

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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Domestic gold price hits new peak of around K4.3 mln per tical

Fishery exports cross US\$675 mln as of 15 March

The figures showed a downtick compared with those of the corresponding period last year.



Captivating images showcase exported lobsters and processed fishery products from Taninthayi Region.

MYANMAR shipped more than 300 kinds of fishery products worth US\$675.958 million to 45 countries as of 15 March in the current financial year 2023-2024, U Nyunt Win, director of the Fisheries Department (Nay Pyi Taw) said.

The figures showed a downtick compared with those of the corresponding period last year. The seaborne exports grew by 35 per cent, in contrast to those of border channels. Exports of 20 fish species, including hilsa, rohu, sea bass, river catfish and barbus, grew this FY.

“The exports of fishery products this

FY swelled to \$675.958 million as of 15 March this FY. The fishery products are shipped to foreign trade partners through maritime and border trade channels. Shrimp exports significantly rose, and the farmed shrimps from Taninthayi were the most valuable traded products. More than 20 kinds of fish, including hilsa, sea bass, rohu, river catfish and barbus, are being exported worldwide,” U Nyunt Win elaborated.

Myanmar’s fishery exports are steadily going to Japan, Middle East countries, European Union member countries, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, and Australia.

Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Fisheries Department are closely working to bolster fishery exports as a public-private partnership.

Myanmar is committed to sustainable fishery exports depending on market conditions and cooperation between exporters and the department concerned to meet the criteria of the importing countries. While exporting seafood to countries like China with tighter inspection, all the stakeholders in the supply chain are making efforts to strictly adhere to the policy in order to meet the market demand and not affect fishery exports. — ASH/EM

MCBA to facilitate cargo retrieval from port terminal



An aerial panorama of Yangon Port along the majestic Yangon River.

MYANMAR Customs Brokers Association (MCBA) will ensure that there is no delay in cargo retrieval from the port terminal.

The Customs Department started using x-ray machines to help reduce time in cargo inspections beginning from 8:30 am on 18 March.

Asia World Port Terminal (AWPT) provides non-stop x-ray scanning under three shifts, and Myanmar Industrial Port (MIP) started practising x-ray security

solutions at 7:30 am.

Additionally, officials of the Customs Department, Myanmar Container Trucking Association (MCTA), Myanmar Port Authority (MPA), Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association (MFFA), AWPT, MIP, and MCBA coordinate matters to ensure smooth cargo retrieval and trade flow in a timely manner.

MCBA notified clients to contact those institutions if they encounter any problems. — NN/EM

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.

2 special criminal cases, 5 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 3 special criminal appeal cases, 4 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Tin Hone, Daw Khin May Yi, U Thaung Naing and Daw Thin Thin Nwet was convened Monday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements for

two special criminal appeal cases — Nos 8/2023 (Mandalay) and 11/2023 (Taninthayi), and five special civil appeal cases – Nos 33/2023 (Ayeyawady), 40/2023 (Mon), 43/2023 (Yangon), 50/2023 (Yangon) and 51/2023 (Yangon).

seven special appeal cases: three special criminal cases Nos 9/ 2023 (Sagaing), 10/2023 (Sagaing), 12/2023 (Kachin) and four special civil appeal cases — Nos 19/2022 (Ayeyawady), 52/2023 (Kachin), 3/2024 (Mandalay) and 4/2024 (Mandalay) were heard. — MNA

In addition, a total of

COVID-19 report, 25 March 2024		
NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
29,824	28	Nil



Photos above and below showcase famous destinations in Minbu. **PHOTOS: ZEYAR HTET (MINBU)**

Minbu's famous sites draw pilgrims on Tabaung Full Moon Day

MINBU town's famous sites reportedly attract numerous visitors, especially during the Tabaung Full Moon Day, with places like the Sekkeinte Pagoda being trendy.

Additionally, the presence of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda in Minbu township draws many pilgrims who also explore other renowned destinations in

the town. These include the Sekkeinte Pagoda, Nagapwet Hill, Shinpin Dettawkone Pagoda, Shinminbu Pagoda, Kyaunglein Pagoda, Shwemyintin Pagoda, Thamokta Giri Emerald Pagoda, and the Elephant camps, all of which warmly welcome pilgrims and tourists alike. — Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/TRKM



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

Productivity in agriculture, livestock sectors to boost State's GDP: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Union government meeting 3/2024 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

ONLY when productivity based on agriculture and livestock farming rises will the State's GDP boost, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing delivered a speech at the Union government meeting 3/2024 at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Speaking at the meeting, the Senior General spotlighted that the agriculture and livestock sector plays a key role in

enhancing the manufacturing sector, which can contribute to the development of industrial and service sectors. Hence, he continued that encouragement is being given to operating the manufacturing industry based on the agriculture and livestock sector.

The Senior General stressed the need to raise double cropping measures to recover loss of agricultural production and domestic production caused by armed terror acts in some areas in recent months. He urged relevant officials to assist in region-wise manufacturing measures.

He pointed out that MSME businesses must be operated to manufacture quality products for local consumption and export purposes. Ministries and regional and state chief ministers have to take lessons from weak points in the previous financial year and strive to achieve more excellent progress in the coming financial

year. The Senior General stressed the need to boost production based on cotton crop with the use of electricity generation via solar energy, urging all to emphasize manufacturing of quality textiles through increased production of cotton wool.

The Senior General instructed relevant ministries and regional and state governments to arrange the supply of safe water to areas facing shortages in summer and distribute sufficient agricultural water due to the high impacts of El Nino.

He unveiled that a surplus fund from the financial year must be efficiently spent on education, health and development sectors.

The Senior General urged all to exercise care for applying orthography of the Myanmar language for the preservation of Myanmar literature and to raise awareness of cybersecurity.

During summer holidays,

he underscored that training courses and activities must be arranged for youths to have a wide knowledge and raise national character. He pledged that the government plans to provide necessary aid for shaping schools with good structures in the coming academic year.

Union ministers discussed plans to manufacture cotton ginning machines at home, production of cooking oil and quality threads from cotton, needs to provide inputs to cotton growers in Tatkon, Pyinmana and Magway Region, cultivation of quality cotton strains, tax payment of overseas employment agencies to the State, sending of labourers abroad via these agencies and tax collection from Myanmar workers abroad.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union ministers and officials. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Union government meeting 3/2024

- The agriculture and livestock sector plays a key role in enhancing the manufacturing sector, which can contribute to the development of industrial and service sectors.
- Relevant ministries and region and state governments should arrange the supply of safe water to water scarcity areas in summer and distribute sufficient agricultural water due to the high impacts of El Nino.
- All were urged to emphasize the manufacturing of quality textiles through increased production of cotton wool.
- All have to exercise care for applying orthography of the Myanmar language for the preservation of Myanmar literature and to raise awareness of cyber security.
- The government plans to provide necessary aid for shaping schools with good structures in the coming academic year.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Inter-State/Region Cricket Competition 2024 begins in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony of the 2024 Inter-State/ Region Cricket Competition was held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event was attended by State Administration Council members Daw Dwe Bu, Porel Aung Thein, Dr Hmu Thang, Dr Ba Shwe, U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental officials, and relevant officials of Myanmar Cricket Federation, coaches and athletes.

Speaking at the event, the Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, in his capacity as Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, said the cricket competition was held to raise the interest of youths and develop the sport. Regions and states should



SAC members and dignitaries watch the U-23 women's cricket competition between the Mon State team and the Kayin State team yesterday.

also cooperate with the Myanmar Cricket Federation to improve the standard of Myanmar cricket sport.

He then urged the athletes to

compete with competitive spirit, showing off their abilities, and the referees should make decisions without bias.

After the opening proce-

dures, the SAC members and party cordially met athletes and watched the U-23 women's cricket competition between the Mon State team and the Kayin State

team. The Inter-State and Region Cricket Competition 2024 will take place from 25 March to 3 April, and people can watch it for free. — MNA/KTZH

UN Interim Coordinator calls on MoIP Union Minister

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Mr Marcoluigi Corsi, UN Interim Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar and his delegation at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They frankly exchanged

views on the status of visa and travel arrangements for the staff of United Nations agencies in Myanmar, temporary relocation of staff from United Nations agencies working in the region to Sittway, the temporary relocation and verification procedures for the UN staff

holding the identification card (NV Card) due to the violent fighting of AA insurgents in northern Rakhine State, the delayed repatriation of IDPs in the current situation, and the work stoppage due to the ongoing engagement in the areas. — MNA/TS



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing meets the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim yesterday.

