

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## MRTV staff must be loyal to State in successive eras, like former staff

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing pointed out that new-generation MRTV staff must be loyal to the State in successive eras like former staff as good service personnel serving national duties.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech in honour of the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MRTV in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On the occasion, the Senior General was warmly welcomed by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and staff from MRTV Ethnic Channel.

Before delivering a speech, the Senior General pressed the button to launch the broadcasting of 19 TV channels on the MRTV DTH platform and upgraded 11 channels in the DVB-T2 system.

The Analogue Switch Off-ASO was launched at Nay Pyi Taw (Pyinmana), Yangon (Pyay Road) and Mandalay retransmission station, among other MRTV stations applying analogue and digital systems.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that MRTV is striving to initiate a modern State media due to the reform process conducted by the



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents prizes and cash awards to the MRTV staff yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General on the occasion of the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MRTV

- MRTV needs to debut misinformation and fake news and broadcast accurate information to the people.
- MRTV extended broadcasting of 11 HD quality TV channels, including nine channels, including departmental TV channels and related channels, up from MRTV-HD and MRTV News channels in the DVB T2 system.
- MRTV DTH platform allows broadcasting of 12 TV channels, including private ones, up from seven channels, totalling 19.

Ministry of Information, operating the process to inform, educate and entertain.

The Senior General expressed his views that those from MRTV performed public relations tasks on a broader scale with entertainment for Tatmadaw members at the frontline as encouragement measures, state service personnel attending the Civil Service Academy, and outstanding students at the recreation centres.

He praised those from MRTV for taking pride in their efforts as a TV media in broadcasting 20 languages, including

18 ethnic languages for national races, to emphasize all ethnic people.

He stressed that as destructive actions of internal and external elements are very dangerous for the State, it is necessary to debut misinformation and fake news and broadcast accurate information to the people.

The Senior General urged all staff of the MRTV to broadcast information, knowledge, and entertainment for the Myanmar people and people worldwide.

**SEE PAGE-3**

#### NATIONAL

PAGE-4



DPM MoFA UM discusses advancing international cooperation with diplomats

#### NATIONAL

PAGE-6



Applications for Japanese Language Proficiency Test available on 29 Feb

#### BUSINESS

PAGE-7



MRF prepping to scale up rice subsidy scheme in other regions and states beyond Yangon



# NATIONAL

## Botahtaung Pagoda to hold traditional Htamane-making festival, competition



Myanmar's traditional Htamane-making festival and competition were held at the Botahtaung Pagoda in the previous year.

**BOTAHTAUNG** Pagoda's Board of Trustees Member U Kyaw Naing Htun announced that the Myanmar traditional Htamane-making festival and competition will take place from 22 to 24 February at the Botahtaung Pagoda.

The 2024 festival will feature Htamane-making competitions and Htamane alms offerings and donations. Personnel from the seven major sections of the Board of Trustees will participate in the event.

"We plan to host the Htamane festival and the Htamane-making contest, a traditional cultural event, at the Botahtaung Pagoda. Two hundred and sixteen pans of Htamane will be made over three days, with donations going to pilgrims on the full moon day. The Board of Trustees opened a donation centre for the Htamane festival. Individuals who donate the cost for one pan will receive half a pan of Htamane in return. If individuals donate the cost for two pans, they will receive one pan of Htamane," explained U Kyaw Naing Htun.

The Htamane alms offering at Botahtaung Pagoda will occur at 5:30 am on 24 February (the full moon day of Tabodwe), followed by Htamane donations to pilgrims starting at 6:30 am at the Pagoda platform. — ASH/MKKS

## Enquiries welcomed for People's Military Service Law

REGARDING the People's Military Service Law, in order not to mislead the public due to inaccurate propaganda and false news, the public can enquire about the points they want to know about the People's Military Service Law to the following phone numbers of the People's Military Service Call Centre during office hours:

- (1) 067 3404911
- (2) 067 3404922
- (3) 067 3404933
- (4) 067 3404944
- (5) 067 3404955

Officials have informed that they will record the telephone numbers used for harassing calls, not enquiries, and that these SIM cards will be closed.

## Thapyay Radio to temporarily shutter broadcasting on medium wave

THAPYAY Radio, a part of Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), broadcasts programmes on medium wave at 422 metres (711 KHz) for the central regions of Myanmar and on FM 99.6 MHz for Yangon and its surrounding area. It airs regularly from 7 am to 9 pm daily.

The medium wave programming at 422 metres (711 KHz) will temporarily cease

from 12 noon to 4 pm between 16 and 29 February due to an upcoming painting project on the 130-metre Guyed Tower. However, as usual, FM broadcasts in Yangon and its surrounding areas will continue. Additionally, the medium wave broadcasting on 422 metres at 711 KHz will resume regular operations on 1 March. — MNA/MKKS

## Mandalay's Kyun Kyaung reopens this month after Thai experts' renovation

AS Thai experts have completed the renovation of the historic Kyun Kyaung (teak monastery) donated by King Mindon in Mandalay, it will be opened this month, according to Ko Htake Tin Aung, King Mindon's great-great-grandson, who helped in the renovation.

It is situated in the compound of the Dhammikarama Shwegyin monastery in Mandalay, and merit-sharing ceremony will be held on 18 February to mark the completion of the renovation with authentic preservation.

"After this monastery was built, it was donated to the first founder Sayadaw of Shwegyin Sect along with the land. For the Shwegyin Sect, this place is its original auspicious ground.



The photo depicts the general view of the Kyun Kyaung (teak monastery) in Mandalay.

Its damages were repaired by the State Law and Order Res-

toration Council and the Mandalay City Development Com-

mittee in 1992. But it continued to deteriorate and worsened in

2014-2015. While the Sayadaw was considering repairing the monastery, he contacted Thai well-wishers. Dhammakaya Monk from Thailand sent a repair team. Both donors and workers are coming from the Thai side," said Ko Htake Tin Aung.

Pitawon Prontawon, the chief architect of the Thai maintenance team and a well-wisher, died of illness during the work, and his memorial statue will also be unveiled at the opening ceremony.

"Thai people renovated it, but there is no Thai style or Thai work. Based on the duplicates of all the original works, the maintenance team just renovated with authenticity," he explained. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



# NATIONAL

## MRTV staff must be loyal to State in successive ...

### FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General presented prizes and cash awards for the staff from MRTV through the Union Minister for Information, who returned a commemorative medal and gift to mark the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MRTV to the Senior General.

The Senior General and party enjoyed the entertainment of artistes of the Fine Arts Department, MRTV staff, artistes from the Myawady Band and guest performers.

The Senior General viewed the information and broadcasting process of MRTV and left necessary guidance.

MRTV is a first-ever radio and TV broadcasting service with the mission to inform, educate and entertain.

It renamed Rangoon Radio as Burma Broadcasting Services (BBS) on 15 February 1946 and it launched multi-coloured TV broadcasting on 1 November 1980. Now, it broadcasts MRTV HD, MRTV News, MRTV NRC, MRTV Farmers', MRTV Parliament, MRTV



The Senior General presses the button to launch the broadcasting of 19 TV channels and upgrading 11 channels yesterday.

Sports channels, MITV channel, Myanmar Radio, Thabye Radio, and 17 ethnic language radio programmes.

