

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Majority of Myanmar females capable of shouldering with males not only in families and societies but in all measures as well

The following is the full-text translation of an opening address sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark International Women's Day 2024, today.

Everybody, Mingalaba!

First and foremost, I extended my greetings with best wishes to all distinguished guests attending the ceremony to mark International Women's Day 2024 to enjoy physical and mental pleasure with all auspiciousness. **SEE PAGE-3**

SAC Chair PM's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attends 2024 Int'l Women's Day

DAW KYU KYU HLA, wife of the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister and Honorary Patron of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF), attended the 2024 International Women's Day ceremony, which was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The theme of 2024 International Women's Day is 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress'.

First, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an opening address by sending a video message to the ceremony.

Then, Chairman of Myanmar Women's Committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win clarified the women empowerment activities, creation of rights for women, prevention of violence against women, holding of Myanmar Women's Day ceremonies across the nation and reviewing of women empowerment measures.

He also mentioned the implementation of the national-level project on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict during the third term, the 24-hour Helpline "1566", to help women who face abuse and cooperation work with relevant departments/organizations to conduct education programmes regarding women's rights and gender equality.

The video message was then sent by



Wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla of the State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister observes the display at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

the UN Secretary-General, and a video clip of women's empowerment activities was played.

Next, MWAFF Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented awards to the first prize winner in an article competition marking 2024 International Women's Day.

Moreover, Daw Khin Thet Htay, Hon-

orary Patron of MWAFF the wife of SAC Joint Secretary, and Union Minister Dr Soe Win, presented awards to second, third and fourth prize winners.

Finally, the attendees posed for a documentary group photo and observed the products displayed at the event. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

Objectives of 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2024

- (A) To safeguard the State with the sacrifice of life by upholding Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy of Tatmadaw;
- (B) To actively participate in implementing the processes of two national visions of the State: the prosperity of the country and food security by Tatmadaw members together with the government and ethnic people in their respective sectors;
- (C) To steadfastly implement enhancement of three capabilities in accord with the work process of Tatmadaw, such as study, practise and obey in building a modern patriotic Tatmadaw with powerful strength and sharpening prowess;
- (D) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw to ensure peace and stability, solidarity and development, which are actual needs of the State and to emerge a Union based on democratic and federal systems.



The photo depicts the first-ever EV charging station in Yangon, located in front of the Yangon Railway Station. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Charging stations available for EVs on highways

EV charging stations will be installed on highways across the country, according to the Operation of Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure Implementation Committee.

EV charging stations will be installed on highways such as Yangon-Mandalay Highway, Yangon-Pyay, Yangon-Pathein, Phayagyi-Thaton-Mawlamyine, Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung-NyaungU, Meiktila-Taunggyi, and Mandalay-PyinOoLwin-Lashio roads.

Currently, EV charging stations are being operated in Yangon and Mandalay in public areas such as shopping malls, resorts, religious buildings, and highway bus terminals.

Similarly, these stations will be launched in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay, connecting them with the urban road network system facilities, according to the committee.

A total of 1,888 electric vehicles and light trucks have been registered in 2023. — ASH/MKKS



Yangon-Mandalay special train starts running from 8 March



A train running on the Yangon-Mandalay railway.

THE Yangon-Mandalay special train started operating on 8 March, according to U Thaung Htaik, Chief Superintendent of Yangon railway station under Myanma Railways.

The special train service will be operated every Friday and Sunday from 8 March, leaving Yangon at 10 am and arriving at Mandalay at 3:15 am. Similarly, it will leave Mandalay at 9:30 pm and arrive back in Yangon at 2:45 pm.

“The Yangon-Mandalay special train starts on 8 March, and the train ticket prices are

set at K12,000 for the ordinary class and K24,000 for the upper class.

The train will stop at Bago, Toungoo, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, and Thazi stations,” U Thaung Htaik said.

Currently, the Yangon-Mandalay express trains and mail trains that run daily on the Yangon-Mandalay railway have been suspended since 26 December 2023, and No 5-Up train and No 6-Down train on the Yangon-Mandalay railway are in operation. — ASH/TKO

NATIONAL

Majority of Myanmar females capable of shouldering with males not only in families and societies but in all measures as well

FROM PAGE-1

Today, 8 March, is designated as International Women's Day, honouring the women worldwide. Hence, global countries celebrate the ceremony to mark International Women's Day for further emphasizing the rights and capacity of women and profoundly implementing the development of women with acceleration on a yearly basis.

This year's theme for International Women's Day has been set as Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress. In accord with the theme, I would like to urge everyone to explore the best ways and means for women and girls to have a greater chance to participate in the economic sector while also ensuring access to education and health facilities in order to eliminate gender discrimination.

Currently, the theme of such a significant day motivates all global countries to notice that although the international community can enhance all sectors, women are considerably facing tremendous difficulties in participating in the economic sector on equal terms to men. On the other hand, the theme spotlights that if women and girls have equal rights with men in education, health, job opportunities, financial services and literacy, they will be sure to enjoy gender equality.

It can be said that fulfilling the needs of women and girls to enhance their capacity and helping them strengthen their capabilities of studies, earning incomes and leadership can be defined as good investments for the future.

Since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, natural disasters and economic instabilities have been pushing more than 75 million global population into poverty. Reportedly, if nobody conducts the necessary response to such a situation, more than 342 million women and girls worldwide will be under the poverty line in 2030.

Today's majority of Myanmar females are capable of shouldering with males not only in families and societies but in all measures as well, including political, economic, peaceful and societal development. As such, it is necessary to take the strength of women to allow them to participate in the sectors required in order to modernize the country.

Literacy plays a pivotal role in the capacity enhancement of women. According to the surveys, women's literacy rate worldwide scored 73.9 per cent

in 2000, compared with 82.7 per cent in 2020. The literacy rate of women in the ASEAN region accounted for 89.7 per cent in 2000 but surged to 95.1 per cent in 2023. In Myanmar, women's literacy rate reached 73 per cent in 2000 but 85 per cent in 2023.

It is necessary to invest in the education sector for women residing not only in urban but in rural areas and provide for girls and women who missed a chance to learn school education to learn vocational courses in order to stand tall in the community with their livelihoods. If so, they will be capable of independently operating their own businesses so as to develop women's economic sector starting from the manageable-scale businesses.

According to the gender-based job opportunity survey worldwide (2023), the number of males who secured employment scored 66.57 per cent in 2020, and females 43.02 per cent, but the number of males who grasped employment reached 67.86 per cent in 2023 and females 43.82 per cent. It shows a gap in employment situations between males and females.

As such, the government is implementing plans for the development of micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) in which the majority of women can participate with the enhancement of necessary skills. The Social Security Law has been enacted to establish nursery units at factories and workplaces formed with more than 100 female workers to enable women to have no worries about family affairs.

As technology is crucial in job opportunities and businesses at present, women have to be capable of applying technology in conformity with the modern era. Surveys stated that a total of 27 per cent of the women in the global population are taking part in technology-applied workplaces, and 20 per cent of women are taking a leading role in the technological sector. Although there is no data on women who participate in technology-prone workplaces in Myanmar, female students account for 48 per cent of all students who attend technological universities and universities of computer studies. So, the government should arrange equal terms of rights for women to join employment opportunities in engineering, technology, and computer science without gender discrimination. It is necessary to conduct digital literacy courses for women to be able to apply technology. At present, the Department of Advanced Science and Technol-

ogy under the Ministry of Science and Technology conducts human resource development courses and technological enhancement courses. The recruitment of trainees does not discriminate against gender, and if they conform to designated criteria, both males and females can join the training courses. Hence, it is necessary to arrange plans for women to participate in the training courses.