Forest Dept marks International Day of Forests 2024

THE Forest Department organized an event to commemorate the International Day of Forests (IDF) at the Director-General's office yesterday. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, U Min Thu, highlighted the significance of IDF in raising awareness about forest conservation in his address.

With this year's theme being "Forest and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World", the department is employing innovative approaches such as information technology and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in its conservation efforts. Moreover, the department has facilitated discussions be-

tween young academics and experienced professionals to explore ways to enhance the country's forestry sector.

Dr Thaung Naing Oo, Director-General of the Forest Department, delivered a keynote presentation on the theme of this year's IDF and showcased a commemorative video. Following this, a panel discussion involving various sectors, featuring both young academics and seasoned experts, was conducted.

The event was attended by relevant directors-general, directors, professors, and distinguished guests, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange on forest conservation initiatives. — MNA/NT

Tatmadaw Park in Nay Pyi Taw opens to public free of charge

THE water fountains in the Tatmadaw Park are decorated with electricity in honour of the 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day. The Tatmadaw Park will be open to the public from 28 to 31 March, and the people can visit the park to observe the Armed Forces Day torch and statues of Kings Anawrahta, Bayintnaung and Alaung Phaya, who established the first, second and third Myanmar empires free of charge. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

UNOCHA Myanmar Office Head calls on MIFER Union Minister

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received the delegation led by Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, OCHA Head of Office, Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to the humanitarian assistance programme to be carried out in Myanmar.

Officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, as well as representatives from the UNOCHA Myanmar office, were also present at the meeting. — MNA



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw receives the UNOCHA Head of Office, Myanmar, yesterday.

Twantay Shwesandaw to host Sand Pagoda Festival

THE New Year Sand Pagoda Festival will take place at Shwesandaw Pagoda in Twantay Township of Yangon Region on 17 April, the first day of the Myanmar New Year. The festival will feature traditional Shan dance performances.

Located on the eastern platform of the Shwesandaw Pagoda, this year marks the 459th Sand Pagoda Festival. U Sai Aung Sein Seng explained, “It’s an annual event where Shan ethnic groups from four Shan villages in Twantay Township come together to celebrate. The Sand Pagoda, built jointly by these villages, is displayed for two days at the Shwesandaw Pagoda platform before being toured to Shan villages. During the procession to the pagoda, locals perform traditional dances, and the same happens when they visit Shan villages.”

Residents of four Shan vil-



The photo shows the offering of Sand Pagoda at Shwesandaw Pagoda in Twantay in 2023.

lages — Shansugyi, Nyaungdaga, Muelaman, Ngakhan and Masan — collectively gather sand to construct the pagoda, adhering to measurements set by the Shan Literature and Culture Association (Twantay). The pagoda stands nine feet high.

The consecration cere-

mony of the Sand Pagoda will commence at 9 am on 17 April, with the participation of ten Sayadaws. In the evening, a group led by the Shan Literature and Culture Association will visit the homes of the elderly in four Shan villages to pay respects. — ASH/MKKS

7th Thailand Education Fair Myanmar 2024 to be held at Sedona Hotel

THE seventh Thailand Education Fair Myanmar 2024 is set to take place at the Sedona Hotel in Yankin Township, Yangon. Organized by the Association of Myanmar Alumni from Universities in Thailand (AMAUT), the fair will be held on 7 April 2024, running from 9 am to 4 pm.

The event will feature participation from more than 30 renowned international universities from Thailand. Myanmar students attending the fair will

have the opportunity to receive educational guidance and advice from various agencies, all conveniently located in one place.

Among the participating institutions are the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Mahanakorn University of Technology International College (MUIC), Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT), Thammasat University Thailand, Thammasat Business School (TBS), Office of Interna-

tional Affairs at Thammasat University, the Faculty of Economics at Thammasat University, St Teresa International University, Bangkok University, Silpakorn University International College, Faculty of Engineering at Sri Racha, Kasetsart University, Krirk University, Assumption University, Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology, Thai-Nichi International College, Asian Institute of Hospitality Management (AIHM), Prince of Songkhla

University, Dhurakij Pundit University, Khon Kaen University International College, Burapha University International College, NIDA Business School, Siam University Panyapiwat Institute of Management (PIM), KMITL Business School, North Bangkok University, SIIE School of Engineering at KMITL, Rajamangala University of Technology Krungthep, Khon Kaen University, the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC), Mahidol



A pamphlet of the 7th Thailand Education Fair Myanmar 2024.

University, Kasetsart University, Chiang Mai Rajabhat University, Maejo University, and Chiang Mai University. — ASH/TRKM

MAI expands domestically with new addition: ATR 72-600 aircraft joins fleet

ANOTHER ATR 72-600 aircraft was added to the Myanmar Airways International (MAI) fleet on 24 March, marking a significant step in the airline’s domestic travel expansion strategy. Officials from the Department of Civil Aviation and MAI were present at the inauguration

ceremony.

This latest addition, the 12th aircraft in MAI’s fleet, is part of the airline’s efforts to meet the increasing demand for domestic travel. MAI’s fleet now includes four A319s, four A320s, two E190s, and one B733-300F, which operates on an ACMI

basis.

Currently, MAI operates flights between Myanmar and 30 cities across 11 countries, with plans to expand to 14 countries by the end of the second quarter of 2024. The airline is particularly focused on expanding its reach to ASEAN regions, north-

east Asia, and the Middle East.

In line with its expansion goals, MAI will commence flights to Chiang Mai on 3 April, Vientiane on 4 May, Dhaka on 8 May, and Doha on 1 June. Additionally, through its partnership with Mingala, MAI has resumed routes to Kalay on 18 March and

Lashio on 19 March, with plans to start flying to a new domestic destination, Homalin, on 1 April.

MAI is considering the resumption of travel to Nay Pyi Taw, Loikaw, and Khamti by the end of this year, with an inaugural flight scheduled for Mawlamyine. — TWA/NT

NATIONAL

Application forms available for new Thukha Dagon public rental housing units

THE application forms for rental permits for the 400 newly completed rooms at the Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region, will be available for purchase starting on 25 March. Applications must be submitted by 30 April, as per the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD-YGN).

Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing is situated at the junction of No. 2 Highway in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and the Yangon Ring Road. These rental accommodations are intended for the general public, retired civil servants, and current civil servants encountering difficulties in finding housing within Yangon Region.

Prospective tenants from the public and retired personnel can obtain application forms from the township administration



An aerial view of the new Thukha Dagon public rental housing in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region.

offices where they currently reside starting on 25 March. They should complete the required information on the forms and submit them to those offices.

Civil servants currently serv-

ing in Yangon Region can obtain application forms from the DUHD-YGN director's office. They must submit the forms along with letters from their departmental heads recommending their need

for accommodation.

"Those who were unsuccessful in previous lotteries will have a chance to participate in the lottery without needing to submit new applications," stated

a resident of Thingangyun Township who was facing housing difficulties.

It is important to note that applications for apartments in the third phase of Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing must be submitted by 30 April. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. For further information, enquiries can be made on the website www.yangon.gov.mm and the Facebook page of DUHD-YGN or by contacting the department via the provided phone numbers, as stated by the Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing Leasing and Disciplinary Committee.

A total of 1,728 rooms across 108 buildings were allocated through lottery on 13 and 14 November 2023. The remaining 1,376 rooms across 86 buildings will be allocated in subsequent batches. — MT/TWA/TMT

Nominations for ASEAN Prize 2024 invited

THE ASEAN Secretariat has called for nominations for the ASEAN Prize 2024 to honour individuals or organizations that contribute to outstanding collaboration between ASEAN member states, outstanding collaboration between ASEAN and the world, outstanding people-to-people engagement among ASEAN member states, outstanding economic integration and promotion of standards between ASEAN member states and ASEAN community building.