MRTV operates 258 TV retransmission stations in analogue systems across the nation, 85 stations of which have been installed Myanmar Radio FM radio facilities, and 155 stations equipped with analogue and digital systems of DVB T2 facilities. At present,

the International Telecommunication Union has conducted the termination of analogue TV broadcasting-ASO process in Asia-Pacific countries under the CE 06 Agreement. Myanmar people can receive 18 digital TV channels, and the State-owned DTH platform also broadcasts digital channels. So, the first phase of ASO started at Nay Pyi Taw (Pyinmana), Yangon (Pyay Road)

and Mandalay retransmission station. The termination of an analogue system will be managed step-by-step at the remaining stations. MRTV extended broadcasting of 11 HD quality TV channels, including nine channels, up from MRTV-HD and MRTV News channels in the DBV T2 system. Moreover, the MRTV DTH platform allows the broadcasting of 12 TV channels, including private

ones, up from seven channels, totalling 19.

Also present on the occasion were Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, MRTV staff, retired staff, media personnel, artistes and guests. — MNA/TTA

## SAC Member DPM MoTC UM: National Water Law vital for multipurpose management, development

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, as Chairman of the National Water Law Drafting Steering Committee, attended the 1/2024 meeting of the central committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the General said the government mainly focuses on drafting water law that can cover all the exiting laws and rules to arrange water-related matters systematically and fulfil the needs. Therefore, the National Water Law Drafting Steering Committee was organized to draft the national water law.

The General highlighted the formation of National Level Water Resources Committee in 2013 as a drive for drafting



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Transport and Communications Minister General Mya Tun Oo chairs the 1/2024 meeting of the National Water Law Drafting Steering Committee yesterday.

national level water policy and national water law, release of national level water policy in 2015, holding of workshop for

drafting national water law (draft), formation of national water law task force and reconstitution by SAC on 12

December 2022.

He continued that the ministry reorganized the national water law task force on 28 No-

vember 2023, and the second national water law (draft) was revived based on the opinions and suggestions for first draft law submitted by the relevant departments and committees.

He then urged the participants to work together for the emergence of national water law as it is vital in implementing multipurpose water resources management and sustainable development.

Then, Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun, also secretary of the steering committee, briefed the attendees on the national water law drafting processes, and the attendees coordinated the discussion.

The General made proper instructions and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## DPM MoFA UM discusses advancing international cooperation with diplomats

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe presided over a meeting on advancing international cooperation with ambassadors, chargés d'affaires and consuls-general, who were temporarily brought back to Myanmar, yesterday.

First, the Union minister made an opening speech.

Then, Union Minister for Labour U Myint Naung discussed the cooperation between the ministry and Myanmar embassies to protect

Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries. At the same time, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Toe Yi reported on anti-drug activities, human rights protection and transfer of foreigners involved in online scams.

Moreover, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win presented the budget policy, financial policy, investment policy and trading policy of the country, whereas Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Eco-



The discussions on advancing international cooperation in progress yesterday.

nomie Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung focused on local and foreign investment, normal trading procedures and border trading issues, and Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min discussed the MSMEs development activities and implementation of special economic zones.

Then, the ambassadors and chargés d'affaires presented matters related to promoting economic cooperation, labour issues, and other cases in their respective countries. — MNA/KTZH

## Myanmar Police Veteran Organization celebrates 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae attended the ceremony to commemorate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Myanmar Police Veteran Organization held at Areindama Hall of the Headquarters of Myanmar Police Force in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Union minister talked about the formation of the region/state and township organizing committees for the increase of the forces of Police veterans, an increase in members of police veterans by the end of 2023, funding for police veterans and other welfare of police veterans and their family members.

He also urged the police veterans to cooperate to achieve the organization's



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Myanmar Police Veteran Organization celebration in progress yesterday.

four objectives and six activities by drawing five-year plans and upholding "Our Three Main National Causes" in serving duties for internal security, peace and prosperity, rule of law and mitigation of crimes.

The chairman of the Myanmar Police Veterans Organization clarified the work implementation over two years and the work plans to be implemented, and the Union minister concluded the event. — MNA/KTZH

### Public Notice

THE State Administration Council issued an announcement dated 10 February 2024 setting the date for the People's Military Service Law to come into force on 10 February 2024, which was enacted by Law No 27/2010 of the State Peace and Development Council on 4 November 2010, under Sub-Section(b) of Section 1 of that law.

Currently, some media and social media pages spread false information regarding the announcement saying overseas trips of citizens are restricted.

Regarding the set date for the People's Military Service Law to come into force, the immigration-related directives and restrictions for departures are not released, and the departures and arrivals at international airports such as Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and border entrance/exit with neighbouring countries are operating as usual under the law systematically. It is here announced that there is no specific directive for outbound trips.

*Ministry of Immigration and Population*

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.





# NATIONAL

## Award ceremony held for outstanding employees in celebration of MRTV's 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary

THE 78<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration of the Ministry of Information's Myanmar Radio and Television was held yesterday afternoon at the Myanmar Radio and Television's head office in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw.

The MRTV staff sang and danced to the "Mingalaba" song. Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn then gave a speech and presented awards to employees who had completed 37 years of service and those who had won prizes in domestic and foreign

training and competitions.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint also gave awards to employees who received the Good Public Service Medal and employees who won the national gold medal in the 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing and departmental heads presented awards to those who won the programme production excel-

lence award, the news editing broadcast excellence award, the news presentation excellence award, the industrial excellence award, the filming production excellence award, the business performance award, and the cleanliness and beauty operation excellence award.

The Union minister and the deputy minister then opened a lucky draw for the employees of Myanmar Radio and Television and awarded prizes. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presents awards to the MRTV personnel yesterday.

## Mon State produces 300 tonnes of sun-dried coarse salt in Jan 2024

AROUND 300 tonnes of new sun-dried coarse salt were produced in Mon State in January 2024, according to an official from the Mon State Salt Business Association.

It rained slightly in January in Mon State, and salt production declined somewhat. In this year's salt season, it is predicted to produce about 45,000 tonnes of sun-dried coarse salt, he said.

"Some were produced before rain in January. There was a slight rain on 26 January so the production declined slightly. Now it is produced again. The production was just about 300 tonnes in January," he said.

In Mon State, sun-dried salt

is mainly manufactured in Thanbyuzayat township and majorly sold to Taninthayi Region as well as Mandalay Region. Currently, the price of coarse salt is about K170 per viss, and the price of refined salt is between K320 and K330 a viss, he said.

"The salt price fluctuates depending on supply and demand. Salt manufacturing needs to rely on the weather, so the price gets high if the yield is low when it rains. There was rain in January so the price climbs up about K10-K20 a viss," he said. The export licence is still underway for exporting Mon State-produced sun-dried salt to Japan and South Korea. — MT/ZS



File photo by Xinhua shows a farmer works in salt beds at Panga Village, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State.

## Strengthening national quality infrastructure, certification body launched



The project to strengthen national quality infrastructure and certification on body underway yesterday.

THE Project on Strengthening National Quality Infrastructure and Implementation of National Certification Body for Certifying Products, Processes, and Services, along with the Stakeholders Engagement Forum on Standards and Quality for Trade Facilitation and Industry Development, was formulated and led by the Department of Research and Innovation of the Ministry of Science and Technology under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2023). The event took place yesterday at Mercure Hotel in Yangon.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, the Yangon Region chief minister, ministers, members of the National Skills Stand-

ard Council, members of the Technical Subcommittee on Drafting Standards, representatives from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as well as other associated organizations, and representatives of quality recommendation bodies from both public and private sectors.

