

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Govt prioritizes border and mainland stability through peace talks with EAOs



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing and Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, discussed the government's peace talks with ethnic armed organizations to ensure peace and stability in the whole country including border regions.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian

Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They cordially exchanged views on the help of China in the peace process, cooperation in narcotic drug eradication, bilateral cooperation in the elimination of online gambling and online scams, the border trade process between the two countries, and political progress in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and officials.

The Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC was accompanied by officials from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

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YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate flat for three weeks

## Myanmar plans to export locally-grown dwarf coconuts

MYANMAR is reportedly planning to export dwarf coconuts, which are locally grown, in addition to distributing them in the domestic market, according to the coconut market.

"The packaging seals dwarf coconuts sold in the stores. The liquid is mixed, and they are imported from Thailand. We plan to export coconuts to Thailand. We

learnt that coconut water is produced and distributed in the local market," said Ko Aung Thuya, a coconut farmer in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

Dwarf coconuts distributed in the local market cost K3,000-K5,000 per piece depending on the size, and with more cultivation and distribution in the local market, the price can drop to K3,000 a piece,

coconut shops said, adding they have started supplying the Yangon market.

"There are difficulties in producing finished products. I heard they will be exported to the other side as it is. Or they will produce finished products with technical assistance. It is a bit expensive on the other side. They bear fruits in three to five years. If it is over five years, it yields

about eight pieces," he explained.

Cultivating an acre of dwarf coconuts can earn K600,000 a month and over K8 million a year, and it is grown mainly for liquids. If they are grown with five metres (over 16 feet) spacing, a total of 160 plants can be cultivated in one acre. A bunch of coconuts bears 5 to 20 pieces, and a plant yields 18 bunches a year. — Thit Taw/ZN

# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification No 1/2024

8<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabaung 1385 ME  
1 April 2024

### Allowing Mon Development Party to register as a political party

AS of 1 April 2024, the Mon Development Party, with its headquarters located at No 9, Yazadiriz Street, Yadanadepa Ward of Hpa-an Township of Kayin State, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.  
The registration number of the Mon Development Party is 48.

Sd/ Ko Ko  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

## Nay Pyi Taw to feature international performers in Thingyan Water Festival



An enchanting scene of the Thingyan Water Festival in Nay Pyi Taw last year.

ENTERTAINMENT and performances by dancers and singers from South Korea, the People's Republic of China, and the Russian Federation are scheduled for the upcoming Thingyan Water Festival of 1385 ME, as announced by the Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee.

In the entertainment programmes of the 1385 ME Myan-

mar traditional Maha Thingyan Festival in Nay Pyi Taw, K-Pop singers from South Korea and artistes from Tavrada-Art in the Russian Federation will participate. Additionally, there will be water-splashing pandals from the PRC and the Russian Federation featuring entertainment programmes.

The Nay Pyi Taw Thingyan

Festival is organized by the government to celebrate the new year, aiming to provide happiness for the public, including ministerial staff.

Local artistes have already been invited to participate in festivities at the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor's pavilion and the walking Thingyan pavilion, according to the report. — ASH/TMT



The Mainmahla Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

## Tourism Body unveils plan for Ayeyawady Region development

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation has unveiled a plan to develop more travel destinations in the Ayeyawady Region.

With an extensive coastline, the region hosts numerous beaches, including Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung, Ngwetaung, Shwethaungyan, Goyangyi Island, and Mawtinsun. The region's capital, Pathein, is also one of the famous destinations for foreign and local travellers.

An official at the federation

remarked, "While Goyangyi Island is already well-known locally, improving its transport infrastructure could significantly benefit its accessibility and attractiveness to foreign visitors. Additionally, Pyapon and Mainmahla Island in Bogale hold a lot of potential."

The Mainmahla Island Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1994, was designated as an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003.