Moreover, the second term (2023-2032) of the national strategic plan for the development of women is being drafted for the enhancement of women's capacity in the country. When it has been approved, relevant ministries and organizations have to cooperate in the implementation of the plan.

According to the statistics based on the 2014 population and housing census released on 1 October 2023, a total of 56.2 million people in Myanmar comprise 26.8 million men and 29.4 million women, who account for more than 52 per cent of the population. The Union report of the 2019 interim census mentioned 72.5 per cent of the literacy rate of people across the Union above 25 years old at the middle school level, consisting of 73.6 per cent for women and 72.4 per cent for men. The workable people scored 63.2 per cent nationwide, comprising 75.7 per cent of men and 52.7 per cent of women. The unemployment rate across the Union hit 2.7 per cent, including 2.1 per cent of men and 3.4 per cent of women. Moreover, the total population of the Union bears 61.5 per cent of employed persons, comprising 74.1 per cent of men and 50.9 per cent of women. The detailed clarification will be more comprehensive. Such factors show it is necessary to enhance the role of women. Hence, we have to make arrangements for women to have a greater chance to participate in the political, economical, peaceful and societal development undertakings with momentum based on the strength of women.

In conclusion, I would like to urge those in the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and all people to harmoniously cooperate with the government in investing in the women's sector for its development in order to utilize the capacity of women who are more than a half strength of the Myanmar's population and to have overall capacities in accord with this year's theme "Invest in women: Accelerate progress".

Thank you all.

Electric vehicles arrive at Yangon port

WITH the permission of the National Electric Vehicle and Related Industries Development Steering Committee, MG, MG4 and MG, MGZS electric vehicles imported from China via NPK Motors Co Ltd, Geely Geometry C type electric vehicles imported by Premier Automotive Ltd, Dongfeng EX1 Pro type electric vehicles import-

ed from China via Dongfeng Motor Corporation Ltd arrived at Yangon port yesterday. They were allowed to claim the cosignment according to the procedure. — MNA/KZL

The photo captures the arrival of newly imported battery electric vehicles at Yangon Port.



NATIONAL

8th State Sangha Central Working Committee holds 6th meeting

THE 6th meeting of the Eighth State Sangha Central Working Committee was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, State Sangha Central Working Committee member Sayadaws, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin and other officials of relevant departments attended the meeting.

Before the meeting, the Union minister and party made cash donations to Sayadaws.

Secretary of State Sangha Central Working Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa presided over the meeting, and Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Si-



The sixth meeting of the Eighth State Sangha Central Working Committee in progress yesterday in Yangon.

hanada acted as the master of ceremonies.

After the ceremonial procedures, the MC Sayadaw presented the set dates (8, 9, and 10 March) for meetings and sought

approvals from Ovadacariya Sayadaws.

Then, Patron Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa delivered Saraniya Ovada Gatha. The Union Minister present-

ed the religious affairs.

Then, the Sayadaws recorded the late State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and State Sangha Central Work-

ing Committee member Sayadaws between Taboung of 1384 ME and 1385 ME and approved the newly selected Sayadaws.

At noon, the summary records of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee conducted from Taboung 1384 ME to date were read out by Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kodañña.

Moreover, the respective Sayadaws presented the reports of matters related to Vinicchaya, Sasana, and education of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, which was conducted in one year and concluded on the first day of the meeting.

Donor U Thein Maung and his wife, Daw Papa of the Sandi Traditional Medicine shop, offered alms for the whole day to the Sayadaws who attended the ceremony yesterday. — MNA/KTZH

Uncertainty looms for Myanmar workers in Malaysia without calling visas by month's end

UNLESS calling visas are received by the end of this month, the prospects of Myanmar nationals wishing to work in Malaysia will be uncertain, according to the announcement by Safe Migration.

Malaysian employers have been informed that they would have to bring in all foreign workers, including Myanmar, who have been granted calling visas by

the Immigration Department by 31 May, it stated.

The government of Malaysia has suspended the approvals of the Human Resources Ministry (KSM Approvals) for factories and enterprises to recruit foreign workers since March 2023, and during the 18 months of the term of already-permitted KSM Approvals, Malay-

sian factories and enterprises wishing to recruit foreign workers have been bringing them into the country after applying for calling visas from the Immigration Department.

According to the resolution of a joint meeting between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Human Resources Ministry of Malaysia, the deadline for the

application of calling visas has been set as on or before 31 May.

If there are no applications for calling visas for still valid KSM approvals, these approvals will be cancelled from 1 April, and Malaysian employees who have paid levies to the government will be refunded according to the specifications. — MT/ZN

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
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NATIONAL



Impressive Myanmar women



Myanmar boasts of its culture and traditions. The country had existed as an independent and sovereign country under own monarch. Therefore, Myanmar people are the ones who preserve and protect their own traditional cultures without any inspiration from other cultures.

Myanmar's traditional outfits and dressing styles are beautiful, auspicious, admirable, simple and elegant. They can give peace of mind to the eyes of the beholder. Ethnic groups like Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan have their own culture, traditions and costumes.

Myanmar girls proudly wear traditional attire (Yinphone and Htamain) during festivals, donations, and philanthropic and religious events.

Buddhism beliefs are heavily related to Myanmar girls' dressing styles and culture. Myanmar girls wearing Yinphone blouses and Htamain (sarong) to preserve the tradition and cultural heritage are young women's perceptions and traditional ideals in the country. Foreigners can recognize a Myanmar girl by looking at her attire.

Artists portray the beauty of Myanmar women and their dressing styles without losing their cultural grip from rural areas to urban cities. Traditional attire looks more satisfying with simple and elegant features. The outfits are not too sophisticated and revealing, yet the chic outfit ideas are seen. It's written to honour the cultural heritage and value of Myanmar women's traditional costumes in commemoration of International Women's Day, which fell on 8 March. — Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

Maximum 3-year prison term for inflating, selling medicinal product prices

ACCORDING to a notification from the Ministry of Commerce, those who raise the prices of medicines and health aids and engage in market manipulation will be sentenced to a maximum of three years in prison.

If it is found that health aids and medicines for the prevention, control and treatment of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that are designated as essential goods are stored for the purpose of increasing the price and selling them at a higher price, criminal action will be taken in accordance with Section 5 of the Important Goods and Services Law.

Section 5 of the Important Goods and

Services Law stipulates that if a person is found guilty of violating an order regarding important goods, they may be sentenced to a minimum of six months to a maximum of three years in prison and a fine of not more than K500,000.

The above items have been designated as important goods by Notification No 21/2020, dated 30 March 2020 and was issued under the Important Goods and Services Law. Paragraph 2 of the notification prohibits stockpiling of these essential commodities for the purpose of selling and distributing them at a higher price in the market. — TWA/KZL



A pharmacist checks for a drug at the drug counter.

NATIONAL



Gold plates to be donated at Myathalun Pagoda, tender to be called for salvaging gold dust

A gold plates will be offered to the whole structure of Myathalun Pagoda in Magway, and tenders will be called for the first time for salvaging gold dust, according to the Pagoda board of Trustees.