During the event, speeches were delivered by Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Ms Qiao Li, and Strategic Studies and Deputy Director-General of Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Swa.

Currently, the implementation of strengthening the na-

tional quality infrastructure, products, and national quality recommendations for manufacturing practices and services is underway as part of this project. Additionally, standard operating procedures, rules, regulations, and directives are being developed, with the approval of the National Skills Standard Council, for the registration and designation processes for quality control bodies, laboratories, and quality scrutinizing laboratories and bodies, according to the report.

In the Stakeholders Engagement Forum, discussions focused on collaborating with stakeholders to establish the required procedures and quality control and scrutinizing processes domestically. — MNA/TMT



# NATIONAL

## Applications for Japanese Language Proficiency Test available on 29 Feb



The photo shows exam candidates who sat the JLPT on 3 December 2023.

THE Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) has announced that application forms for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), scheduled for the first week of July, will be available starting on 29 February. The exam will be conducted

in Yangon and Mandalay, with a total of 40,000 online applications being accepted at all levels.

For online applications for Yangon and Mandalay, N1 and N2 levels will be accepted on 6, 7, and 15 March; N3 level on 11, 12, and 15 March; N4 level on 13, 14, and 19 March; and N5 level on 7, 8, and 18 March respectively.

The exam application fees are K50,000 for N1, N2, and N3, and K45,000 for N4 and N5. The application date won't be announced in advance to avoid internet traffic congestion during online application submission. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications online at their convenience.

Registrations must be completed via Google form between 19 and 23 February. Each training school will sell a maximum of 70 application forms.

As there are now more training schools, MAJA urges schools to apply for only the necessary number of application forms. Any remaining forms will be distributed to schools that require more than 70 forms. Application forms for the Yangon test centre will be sold from 29 February to 2 March, and for the Mandalay test centre from 29 February to 1 March. Application forms for novices, monks, nuns, and children under ten years old will be available from 4 to 6 March for all levels. — TWA/TMT

## Myanmar female workers to be allowed to take EPS-TOPIK Exam

IN addition to men, women will be able to participate in the Korean Language Proficiency Test (EPS-TOPIK) exam to be held in 2024, and applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 39 years old and must have completed high school.

The Korean Language Proficiency Test for service and manufacturing industries will be held from 24 April to 5 May, and the basic skills test will be conducted from 10 to 14 June.

In addition, the Korean Language

Proficiency Test for agriculture, livestock, and construction industries will be conducted from 20 May to 26 July, and the workability Test will be conducted from 26 August to 13 September, the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) announced.

The final result list for service and manufacturing will be announced on 21 June, while the final result list for agriculture, livestock, and construction will be revealed on 20 September.

— TWA/KZL

## Malaysia-Myanmar Business Chamber to host trade fair 2024 in Yangon



The Malaysia-Myanmar Business Chamber Trade Fair 2024 billboard.

THE Malaysia-Myanmar Business Chamber (MMBC) will organize the Malaysia-Myanmar Business Cham-

ber Trade Fair 2024 in Yangon on 25 February.

The trade fair is scheduled to be held for only one day at the Lotte Hotel, from 9 am to 5 pm. It will feature healthcare, education, agriculture, renewable energy, outbound tourism, and food sectors.

The fair aims to promote trade, explore market opportunities, showcase products and services, facilitate networking with potential trade or business partners, and share knowledge among participants. Malaysian companies and local businesspeople are expected to participate in the fair. — TWA/TRKM

## Thai Embassy to Myanmar to issue 400 visas daily

ON 14 February, the Thai Embassy to Myanmar announced that due to the high volume of visa applications, only 400 applicants would be processed daily.

Individuals wishing to apply for visas must queue to receive token numbers starting at 8:30 am. Token numbers will be issued after embassy officials have examined the applicant's passport and confirmed its validity. Each token number is valid for one person only. Any attempt to forge or misuse a token number will result in the visa application being rejected, and the applicant will be blacklisted.

Applicants can obtain the necessary information by scanning the embassy's QR code. Incomplete appli-



The photo shows people waiting to apply for visas outside the Thai Embassy in Yangon on 15 February 2024.

cations or lost or damaged tokens will not be accepted for visa processing. — TWA/MKKS

## Thailand repatriates 206 Myanmar migrant workers after completing sentences

IT has been reported that Thai authorities transferred 206 Myanmar migrant workers, who had completed their sentences in Thailand, back to Myanmar on 14 February.

These individuals served their terms in custody in southern Thailand and were repatriated from Ranong to

Kawthoung. The group of repatriated workers comprised 160 men and 46 women.

Upon their arrival in Kawthoung, local authorities conducted COVID-19 tests, verified their personal information, and educated them. — TWA/TRKM



## MRF prepping to scale up rice subsidy scheme in other regions and states beyond Yangon

ACCORDING to the MRF's notification, the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has been planning to add more places in other regions and states beyond Yangon Region to offer rice at fairer prices.

Under the leadership of the MRF, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, export companies and depots are working together to stabilize the price and initiated the rice subsidy scheme starting from 16 February for the low-income people and civil servants to buy the rice at fairer prices at 58 retail shops in 18 townships, Yangon Region. The consumers can purchase reasonably well-milled (15 per cent broken) white rice at K3,300 per pyi (2.13 kg or 4.69 lb). An individual is entitled to buy two pyi at a time.

This scheme can cover 18



Rice bags are organized at the warehouse.

townships: Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, South Dagon, North Okkalapa, North Dagon, Dagon Seikkan, East Dagon, Hmawby,

Thingangyun, Thakayta, Pazundaung, Dawbon, Dala, Kyimyindine, Ahlon, Seikkyi Khanaungto, Mingaladon and Insein.

Discussions are underway to expand the scheme to other regions and states, as per the MRF. Additionally, civil service

personnel, factory and company staff can buy them by contacting the MRF via email at admin@mrf.com.mm and presenting an official letter. For further detail, they can contact the MRF phone 09 40067260, 09 400067270, Wahdan rice depot at 01 8221448, 01 8220131, 01 8210287 and Bayintnaung rice depot phone at 09 769029428.

The non-premium rice prices moved between K74,000 and K93,000 per sack depending on varieties (rice grown under the intercropping system, Ngasein, Thipu and Aemahta) on 15 February in the wholesale depot. Premium Pawsan rice was worth K110,000-K135,000 per sack depending on the producing areas (Shwebo, Pathein, Myaungmya and Dedaye). — NN/KK



Lorries prepare for export cargoes on the Myanmar-Thailand border.

## Myanmar-Thailand border trade values total US\$3.8 bln in ten months

MYANMAR'S border trade with neighbouring Thailand amounted to US\$3.87 billion in the past ten months (April-January) of the current financial year 2023-2024.

The figures plunged from \$4.4 billion recorded in the year-ago period, indicating a sharp drop of \$538 million.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with Thailand via the Tachilek,

Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung borders. Of them, the Hteekhee border performed the most extensive trade worth \$2.38 billion in the past ten months. Moreover, the trade values stood at \$1.05 billion at Myawady border post, \$132.65 million at Tachilek, \$113.9 million at Myeik, \$171.258 million at Kawthoung and \$18 million at Mawtaung.