— ASH/NT

## Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.
2. The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).
3. According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption  
Answer "1111" to improve services

### COVID-19 report, 1 April 2024

NEW TESTS

28,263

NEW CASES

28

CASUALTIES

Nil

# NATIONAL

## People's military servants educated to serve defending State with patriotism



State Administration Council Chair Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

IT is necessary to foster patriotism and the spirit of defending the State in the mindsets of newly recruited persons who will serve people's military services in the future, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) marked the 77<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebration at the No 2 Tatmadaw TV broadcasting unit in Taungnyo of Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

In his speech, the Senior General said that members of the corps accepting the national policies of the State are serving their duties for the enhancement of the education standard of Tatmadaw members and families,

ensuring military unity, and sharpening fighting spirit of Tatmadaw members in frontlines by applying their talent and skills in literature, music, fine arts and media techniques.

He noted that public relations affect military-civilian relations, and psychological warfare is capable of building the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) with morale to be oneness with the people as the Tatmadaw was born of the people.

The Senior General underlined that public relations and psychological warfare units always have to study appropriate knowledge and technologies for successfully serving public relations, psychological measures, and educational and organizational processes, which are the missions of the corps.

Servants from the public relations and psychological warfare corps were urged to steadfastly serve their assigned duties to further enhance patriotism,

national belief, and perceptions of Tatmadaw members, families, and the entire population.

He stressed that all combat organizational training schools have to emphasize the enhancement of the fighting spirit of all Tatmadaw members through fine arts performances as well as organizational training. It is necessary to foster patriotism and the spirit of defending the State in the mindsets of newly recruited persons who will go into people's military services in the future while training new generation citizens to do military service for the State, he added.

The Senior General highlighted that they have to further cement the national strength of the State, Tatmadaw, and the entire people through their skilful techniques, correct knowledge, and firm concepts.

In conclusion, while Tatmadaw is defending the State and people against any dangers, he underscored that those from

public relations and psychological warfare corps have to improve their capacity with strenuous efforts to become a reliable corps of Tatmadaw.

Before the ceremony, the Senior General launched the Amuze Webtoon Application bearing Teza journal and Aurora journal published by Myawady Literature House through digital technology and viewed the video clip on the launching of the application.

The Senior General presented prizes to Tatmadaw members from units and schools under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare in the national-level competitions.

The Senior General presented a cash award to mark a significant day for the director of the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare.

The Senior General also enjoyed the entertainment of Tatmadaw members from units under the directorate, musicians

from MRTV, and civilian performers, as well as the accompaniment of the Myawady Band.

The Senior General also visited the exhibition to mark the 77<sup>th</sup> birthday of the directorate, comprising the education booth, No 1 Tatmadaw TV broadcasting unit, No 2 Tatmadaw TV broadcasting unit, No 1 Tatmadaw radio unit, Myawady Literature House, Myawady Daily and Yadanabon Daily and gave necessary guidance.

The ceremony was also attended by Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zwe Win Myint, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, the Council Joint Secretary and council members, Union-level dignitaries, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, retired senior military officers from the directorate, and officials. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General views round the exhibits at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General at the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Directorate of PRPW

- It is necessary to foster patriotism and the spirit of defending the State in the mindsets of newly recruited persons to serve people's military services in the future.
- Public relations affect military-civilian relations, and psychological warfare is capable of building the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) with morale to be one with the people as the Tatmadaw was born of the people.
- Public relations and psychological warfare units have to constantly study appropriate knowledge and technologies for successfully serving public relations, psychological measures, and educational and organizational processes, which are the missions of the corps.
- Those from public relations and psychological warfare corps have to improve their capacity with strenuous efforts to become a reliable corps of Tatmadaw while Tatmadaw is defending the State and people against any dangers.

# NATIONAL

## Working committees on AEC 2025 implementation hold 1/2024 meeting

THE meeting of working committees on the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 was held yesterday at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general and representatives from 22 AEC committees.

At the meeting, the Union minister said the regional economies had grown faster than the economy in 2023, and it is expected to gain such progress in 2024. It is essential to connect the Supply Chain Network with the Global Production Network to accelerate the regional econ-

omies, and the respective working committees should cooperate with the ASEAN countries in connecting these two networks.