The nominee must be an

ASEAN citizen or an ASEAN-based organization. The nomination form for the ASEAN Prize 2024 can be downloaded at the ASEAN Secretariat website: <https://asean.org/nomination-form/>. The nominee must submit the duly filled-in form not later than 20 April 2024 to the ASEAN Affairs Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No 9, Nay Pyi Taw or amns.mofa@gmail.com by 20 April.

The winner will be awarded the ASEAN prize trophy and a monetary prize of US\$20,000. — TWA/TKO



An invite poster of the event.

IRD mandates tax stamps on receipts for businesses and customers

BUSINESS operators and customers must affix tax stamps on receipts, as stated by the Internal Revenue Department (IRD).

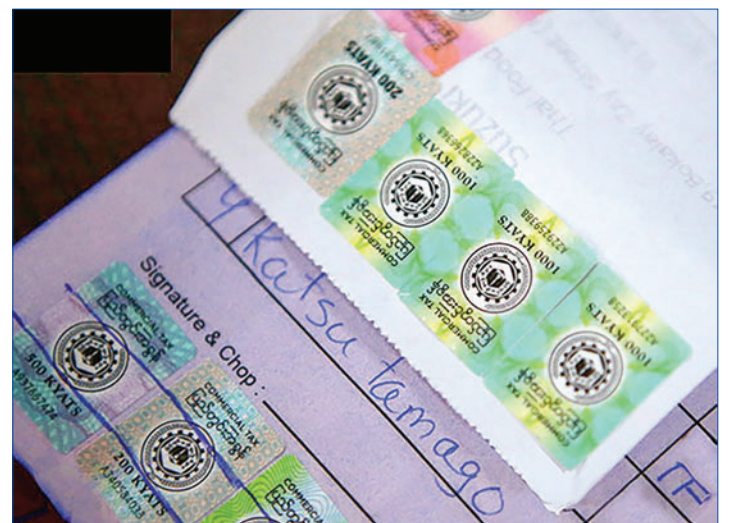
According to Commercial Tax Regulation 40, subsection (a), businesses such as restaurants, hotels, broadcasting services, jewellery shops, mobile phone retailers, and related establishments are obligated to collect taxes, including sales tax or service revenue. They must issue stamped receipts and submit the sales tax to the relevant tax offices.

Those who report instances where tax stamps are missing from receipts will receive a reward. Whistleblowers will receive 30 per cent of the fine for reporting unstamped receipts

and 20 per cent for reporting unstamped mobile handsets.

The IRD advises customers to request receipts with tax stamps when making payments

at businesses. Furthermore, business owners are obligated to provide stamped receipts, regardless of whether customers request them. — TWA/MKKS



The photo shows a receipt with a tax stamp. PHOTO: XINHUA

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YGN palm oil wholesale reference price stable for two weeks



A vendor seen arranging edible oil for sale at the market.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market remained unchanged at K5,250 per viss this week ending 31 March, like that of the previous week ending 24 March, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

However, the market price is higher than the reference price.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The Department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to consumers in coordination with the

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association and oil importing companies. Complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the Department and the region and state departments concerned. The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/EM

Myanmar pulse exports top US\$1.35B in 11.5 months

MYANMAR bagged US\$1.352 billion from over 1.6 million tonnes of pulse exports in the past 11 and a half months of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's seaborne trade saw 1.45 million tonnes of pulse exports worth \$1.22 billion, whereas over 149,018 tonnes of pulses worth \$132 million were sent to the neighbouring countries between 1 April and 15 March this FY.

The Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated that Myanmar's pulse exports totalled over \$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023.

The value of Myanmar's pulse exports amounted to \$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe. India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams 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 grams 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. The prevailing market prices are K2.912 million per tonne of black grams (urad) and K3.672 million per tonne of pigeon peas (tur), stated the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry. On 5 February, the prices hit a record high of K3.5 million per tonne of black grams and K4.197 million per tonne of pigeon peas.

Myanmar's black gram output is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year, whereas pigeon pea production crosses 50,000 tonnes.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that 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. — NN/EM

Domestic gold price hits new peak of around K4.3 mln per tical

WITH spot gold price persistently rallying to over US\$2,170 per ounce and kyat devaluation to approximately K3,740 against the US dollar on 25 March 2024, domestic gold price hit a new record high of K4.29 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

Meanwhile, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the reference price at K3.7948 million per tical, showing a significant difference of about K500,000 per tical from the actual market value.

The YGEA warned gold traders to halt business unless they make transactions below the YGEA's reference price, according to a notification released on 16 March.

Those unscrupulous dealers are manipulating the market by misleading information. Authorities concerned are inspecting the cause of price fluctuations, and legal proceedings against them are being undertaken, the noti-



Gold ornaments are displayed at a gold jewellery outlet in Yangon. PHOTO - XINHUA

fication stated.

As a result of this, the YGEA requested dealers to make gold transactions below the set reference price and avoid the spread of false news and price

manipulation on 12 March.

The kyat depreciation to K4,000 against the US dollar drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023. — NN/EM

OPINION

Launch Operation 39/2024 for drug eradication

THE persistent threat of insurgent and terrorist groups engaging in drug production and trafficking poses a significant challenge to national security and stability. These groups exploit the drug trade for financial gain, contributing to a range of criminal activities, including arms smuggling, violence, and money laundering. Furthermore, the proliferation of narcotic drugs jeopardizes global safety and well-being, highlighting the urgent need for concerted action.

Recognizing the gravity of this issue, the government has intensified efforts to combat drug trafficking through a series of operations conducted between 2013 and 2023. Building on these initiatives, Operation 39/2024 is being launched nationwide in 2024 to eradicate poppy cultivation, dismantle refining facilities, apprehend offenders, and seize illicit substances. Synthetic drugs, in particular, pose a significant threat to society, especially young people of global countries, and are a focal point of this operation.

Currently, Operation 39/2024 represents a pivotal step in the ongoing battle against drug trafficking and abuse in Myanmar. By prioritizing cooperation, regulation, and rehabilitation, the government aims to safeguard national security, promote public health, and uphold the rule of law. It is imperative that all citizens join hands in this endeavour to secure a safer and drug-free future for generations to come.

While law enforcement agencies of the government spearhead narcotic drug eradication efforts, the Ministry of Health oversees addiction treatment facilities and methadone clinics to assist drug addicts in recovery and mitigate associated risks, rehabilitation programmes aim to reintegrate former drug addicts into society through training and support for reunification.

The government views drug eradication as a national imperative, underscored by the establishment of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control to oversee comprehensive measures. Collective action involving all sectors of society is deemed essential to confront the challenges posed by drug-related activities successfully.

Currently, Operation 39/2024 represents a pivotal step in the ongoing battle against drug trafficking and abuse in Myanmar. By prioritizing cooperation, regulation, and rehabilitation, the government aims to safeguard national security, promote public health, and uphold the rule of law. It is imperative that all citizens join hands in this endeavour to secure a safer and drug-free future for generations to come.

In addition to domestic efforts, the government is collaborating closely with international partners such as the United Nations, neighbouring countries, ASEAN member states, and Mekong regions. This collaboration extends to international organizations like the UNODC, AFP, DEA, NNCC, and ONCB, based in Yangon, to coordinate anti-narcotics activities effectively with government departments and organizations.

Central to the strategy is the regulation of precursor chemicals essential for drug production, requiring heightened vigilance and enforcement measures. Business owners utilizing these chemicals must be educated on relevant laws and regulations to prevent their abuse measures and curb illicit activities.

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THE following is the latest research on how to keep your cognitive skills strong.

1 Guard your Memory

There is no pill or procedure to help your memories. But, researchers have found several lifestyle factors that can affect your brain's ability to remember. Here is the latest advice.

Be Physically Active

A 2017 report by the US National Academy of Sciences determined that fitness may be the best tool we have against cognitive impairment and dementia. And there's some evidence that exercise can help your brain become healthier in as little as six months. Be as active as you can in daily life, sit less and take the stairs instead of the lift. You should also get 150 minutes a week of purposeful activity – walking briskly, swimming laps, lifting weights and the like.