Myanmar carries out border trade with the neighbouring countries China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. It exports agricultural produce, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods. At the same time, it brings in capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer goods and raw materials by the CMP enterprises. — NN/EM

## Corn price falls back in domestic market

WITH sluggish demand from domestic and foreign markets, the corn prices are gradually declining to K1,140 per viss in mid-February from K1,200 recorded in early January.

Myanmar exports corn to China and Thailand through the border. Also, it delivers it to China, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines by sea at the present time, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

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

China has been purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution programme. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted for corn exports.



Harvested corn.

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

Myanmar delivered more than two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season. Most of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM



## OPINION

### Safeguard consumer rights: A call for genuine, quality products

**I**RRESPECTIVE of socio-economic status, individuals from diverse backgrounds all share a common struggle to meet three fundamental needs: sustenance, clothing, and shelter. These necessities are universal, forming an integral part of daily life that cannot be overlooked or dismissed. Consequently, regardless of their financial standing, all people are consumers in their own right, thereby entitled to consumer rights.

The term "consumer" encompasses not only the acquisition of edible items but also the procurement of various essential materials for daily living, including capital goods, intermediate goods, and manufacturing products. Despite their diverse nature, all these products contribute to the well-being of consumers in their everyday lives.

Foremost among these needs is the requirement for food, a critical component of daily sustenance. The food trade sector necessitates effective technological management to mitigate potential hazards within the food supply chain. Adhering to the World Trade Organization regulations, the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement are essential for preventing dangers to humans, plants, and animals.

Prioritizing consumer interests mandates that the production chains for all food items adhere to stringent safety measures. Participants in the food supply chain must implement technological strategies to prevent potential dangers and deliberate threats, thereby safeguarding consumer rights. Simultaneously, authorities must institute robust food security management systems to counter manufacturing and food processing malpractices.

Deceptive practices in the food industry include substituting original products with inferior alternatives, mislabeling commodities, smuggling of substandard goods, illegal additions to products, production of counterfeit items, and mixing with other substances. In Myanmar, the populace faces critical issues such as the adulteration of edible oils and the proliferation of low-quality and illegal medicines. It is crucial to recognize that seemingly minor problems can escalate into significant challenges within the realm of consumer affairs.

In Myanmar, governmental and relevant authorities actively combat malpractices in consumer affairs, penalizing those who violate consumer laws in producing and distributing food items. Simultaneously, social organizations play a pivotal role in raising awareness about consumer rights and broadening consumers' understanding. While challenges persist in the domestic market, collaborative efforts between authorities and consumers are essential to address worsening problems in consumer affairs. Implementing proper food processing rules and techniques is imperative for the collective well-being of all consumers.

**T**HE Kyaiktiyo Pagoda was built more than 2,500 years ago, and legend has it that the pagoda was constructed on a hair relic that was given to a hermit by Buddha Himself. The hermit treasured the sacred hair and hid it in his hair knot until he found a boulder resembling his head on which he then built a pagoda to enshrine it.

Pagoda upon a hermit's head: In the Mon language, the word "Kyaik" means "Pagoda" and "Yo" means "to carry on the hermit's head." The word "ti" in Mon means "hermit", thus "Kyaiktiyo" means "pagoda upon a hermit's head".

The Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is one of Myanmar's three most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites, along with the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, and is one of the world's most important pilgrim sites to Buddhists and the second most important in all of Myanmar's religious relics. It's also known worldwide and attracts people from far and near to flock there to experience it in person because the Golden Rock perched on the edge of a hill is of great astonishment.

Kyaiktiyo is a 20-foot-tall pagoda perching on top of a mountain. The mountain's name, "Kyaiktiyo", translates to "Pagoda on a hermit's head". "The Rock," which appears to be in gold, is actually a granite boulder covered with gold leaves applied to the Rock by Buddha devotees.

According to legend, the great granite boulder is kept in place by a single strand of Buddha's hair that He Himself gave in a talk to a hermit during one of his visits to the Rock. He tucked the strand of hair from the

## Kyaiktiyo Pagoda (Golden Rock)

By Win Sein

*Kyaiktiyo is a pagoda atop a mountain named after it, meaning "Pagoda on a hermit's head". The pagoda stands at 20 feet tall and is constructed on a granite boulder covered with gold leaves by devotees of Buddha, giving it a golden appearance.*

left of his own head, safely bringing Buddha's strand to his king. The hermit instructed that his gift was to be enshrined under a rock shaped like a hermit's head. Fortunately for the king, he had inherited supernatural powers from his father, Zawgyi, a proficient alchemist and his mother, a serpent dragon princess. With his parents' help, they found the Rock, which would finally complete the shrine. At the bottom of the sea, the king had a ship constructed to carry the Rock to the top of the mountain. It's this strand of hair that, according to the legend, stops the Rock from tumbling down the hill. The boat, which was used to transport the Rock, had turned into stone, which explains why the pagoda looks a bit like the ship

enshrined in the complex with its magnificent weight perfectly balanced on the edge of a cliff. The Golden Rock is truly a natural and extraordinary sight, which is why it is regarded with such sacred astonishment. The scenery from the Golden Rock is a spectacular sight, and many visitors stay behind the Rock to watch the sunset. The Kyaiktiyo shrine complex consists of several viewing platforms, pagodas, and Buddha shrines. Devotees gather in the area behind the Rock to pray and make offerings, and almost everyone attaches a golden leaf to the Rock as an act of merit. A glimpse of the fascinating Golden Rock is believed to be enough to inspire and enlighten any person to turn to Buddhism. Also, according to legend, pilgrims who



Constructed in 574 BC, Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is one of the world's most important pilgrimage sites for Buddhists and the third most important pilgrimage site in Myanmar after Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and the Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

trek the base camp three times consecutively in a year would be

blessed with wealth and respect. Myanmar, as the title of this post states, is in the land of golden pagodas. Yes, you are correct. Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is a well-known Buddhist pilgrimage site. It is a small pagoda (7.3 metres or 24 feet) built on the top of a granite boulder.

Constructed in 574 BC, Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is one of the world's most important pilgrimage sites for Buddhists and the third most important pilgrimage site in Myanmar after Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and the Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay. The Golden Rock, situated at the edge of a hill, is of great importance. It looks like it's defying gravity, and legend says that the Rock is able to stay balanced; it's being held balanced by a hair from Buddha.

The link to Buddha is the reason why so many people make the trip there each year. But regardless of faith or religion, it's an astonishing place where you truly take your breath away.

It's said that the Rock has been positioned there for more than 2,500 years; it's been entirely gilded with gold, making it all the more impressive. Buddhists believe that the power of the relic enshrined in the pagoda relating to the religious story of Buddha's hair keeps it in place.

Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is a stunning place. There are many treasures, and you might want to visit it. It's one of the favourite places for so many people worldwide to visit to experience the exotic attraction after all.

## Gene therapy improves advanced heart failure in animal model: Study

*Chronic heart failure, characterized by severe weakening of the cardiac muscle, has been traditionally considered irreversible. However, a study suggests that advanced heart failure may not necessarily be a point of no return.*

**DURING** a heart attack, blood stops flowing into the heart. Without oxygen, a portion of the heart muscle dies.

The heart muscle does not regenerate, instead, it replaces dead tissue with a scar made of cells called fibroblasts that do not help the heart pump. If there is too much scarring, the heart gradually enlarges (dilates), weakens, and eventually ceases working.