The gold obtained from the gold dust will be fixed on the 210 copper plates at the banana-bud part of the pagoda at the rate of 1.5 ticals of gold per copper plate.

According to the Pagoda Trustees, tenders will be started on 7 April for the work of salvaging gold dust, and all the work of donating gold plates to the pagoda will be completed by September this year. During the recent Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival, pilgrims can register to stay for free at the lodgings of Magway Myathalun Pagoda. — TWA/KZL

Pilgrims are seen at the previous Myathalun Pagoda festival in 2021.

Locally grown potatoes flood Yangon's market in early March

THE locally grown potatoes from Shan State, Sinphyukyun, and Pakokku areas will enter the Yangon market in early March, but there will be no inflow of Chinese potatoes.

The prices of potatoes stood at K1,450-K2,200 per viss. The potato from the Heho area is of better quality, Ko Thein Myint, a potato seller, told The Global

New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). However, the Mandalay market saw a small supply of Chinese potatoes.

The potato from the Sinphyukyun area fetches K1,400-K1,800 per viss on 7 March 2023. Yangon wholesale depot issued the price of Shan potato only. Consumers closely observe price fluctuations. — TWA/KK

Five injured in YBS overturn



The photo shows a YBS being on fire.

A YBS 134 overturned and caught fire at the (Japan-built) Dawbon Bridge in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, and five passengers were injured, according to the Fire Services Department.

On 8 March, the YBS caught fire at 11:56 am, and the fire engines from Dawbon and Pazu-

ndaung townships fire brigades extinguished it.

According to the investigation, a reckless private car crashed into YBS 134, and the YBS bus overturned and caught fire. One man and four women were wounded and taken to Yangon General Hospital. — TWA/KTZH

Sitagu Academy opens water supply hub for monastic communities

A Sitagu water facility with the capacity to supply water to over 100 monasteries, nunneries, and meditation retreats at the foot of the Mandalay Hill was inaugurated with a ceremony at the Sitagu Buddhist Academy in Aungmyaythazan Township of Mandalay Region on 6 March.

Construction on the facility commenced in 2017. It included the installation of two tube wells and two tanks, each capable of holding 35,000 gallons. Initially, the water was distributed to seven monasteries.

Between 2017 and 2021, the number of monastic buildings dependent on the water supply increased to 64. To meet this growing need, relevant officials approached the Mandalay City

Development Committee in 2021 to request access to water from the Mandalay Moat. Upon receiving the approval, the project to install pumps for drawing water from the moat began in June 2022 with support from the regional government.

The construction conclud-

ed in October 2022, and the facility started distributing water to more than 2,000 residents in over 100 monastic buildings in 2024. Sitagu Sayadaw graced the ceremony along with cabinet members of the Mandalay Regional government. — TWA/NT



The ceremony at the Sitagu Buddhist Academy.

800,000 tonnes of corn exported in 11 months this FY

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce's lists, 800,000 tonnes of corn were exported during the 11 months of this financial year.

The country exported 891,038 tonnes of corn between April 2023 and February 2024 of the 2023-2024 FY, while 365,472 tonnes of corn were shipped in February.

Nearly 75 per cent of corn

is exported by the general cargo ship in-bulk system, and 25 per cent is conveyed by containers, especially to Thailand and the Philippines.

The corn exports this year are fewer than those of last year, even with zero tariffs (with Form-D) in place between 1 February and 31 August due to difficulties in trading routes.

"Traders from Thailand are buying with the tax exemption, but we can't export through the Myawady border. The costs are rising as we have to export by sea route. It'll become more difficult if we can't even export to Thailand," a corn trader said.

Corn exports are traded through land borders and the sea route. — TWA/TRKM

Fuel prices see slight dip on 8 March

FUEL prices showed a slight decline in the domestic market.

Fuel prices were K2,175 per litre of Octane 92, K2,835 for Octane 95, K2,485 for diesel and K2,525 for premium diesel on 7 March. Then, the prices decreased to K2,680 per litre of Octane 92, K2,790 for Octane 95, K2,430 for diesel and K2,480 for premium diesel on 8 March.

The figures reflected a decrease of K35 to 55 per litre.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

In August 2022, the oil prices hit the highest of K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel

and K3,245 for diesel.

Therefore, the committee is steering the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively so that there is no shortage of oil in the domestic market and to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the



market to mitigate the losses experienced by importers, sellers, and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than those of Myanmar.

Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM



Workers diligently operate fisheries processing lines at the seafood processing plant.

Myanmar's fishery exports top US\$640 mln in 11 months

MYANMAR shipped fisheries worth US\$642 million to foreign trade partners over the past 11 months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, which shrank from \$690.811 million registered in the year-ago period, the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce indicated. The figures reflected a decrease of \$48.80 million compared to that of the corresponding period last FY. The fishery exports are steadily going, but they have yet to return to normalcy, like exports in the pre-COVID era.

Myanmar delivers fishery products to Japan, European countries, China, and Thailand through maritime trade channels and exports fish, shrimp, prawn, and other seafood to neighbouring countries at their borders.

More than 20 fish species, including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass, are delivered to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation. Myanmar ships fishery products to over 40 countries, mainly to Thailand and China. — NN/EM

Pigeon pea price jumps to approximately K4 mln per tonne

STRONG demand pushed the pigeon pea price up to K3.95 million per tonne in the domestic market.

The pigeon pea price stood at only K3.695 million per tonne on 1 March. The figures showed a rise of K256,000 per tonne in the past seven days.

The pigeon pea price hit a record high of K4.197 million per tonne on 5 February 2024.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pi-

geon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mostly conveyed to India, while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

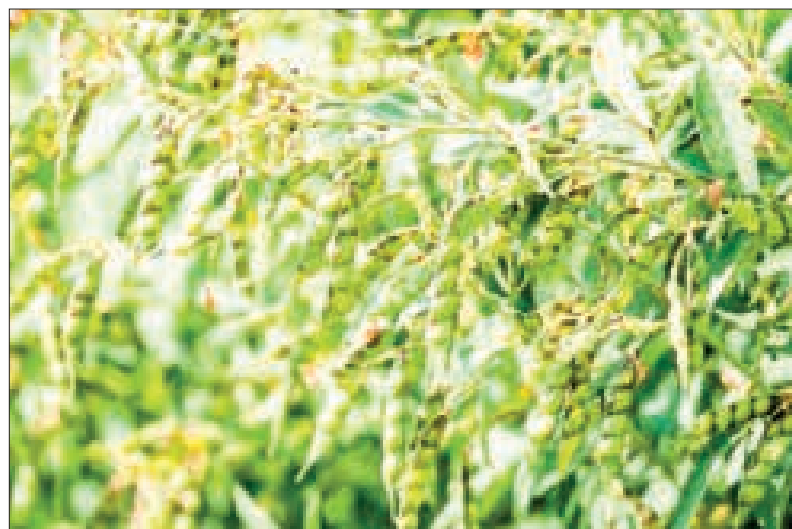
India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000

tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

Black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Myanmar exported more than 1.4 million tonnes of various pulses, with an estimated value of over \$1.2 billion, to foreign countries in the past 11 months of the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's pulses exports topped over US\$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the past FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. — NN/EM



A glimpse of thriving pigeon peas on the plantation.