He also talked about 14 Priorities Economic Deliverables

(PEDs) put forward by Laos in 2024 and 113 Annual Priorities (APs) by ACE.

He added that the country should grasp the chances that can bring progress to the coun-

try in implementing the AEC work plans and should make preparations.

Moreover, it also needs to implement the plans in accordance with the policies by review-

ing the capacity of the country in various sectors, including the manufacturing, services and investment sectors, while ASEAN is established as a single market and production base.

Then, the director-general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department ASEAN Senior Economic Official explained the discussions of the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat, and work plans to be conducted in 2024, and deputy ministers and officials briefed the drafting of the 2026-2030 AEC strategic plan, cooperation in carrying out ASEAN agenda effectively and AEC 2025 review of ASEAN Secretariat.

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



The working committee meeting on the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community 2025 in progress yesterday, addressed by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

## MoL Union Minister receives IOM Mission Chief



IOM Chief of Mission Mr Dragan Aleksoski calls on Union Minister U Myint Naung yesterday.

UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Naung received Mr Dragan Aleksoski, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to Myanmar, and his delegation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They frankly discussed plans to cooperate and provide services for the protection of the

interests of workers and their families, gratefulness for imparting knowledge to 522 licensed foreign employment agencies that attended 17 workshops related to the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), and the capacity to help and care for Myanmar migrant workers abroad. — MNA/TS

## Myanmar migrants in Thailand seek streamlined CI payment process

AS there are some delays in making payments for the Certificate of Identity (CI), Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand would like to see a facilitated process for it.

Due to such delays, only a few workers have come to get CI booklets.

"It has been one month, and we can't make payments for CI. So, there are fewer comers. Those who make payments have to wait at 7Eleven for days. Previously, we could pay anytime, so

employers and employees were convenient. My friend had to go to the CI office in Samut Prakan. He was convenient on the way as there was no inspection. But he has been waiting for one month to make payment," said a Myanmar migrant.

Therefore, the workers want to restore the previous system of allowing payments at any time.

"We want the previous system back. Now, the workers are so much affected. Say, although one is near Samut Prakan, he can't pay here and has to go to another place, so it is not convenient. Employers and employees should be allowed to make CI books freely," he added.

Five CI stations are located in Samut Khun, Samut Prakan, Chonburi, Patong Division, and Surat Division, and three mobile unit camps are stationed in Chiang Mai, Nakhon Sawan Mobile, and Songkhla from 23 February to 31 October.

The Myanmar Embassy and Labour Attached Office (Bangkok) have advised the workers in a statement in February to go in person for the service and not to carry it out with brokers, which may cost more. — MT/ZN



Myanmar workers seen making CI booklets at Mahachai station last year.



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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# NATIONAL

## Investments surge in Bago Region, creating job opportunities

ACCORDING to the Bago Region Investment Committee, local investments exceeding K5,000 million were made in the region in March, resulting in the creation of 56 job opportunities.

Ayar Yoma Agriculture and Trading Co Ltd invested K5,654.736 million in rice milling and distribution.

The Bago Region chief minister announced that investments are sought for parboiled rice mills, oil mills, meat and fish cold storage facilities, solar

panel factories, and fertilizer factories.

Since 1 February 2021, more than US\$198 million in foreign investments and more than K81 billion in local investments have been made. These investments have led to the creation of 11,537 job opportunities. — TWA/TMT

Bago Region Investment Committee coordinating meeting 3/2024 was held on 31 March 2024.



## Over 800 suspected scammers arrested in Myanmar-China joint operation



Fraudsters seen being arrested in the Myanmar-China combined crackdown.

MORE than 800 people suspected of online scams were detained in a joint police operation by Myanmar and China.

The two countries conducted the operation in Muse in Shan State (North) in March 2024. During the operation between 28 and 31 March 2024, 352 Chinese (337 males and

15 females) and 486 Myanmar nationals suspected of being online fraudsters living illegally in Muse of Shan State were arrested and action was taken against them in accordance with the law.