#### Chronic heart failure

"The current thought is that advanced or chronic heart failure, a stage in which the cardiac muscle has become too weak, is a point of no return. The present understanding is that it is not possible to stimulate a heart in this condition to generate new heart cells to repair itself and that only palliative treatment is available to patients," said corresponding author Dr Tamer M A. Mohamed, associate professor of surgery and medicine and director of cardiac regeneration at Baylor College of Medicine.

"In this study published in the journal Cardiovascular Research, we show that advanced heart failure can be treated to improve cardiac function in an animal model." In a previous study, Mohamed and his collaborators had successfully used

gene therapy to improve acute cardiac dysfunction in animals. Their method effectively and specifically delivered genes that promote proliferation to heart cells, generating new heart muscle.

#### Blood flowing

This approach not only strengthened the heart improving its ability to keep the blood flowing, but also prevented typical subsequent congestion in the liver, kidneys and lungs in rats and pigs.

"In this study, we did something that had not been done before," Mohamed said. "We intervened with the same gene therapy but not during acute heart failure or early in the disease as in our previous experiments, but late in the disease during the chronic phase four weeks after cardiac injury had severely damaged the heart."

Four months after treating the animals, the researchers checked cardiac function and heart structure. "We were surprised to see evidence of significant heart cell proliferation, a marked reduction in scar size and a significant improvement in cardiac function," said first author Dr Riham R E Abouleisa, assistant professor of surgery-cardiothoracic surgery at Baylor. — ANI



The study demonstrates that it's possible to improve cardiac function in an animal model of advanced heart failure.



The photo shows the ceremony of offering 9,000 oil lamps to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda PHOTO: GNLM

## ARTICLE



# NATIONAL

## High demand for Kachin red potatoes in Thailand

RED potatoes produced from Kachin State have received many orders from Thailand, according to red potato traders from Mohnyin township.

“As an overseas market, there are many orders from Thailand this year. Orders come from Myawady-Thailand. There were orders last year, but more have been purchased this year.

So it means the red potato sale is better in overseas market,” said a red potato trader from Mohnyin township, Kachin State.

The red potato is called Myanmar potato, and its colour is pink. It is healthy. It is grown mainly in Kachin State.

In the local market, red potato sales have been increasing,

too.

“The red potato sale has been good in the local market too. It is harvested in two batches. Crops harvested in the first batch are nearly out of stock. The next batch will be harvested again after the month of Tabuang,” said a grower.

Red potato is not as big as Chinese potato and can be eat-

en by making a salad, fried, or pounded.

The wholesale price per viss of mixed small and big-sized red potatoes is from K2,500 to K2,700 while the price per viss of small-sized red potatoes is around K2,500 and big-sized red potatoes is around K3,000, according to Mohnyin red potato market. — Thit Taw/ZS



Red potatoes from Kachin State

### Counter-argument to false information

#### False reporting by Khit Thit media regarding security forces, PDF terrorists

THE Khit Thit media outlet is intentionally spreading false information, accusing the security forces of launching heavy weapons shelling on Chipar Village (South) and Chipar Village (North) and seizing over sixty civilians on 14 February.

According to a resident, the security forces conducted territorial security activities in and around Chipar village on 14 February without capturing any civilians. Similarly, PDF terrorists launched an attack by shelling heavy weapons and shooting at the security forces near Thintaw Village in Gangaw Township,

Magway Region, on 14 February. Subsequent clashes resulted in casualties among the terrorists, as reported from the ground.

The malicious media outlet, Khit Thit, is intentionally circulating misinformation to conceal the actions of PDF terrorists who launched the attacks. The current incident is also reportedly a form of propaganda, as people have become fearful and reluctant to accept PDF terrorist groups, and no one wants to engage in fighting any longer due to the significant number of casualties among PDF terrorists on the ground. — MNA/TKO

#### Counteracting false claims: Security forces ensure public safety amid fabricated stories

MALICIOUS media outlets are spreading false news alleging that security forces are forcibly rounding up people in towns and villages, arresting them, and releasing those who pay bribes. Consequently, State-owned media outlets are releasing statements countering these false claims.

To ensure the safety and freedom of movement for people in their daily lives, security forces, Myanmar police force members, and administrative officials are conducting checks for any unfamiliar individuals in households across townships and villages.

During these checks, indi-

viduals found residing in a house without informing the relevant authorities, those not listed on household registers, and those unable to produce valid household lists are summoned to the police station and relevant departments for inspection. Those found in violation of regulations will face legal action.

Reports indicate that certain media outlets, aiming to disrupt public socioeconomic life and peace, are fabricating and spreading false news. They intend to incite panic and create misunderstanding regarding the actions of security forces. — MNA/TKO

#### Misinformation: Political prisoners die after inadequate medical treatment

MIZZIMA News on the Myanmar Facebook page falsely spread the news on 7 February that Ma Yin Moe, a political prisoner from Obo Prison, Mandalay, did not receive enough medical treatment in the prison and died of kidney disease on 4 February. She was initially sent to the hospital, but the hospital did not receive her, and she was sent back to prison.

Regarding the matter, the truth is that the prisoner Ma Yin Moe was treated in the prison hospital from 1 to 10 July 2023 due to heart disease, hypertension, anaemia and emphysema. Through this, she was transferred to Mying-

yan District Public Hospital for treatment on 10 July, and the doctors of Myingyan Public Hospital noted that she should be transferred to Mandalay General Hospital for treatment, and she was allowed to be discharged from the hospital on 21 July.

Further, she was transferred from Myingyan Prison to Mandalay Prison on 8 August for further medical treatment. She attended Mandalay Hospital five times and was treated according to the instructions of the senior physicians.

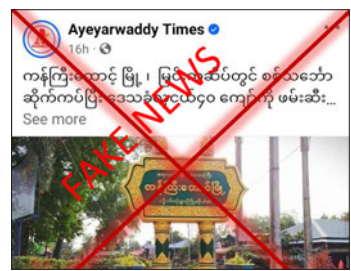
She died of kidney failure and urinary incontinence on 4 February while being hospital-

ized, said an official from Obo Prison in Mandalay.

Ma Yin Moe, an inmate from Obo Prison in Mandalay, is serving a prison sentence for the crimes of aiding and abetting by pouring gasoline on tyres on a public road and aiding and abetting.

Under the prison law, prisoners who need health care are given health care at the relevant prison hospital and, if necessary, are transferred to public hospitals outside the country for treatment. The report on Mizzima News on the Myanmar Facebook page is a false fabrication to mislead the public. — MNA/KZL

#### Addressing misinformation: SAC information team provides clarity on military service law



Screenshots validate false claims.



MALICIOUS media outlets are spreading misinformation, alleging that military vessels docked at Myinkaseik jetty are collecting over 40 young residents and forcing them into military service in Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Residents have refuted this misinformation, stating that only motor boats and ships an-

chor at Myinkaseik jetty daily to load food, including rice, for delivery to Pathein, Yangon, and other towns. According to a resident, Myinkaseik village, a trade centre with seven rice mills, is the source of this information.

Similarly, malicious media outlets are engaged in continuous propaganda, spreading misinformation that schoolteachers

and students from Pathein University are being coerced into serving at military camps and that 35 youths from Ohnchaw, Seltaw, and Tamotesoe villages in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, have been forcibly captured.