OPINION

Beware of rabies in summer for people from the society

SUMMER poses an increased risk of rabies for individuals in the community, highlighting a critical need for better awareness and prevention efforts. A significant obstacle in combating rabies is the lack of fundamental life-saving knowledge among those most vulnerable. Despite possessing the tools and knowledge to prevent rabies, the disease remains neglected, with organizations addressing the issue often feeling isolated due to insufficient resources.

The initial breakthrough in rabies prevention occurred in 1885 when Louis Pasteur and his team developed the first vaccine. The causative agent, Lyssavirus, is transmitted through bites from infected animals such as dogs, cats, and monkeys, leading to the onset of rabies in humans.

In Myanmar, the summer season sees an increased risk of rabies outbreaks due to a higher incidence of dog bites. Consequently, people of all ages must exercise caution when interacting with dogs and regularly check for signs of rabies. Implementing preventive measures, such as vaccinating pets, can contribute to an 80 per cent reduction in the risk of infection. If they face some cases of dog or other animal bites, they have to send the patients to nearby healthcare institutions in time to receive effective treatments.

Beyond dogs, other animals like bats, squirrels, and foxes can harbour the rabies virus, while domestic animals in close proximity to humans, such as cats, cows, and goats, may also carry the virus. Infection occurs primarily through contact with infected saliva, which enters the cuts, eyes, nose, or mouth. The incubation period varies, lasting weeks or months.

In Myanmar, the summer season sees an increased risk of rabies outbreaks due to a higher incidence of dog bites. Consequently, people of all ages must exercise caution when interacting with dogs and regularly check for signs of rabies. Implementing preventive measures, such as vaccinating pets, can contribute to an 80 per cent reduction in the risk of infection. If they face some cases of dog or other animal bites, they have to send the patients to nearby healthcare institutions in time to receive effective treatments.

Crucially, raising health awareness is essential to ensuring timely medical intervention. Communities must equip themselves with adequate knowledge on preventing both seasonal and sporadic diseases, fostering a collective effort to safeguard lives. Only through enhanced health consciousness can individuals receive the necessary medical attention when needed, ultimately saving lives.

THE string section is rising, and the camera slowly zooms in on someone who has fallen in love at first sight. We all know how this plays out on the big screen, but can love at first sight truly happen in real life, and what's going on inside our minds as we begin to fall?

When we fall in love, a lot of activity happens in our prefrontal cortex, the region of our brains responsible for executive functions like problem-solving, critical thinking, and decision-making. But while this part of the brain takes care of some important processes, it also makes snap decisions with minimal information. In fact, it's estimated that 50 per cent of the cortex is devoted to processing visual information - the stuff we see right in front of us.

In the context of love at first sight, that means falling for the way someone looks or their visible actions and presentation rather than the intangible aspects of their character that show themselves with time.

Next up, our bodies are filled with the feel-good hormones dopamine and oxytocin when we see someone that we're attracted to. This emotional rush feels really good, and the chemical reactions that are happening also play a role in romantic attachment and bonding, giving us that sense of closeness. But that's just the practical side of love at first sight. The full picture is much broader.

"One way of understanding why love at first sight, or initial deep connection, happens is that we all have a wish to return to a primitive love that reminds us of the unconditional love between the mother and baby," says Soulmaz Bashirinia, a psychotherapist, sharing her own theory. "This is a time when the mother is not felt as separate from oneself but part of ourselves, and all our needs can be met in this intense cocoon of love. This is why we might feel we have found our 'soulmate' or that we are 'one' because we have regressed into a comfortable place where there is no difference. This can be a powerful feeling that gives us energy and makes us believe anything is possible. It may give us a great sense of fulfilment and happiness; it makes us feel as if we are among the clouds. This energy can be used in other areas of our life and can make us more confident."

It's also worth considering what impact stories of love at first

Unravelling the Chemistry, Illusions, and Enduring Stories of Instant Connections

By Yin Nwe Ko



PHOTO CREDIT: HAPPYFUL MAGAZINE

sight can have on us. When we see examples of bold, immediate, true love that inevitably leads to happily ever after, it can prompt us to lean into feelings that we may otherwise be more cautious around.

"It is often thought that this is a period of illusion and fantasy when we do not really see the other for who they are, but how we would like them to be. We might think of them as the perfect partner just because we deeply want that ideal partner with no faults," Soulmaz continues.

"Sometimes idealization can make us blind to unsafe and destructive aspects of the other. Safe and healthy relationships allow both to express themselves, and there is space for flexibility and movement. Both partners respect each other's independence, and

there is a shared feeling of giving and taking. So, while you enjoy the ride of being in love at first sight, you also want to give yourself time to reflect on your own hopes and ideals and learn what your rosy glasses make you not see."

So, can love at first sight ever last? When trying to land on an answer to these questions, psychologist Robert Sternberg's 1980s 'triangular theory of love' is often pointed to. His theory suggests that all relationships are built on varying levels of three components: intimacy, passion, and commitment. You can apply these ideas to your own relationships. For example, think of a friend. You may be able to tick off 'intimacy' as you've grown to know each other very well, but not the other two.

Another example is what Sternberg names 'compassion-

faith in the concept. Topping the list was Slovenia, but the UK was right up there - coming 6th out of the 46 analyzed countries. One such person who would fall into this category of love-at-first-sight believers is Dr. Hana Patel.

"I met my husband, Surinder, online," she shares. "I joined the website on a Friday and saw his profile that day. On Saturday, we contacted each other, and as Surinder's subscription was about to end the next day, he offered to give me his email and telephone number. We started chatting via email and on the phone. I thought that - if Surinder were as nice in person as he was via email, as he sounded really fair, genuine, and a lovely guy - he would be the man I would marry. It felt fated, actually."

Hana and Surinder had an adventurous first date on a mystery tour of London, all the while covering important topics such as religion, values, morals, career, and finance. By their third date, Surinder had met Hana's parents - and she met his parents on their fourth. Three months later, they eloped to Barbados to get married. In November 2023, they celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary.

Hana and Surinder's story is an example of how love works out at first sight. But, when it comes to assessing the validity of love at first sight, 'success' doesn't have to be the marker. As long as it is safe and healthy, there's nothing wrong with falling head over heels for someone. Yes, deep connections take time, and if that's what you're looking to pursue, you should take note to curb the urge to rush in. But, whether it lasts ten years or ten days, as long as we're in a secure and self-aware place, being open to love can be an utter joy.

Furthermore, the concept of love at first sight is a fascinating topic that stirs our emotions and captivates our imaginations. As we explored the neurological and

hormonal aspects of falling in love, it became evident that our brains play a significant role in making quick judgments based on visual stimuli. The initial rush of feel-good hormones like dopamine and oxytocin adds to the intensity of the experience, creating a sense of closeness and attachment.

Psychotherapist Soulmaz Bashirinia's theory sheds light on the primal desire for a love reminiscent of the unconditional bond between a mother and a baby. This regression to a state of comfort and unity may explain why some people feel they have found their 'soulmate' during love-at-first-sight encounters, as it transports them to a place where differences fade away.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge the potential pitfalls of idealization during this phase. Soulmaz warns that the romantic illusion may blind us to certain aspects of the other person, preventing a clear view of their true nature. Healthy relationships, she emphasizes, involve mutual expression, respect for independence, and a balance of giving and taking.