Do Brain Games

Puzzles and games may help your brainpower – but only when it comes to doing puzzles and games. Researchers recommend 'cognitively stimulating activities', meaning anything that engages your brain and helps it do new things, explains Dr Ronald Petersen, director of the Mayo Clinic's Alzheimer's Disease Research Centre. For instance, your brain might benefit from photography classes, working with technology or researching your genealogy. Even listening to music may help, according to a 2017 study published in the "Journal of Alzheimer's Disease".

Manage your Blood Pressure

High blood pressure may damage small blood vessels in the brain, particularly in women. Research published in the journal *Neurology* found that women who developed high blood pressure in their 40s had a 73 per cent increased risk of dementia compared with those who had normal blood pressure.



Challenge your brain with activities that involve learning new skills or information, such as puzzles, games, photography classes, or music. Photography can be beneficial for older adults in staying mentally active. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

Be sure to talk to a doctor about how to control it. Marty Munson mentioned about that.

Be Social Doing

Social Doing things in groups seems to make new activities (such as learning a language or taking up painting) even better for your brain. The social aspect also may help you stick with your new pursuit. This is essential because the benefits may fade after you stop doing it.

Eat the Mediterranean Way

A healthy eating plan that involves piling whole grains, fruit, vegetables, fish, nuts and olive oil onto your plate and cutting back on red meat may help keep your brain in shape. A 2017 study of nearly 6,000 people in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* suggested that people who are this way had a 35 per cent lower risk of cognitive impairment than people who didn't. This combination of food may seem like a familiar recommendation, but scientists are discovering that your brain and your heart have

similar needs. Your taste buds will probably approve, too.

2 Avoid Alzheimer's

Science is challenging the idea that nothing you do can lower your chances of getting Alzheimer's disease. While key risk factors such as age, race, and gender have been known for a while, recent research has identified other potential contributors. The good news is an estimated one-third to two-thirds of Alzheimer's cases can be pinned on things under your control. Here's the latest scientific thinking on managing your risks.

Genes

In addition to advancing age, there are genetic risk factors associated with Alzheimer's, with a gene called APOE e4 being the most significant. The APOE e4 gene creates a protein that moves cholesterol around in your bloodstream. However, for some people, the APOE ed variant has been linked to the build-up of sticky amyloid plaque in the brain, leading to earlier

Four Steps to a Better Brain

Researchers have identified various lifestyle factors that can influence and enhance memory function.

researchers, other genes may be involved. Lifestyle habits you share with your family may also play a role in getting the disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association. So make healthy changes together.

Diabetes

Having high blood sugar doubled the risk of Alzheimer's in a study that tracked over 1,000 people for 15 years. Excess blood sugar harms blood vessels in the brain, while insulin resistance may set the stage for an accumulation of plaques and tangles. In two studies, people with diabetes who took the pioglitazone medication or metformin significantly cut their risk of developing Alzheimer's.

Smoking

Research shows smokers face a 70 per cent higher risk of getting Alzheimer's than non-smokers. Tobacco amps up oxidative stress in the brain, allowing cell-damaging compounds called free radicals to run wild, accelerating the build-up of plaques and tangles. Experts point out that arteries become healthier within six months of quitting smoking, which could have brain benefits. Quitting also cuts the risk of strokes, which makes Alzheimer's worse.

A Head Injury in your Past

Modern to severe head injuries that knock you out for 30 minutes or longer, such as from a car accident, can increase Alzheimer's risk by two to three and four to five times. Mild head trauma doesn't seem to raise the risk. Do what you can to prevent hard falls in 2014. Mayo Clinic's study of 589 older adults' brain scans revealed higher levels of amyloid plaque in people with mild memory problems who had a brain injury that knocked them out.

Cutting-edge

Alzheimer's research is finding other potential causes of the disease, common infections

such as herpes simplex virus 1 (the virus that causes fever blisters) and Chlamydia pneumonia to bacteria that cause pneumonia may also trigger the production of plaques and tangles, say neuroscience researchers. Other researchers suspect that an unhealthy balance of gut bugs may play a role in increasing inflammation. In a recent study, people with Alzheimer's had fewer types of gut bugs than those without Alzheimer's. Modern hygiene may be knocking out good bugs, contributing to the risk, researchers note.

3 Keep Your Mental Focus

Science has confirmed your suspicions: a growing fixation on video screens and the constantly changing images and messages they provide may be altering how our brains work. New research is showing that younger brains can process information faster than previous generations so that they can transition from task to task more efficiently. However, adults may be mentally superior in their ability to focus and learn due to a more resilient and long-lasting attention span.

"That's the new generation gap," says Tim Wu, a professor at Columbia Law School. "And some of the advantage goes to older people."

The prime culprit in hijacking attention spans is the smartphone. Checking phones is so prevalent that a global mobile survey found that 61 per cent of respondents said they look at the devices within five minutes of waking up. Beyond phones, video screens are in our living rooms (TVs) and on our desktops (computers), and they are in taxicabs and lifts, waiting rooms, and shops.

"The brain starts learning how to switch rapidly from one task to another to another," says senior professor of neuroscience William Klemm. It becomes a habit. But this habit conflicts with focused attentiveness." Because they did not grow up with smartphones, older people may

be better equipped for serious thinking. "They are often better trained to be patient with complex tasks", says Wu. This doesn't mean older adults have all the mental advantages. The processing speed of your brain starts to decline at around age 24. Add with processing decline comes a diminishing ability to switch tasks or manage inter-ruptions.

In coming years, the demands on our attention span will likely grow as technology enters more of our lives. Avoiding this distracted future and saving your brain ultimately starts with you.

Here are five ways to regain your focus.

Play an instrument

If you meditate or write for 30 minutes, focusing on a single complex task improves your ability to focus on other tasks, says Harvard professor Joe DeGutis, co-author of a study on sustained attention. "Making a habit of these activities can result in 'attentional state training', where you are better able to get in a relaxed, 'focused state for other activities'."

Learn a Language

Bilingual speakers are better at maintaining focus and attention than monolingual.

Grab a good novel

In our study, subjects who read at night and underwent brain scans each morning showed increased connectivity in the part of the brain associated with language. The neural changes persisted for five days after participants finished the book.

Work in the morning

In another study, participants aged 60 to 82 were found to perform better on cognitive tasks and were more focused when tested in the morning compared with the afternoon.

Volunteer

When older adults volunteered to mentor children, it not

only stopped age-related shrinking of the brain, but some brains grew slightly in size.

4 Clean your mind

Your brain consumes as much as 25 per cent of your overall energy. And as with anything that converts fuel into energy, it produces waste. No matter how pure your thoughts, you've probably developed a pretty dirty mind by the end of each day.

So, how does your brain get rid of waste?

Start with the Basics

Studies have indicated that maintaining your blood pressure, getting regular exercise and eating a diet rich in vegetables, healthy fats and antioxidants all have a positive impact on brain cleaning.

Prioritize Sleep

Like most cleaning crews, your glymphatic system sweeps waste when the day is done. Youngling cells, which surround brain neurons, shrink when you sleep, explains neuroscience professor Brain R Chriscie. "The space between your cells increases by up to 60 per cent. This expansion allows more fluid to be pumped through and drives the clearance of waste from the brain," he says.

Sleep on your Left Side

Animal studies have shown that your brain does a better cleaning job in the frontal sleep position than on your back or stomach.

"The left side appears to be even better for maximizing circulation through your body because most of your venous return travels up the right side, and those veins can compress when you lie on them," says neurologist Dr W Christopher Winter. But don't lose sleep over it if you're not a left-side or side sleeper; if you are getting good sleep!"

Reference: 2019 Reader's Digest

ARTICLE

NATIONAL

Ayeyawady Region salt production hits 30,100 tonnes in 3 months; El Niño boosts prospect

THIRTY thousand and one hundred tonnes of sun-dried salt were produced in Ayeyawady Region in three months, and a yearly production of 165,000 tonnes is forecast for this salt season, thanks to El Niño, said the salt businesses in Ayeyawady Region.

Coarse salt is delivered to Yangon Region, while fine salt is distributed to its markets along the Ayeyawady River.

"A total of Thirty thousand and one hundred tonnes were produced in three months of this year's salt season from January to March. Coarse salt is mainly supplied to Yangon Region. Fine salt is distributed to its markets along the Ayeyawady River. It is



The photo depicts salt farms in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region.

transported by trucks. Due to El Niño, a yearly production of 165,000 tonnes is forecast for this

salt season if the weather conditions permit.