To allay public concern and fear caused by these malicious media outlets, the State Administration Council (SAC) Information Team is providing clarifications through State-owned media about the military service law. SAC has also announced hotline numbers for detailed inquiries about the military service law to prevent public misinformation. — MNA/TKO



## S Korea needs to increase productivity amid low birth rate, ageing population: report

Predictions indicate a further decrease to 0.7 per cent by 2040 due to a decline in labour contribution caused by demographic shifts.

SOUTH Korea needs to increase productivity through innovation in a bid to overcome the chronically low birth rate and rapidly aging population, the Korea Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said in a report Thursday.

The country's potential growth rate had declined from around 4.7 per cent in the 2000s to under 2 per cent in 2023 after suffering the global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, it said.

The potential growth rate would tumble to 0.7 per cent in 2040 amid a sharp fall in labor's contribution to economic growth, affected by the low birth rate and ageing population, KCCI said.

The business lobby noted that it would be hard to im-



The baby products market in South Korea is characterized by a wide range of offerings catering to the needs of infants and young children. This market encompasses various products such as diapers, baby wipes, skincare items, clothing, accessories, feeding products, and toys. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP**

prove the total factor productivity amid the lower population, adding that the country's comprehensive capability for innovation should be enhanced to get over such situations.

The number of domestic researchers was estimated to reduce from 558,000 in 2020 to 512,000 in 2030 and 437,000 in 2040, according to the report. — Xinhua

## Anne Frank musical hits Dutch stage, 'we should never forget'



"Je Anne" ("Yours, Anne") sticks faithfully to the account of the Jewish teenager whose story of hiding from the Nazis in war-time Amsterdam has become famous around the world. **PHOTO: NICK GAMMON / AFP**

A new musical production based on Anne Frank's diary has hit the stage in The Netherlands, with the producer and star convinced the story needs telling now more than ever.

"Je Anne" ("Yours, Anne")

sticks faithfully to the account of the Jewish teenager whose story of hiding from the Nazis in war-time Amsterdam has become famous around the world.

The stage consists only of

a concrete Star of David divided into sections representing the rooms in the "secret annex" where the Frank family and four others hid for more than two years.

The eight characters rarely leave the star, perching on bits of luggage, their only worldly possessions, creating a tense sense of claustrophobia throughout the production.

Producer Mark Vijn said he still gets goosebumps thinking about the couple of hours he spent in the real annex, which was hidden behind a revolving bookcase.

"We were only there for a couple of hours, and they were there for two years. And they didn't know they were going to be there for two years," Vijn told AFP. — AFP

## BLACKPINK singer Lisa to star as 'White Lotus' hits Thailand

As one of Thailand's most prominent celebrities, Lisa brings star power to the show.

SINGER Lisa of megastar K-pop girl group BLACKPINK will join the cast of "The White Lotus", HBO said Tuesday, as the third season of the hit TV series moves to her homeland Thailand.

Filming for the latest round of the award-winning dark comedy is set to begin this month in Bangkok as well as the holiday islands of Phuket and Ko Samui.

Lisa, full name Lalisa Manobal, will feature in the show alongside veteran Holly-

wood star Scott Glenn, HBO's streaming service Max said in a post on its official account on social media platform X.

The 26-year-old is perhaps Thailand's best-known celebrity, with legions of adoring fans and her image plastered on adverts across the kingdom.

A dark, stylish satire on wealth and hypocrisy, "The White Lotus" has been a commercial and critical hit for HBO, with both previous seasons garnering multiple Emmy nominations. — AFP



Thai singer Lisa from the group BLACKPINK accepts the Best K-pop award for 'Lalisa' during the MTV Video Music Awards at the Prudential Centre in Newark, New Jersey on 28 August 2022. **PHOTO: ANGELA WEISS / AFP**

## Several UK seabird populations in decline due to bird flu: report

SOME UK seabird populations are suffering "widespread and extensive declines" following severe bird flu outbreaks in recent years, a new study assessing its impact for the first time warned on Tuesday.

The report by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and other conservationists found nine of 13 species had decreased in numbers by over 10 per cent since previous surveys made between 2015 and 2021.

It follows the current H5N1 strain of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) becoming widespread in UK wild bird populations, particularly in seabirds and waterfowl, since the summer of 2021.

It also comes after conservationists warned last year that almost half of the breeding seabird species in the UK and Ireland have declined in the past 20 years, with climate change one of the possible causes. — AFP



# ECONOMY

## WORLD

## China's shipbuilding industry reports surging profits in 2023

According to data from the China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry, profits for major shipbuilders soared by 131.7 per cent to 25.9 billion yuan, while their main business revenue increased by 20 per cent to 623.7 billion yuan.

CHINA'S shipbuilding businesses posted significant increases in combined profits and revenue last year with improving global competitiveness.

The major shipbuilders prof-

its surged 131.7 per cent year on year to 25.9 billion yuan (3.64 billion US dollars) and their main business revenue stood at 623.7 billion yuan, up 20 per cent, data from the China Association of the

National Shipbuilding Industry showed.

In 2023, Chinese shipbuilding companies accelerated digital transformation and stepped up its input in technological in-



This aerial photo taken on 1 January 2024 shows the large cruise ship Adora Magic City at the Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: DING TING/XINHUA**

novation.

Multiple companies were in the global top 10 lists in terms of output, new orders and holding

orders, and China State Shipbuilding Corporation ranked the first globally in all major shipbuilding indexes. — Xinhua

## Japan's currency diplomat says ready to act as needed amid yen's fall

Kanda expressed concern over the yen's nearly 10 yen decline against the dollar in a month, negatively affecting the economy.



Photo taken in Tokyo on 8 December 2023, shows monitor screens displaying the Japanese yen trading in the 141 zone against the US dollar. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ KYODO/FILE**

JAPAN'S top currency diplomat Masato Kanda said Wednesday the yen's fall has been "very rapid" and driven in part by speculative moves, warning the government will respond "appropriately" if required.

The remarks came after the US dollar hit a three-month high of 150.88 yen overnight,

as stronger-than-expected US inflation data reduced market expectations of an interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

The yen's fall "has been very rapid, which will negatively impact the economy", Kanda, vice-finance minister for international affairs, told reporters. The Japanese cur-

rency "has weakened nearly 10 yen (against the dollar) over the past month".

Japanese officials issue verbal warnings when currency movements are volatile, before actually intervening in the foreign exchange market to rectify rapid shifts viewed as not reflecting economic fundamentals. — Kyodo

## German auto supplier Continental says to cut 7,150 jobs

CONTINENTAL streamlines global workforce, trimming over 7000 jobs by 2025 amid the electric vehicle revolution.

German auto supplier Continental said Wednesday it would cut some 7,150 posts worldwide by 2025 as the difficult switch to electric vehicles forces companies in the sector to retool.

The group, which makes tyres and supplies components to automakers, said in a statement it would shed 1,750 jobs in research and development.

It would also lose around 5,400 posts as part of a previously announced cost-cutting programme aimed at saving the group 400 million euros (\$428

million) by 2025.

Continental, which currently employs around 200,000 people worldwide, announced the plan in November without putting a precise figure on the number of jobs that would go.

"We are aware of the impact on our employees and will do everything we can to find good, tailored solutions (for employees)" Continental's automotive chief Philipp von Hirschheydt said.