Delving into psychologist Robert Sternberg's 'triangular theory of love,' we discover that true love, or 'consummate love,' encompasses intimacy, passion, and commitment. Love at first sight, according to Sternberg, may be categorized as 'infatuation or limerence,' focusing mainly on passion, while intimacy and commitment take time to develop.

Despite the scepticism surrounding love at first sight, stories like Dr. Hana Patel's prove that such connections can evolve into lasting and meaningful relationships. Hana's adventurous journey from an online encounter to a 10th-anniversary celebration with her husband, Surinder, exemplifies that, with the right conditions, love at first sight can indeed stand the test of time.

In the end, the success or longevity of love at first sight should not be the sole measure of its validity. Whether it lasts for years or days, as long as the relationship is safe, healthy, and brings joy, there is no harm in embracing the excitement of falling head over heels for someone. While deep connections may require time to develop, being open to love can be a fulfilling and joyful aspect of our lives.

Reference: Issue 82 *Happyful Magazine* 2024

Man vaccinated for Covid 217 times reports no side effects: scientists

Researchers observed that his immune system did not have any negative reactions even though he received a very high number of shots.

A GERMAN man who deliberately got vaccinated for Covid-19 a whopping 217 times did not report any side effects from his many jabs, according to researchers studying possibly the "most vaccinated person in history".

The immune system of the 62-year-old man from the central German city of Magdeburg — who has not been named — is still firing on all cylinders, the researchers said in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal.

They said the man voluntarily received so many shots against all medical advice, and warned against jumping to far-reaching conclusions from this single case.

The man first came to the attention of the German-led researchers due to news reports in 2022, when he had only received 90 jabs.

over the case but no criminal charges were filed, according to the scientific paper published earlier this week.

The prosecutor collected evidence of 130 vaccinations over nine months, it added.

But the man claims to have received 217 vaccine doses of eight different Covid vaccines — including all mRNA versions — over 29 months. Kilian Schober, a virologist at Germany's University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and study co-author, said in a statement that when they contacted the man, he was "very interested" in undergoing a range of tests to examine the effect of so many vaccinations.

Most vaccinated person ever?

The case allowed the researchers an extremely rare chance to study what is known as "hyper-vaccination".



PHOTO: AFP

Media reports at the time said the man was suspected of getting so many doses to collect the completed vaccination cards, which could then be forged and sold to people who did not want to be vaccinated.

A public prosecutor in Magdeburg opened an investigation into allegations of fraud

Some scientists have theorised that after being hit by so many vaccinations, a body's immune cells would become less effective as they became accustomed to the antigens.

But that was not the case for the German man, the researchers found.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Strong domestic, foreign demand elevates chickpea prices in Mandalay



Traders seen viewing and evaluating various beans and pulses at the Mandalay market.

THE strong demand from domestic and foreign buyers has driven up nearly harvested

chickpea prices in Mandalay, according to a merchant from Mandalay.

The chickpeas have entered the Mandalay market from Kyaukse, Monywa, Sagaing,

Patheingyi, Shwebo, Thedaw, and Wundwin townships. The types of chickpeas are classified as V2, V7, 929, Mya Kyaymon, and Bamar chickpeas. At present, the price of V2 three-basket bags is K25,000, V7 three-bushel bag is K250,000, 929, Mya Kyaymon and Bamar chickpeas are priced at K238,000 per bag, and they are in high demand in the market, according to U Soe Win Myint, the owner of Soe Win Myint Warehouse in Mandalay.

“Chickpeas are in high demand in Mandalay’s market, and they have good sales. At present, over 3,000 bags of chickpeas are continuously entering Mandalay’s market.

The sales are in high demand without decreasing the

prices. There are many benefits for farmers this year compared to last year. India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are the biggest buyers of chickpeas.

Chickpeas are the main dishes of the people of Myanmar. Chickpeas provide nutrition with good taste. Chickpeas are mostly grown for domestic consumption, and this year’s yield is good,” he said.

Chickpeas are mainly grown in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Regions. These chickpeas are grown as a winter crop for domestic consumption only once a year. At present, the Mandalay bean market is swelling due to domestic and foreign demand. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/TKO

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods and vehicles



Confiscated illegal goods.

THE combined teams under the Nay Pyi Taw Council Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated illegal timber weighing 10.785 tonnes worth K391,963 in Patheingyi township and two unregistered vehicles worth K6 million in Zegon village of Pyapon Township on 6 March. This enforcement was carried out under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

During inspections on 6 March, the combined teams impounded 80 jerrycans of chemical liquid and a Dilong electrical control panel board that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) and 2,480 sets of Jinko solar panels that were different from the ID from five containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port and a Volvo Tractor head with a trailer (approximately K75 million) carrying seven kinds of goods valued at K41.1 million including 2,850 lady clothes without official documents at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 7 March, the combined team captured two Dongfeng trucks (approximately K90 million) carrying 7,200 litres of benzyl cyanide and 720 litres of dichloromethane worth K77.04 million without official documents at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 13 arrests were made on 6 and 7 March, with an estimated value of K1,027,301,963. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

Malicious media accuses Tatmadaw of using poisonous gas bombs

FALSE information that Tatmadaw used poisonous gas bombs in Hsihseng Township of Shan State (South) on 6 March when it launched air strikes circulated on social media pages by malicious media outlet Khit Thit.

The security official said there was no clash in Hsihseng Township on 6 March, and Tat-

madaw used no heavy weapons or poisonous gas bombs in any battle. The insurgents intentionally launched bombing attacks in Hsihseng Township on 7 March, and some of the houses were destroyed, and the locals were wounded.

The malicious media outlets intentionally spread such fake



The screenshot validates misinformation.

news to cover the doings of terrorists and mislead the people about the security forces. — MNA/KTZH

Khit Thit media accuses Tatmadaw of forced conscription

A malicious media outlet, Khit Thit, has been circulating unfounded reports on social media, accusing Tatmadaw of forcibly conscripting young people.

The false news claimed that Tatmadaw had conscripted 15 youths from Phayataung Village, Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, in February. It further alleged that Tatmadaw had ordered villages in Ot-

tarathiri Township to select 20 youngsters from each village for mandatory military service.

An administrative official and a resident from Ottarathiri Township discredited the claims by clarifying that such incidents did not happen.

Similar misinformation has also accused Tatmadaw of drafting 50 residents from each village in the Upper Zaiganaigyi

village-tract, spanning across ten villages in Bago Township. These false reports have sparked fears among the public.

Malicious media outlets and terrorist groups have reportedly been spreading baseless claims accusing security forces of forcibly conscripting and seizing citizens, aiming to undermine law and order. — MNA/NT

Japan to revise official romanization rules for first time in 70 years

The country will transition from the Kunrei-shiki rules to the Hepburn rules, reflecting English pronunciations more accurately.

JAPAN is planning to revise its romanization rules for the first time in about 70 years to bring the official language transliteration system in line with everyday usage, according to government officials.

The country will switch to the Hepburn rules from the current Kunrei-shiki rules, meaning, for example, the official spelling of the central Japan prefecture of Aichi will replace Aiti. Similarly, the famous Tokyo shopping district known worldwide as Shibuya will be changed in its

official presentation from Sibuya.

The Hepburn system, which better reflects English pronunciations, has long been predominantly used in society as well as in officialdom, including on passports and road signs, despite the Cabinet deciding in 1954 that the Kunrei-shiki rules would be used in principle.

