Iranian national wealth funds are planning to establish joint investment committees for realization of different oil, gas, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, high-tech and other projects, the Iranian National Development Fund's Deputy Director of Foreign Investment, Hossein Eivazloo, has said.

"We decided ... to establish joint investment committees between the two national wealth funds of Russia and Iran and review projects under proposal ... Both Iran and the Russian side will invest 50 per cent each," Eivazloo said, as quoted by the IRNA news agency.

Tehran and Moscow have been cooperating on the issue for a long time and have held a number of meetings and exchanged agreements, the offi-



People visit the 24<sup>th</sup> International Oil, Gas, Refining & Petrochemical Exhibition in Tehran, Iran, on 1 May 2019. **PHOTO: AHMAD HALABISAZ/XINHUA/FILE**

cial said, adding that both countries approved models of cooperation and that Iran was waiting for the approval of the

Russian National Wealth Fund's board of trustees, according to the report. — SPUTNIK



A woman holds a banner about former US President Donald Trump's indictment in front of E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse, where Trump will be arraigned, in Washington, D.C., the United States, 1 August 2023. **PHOTO: AARON SCHWARTZ/XINHUA**

## Domestic terrorism, political violence seen as top threat to US interests in 2024: survey

THE possibility of domestic terrorism and acts of political violence in the United States, particularly around the 2024 presidential election, was ranked as the leading concern in terms of impact on US interests and likelihood of occurring or escalating in 2024, according to a newly-released yearly survey.

Description of the scenario goes as "Growing political polarization in the United States, particularly around the 2024 presidential election, leads to acts of domestic terrorism and political violence", according to the survey, which was conducted by the Center for Preventive Action under New York-based think tank the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

For the first time in its 16-year history, the Preventive Priorities Survey found that the leading concern for foreign policy experts is not a foreign threat to US interests, said a release by the CFR on Thursday.

The survey was conducted in November 2023 and was based on responses from around 550 US government officials, foreign policy experts, and academics, each of whom was asked to estimate the impact of 30 ongoing or potential violent conflicts on US interests and likelihood of occurring or escalating in 2024, respectively. — Xinhua

# SPORTS



The poster bears Myanmar-Thai special challenges in Myanmar traditional boxing event.

## Myanmar-Thai special challenges in Myanmar traditional boxing to mark 32<sup>nd</sup> Kayin New Year festival

A plan is underway to stage the three-day Myanmar-Thai special challenges in Myanmar traditional boxing event in Myinegyingu of Kayin State. According to the schedules, four fights of local boxers in addition to Min Kyaw Za (Myanmar) versus Phet Sun Mai (Thailand) and Zwe Rahman (Myanmar) versus Ngaung Piza (Thailand) will

be held on 9 January. On 10 January, Saw John (Myanmar) will face Sin Toe Tawng (Thailand), Super Yay Chan (Myanmar) will take on Phanimi (Thailand) and Thway Thit Maung (Myanmar) will fight Devat (Thailand) in addition to four fights of domestic boxers. On 11 January, Thet Win Aung (Myanmar) will meet

with Lutawaing (Thailand), El Mwei Myanmar will compete with Pesel (Thailand) and Aung Khaing (Myanmar) will take on Khawunaye (Thailand) in addition to five matches of domestic boxers. These challenges will be broadcast live by 360 Sports Facebook and YouTube channel, starting from the afternoon of 9 January. — Bala Soe/TTA

## MFF Futsal League-I tournament continues in Yangon

ORGANIZED by the Myanmar Football Federation, the week-7 matches of the Myanmar Futsal League-I continued at MFF Futsal Indoor Stadium in Thuwunna in Yangon yesterday. The defending champion VUC FC continued to win and stands at the top of the table. During the week-7 matches, Winner Soccer FC beat Futsal Lover FC by 10-2, while Generations FC won M2K FC by 3-1. MIU FC smashed Linlet FC by 2-1 and Futsal-19 FC crushed Dream Team by 6-3. The defending champion VUC FC cel-