The cuts would allow Continental to "focus our resources even more on future technologies for software-defined vehicles", von Hirschheydt said. — AFP



Germany's auto suppliers have been facing problems as the transition to electric mobility gathers pace, after decades relying on fossil fuel vehicles for their profits. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



## Airbus posts 11% profit drop for 2023

EUROPEAN aviation giant Airbus on Thursday posted an 11 per cent drop in net profit to 3.8 billion euros (\$4.1 billion) in 2023, with past charges for its space business cutting into earnings.

The group, which delivered 735 aircraft last

year despite supply chain problems, said it plans to deliver about 800 in 2024. It reached the mark in 2018 before the pandemic battered the aviation industry.

And despite the space problems, the profit figure was the third biggest announced by Airbus after

its 4.2 billion-euro bumper year in 2022.

“In 2023 we recorded strong order intake across all our businesses and we delivered on our commitments. This was a significant achievement given the complexity of the operating environment,”

said Airbus chief executive Guillaume Faury.

The group said it had received orders for 2,094 aircraft in 2023, beating a previous record dating back to 2013.

Its A320 and long-haul A350 jets led the order list. — AFP

## China's Chongqing to open new passenger air route to Milan

A new direct passenger air route will be launched on 19 March to link southwest China's Chongqing Municipality with the city of Milan, Italy, according to Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport.

Operated by Hainan Airlines, the new service will make two round trips per week on Tuesday and Friday, with the first outbound flight departing Chongqing at 2 am on 19 March Beijing Time, the airport said, adding that it will be the first direct air route linking west China and Milan.

Currently, the airport

offers 21 passenger air routes to international or regional destinations and operates more than 110 flights a week. Destinations include major cities like London, Paris, Madrid, Rome, Sydney and Singapore. According to Huang Wei, general manager of Chongqing Airport Group Co Ltd, the launch of the new route is essential for the establishment of a world-class airport cluster in the Chengdu-Chongqing region and the development of Chongqing as an international aviation hub. — Xinhua

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0313W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-2-2024** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES**

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M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2403N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2403N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-2-2024** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:  
**M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD**



A tourist takes photos on the terrace of Duomo di Milano in Milan, Italy, on 6 August 2021.  
**PHOTO: ALBERTO LINGRIA/XINHUA**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (404W)

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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.  
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**Myanma Port Authority**

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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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
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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

## PM Modi arrives in Doha, set to meet Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani

Ahead of his departure, PM Modi expressed anticipation for discussions with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and other dignitaries, acknowledging Qatar's remarkable growth and transformation under Sheikh Tamim's leadership.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (local time) landed in Qatar's Doha for a two-day official visit on 14-15 February. The Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi received PM Modi at the airport.

During his visit, PM Modi will meet Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Earlier, PM Modi met Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on the sidelines of the COP28 summit in Dubai and discussed bilateral partnership and the "well-being of the Indian community" living in Qatar.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Doha, Qatar, for a two-day official visit on 14-15 February. **PHOTO: ANI**

Ahead of his departure on 13 February, PM Modi stated, "In Qatar, I am looking forward to meeting His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir, under whose leadership Qatar continues to witness tremendous growth and transformation. I am also looking forward to meeting other high dignitaries in Qatar."

Notably, India and Qatar enjoy close and friendly ties. The ties between India and Qatar have continued to deepen in all sectors, including high-level political exchanges, growing trade and investment between the two nations. — ANI

## Laos continues to raise tourism standards to attract more visitors



Efforts will focus on improving quality, developing diverse tourism products, including those reflecting the country's ethnic diversity and agritourism. Vang Vieng in central Laos is a perennial draw for nature-loving tourists. **PHOTO: SOUKSAVANH SOMBOUNKHANH/WORLD BANK**

THE Lao government and tourism-related businesses are making all efforts to raise its

tourism standards to increase visitor arrivals.

At a meeting held here on

Tuesday to report Laos' Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism's 2023 annual work summary and plan for 2024, Lao Deputy Prime Minister Kikeo Khaykhamphithoune advised the public and private sectors to form closer links to improve tourist attractions, visitor facilities, and services at hotels and restaurants.

Improvements should be made to ensure quality services and develop activities and diversified tourism products that relate to the country's many ethnic groups, as well as develop agritourism, he said. — Xinhua

### TOP NEWS

#### 1 dead, 22 injured at US Super Bowl victory parade shooting

AT least one person was killed and 22 others injured by gunfire in a shooting during the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl victory parade in Kansas City in the US state of Missouri, authorities said Wednesday.

Stacey Graves, chief of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, detailed the shooting's toll at a news conference and said three people had been taken into custody. She added that fans may have been involved in apprehending a suspect but couldn't immediately confirm that. "I'm angry at what happened today. The people who came to this celebration should expect a safe environment," Graves said.

Police did not immediately release any details about the people taken into custody or about a possible motive for the shootings. She said firearms had been recovered, but not what kind of weapons were used.

"All of that is being actively investigated," she said, adding that more than 800 law enforcement officers were at the scene to keep people safe. "Shots have been fired around Union Station. Please leave the area," the Kansas City Police Department said on X platform, formerly known as Twitter. — Xinhua

## Bangkok says work from home as pollution blankets city

BANGKOK city employees have been told to work from home to avoid harmful air pollution, as a layer of noxious haze blanketed the Thai capital on Thursday.

City authorities asked for cooperation from employers to help workers in the city of some 11 million people avoid the pol-

lution, which is expected to last into Friday.

The air monitoring website IQAir ranked Bangkok among the 10 most polluted cities in the world on Thursday morning. Levels of the most dangerous PM2.5 particles — so tiny they can enter the bloodstream — were more

than 15 times the World Health Organization's annual guideline, according to IQAir. — AFP

City authorities asked for cooperation from employers to help workers in the city of some 11 million people avoid the pollution, which is expected to last into Friday. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**





# SPORTS

## Klinsmann faces sack by South Korea after Asian Cup semi-final exit

*The Korea Football Association's national team committee convened a meeting, prompted by the team's 2-0 defeat to Jordan in the semi-finals, placing Klinsmann under significant pressure.*

JURGEN Klinsmann looks set to be fired as coach after top South Korean football officials said Thursday that "a change of leadership is necessary" following their Asian Cup exit and in-fighting among star players.

The Korea Football Association's national team committee met a week on from the 2-0 defeat to Jordan in the semi-finals and with Klinsmann under huge pressure.

The committee is not a decision-making body but will make its recommendation to the KFA's executive board, which will make a final ruling on the 59-year-old German's fate.

A smattering of protesters gathered outside KFA headquarters in Seoul, demanding Klinsmann's removal after just less than a year in the post.

"We've reached a consensus that Klinsmann cannot exercise his leadership as national team head coach for various reasons and that a change of leadership is necessary," Hwangbo Kwan of the committee said.

After a three-hour meeting, Hwangbo said the committee had decided Klinsmann's "tactical preparation fell short" during the team's disappointing Asian Cup campaign in Qatar. — AFP



Jurgen Klinsmann's time as South Korea coach could be over. PHOTO: AFP

## Bayern-bound Oberdorf to become most expensive German female player

BAYERN Munich on Thursday announced the signing of Lena Oberdorf from rivals Wolfsburg for a reported transfer fee of up to 450,000 euros (\$486,000).