Still, the country's elementary school curriculum guidelines call for teaching third-year students romanization of Japanese based on the decades-old state designation. — Kyodo



Japan is looking to revise its romanization rules for the first time in about 70 years, switching to the Hepburn rules from the current Kunrei-shiki rules. For example, the famous Tokyo shopping district known worldwide as Shibuya will be changed in its official presentation from Sibuya. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Low-end internet auctions upend art market: sector-tracker

A boom in internet sales has boosted the lower end of the art market and could ultimately doom showroom auctions, said the boss of sector-tracker Artprice, which published its annual report Wednesday.

Artprice, a market analysis firm, said there were fewer blockbuster auctions in 2023 compared with the previous year, and the overall turnover of \$14.9 billion was down 14 per cent.

But the number of overall transactions hit a record high of 763,000, with "an explosion" at the lower end of the spectrum where there were 423,000 sales of art for under \$1,000.

"The market has clearly shifted to the internet, driven by new buyers whose average age has fallen from 63 to 41 (over the last two decades)," Artprice CEO Thierry Ehrmann told AFP. — AFP

Malta issues Chinese zodiac stamp for first time

This marks the first time Malta has issued such a stamp since establishing diplomatic relations with China in 1972.

A ceremony for the issuance of a special zodiac stamp for the Chinese Year of the Dragon was held in Malta on Wednesday.

It's the first time Malta has issued a Chinese zodiac stamp since the establishment of its diplomatic relations with China in 1972.

In traditional Chinese culture, the Loong, or the Chinese dragon, represents strength, courage and wisdom, and the year of the dragon is a symbol of luck and prosperity, said Peng Yijun, counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Malta, at the ceremony.

He added that the issuance of the stamp will enable more Maltese people to understand the traditional Chinese culture and enhance the mutual understanding between the two peoples.

The "Loong" zodiac stamp features a dragon soaring



Photo taken on 6 March 2024 shows a special zodiac stamp for the Chinese Year of the Dragon in Santa Lucija, Malta. **PHOTO: JONATHAN BORG/XINHUA**

amidst auspicious clouds, with a face value of 3 euros (3.27 US dollars).

Joseph Said, chairman of Malta Post, expressed his deep interest in Chinese culture. Being a philatelist himself, the issuance of the "Loong" zodiac stamp is his tribute to phi-

latelists in Malta and aims to sustain the profound friendship between the two countries, he said.

According to Said, Malta Post plans to issue Chinese zodiac stamps continuously in accordance with the sequence of the Chinese zodiac. — Xinhua

Ireland votes in family, gender equality referendums

IRELAND votes on Friday on constitutional references to the family and women's role in the home after campaigns that have honed in on vague wording, "mansplaining" and panic over polygamy.

The proposals, called the family amendment and the care amendment, would make changes to the text of Article 41 in the EU member's consti-

tution that was written in 1937.

The first asks citizens to expand the definition of family from those based on marriage to include "durable relationships" such as cohabiting couples and their children.

The second proposes replacing old-fashioned language around the role of "women in the home" with a clause recognizing care provided by family

members to one another.

For Orla O'Connor, head of the National Women's Council of Ireland, the votes, which coincide with International Women's Day, are about "moving another step forward for equality in Ireland". "It's about equality for families and equality for women and it's also about putting in a value for care but it's talking about it in the context of family members," she told AFP. The 1937 references are "archaic and outdated" said Catherine Cox, from Family Carers Ireland which is also campaigning for a double "Yes". According to Yvonne Galligan, a political scientist at the Technological University of Dublin, the family amendment represents a "logical progression" after recent era-defining referenda in Ireland, where the Catholic Church was once all-powerful. — AFP



Two votes are being held on Friday to change references in Ireland's constitution to the family and women. **PHOTO: PAUL FAITH / AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

China's FM reveals trade with Russia hit record high



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasized the record bilateral trade of \$240 billion last year, surpassing the \$200 billion target.

CHINA'S top diplomat Wang Yi held a news conference Thursday on the sidelines of a political gathering in Beijing.

With Russian gas powering thousands of Chinese homes and Chinese cars cruising along Russian roadways, Wang Yi said on Thursday, that he believes that this fully reflects the stability and broad prospects of cooperation.

"Last year, bilateral trade reached a record level of \$240 billion, reaching the set target of

\$200 billion ahead of schedule... Russian natural gas is being supplied to thousands of households in China, and Chinese cars are driving on Russian streets: this fully reflects the strong sustainability and broad prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries," Wang said at an annual news conference at a session of China's parliament, the National People's Congress.

The second session of Chi-

na's 14th National People's Congress opened in Beijing on Tuesday and will last until 11 March. Mutual political trust between Moscow and Beijing continues to strengthen under the leadership of both countries' presidents, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said. He emphasized that Russia and China (PRC) have established a new model of relations between major countries that is markedly different from the Cold War era. — SPUTNIK

Russian Export Centre JSC (REC) is a State-owned development institute established by the Government to support the development of the non-commodity exports industry/sector. REC offers a wide range of financial and non-financial support tools to benefit the Russian exporters explore the foreign markets and build capacity in the global trade. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Nigeria plans to apply for BRICS membership

ON Wednesday, Nigerian Foreign Minister Yusuf Tuggar held talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow, discussing the trajectories of bilateral relations, as well as the regional and global agenda.

Nigeria plans to apply for

membership in the BRICS bloc of countries after the necessary arrangements within the country are finished, Nigerian Foreign Minister Yusuf Tuggar has said in an interview with Sputnik.

"We intend to do it. Like

I said before, Nigeria runs a deliberative democratic system. So there tends to be a lot of engagement with different interest groups, different internal bodies before such an action is taken," Tuggar said.

— SPUTNIK



Abuja and Moscow are working to accelerate the implementation of joint nuclear energy projects. A nuclear power plant used to illustrate the story. **PHOTO: JOHN THYS/ AFP**

EU proposes \$1.6 bln plan to prop up defence industry as stocks dwindle

The EU has devised a strategy to strengthen its struggling military-industrial sector, with funding expected to come from member states.

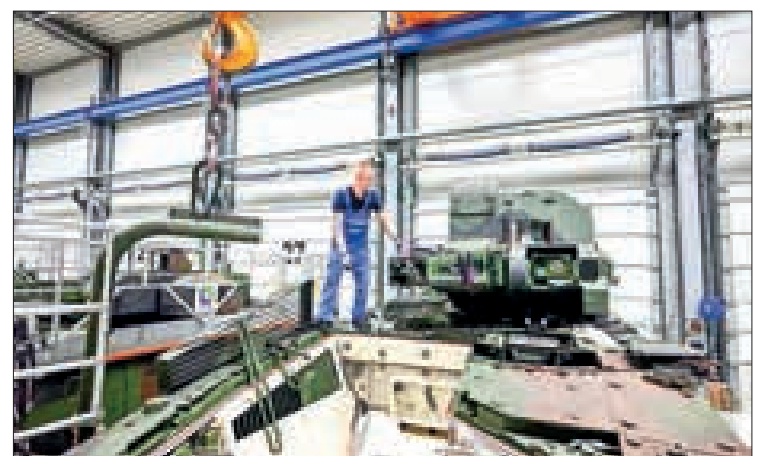
AS the ongoing NATO proxy war against Russia continues to bleed the stockpiles of Kiev's patrons dry, and Ukraine aid remains stalled in the US Congress, the European Union has been fixated on how to continue fueling the conflict while kick-starting its own defence industry.