This year's production can

be better than last year," said a salt entrepreneur.

Ayeyawady sun-dried salt is mainly produced in March, April and May, and if the weather is fine, more salt is produced in April and March.

"If the weather is fine in April, production is good. It is also good in March. The hotter the weather, the better the production. Due to El Niño this year, the yield can be better. As this business is based on nature, if the weather is not good, the production declines. This year, it is expected to be a better production," he added.

A viss of coarse salt costs K150 in the market and K250 for fine salt.

"The price is not stable. Right now, a viss of coarse salt costs K150 and that of fine salt K250. With better weather conditions and more production, the price is on a downward trend. At present, the price may increase, but with higher production, it can fall. Salt producers cost a little more this year, and the price has to catch up with this rising cost," he said.

Although it rained in Ayeyawady during the 2021-22 salt season, over 101,000 tonnes of sun-dried salt were produced, and with better weather conditions in 2022-23, the production increased to 142,000 tonnes. — MT/ZN

Chinese ghost festival, Xinjiang Ramadan drive watermelon, honeydew price rebound

AS the pre-celebration of the Chinese ghost festival and Ramadan food bazaar in Xinjiang have been present, watermelon and honeydew have gained good prices again in the Chinese market if fruits are fresh, according to Khwanyo Fruit Wholesale Centre.

"There are demands corresponding to supplies. When good-quality fruits are harvested on the plantation and when buyers are waiting to give good prices for quality products, an opportune moment happens. If watermelon and honeydew can be exported in fresh condition during this period, it can fetch a good price. Because Chinese ghost festival pre-celebration and Ramadan food bazaar in Xinjiang are ongoing," said an official from the fruit wholesale centre.

Prices of watermelons and honeydew declined back a few days ago, but now a truckload of watermelons is around 35,000 yuan and honeydew per tonne is around 5,000 yuan if fruits are fresh, he said.

"Watermelons, which received just 10,000-20,000 yuan a few days ago, is now 20,000-30,000-35,000 yuan depending on

freshness. Honeydew has also gained back 4,000-5,000 yuan from 3,000-4,000 yuan. It is important that fruits need to be fresh," he told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

In the Yangon market, depending on size, the price per watermelon ranges from K3,000 to K6,000, and with the elevated temperature, watermelon consumption has grown.

"People buy watermelon slices when they go around because the weather becomes scorching. Watermelons in whole pieces are also selling well. I sell watermelon at K5,000, K6,000 and K7,000 per one depending on fruit size," a watermelon seller in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township told the GNLM. — MT/ZS



Watermelons are at Khwanyo fruit wholesale centre.

Green areca nut prices edge up amid low stocks, Chinese market demand

LOW stock, short supply and purchasing from China are the reasons for the slight increase in green areca nut prices, according to the market.

"Young betel nut price is now slightly increasing. It varies from day to day. The price has changed three times in the last few days. The reason is the lower stock. Then the price goes up. As buyers rush to buy amidst the low stock, there is fluctuation in the market opening price rather than a rise in price. In later days, it is expected to fall again," said a betel nut shop owner from



Green areca nuts.

Myaungmya township.

Currently, young areca nuts in the market are produced by Myaungmya, and there are

some products from Mawlamyine, Dawei, and Ye townships.

The wholesale price has recently changed, and it has become K3,300-K3,600, compared to K2,900-K3,200 per viss of betel nuts.

There are some Chinese buyers for green areca nuts (locally called juicy betel nut), which are cured by heating and drying before export. Green areca nut is a new market that has recently emerged for the benefit of areca palm farmers, and the nuts are harvested young rather than waiting for them to mature. — Thit Taw/ZN

Hot summer spurs electric fan sales

WITH the arrival of summer, electric fans are selling well, according to the electrical goods market, including air conditioners and fans.

Sales of fans have increased with the hotter weather than before, and sales of air conditioners and fans usually drop during the rainy season.

"There are many orders from the Yangon metro. Say, if we sold five pieces before,

now we sell 10. Because the weather is sweltering, sales have increased. Its market is slow during the rainy season," said a salesperson from Naing Family Air Conditioners and Fans Trading.

Depending on the social class and affordability, their preferred products vary, and various types of fans sell better than air conditioners. Rechargeable fans are sold more

in areas with difficult access to electricity, with prices ranging from tens of thousands of kyats to hundreds of thousands of kyats, depending on the brand and the country of origin.

Due to meteorological and hydrological climate change, extreme weather conditions are occurring all over the world but are most severe in islands and developing countries. — Thit Taw/ZN

NATIONAL

Drugs seized at Bayintnaung Port en route to Sittway

ON 21 March, the police received information from the public indicating that fugitive Thant Zin Oo, responsible for the support activities of the Arakan Army (AA) in Sittway, was transporting narcotic drugs from Yangon to Sittway and Buthidaung, in collaboration with fugitive May Yu Tun from Buthidaung.

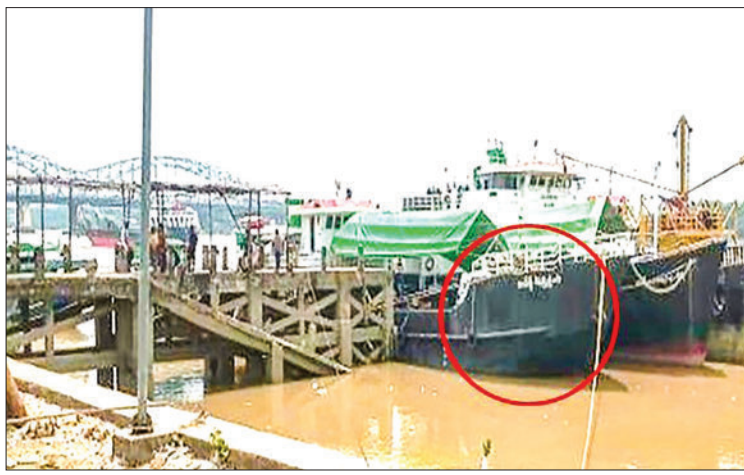
Upon this tip-off, the police conducted a raid on house No 301 in Myitta Nyunt Ward, Tamway Township, where they apprehended suspects Tun Thein Aung and his wife, Su Myat Wai.

Following the arrest, investigations led the police to inspect an MV Sein Pyae Min cargo vessel at Bayintnaung Port in Mayangon Township. During the inspection, authorities discovered one million pink WY pills packaged in boxes aboard the ship, valued at K1 billion.

Further investigations revealed that Su Myat Wai had been offered K20 million by her cousin's husband, Thant Zin Oo, on 14 March to transport the



Two offenders seen alongside confiscated drugs.



A documentary photo of seized MV Sein Pyae Min at Bayintnaung Port.

drugs from Yangon to Sittway. Su Myat Wai accepted the deal after consulting with her husband. On 20 March, fugitive Kyaw Paing Thu, the son of Thant Zin Oo, provided her with psychotropic pills concealed in boxes disguised as Godzilla-brand soap bars. Su Myat Wai then arranged for the boxes to be transported to Sittway via the MV Sein Pyae Min cargo vessel. AA is suspected of involvement in nine drug seizures

amounting to K294.82 billion since 2016. Currently, the police are actively seeking fugitives Thant Zin Oo and Kyaw Paing Thu, along with their accomplices. Informants providing information on drug trafficking and assisting in their arrest will be rewarded confidentially. It has been observed that insurgent groups and drug syndicates are utilizing waterways for the transport of drugs. — MNA/NT

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

DURING inspections on 23 March, combined teams operating under the Customs Department confiscated a GEPRC drone without a battery valued at K2 million from luggage at the Yangon International Port (Import Desk). Additionally, they seized six types of goods worth K4.2 million, including a set of air dryers from China, which were not declared in the Import Licence, from a container at the Hteedan Port. These enforcement actions were carried out under Customs procedures.

On 23 and 24 March, combined teams supervised by the Mandalay Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force intercepted a Hino Ranger car (approximately worth K45 million) heading to Mandalay from Myitkyina. The car was carrying 8,500 kilogrammes of Chinese apples worth K10.2 million without official documents at the Letpanhla-Singu temporary checkpoint.