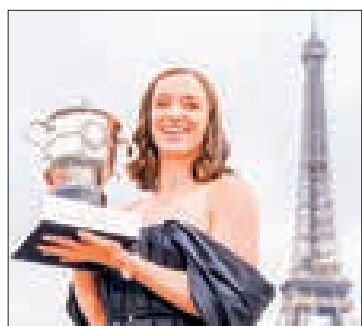
ebrated an 8-2 victory against Letwethondra FC. After the week-7, VUC FC continued to lead the table with 21 points, which was followed by Generations team with 19 points, MIU team with 16 points, Winner Soccer team with 11 points, Futsal-19 with 10 points, Futsal Lover team with nine points, Linlet team with six points, M2K team with four points, and Dream Team and Letwethondra team with three points each. The matches of week-8 will continue on 11 January. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Linlet FC players try to defend the scoring of the MIU team during the week-7 match at MFF Futsal Stadium in Thuwunna, Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MFF

## Iga Swiatek wins Polish Sportsperson of the Year award

TENNIS world No 1 Iga Swiatek won the award of Poland's Sportsperson of the Year for 2023 on Saturday evening. The Sportsperson of the Year is considered to be one of the most prestigious sport prizes in Poland. Swiatek's victory was widely expected as the 22-year-old won six titles in 2023. The Pole defended her crown at Roland Garros and she also took the highest podium in Warsaw (WTA 250), Stuttgart and Doha (WTA 500) and WTA 1000 China Open in Beijing. Then she ended her season in a perfect way by winning the WTA Finals in Cancun, Mexico.



Poland's Iga Swiatek poses with the Suzanne Lenglen Cup after winning the women's singles final against the Czech Republic's Karolina Muchova at the French Open, 11 June 2023. PHOTO: JULIEN MATTIA/XINHUA

"I regret that I cannot be at the gala, but as you know, I'm at the United Cup tournament. Every vote means a lot to me. It showed me how much support I have from my fans. That reward

gives me additional motivation," Swiatek said in a recorded video. Her father, Tomasz Swiatek, who appeared on the scene to collect the reward, emphasized that "Iga wouldn't be so successful without the hard work of her whole team". — Xinhua

## Lautaro returns as Inter conquer Verona in Serie A

INTER Milan started their new year with a slender victory, as Lautaro Martinez's opener and Davide Frattesi's winner boosted them to a 2-1 win over Hellas Verona on Saturday. Inter entered the game with two points ahead of second-placed Juventus and had

Lautaro, Benjamin Pavard and Denzel Dumfries back into the starting line-up, while new arrival Tajon Buchanan showed up on the stand. Lautaro proved his value as he gave the home side an early lead in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute when Marcus Thuram laid it

off for Henrik Mkhitaryan who charged forward and assisted for Lautaro to poke it into the net. The Argentinean thought he had bagged a brace straight after the break, but it was chalked off due to Francesco Acerbi's offside position in the build-up. Verona got back on level terms in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute when Thomas Henry came off the bench to find the net from close range.

The game culminated in the stoppage time, as Inter restored the lead in the 93<sup>rd</sup> minute thanks to Frattesi's follow-up, before Darko Lazovic saw straight red for insulting the referee. The away side should have left San Siro with one point, but Henry went from hero to zero by hitting the spot-kick onto the upright. — Xinhua



Lautaro Martinez (L) of Inter Milan scores during the Serie A 19<sup>th</sup> round match against Verona in Milan, Italy, 6 January 2024. PHOTO: ALBERTO LINGRIA/XINHUA





# China's BYD becomes world's top pure electric vehicle seller in Q4

*BYD is one of the many NEV producers that have seen booming sales as China, the world's largest auto market, transitions toward greener technologies.*



Visitors learn about new energy vehicles of Chinese carmaker BYD during the 27<sup>th</sup> Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area International Auto Show at the Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, 16 June 2023. **PHOTO: LIANG XU/XINHUA**

CHINA'S BYD became the world's leading seller of pure electric vehicles in the fourth quarter of 2023, marking another landmark moment in China's fast-growing new energy vehicle (NEV) sector.

The Shenzhen-based auto company announced the sales of 526,409 all-electric cars between October and December, surpassing Tesla's 484,507 in the same period.

The annual figures also saw BYD retaining the title of the world's top NEV seller, with more than 3.02 million cars sold last year, including both pure electric models and plug-in hybrid ones.