The European Union has come up with a strategy on how to give the bloc's struggling military-industrial sector

a much-needed leg up.

The funding for stronger EU defence will have to come from the pockets of member states, and procurement outside the bloc was pronounced "no longer sustainable".

The EU's executive branch, the European Commission, has put forward a plan worth around €1.5 billion (US \$1.6 billion) to boost defence production on the continent. — SPUTNIK



Rheinmetall has signed in January a 350-million euro deal with Germany to produce medium-caliber ammunition for the Puma infantry fighting vehicle. An employee works by a Puma fighting vehicle at a production line. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOP NEWS

Average monthly Israeli salary in 2023 was US\$ 3,600

ISRAEL'S Central Bureau of Statistics reported on the average gross wages per employee in the country in 2023.

The average salary for a salaried position at current prices was 12,860 Shekels (US\$ 3,600) per month, an increase of 6.1 per cent compared to 2022 when it was 12,116 Shekels (US\$ 3,370)

per month.

The average salary for a salaried position at fixed prices (deducted by the monthly consumer price index) was 11,056 Shekels (US\$ 3,100) per month an increase of 1.9 per cent compared to 2022 when it was 10,822 Shekels (US\$ 3,020) per month. — ANI

4 carmakers in S Korea to recall some 69,000 vehicles

FOUR domestic and foreign carmakers in South Korea will voluntarily recall some 69,000 vehicles for manufacturing defects, the transport ministry said Thursday. Hyundai Motor

will recall 22,803 vehicles of three different models, including EQ900, for a poor durability in engine oil supply pipes as well as 13,457 units of Porter II to fix a poor bolt design in engine

drive belt tensioner, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

Kia Corp. will recall 11,569 units of two models, including K9, due to the

lack of durability in engine oil supply pipes as well as 7,653 units of Bongo III for the defective bolt design in engine drive belt tensioner.

BMW Korea will recall 12,607 units of 34

models, such as BMW X7 xDrive40i, to repair manufacturing defects in the integrated braking system, while Stellantis Korea will fix software error of coolant heater on 955 units of

two models including Jeep Wrangler PHEV.

Vehicles owners can visit repair and service centres to replace the faulty parts free of charge. — Xinhua

Vietnam's domestic gold prices set new record



SJC gold prices at 9:30 am local time stood at 79.3 million dong (buying) and 81.32 million dong (selling), marking a rise of 300,000 dong from the previous session. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ISTOCK**

VIETNAM'S domestic gold prices rallied on Thursday to set a new record at 81.25 million

US dollars) per tael for Saigon Jewelry Company (SJC) gold bars and 68.8 million dong for gold rings, Vietnam News Agency reported.

dong per tael (selling), up 300,000 dong per tael from the previous session.

Jewelry firm DO-JI's gold prices saw an increase of 300,000 dong per tael to 79.25 million dong (buying) and 81.25 million dong per tael (selling).

DOJI's gold rings also inched 200,000 dong higher to 67.50 million dong (buying) and 68.80 million dong per tael (selling). —Xinhua

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Notice Inviting Objection To Change of Distributor

FMC Corporation USA holds the registration of the following pesticide granted by the Pesticide Registration Board of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1	Affinity® 24 EC	Carfentrazone-ethyl 24 % w/v EC	P2023 - 5453

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor of FMC Corporation for above pesticide is changing to Wah Wah Agricultural Chemicals Trading Co., Ltd. from Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co., Ltd now. invites objections to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice, with copies of such documents and other proofs in support of their objections. If no objections are received within the period prescribed above, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Wah Wah Agricultural Chemicals Trading Co., Ltd
Contant No- 09-400 902 044, 09- 420 021 530

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2402S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2402S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V APEX VOYAGER VOY.NO. (202401)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V APEX VOYAGER VOY.NO. (202401)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV6IE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV6IE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2024** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (112N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (112N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (418S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (418S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2024** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

France's envoy to UN extends support for candidacy of G4 countries as permanent members of UNSC



France's envoy to UN extends support for candidacy of G4 countries as permanent members of UNSC. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/X/@NDERIVIERE

French Ambassador to the UN, Nicolas de Riviere, backs the candidacy of G4 countries for permanent UNSC seats and advocates for a more representative council.

THE Permanent Representative of France to the UN, Ambassador Nicolas de Riviere, extended support for the candidacy of the G4 countries — India, Brazil, Germany and Japan, as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, stressing that France is in favour of a reform of the UNSC.

Ambassador Nicolas de Riviere further supported the strengthened participation of Af-

rican countries as permanent and non-permanent members of the UNSC. "France is in favour of a reform of the UN Security Council to make it more representative of today's world. We support the candidacy of G4 as permanent members, and a strengthened participation of African countries as permanent and non-permanent members," Ambassador Riviere posted on social media X. Earlier today, External Af-

fairs Minister S Jaishankar, while speaking at the Nikkei Forum in Japan, highlighted that if the most populous countries in the world and some of the biggest resource providers for the UN are kept out, it is not good for the United Nations Security Council.

He emphasized the need for the realization to give India and Japan the kind of seats or positions they deserve in the council. — ANI

Sweden officially joins NATO, becoming alliance's 32nd member

Sweden officially joined NATO, becoming its 32nd member, as Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson handed over accession documents to the US State Department in Washington, DC.

SWEDEN officially joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and became the newest and 32nd member of the military organization on Thursday, CNN reported.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson formally handed over accession documents to the US State Department in Washington, DC, the final step of a months-long process to gain the approval of all

members to allow his country to become the alliance's 32nd member.

According to the report, the documents are put into a vault at the State Department, which serves as the treaty depository for NATO.

"With receipt of this instrument of accession let me be the very first to welcome Sweden as a party to the Washington Treaty and the 32nd member of

the North Atlantic Treaty Organization," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said alongside Kristersson.

Kristersson thanked his allies for welcoming Sweden into the bloc.

Sweden's bid to join the bloc was for months obstructed by Türkiye and Hungary, which enjoy friendly relations with Moscow and delayed ratifying Sweden's accession. — ANI



Photo taken on 7 September 2022 shows Swedish Parliament building in Stockholm, Sweden. PHOTO: FU YIMING/XINHUA

TOP NEWS

Train services in New Zealand's Auckland cancelled due to heat

COMMUTERS in New Zealand's Auckland city were faced with disruptions and travel delays as authorities cancelled multiple trains in the city due to soaring summer heat, which led to "hot tracks", local media reported.

Kiwi Rail, which owns the tracks on Auckland's Rail Network imposed speed restrictions in place as temperature of the tracks reached 48 degrees Celsius in some places leading to the cancellation of many train services, including those during peak hours, on Monday. — ANI

Brazil seeks to curb AI deepfakes as key elections loom

AI-GENERATED videos and photos used for political disinformation are the scourge of a busy global election year, and Brazil is scrambling to regulate the technology ahead of municipal polls.

In a country of 203 million, which counts more phones than people, Brazilian authorities last week banned the use of deepfake technology and set out guidelines for uses of AI for electoral purposes.

"Video montages can be used to manipulate public opinion, to defame individuals, or to interfere in the democratic process," Ana Carolina da Hora, a computer specialist at the PUC Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro, told AFP.