Additionally, they seized 20 types of goods worth K21.14 million, including 1,740 bags of Oriental Prawn crackers from Malaysia, without official documents from the Shwehtay warehouse in Chanmyathazi township. Two Nissan Diesel trucks (estimated value of K58 million) carrying 6,000 gallons of illegal diesel worth K41.25 million were also confiscated near the BOC fuel filling station on the Mandalay-Madaya Road. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

Furthermore, on the same day, the combined on-duty teams confiscated three vehicles (estimated value of K110 million) heading to Nay Pyi Taw from Mawlamyine, to Yangon from Mawlamyine, and to Toungoo from Hpa-an. These vehicles were found to be carrying nine types of goods worth K10.245 million, including 360 bottles of Two-Shrimp brand palm oil without official documents, at

the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. Additionally, illegal timber weighing 3.487 tonnes valued at K367,918 was seized in Toungoo district. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On 24 March, an unregistered Toyota Crown (approximately K8.5 million) was seized at the Yadanabon combined checkpoint in Sagaing township. Another unregistered Toyota Succeed car (approximately worth K3.5 million) was captured near the Dagon-Ayeya highway bus stations in Hlinethaya (West) township. Additionally, illegal timber weighing 2.88 tonnes worth K115,950 was seized in Taikkyi township. These actions were taken under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law. The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 21 arrests were made on 22 and 24 March, with an estimated value of K314.518 million. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

Fabricated news by Mizzima misleads public on military service enlistment

THE subversive media outlet Mizzima has been spreading fabricated and misleading news, alleging that a ward administrator demanded K7 million from an old woman to replace her grandson on the military service training list in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region.

However, a resident has refuted these claims, stating that there is no truth to the story. According to this resident, there was no instance of a young man listed for military service fleeing from Kwinkauk Village, nor was his grandmother asked for K7 million.

Since the implementation of the People's Military Service Law, malicious media outlets have engaged in delib-



The screenshot validates misinformation.

erate subversive activities, including spreading fabricated stories and fake news, making baseless accusations, and intimidating individuals involved in the enlistment process. These actions stem from their fear that people will acquire military skills and fulfil their national defence duties. — MNA/TKO

ECONOMY WORLD

Troubled Boeing announces CEO Dave Calhoun to step down

BOEING announced Monday that CEO Dave Calhoun would leave his post as the aviation giant faces increased scrutiny after a series of safety incidents and manufacturing issues.

The company has been hit by problems including a near-catastrophic incident in January when a fuselage panel on a Boeing 737 MAX 9 Alaska Airlines jet blew off mid-flight.

No one was seriously injured, but the plane was forced to make an emergency landing with a gaping hole in the cabin.

"The eyes of the world are on

us, and I know that we will come through this moment a better company," Calhoun said in a letter to staff that referenced putting "safety and quality at the forefront of everything that we do".

US regulators last month gave Boeing 90 days to come up with a plan addressing quality control issues, with the regulatory Federal Aviation Administration saying the company must "commit to real and profound improvements".

The company has faced questions following several other potentially dangerous episodes in

addition to the Alaska incident, including an engine fire on a Boeing 747 shortly after takeoff from Florida in January.

Earlier this month, a Boeing 777 jetliner bound for Japan had to make an emergency landing shortly after takeoff from San Francisco when a wheel fell off and plunged into an airport parking lot, damaging several cars.

Last week New Zealand authorities launched an investigation after a Boeing 787 Dreamliner violently lost altitude mid-flight from Sydney to Auckland, injuring some passengers.



(FILES) Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun speaks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on 24 January 2024, before meeting with a group of senators. Boeing announced on 25 March 2024 that Calhoun will leave the company at the end of the year. **PHOTO: AFP**

Calhoun, who will step down at the end of the year, said that "the Alaska Airlines Flight 1282 accident was a watershed mo-

ment for Boeing. We must continue to respond to this accident with humility and complete transparency." — AFP

Malaysia's leading index continues to grow by 3.2% in January

MALAYSIA'S leading index continued to grow by 3.2 per cent year on year in January, signalling a more encouraging economic performance in the coming months, official data showed Monday.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement that leading index, a tool utilized for predicting economic trends for an average of four to six months ahead, grew to 112 points in January as compared to 108.5 points a year earlier.

This improvement was

primarily supported by a sturdy gain in the number of new companies registered and the real import of basic precious and other non-ferrous metals.

Referring to the monthly performance, the leading index was recorded at 1.6 per cent in the cited month as against 0.3 per cent in the preceding month.

According to the DOSM, the leading index performance indicated a more encouraging economic growth in the near term following a rebound in the external trade. — Xinhua

Expert cautious about Türkiye's gas ambition in Black Sea

AS Türkiye ramps up its hydrocarbon explorations in the Black Sea, some expert takes a cautious position, saying it is challenging to estimate the Black Sea natural gas supply's long-term potential.

During a recent event in Istanbul, Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said that Türkiye will engage in explorations in three key locations in the Black Sea in 2024.

According to the minister, the country has planned new drillings and is determined to increase domestic resource exploration to reduce depend-

ency on imports, which pose a heavy burden on the country as it struggles with economic woes.

Some experts, however, said that it is challenging to estimate the Black Sea natural gas supply's long-term potential.

In 2020, Ankara announced the discovery of large natural gas reserves under the Black Sea, the largest natural gas reserve discovered to date in the seabed.

The Turkish government has stated that if fully extracted, the Black Sea reserves may supply one-third of the country's growing natural gas demands for the next 25 to 30 years.

"It is difficult to assess the quantity and the quality of the gas discovered in the Black Sea," Ali Arif Akturk, an Ankara-based energy policies expert, told Xinhua.

"We have to be realistic about production figures as it stands now. The Black Sea gas covers a limited amount of Türkiye's huge needs," he stressed.

Türkiye's energy imports, which include oil, gas, and other products, were worth around 80 billion US dollars in 2022, according to official data. Akturk also pointed out that it will take years before the full extraction capacity is reached. — Xinhua



Photo taken at Tokyo's Haneda airport on 25 March 2024, shows All Nippon Airways Co's new Boeing 787-10 that will service domestic routes. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan's ANA unveils fuel-efficient Boeing 787-10 for domestic flights

ALL Nippon Airways Co on Monday unveiled to the media a new Boeing 787-10, the largest plane among its 787 fleet, that it plans to operate on domestic routes.

The airline will introduce the highly fuel-efficient aircraft for flights connecting Tokyo's Haneda to Sapporo starting Wednesday and later expand

its use to routes connecting the Japanese capital with Osaka and Fukuoka, among other cities.

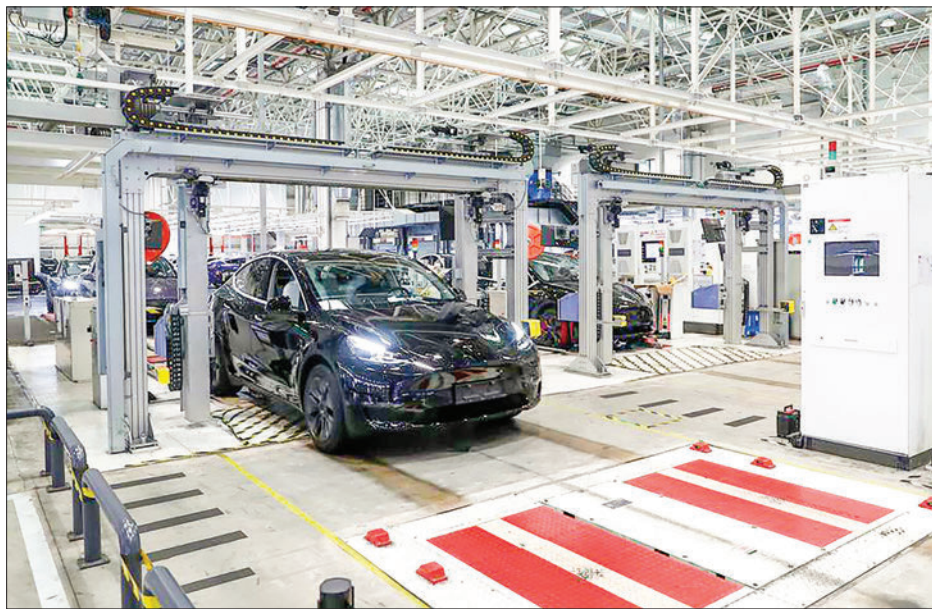
The 68.3-metre-long aircraft seats 429, with 28 in its premium class and 401 in economy, it said.