BYD is one of the many NEV producers that have seen booming sales as China, boasting the largest number of motor vehicles in the world, transitions toward greener technologies.

Among Chinese companies, GAC Aion, an NEV subsidiary of GAC Group, saw its sales increase by 77 per cent to reach 480,000 last year. NEV start-up Li Auto delivered 376,000 vehicles in 2023, marking a 182.2-per-cent rise. — Xinhua

## THE SIGNIFICANT GROWTH OF METRO RAIL

### Daily ridership across all metro rail systems crosses 10 million in India

INDIA is witnessing a steep rise in its metro ridership as daily ridership across metro systems in the country has already crossed the 10 million mark, and is expected to exceed 12.5 million in a year or two, according to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

This comes after UK-based publication, The Economist claimed that India's metro rail systems are failing to attract enough passengers in its year-ending 'Christmas Double' issue, dated 23 December last year.

According to a press release by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs highlights the significant growth of metro rail in the country, emphasizing that daily ridership across all metro rail systems has surpassed 10 million, reflecting the evolving aspirations of a rapidly urbanizing young India. — ANI

## Astronomers warn moon's resources could be destroyed by exploitation

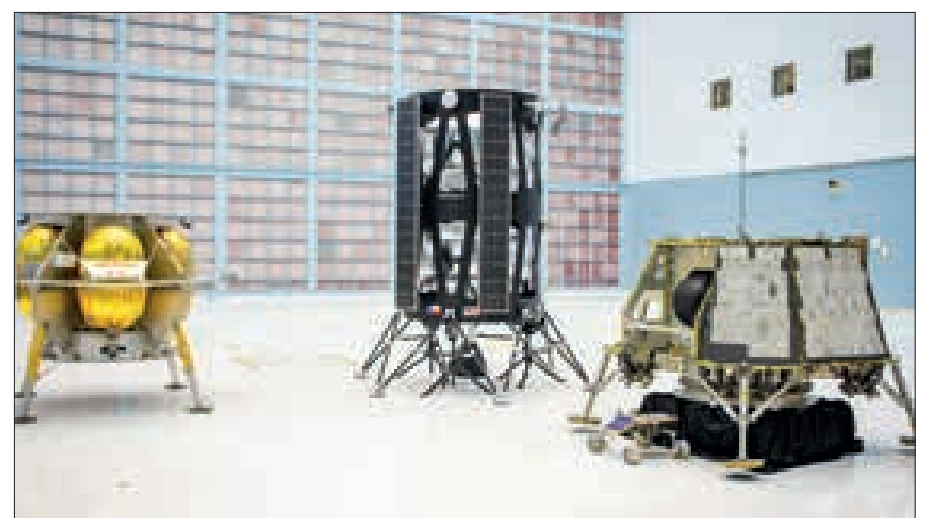
THE Moon could be badly exploited and suffer irreversible damage, astronomers said, in an effort to caution those who wish to survey the lunar landscape. Dozens of probes are gearing up to do so over the next few years.

Series of Moon explorers are being largely funded through NASA's \$2.6 billion Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative.

CLPS contracts allow NASA to work alongside private American companies in order to "deliver science and technology to the lunar surface", according to their website.

The companies "bid on delivering payloads for NASA", and beginning in 2023, commercial deliveries will "perform science experiments, test technologies, and demonstrate capabilities to help NASA explore the Moon as it prepares for human missions".

For example: just this week, the Peregrine mission one was announced to be preparing for its launch on Monday, making it the first US Moon lander since Apollo.



Series of Moon explorers are being largely funded through NASA's \$2.6 billion Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative. **PHOTO: NASA**

The mission will aim to locate water molecules on the Moon, measure radiation and gasses around the lander, and evaluate the lunar exosphere, according to NASA.

But some astronomers are cautioning the excitement by warning that unrestricted access to the Moon's resources could cause irreversible

damage, and could upend future research opportunities.

"The issue has become urgent," said Martin Elvis, of the Center for Astrophysics, Harvard & Smithsonian. "We need to act now because decisions made today will set the tone for our future behavior on the Moon." — SPUTNIK