The rapid development of AI, turbocharged by the 2022



The rapid development of AI, turbocharged by the 2022 launch of ChatGPT, has shaken up the online landscape. PHOTO: JOSEF LAGO / AFP

launch of ChatGPT, has shaken up the online landscape while sparking awe and fear over the future of the technology.

In a video circulating on social media in Brazil, the country's biggest pop star Anitta and football icon Neymar promote an online gambling scheme, or rather, ultra-realistic deepfakes of the celebrities do. — AFP

SPORTS

Burmester, Ancer lead as LIV makes Hong Kong's historic golf club face the music

LIV Golf made its debut in Hong Kong Friday with a dragon dance on the first tee and electronic music thumping, but after 18 holes it was Dean Burmester and Abraham Ancer who shut out the noise to top a stacked leaderboard.

The South African and Mexican both shot seven-under par rounds of 63 to be stroke clear of a six-way tie for second.

After 18 holes, 25 of the 54-player field were within four strokes of the lead.

Hong Kong Golf Club celebrates its 135th anniversary in 2024 but has never witnessed anything like Friday's "golf but louder", the slogan of Saudi-backed LIV, the game's brashest new circuit.

Big galleries lapped up the action from the 54-player field.

Around the "party hole", the par-four 10th, spectators became more boisterous as the afternoon wore on.

Large video screens adorned the classic layout, giving a new look to a course that has hosted the Hong Kong Open continuously for more than 60 years.

Drones buzzed overhead as players bounced down the fairway in shorts flanked by TV cameramen as the action unfolded quickly.

On the course, players took advantage of benign conditions with winds forecast to increase over the weekend.

"It was really solid," said Ancer after his bogey-free round.

"I feel like I did pretty much everything really good. I felt very comfortable out here off the tee, which you need to be. If you're in the fairway, you have a lot of chances to make birdies." — AFP

Jon Rahm ran into trouble at the 18th. **PHOTO: AFP**



MFF selects players for Myanmar U-16 boy's football team

SELECTION and fitness tests are being conducted to form the Myanmar U-16 boy's football team that will compete in international competitions this year, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The first round of selection was held in the second week of February to form the team, and the second round of selection was carried out in the first week of March.



Youth players seen during the fitness test. **PHOTO: MFF**

PCMA (Pre-Competition Medical Assessment) was conducted on 6 March.

In addition, fitness tests are being conducted on 7 and 9 March, and only after the second fitness test will the preliminary roster be released, and camp training will be held.

Japan's Mitami has been appointed as the head coach of the Myanmar U-16 Youth Team, and plans are being made to

select the players.

In the selection process, players from academies established by the Myanmar Football Federation and talented players from the FIFA-MFF U-15 League were selected.

The Myanmar U-16 youth team will compete in the ASEAN U-16 Championship and the Asian Cup U-17 qualifiers this year. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Messi and Suarez on target as Miami fight back for draw in Nashville

LUIS Suarez grabbed a stoppage-time equaliser after Lionel Messi had reduced the deficit as Inter Miami fought back from two goals down to draw 2-2 in the first leg of their CONCACAF Champions Cup round-of-16 tie on Thursday.

Canadian winger Jacob Shaffelburg had put Nashville 2-0 up with a pair of superbly taken goals before Miami's comeback.

The goals from the former Barcelona forwards, who had scored a brace each in the 5-0 win over Orlando on Saturday, make Miami favourites for Wednesday's return in South Florida with a place in the quarter-finals on the line.

Miami had beaten Nashville on penalties in the final of the Leagues Cup last season and returned for the debuts in regional competition of Messi, Busquets and Suarez.

Coach Gerardo 'Tata' Martino handed a debut to new Argentine signing Federico Redondo in midfield but was

without Spaniard Jordi Alba, suffering from illness.

But Miami were soon reeling after Nashville's Shaq Moore broke through

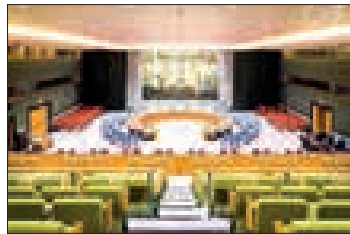
from midfield and fed Shaffelburg who blasted past Drake Callender with a left-foot drive from the edge of the box. — AFP



Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi of Inter Miami CF have words with Anibal Godoy of Nashville SC during the second half of the Concacaf Champions Cup match on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

France's envoy to UN extends support for candidacy of G4 countries as permanent members of UNSC

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WORLD

Putin congratulates Russian women on International Women's Day



A servicewoman takes part in a rehearsal for the Victory Day parade, which marks the 77th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two, at the Alabino training ground, Moscow region, Russia. PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE

“DEAR women, I cordially congratulate you on International Women's Day. We look forward to it with joy and excitement. We are preparing in advance for this wonderful spring holiday. And today in every home, in every family, the most tender, warm wishes are expressed to our mothers, wives, daughters, grandmothers, friends,” Putin said in a video message.

The president emphasized that motherhood is a glorious mission for women.

“Motherhood is a glorious mission for women. A difficult and critically important mission, but also a source of so much joy and happiness,” Putin stressed.

Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated all Russian women on International Women's Day and wished them mutual understanding, success and happy moments.

The president assured that the Russian authorities would do everything possible to support families in Russia.

“This year is dedicated to the family in Russia. The meaning, the essence of the family is primarily about the continuation of life, the continuation of the lineage, of the story of each family and our entire country. The family is the bond that has ensured continuity from generation to generation, and consideration and respect for women and motherhood are an integral part of our traditions,” Putin said. — SPUTNIK

INAUGURAL FLIGHT MU2152

China's homegrown C919 jetliner flies on third regular rout

CHINA'S self-developed large passenger aircraft, C919, commenced operation Friday on a new route connecting Shanghai with the historic city of Xi'an in northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

The flight MU2152, operated by China Eastern Airlines, took off from the Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport at around 8:40 am and departed for the Xi'an Xianyang International Airport, marking the launch of the third regular route for the C919.

The C919 completed its first commercial flight in May 2023 and has since maintained regular operations between Shanghai and Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province. Its second regular route connects the megacities of Beijing and Shanghai. As of 29 February, the China Eastern Airlines' C919 fleet has completed 1,131 commercial flight trips, accumulating more than 3,272 safe flight hours and transporting more than 145,000 passengers. — Xinhua

ITB Berlin travel trade show focuses on AI, climate change

FOLLOWING the COVID-19 pandemic, the travel industry “continued the trend of rapid recovery at a remarkable pace”, with the Asia-Pacific region returning to a “positive balance once again”, a spokesperson for the ITB Berlin's organizers told Xinhua on Thursday.

This year's ITB Berlin, a tourism trade show, focuses on future topics of artificial intelligence (AI) and green transformation as the industry is set to fully recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Running from Tuesday to Thursday, the 2024 edition of the trade show in the German capital featured a total of 5,500 exhibitors from around 170 countries and regions, according to the organizer.

“ITB Berlin is and remains the most important platform for the travel industry,” said Berlin's Governing Mayor Kai Wegner, adding that the fair provided

“groundbreaking impulses and trends for the whole world, leading to innovations in the international tourism industry”. — Xinhua



People communicate at the booth of Tanzania during the ITB Berlin travel trade show in Berlin, Germany, 5 March 2024. The ITB Berlin travel trade show kicked off here on Tuesday and will last until 7 March. PHOTO: REN PENGFEI/XINHUA