ANA aims to have 11 Boeing 787-10s operating by fiscal 2026 as it phases out its fleet of 777-200s. — Kyodo

China's high-quality development creates opportunities for international businesses

CHINA'S focus on developing new quality productive forces and promoting high-quality development will create great opportunities for businesses both at home and abroad, and inject strong impetus into global economic recovery and growth, according to the country's top economic planner.

China will take solid steps to accelerate the development of new quality productive forces, boost industrial innovation via technological innovation, speed up upgrading of traditional industries, and fos-



A Tesla electric vehicle undergoes electronic equipment testing before delivery at Tesla's Shanghai Gigafactory in east China's Shanghai, 22 December 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

ter emerging industries, Zheng Shanjie, head of the National Development and Reform Commission, said at the China Development Forum 2024 that opened in Beijing on Sunday.

The country will strive to integrate digital technologies into the real economy sector and integrate advanced manufacturing with the modern service industry, while fostering new growth engines in fields including biomanufacturing, commercial spaceflight, new materials and low-altitude economy, Zheng said.

More efforts will also be made to foster future-oriented industries, open up new fields such as quantum technology and life sciences, and launch the "artificial intelligence (AI) plus" initiative, he said.

Zheng added the country will continue efforts to optimize its business environment, pursue higher-standard opening up, strengthen international sci-tech cooperation, and accelerate the formulation of the 2024 negative list for foreign investment. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV6QE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV6QE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-3-2024** 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

Advertise with us/

Hot Line:

09255597511

09251022355

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (069N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (069N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by **Shanghai E-Tong Chemical Co., Ltd** is transferring from **Yonta Myanmar Co., Ltd** to **Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co., Ltd**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within (14) days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration	
			Type	Number
1.	Yonta Fast Sniper	Emamectin Benzoate 4% + Indoxacarb 12% SC	Provisional	P 2023-5509

Acknowledgement of Changing Pesticide Trade Name

The trade names of the following pesticides manufactured by **Shanghai E-Tong Chemical Co., Ltd** registered at Pesticides Registration Board with the name distributor by **Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co., Ltd** have been changed in reference to import and distribution.

Sr.	Trade Name (Old)	Trade Name (New)	Active Ingredient	Type of Registration	Registration No
1.	Yonta Fast Sniper	1st Sniper	Emamectin Benzoate 4% + Indoxacarb 12% SC	Provisional	P 2023-5509

For the above reason, in accordance with the objection of changing trade names may come and object at the Co Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within (14) days. **Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co., Ltd**, No.242, Kanaung Minthargyi St, Industrial Zone (2), Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon. 09-264 189 400, 09-797 777 587, 09-783 231 907

Notice for change of distributor

We, **Zhejiang Zhongshan Chemical Industry Group Co., Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Zhongshan Myanmar Co., Ltd** to **Gold & Super Co., Ltd**. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration number	New Distributor
1	Zhongshan Myanmar Co., Ltd	Leto 700 SL	2,4-D Dimethylamine salt 70 % SL	Provisional	P2023 - 6249	Gold & Super Co., Ltd

Gold & Super Co., Ltd. (Address: NO. MA-14/1, CORNER OF 43 & 57 ST, YE MON TAUNG WARD, MAHAR AUNG MYAY TOWNSHIP, MANDALAY REGION, MYANMAR. Ph no .09403723854)

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Vucic says NATO's attempt to destroy, dismember Serbia fails

SERBIA will never surrender its province of Kosovo and Metohija nor join the NATO alliance, said Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic here Sunday at a commemoration event marking the 25th anniversary of NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.

On the Remembrance Day for the Victims of the NATO Aggression on Yugoslavia, people gathered in Prokuplje, some 260 kilometres south of Belgrade, to pay tribute to the victims of the NATO bombings.

"They (NATO) wanted to destroy our homeland, to destroy Serbia and dismember it, but they failed," Vucic said.

"Twenty-five years have passed, and we remain unbroken... We will never consent to the dismemberment of Serbia! Kosovo and Metohija shall never willingly be torn from us," Vucic stressed.



People attend a commemoration event marking the 25th anniversary of NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, in Prokuplje, Serbia, on 24 March 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in 2008. Serbia rejects it and considers Kosovo its own province.

The event began with a somber commemoration led by Serbian Orthodox Church Patriarch Porfirije, who later stressed in his speech that the

bombing revealed "the depth of human cruelty when one chooses to abandon humanity".

After the national anthem and a minute of silence, And-

jelka Tosovic, whose house was hit by a projectile during the NATO bombing that killed her 11-month-old sister and her father, said "it wouldn't heal over time".

President of Republika Srpska Milorad Dodik condemned NATO's violation of international law and disregard for innocent lives, including newborn children, while praising Serbia's defiance and resilience.

"We remain dignified people who cherish our freedom," Dodik said, emphasizing the importance of unity as reflected in the widespread observance of the Remembrance Day.

In 1999, the US-led NATO forces carried out continuous airstrikes for 78 days against Yugoslavia, leaving more than 8,000 civilians dead or injured and nearly one million more displaced. — Xinhua

IAEA assessing antiterrorism steps at central Japan nuclear plant



An expert from an International Atomic Energy Agency assessment team (facing camera) takes part in a meeting at Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc.'s Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power complex in Niigata Prefecture on 25 March 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

INTERNATIONAL Atomic Energy Agency experts on Monday began assessing strengthened counterterrorism measures implemented at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant in central Japan, with the plant operator hoping a positive outcome will persuade local officials to approve a restart.

Tokyo Electric Power

Company Holdings Inc requested the five-person IAEA delegation conduct the inspection, which runs through 2 April, at the seven-reactor complex in Niigata Prefecture to determine whether the operator's preventative measures meet international standards after a series of safety flaws came to light, resulting in a two-year operational ban

that ended in December.

"The purpose of the expert mission is to assess the enhancement of physical protection measures of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Station (to protect nuclear materials and facilities) and to provide further advice as necessary to the facility operator," an IAEA representative said at a meeting with TEPCO officials at the complex, which was open to the media.

Defective intruder detection systems and other security shortcomings discovered at the plant since January 2021 led the Nuclear Regulation Authority to issue an operational ban the following April. It was lifted in late December after the NRA confirmed the operator fixed the problems.

Following the NRA's approval, TEPCO has sought the consent of the prefecture's governor and local mayors to restart Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, one of the world's largest nuclear plants by output. — Kyodo

Yemeni Houthis' Indian Ocean threats face skepticism, raise concerns over weapons proliferation

ABDUL Malik al-Houthi, the leader of Yemen's Houthi group, raised alarms earlier this month with his declaration of intent to disrupt maritime traffic in the Indian Ocean, particularly around the strategic Cape of Good Hope. Broadcast on the group's al-Masirah TV, al-Houthi's pronouncement of ongoing operations to hinder Israeli-affiliated shipping has heightened regional tensions.

Further compounding these concerns are reports from Russia's RIA Novosti news agency, which indicated that the Houthis may have acquired hypersonic missiles. This claim has elicited a mix of skepticism and apprehension among military experts, with some questioning the group's ability to effectively utilize such advanced technology due to logistical and operational challenges.

Ali Bin Hadi, a Yemeni military analyst, argued that the Hou-

this lack the means to disrupt maritime traffic near the Cape of Good Hope, as it exceeds the range of their existing arsenal. Despite their demonstrated capacity to affect shipping in regional waters, notably the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, controlling far choke points like the Cape of Good Hope remains beyond their grasp.

"The cape lies thousands of miles away, well outside the operational range of Houthi missiles and drones, making any threats to that area highly unlikely," Hadi asserted.