The 22-year-old will arrive at the end of the season on a deal until 2028, with the reported fee making her the most expensive German female footballer ever.

The highest transfer fee paid in women's football was for

Zambian Racheal Kundananji, who joined American side Bay FC from Real Madrid for a reported fee of 735,000 euros (\$787,000).

A tough-tackling midfielder, Oberdorf played and captained boys teams until the age of 17, before joining the professional ranks at Essen.

She moved to Wolfsburg in 2020 and has won three German Cups and one league title with

the Wolves.

Alongside Germany captain Alexandra Popp, Oberdorf's Wolfsburg lost 3-2 in the 2023 Champions League final against Barcelona.

Oberdorf has become a fixture of the German national team set-up, having played in the 2022 final against England at Wembley. She was named best young player at the tournament. — AFP



Rafael Nadal made a brief return to the courts in Australia at the start of the year. PHOTO: AFP

## Nadal puts return on ice, admits 'not ready to compete'

RAFAEL Nadal on Wednesday was forced to shelve his plans to return to action at next week's Qatar Open, admitting he is "not ready to compete".

The 37-year-old missed most of last year with a hip injury sustained at the Australian Open before making his comeback at last month's Brisbane International.

However, a small muscle tear then forced the 37-year-old to pull out of this season's first Grand Slam in Melbourne.

The 22-time Grand Slam title winner now hopes to return to the tour at the Indian Wells Masters in California from March 6-17.

"I would have loved to play in Doha, where the tournament team, as well as the amazing Qatar fans have always supported me

*Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam title winner, now aims to make his return at the Indian Wells Masters in California from 6-17 March.*

greatly," Nadal said in a statement on X.

"Unfortunately I am not ready to compete and I won't be able to come to Doha where I really wanted to be and play again.

"I will focus on keep working to be ready for the amazing

Indian Wells tournament."

Nadal was named on the entry list last month for the Qatar Open, to be held 19-24 February, and where he was champion in 2014.

Earlier Wednesday, the former world number one, whose ranking has plummeted to 646, admitted he had been suffering "some discomfort these past few weeks and I'm a bit on the limit".

"At this point every blow I take, every injury, is a setback not only in tennis and physically, but also mentally," he told La Sexta television.

He added: "I am 100 per cent confident of being in Indian Wells, it's a very special tournament for me. I don't know if it's going to be the last time I play in it, so I would like to be in Indian Wells, for sure." — AFP



Germany midfielder Lena Oberdorf will join Bayern Munich from Wolfsburg in the summer. PHOTO: AFP



PM Modi arrives in Doha, set to meet Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani

PAGE-14



REVIVING  
TOURISM

## Thailand to offer medical coverage for tourists

THAILAND has launched a scheme to offer visitors up to \$14,000 in medical coverage in the event of an accident, the tourism minister said Thursday, as the kingdom seeks to lure travellers back after the pandemic.

The government will cover expenses up to 500,000 baht (\$14,000) and pay compensation of up to one million baht in case of death under the new scheme.

Travel restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic hammered the kingdom's vital tourism sector and arrivals have not bounced back as quickly as officials hoped.

Tourism minister Sudawan Wangsuphakijkosol told AFP the new Thailand Traveller Safety scheme began on 1 January and will run until 31 August.

"The campaign aims to assure foreign tourists that Thailand is safe and everyone will be under good care," she said.

The kingdom has long been popular with young backpackers from around the world seeking sun, sand and adrenalin. But accidents are not uncommon and there have been numerous reports in recent months of young Europeans finding themselves facing big medical bills with inadequate insurance.

The Thai government stresses that the scheme will not cover accidents caused by "negligence, intent, illegal acts" or risky behaviour. — AFP

## Indonesia Defence Minister Prabowo wins presidential race



*Prabowo, 72, addressed his supporters in Central Jakarta, pledging to serve and protect all Indonesians, regardless of their background.*

Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto speaks at a rally after securing victory in the Indonesian presidential election in Jakarta on 14 February 2024. His vice-presidential running mate, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the eldest son of Indonesian President Joko Widodo, is pictured to the right. **PHOTO: KYODO**

**I**NDONESIAN Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto declared victory in Wednesday's presidential election, based on surveys by private pollsters, in his third bid to lead Southeast Asia's largest democracy.

Prabowo, a former army general, has won over 59 per cent of the votes cast, the unofficial quick counts conducted by Politika Research & Consulting and other

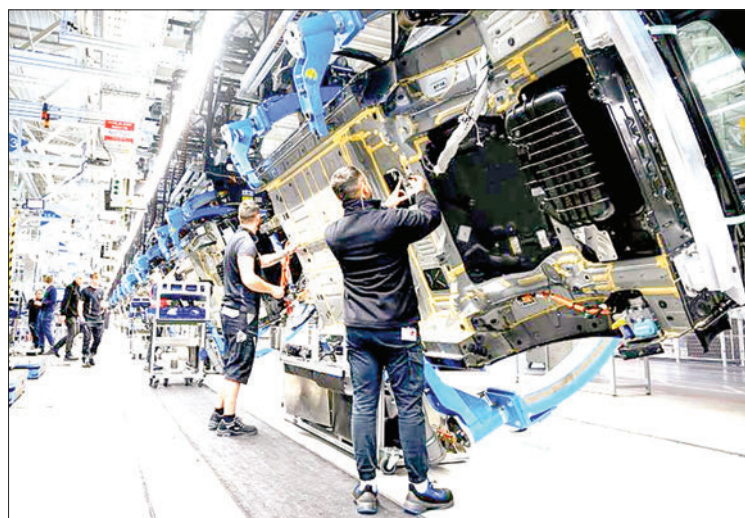
pollsters indicated.

Former Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan has received some 23 per cent of the votes, with former Central Java Gov. Ganjar Pranowo gaining about 17 per cent, according to the quick count results.

"Our victory will be the victory for all Indonesian people," Prabowo, 72, told his supporters at a sports stadium in Senayan, Central Jakarta. He pledged to

"lead, protect and defend all Indonesian people whatever their ethnicity, race, religion, and social backgrounds".

However, Ganjar, who was fielded by the ruling Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, or PDI-Perjuangan, and Anies, an independent candidate supported by some opposition parties, have not conceded their defeat, claiming they received reports of vote manipulation. — Kyodo



Employees at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Sindelfingen, based in Stuttgart, work on luxury vehicle production in Factory 56. **PHOTO: THOMAS KIENZLE/AFP/FILE**

## Germany overtakes Japan as third-biggest world economy in terms of nominal GDP in 2023

GERMANY has overtaken Japan as the world's third-biggest economy in terms of nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in dollar terms in 2023, the Japanese cabinet's data showed on Thursday.

The government data showed that Japan's nominal GDP without adjustment for inflation in 2023 amounted to 591.48

trillion yen (some \$4.21 trillion).

The Japanese news agency Kyodo reported that Germany's nominal GDP in 2023 amounted to \$4.46 trillion. Japan lost its status as the world's third-largest economy to Germany in 2023 as it unexpectedly slipped into recession in the last quarter of 2023 due to a sharp drop in Japan's national currency, the yen,

the report said.

Japanese media reported earlier that Japan's nominal GDP in dollar terms would significantly decrease due to the drop in value of the national currency. At the same time, Germany would see a significant growth in GDP against the background of a rapid increase in prices. — SPUTNIK