Khaled Salman, a Yemeni political observer, said that while the Houthi group does not possess the technical know-how to develop either long-rang or supersonic missiles independently, "it may have illicitly obtained hypersonic missiles through a third-party source". — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar vs Syria World Cup qualifiers to take place in Saudi Arabia

THE World Cup qualifier between Myanmar and Syria will be held in Saudi Arabia as part of the ongoing second-stage group matches for the Asia zone on 26 March (scheduled for 1:30 am on 27 March of Myanmar Standard Time).

Myanmar tried to secure points against Syria in this away match after drawing 1-1 in their previous home qualifier at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 21 March. Myanmar's head coach Michael Feichtenbeiner has finalized a squad of

22 players for the away match, including goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Phyo, Pyae Phyo Aung, and San Set Naing; defenders Hein Zeya Linn, David Htan, Kaung Htet Paing, Nyein Chan, Hein Phyo Win, Soe Moe Kyaw, Thet Hein Soe, Zwe Khant Min, and Khun Kyaw Zin Hein; midfielders Yan Naing Oo, Zaw Win Thein, Kyaw Min Oo, Nay Moe Naing, Lwin Moe Aung, and Hein Htet Aung; and strikers Aung Thu, Maung Maung Lwin, Aung Kaung Marn, and Oakka Naing. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar players participate in a training session prior to the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifiers match against Syria. PHOTO: MFF



Head coach Branko Ivankovic (L) and player Wu Lei of China react during a press conference prior to the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifiers match between China and Singapore in north China's Tianjin Municipality on 25 March 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

China coach vows to beat Singapore in World Cup qualifier

CHINA head coach Branko Ivankovic has vowed to beat Singapore in their impending 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier at home on Tuesday.

In the previous match between the two teams in Singapore last Thursday, Ivankovic's team squandered a 2-0 lead to ultimately draw 2-2, representing a blow to China's World Cup dream.

"It's not easy to play against the same rival in such a short

period of time," Ivankovic said at the pre-match conference on Monday. "The result of the last match will be a boost for Singapore, and it's a bigger challenge for us — we have to face the challenge to play a good match."

China currently ranks third in the group with four points, trailing group leader South Korea by three points and behind Thailand on goal difference, while Singapore has only one point. — Xinhua

Japan to advance in World Cup qualifying after N Korea game cancelled

JAPAN look poised to reach the final stage of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup without kicking a ball after FIFA said their match at North Korea will not be rescheduled.

North Korea were supposed to stage the qualifier on Tuesday in the capital Pyongyang but five days before the game officials abruptly said the isolated country could not play host without giving a reason.

On Friday the Asian Football Confederation said the match was off and at the weekend FIFA said it "shall neither be played nor rescheduled", citing lack of space in the international football calendar.

"The matter and match outcome will be referred to



Japan's players celebrate their victory against North Korea during World Cup 2026 qualifier football match at the National Stadium in Tokyo on 21 March 2024. PHOTO: AFP

the FIFA disciplinary committee," football's world governing body added.

North Korea could suffer a 3-0 forfeit as a result, which would send Japan into the third stage of qualifying for

the World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Japan beat North Korea 1-0 in Tokyo on Thursday to make it three wins from three in Asian qualifying Group B. — AFP

Bayern's Kane in frame for Dortmund after return to individual training

BAYERN Munich striker Harry Kane returned from an ankle injury to take part in club training on Monday, putting him on course for Saturday's clash with Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern issued a state-

ment saying the 30-year-old striker "completed an individual session at Bayern's training ground on Monday morning".

Kane was subbed out after injuring his ankle in Bayern's 5-2 win over Darmstadt and missed England's 1-0 loss to

Brazil on Saturday.

He travelled back to Munich for treatment on Sunday after England manager Gareth Southgate said the forward would not be fit for Tuesday's friendly against Belgium. — AFP



UN agency a 'lifeline of hope' for Palestinians: Guterres

UNITED Nations chief Antonio Guterres on Monday defended the UN agency for Palestinian refugees as a "lifeline of hope and dignity" and called for a surge of aid into Gaza.

During a visit to Jordan's Wihdat refugee camp in the capital Amman, Guterres said it would be "cruel and incomprehensible" to halt UNRWA's vital services to Palestinian refugees across the region.

His remarks come as the agency faces a financing crisis after some key donor countries cut off funding following Israeli accusations that several UNRWA staff in Gaza were involved in the 7 October Hamas attack.

On Sunday, the chief of the UN agency, Philippe Lazzarini, said that Israel had definitively barred it from making aid deliveries into northern Gaza, where the threat of famine is highest.

Guterres called the decision to block UNRWA convoys "totally unacceptable" and said "it is absolutely essential to have massive supply of humanitarian aid now, this means opening more entry points".

The agency employs some 30,000 people across the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, providing healthcare, education and other basic services.

"We must strive to keep the one-of-a-kind services that UNRWA provides flowing because that keeps hope flow-



People wait to fetch water in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, on 22 March 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

ing," Guterres said during his visit to the camp.

"In a darkening world, UNRWA is the one ray of light for millions of people. I see that hope here. Now more than ever, we must not take away that hope."

He also sought to "honour the 171 women and men of UNRWA who have been killed in Gaza — the largest number of deaths of UN staff in our history".

Israel had in January alleged that 12 of the agency's 13,000 employees in Gaza were involved in the 7 October attack on southern Israel.

Multiple governments suspended their contributions to the agency, al-

though several have since resumed payments.

The United Nations has launched both an internal and an independent investigation but has said Israel has not provided it with any evidence to support the claims against its staff.

Hamas's attack resulted in the deaths of 1,160 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli figures.

Israel responded with a relentless military campaign that has so far killed 32,226 people, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's health ministry. — AFP

Four suspects in Moscow Concert Hall attack arrested until 22 May

MOSCOW'S Basmanny District Court arrested Muhammadsobir Fayzov, the fourth person accused of committing a terrorist attack on the Crocus City Hall concert venue near Moscow, until 22 May, a Sputnik correspondent reported on Monday.

"The court decided: to satisfy the investigator's request, to choose a preventive measure in the form of detention against Faizov Muhammadsobir," a judge said.

Earlier in the day, the court decided to apply a similar measure in the form of arrest until 22 May against three other suspects in the terrorist attack: Dalerdzhon Mirzoyev, Saidakrami Rachabalizoda and Shamsidin Fariduni.

The court said that Mirzoyev and Saidakrami had admitted their guilt.

Journalists who were waiting outside the courthouse since early morning were invited inside at 07:35 pm (16:35 GMT), and the process took longer than usual due to tighter security measures.

The second suspect in the Crocus Concert Hall terrorist attack case, Saidakrami, was born in 1994. He said he is registered in Russia, but could not remember where he lives.

Fariduni said that he was born in 1998 in Tajikistan and has an eight-month-old child. He worked at a parquet plant in the city of Podolsk and was registered in Krasnogorsk, where the terrorist attack took place.

Muhammadsobir Fayzov, was born in 2004 and is temporarily unemployed. Before that he worked in a barbershop in Ivanovo, and is registered in the same city.

A shooting occurred on Friday evening in the Crocus City Hall concert venue in the city of Krasnogorsk, outside Moscow, followed by a massive fire. A Sputnik correspondent who witnessed the attack reported that at least three men in camouflage had broken into the music hall, shooting people point-blank and throwing incendiary bombs. The Russian authorities said that at least 137 people were killed in the attack. — Sputnik

26 hospitalized after taking Japan drugmaker's health supplements

AT least 26 people have been hospitalized after taking dietary supplements produced by Kobayashi Pharmaceutical Co, which are being recalled due to reports of kidney and other health problems, the Osaka-based drugmaker said Monday.

The company said last week that 13 people developed health problems after taking supplements from a line of products containing "beni-koji" red yeast rice, with six of them being hospitalized and seven receiving outpa-

tient treatment. One of them received dialysis.

The pharmaceutical company confirmed 20 additional hospitalizations by Sunday through a telephone consultation service line established over the issue.

It is voluntarily recalling five products, including about 300,000 packages of "beni-koji choleste help," which by February the company had sold some 1.06 million packages of after it hit store shelves in February 2021. — Kyodo



Supplied photo shows Kobayashi Pharmaceutical Co's dietary supplements that contain "beni-koji", which are being recalled along with four other products over health problems. PHOTO: KYODO