A total of 352 Chinese citizens were transferred to China: 300 people on 29 March, 30 on

30 March and 22 on 31 March, respectively. Myanmar Police Force is making efforts to fight against online scams and cooperates with law enforcement organizations of neighbouring countries to combat cross-border online fraud and gambling under the law and procedures of the country. — MNA/KTZH

## Myanma Railways to operate special trains during Thingyan Festival

MYANMA Railways is set to operate special trains during the Thingyan Festival from Yangon to Mandalay, Pyay, and Mawlamyine, and vice versa, ensuring smooth transport for passengers over the holidays. This information was provided by U Thaug Htike, chief superintendent of Yangon Railway Station.

Passengers are informed that upper-class tickets can be

purchased up to three days in advance, while ordinary-class tickets can be purchased up to one day in advance.

Furthermore, Yangon's circular train services will be temporarily suspended during the Maha Thingyan festival holiday. Regular circular train operations will resume after the Thingyan festival holiday. — ASH/MKKS



The photo shows a special train that will run during the Thingyan Festival.

## Two monks killed after accusations of being informers

PDF terrorists commit destructive actions against government employees and innocent civilians, including monks, due to the instigation of NUG and CRPH.

Abbot Sayadaw Bhaddanta Okkahta (47 years old, 25 Vasa) in Myaik village of Shwebo Township of Sagaing

Region was stabbed to death by PDF terrorists at 8 am on 28 March.

Similarly, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannasara of Hman Chayyintaung Tawya near Myintaegy village of Natmauk Township was arrested by PDFs. They forced Sayadaw to wear a Tatmadaw

uniform and Police Force uniform and shot him.

Terrorists commit brutal murder cases against civilians who do not support them and monks. Security forces cooperate with locals to arrest terrorists who killed the monks for no reason as soon as possible. — MNA/KTZH

### Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar aims to achieve US\$16.7B in exports, US\$16.3B in imports for 2024-2025FY

MYANMAR is expected to meet a trade target of \$16.7 billion in exports and \$16.3 billion in imports for the 2024-2025 financial year.

Myanmar aimed to achieve a foreign trade balance of \$16.5 billion in exports and \$16 billion in imports in the 2023-2024 FY.

The country's GDP (gross domestic product) is expected to grow by 3.8 per cent. Agriculture is expected to contribute 2.5 per cent to Myanmar's GDP growth, 0.8 per cent is likely to come from the livestock sector, 9.9 per cent from the forest sector, 9.8 per cent from minerals

and 4.2 per cent from the industry, 6.3 per cent from electricity, 3.9 per cent from construction, 6.6 per cent from transport, 7.3 per cent from telecommunications, 2.7 per cent from finance, 6.3 from other services and 3.8 from trade sector respectively. Meanwhile, the energy sector is expected to decline by 6.5 per cent, according to the 2024-2025 Financial Year's National Plan.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce for the FY 2023-2024, almost ending, imports worth over \$15 billion surpassed the exports



A major port terminal with export and import activities.

worth \$14.3 billion, showing a trade deficit.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock, fish-

ery, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and other goods to the external market. At the same time, it imports capi-

tal goods, intermediate goods, consumer goods and raw materials goods imported by the CMP enterprises. — TWA/KK



Some baby Rohu at a fish farm.

## Summer harvest boosts Rohu fry sales

IT is harvesting time for fish farms, and the price of baby Rohu has risen in the fish hatchery market.

Most fish farmers prefer that Rohu continue to breed after their fish farms are harvested. Therefore, Rohu fry sales have climbed.

“Rohu fries sell well this summer. Most fish farmers enjoy breeding Rohu. Some fish farm owners harvest fish in summer, and some harvest them in the monsoon season. There are some who put fries during the summer and some put them during the monsoon season. The price of fish fry is not as good in summer as in the monsoon season. In summer,

most fish ponds are harvested, and fries are put again to breed,” said an official from the Aung Htet Kyaw fish hatchery in Kayan township.

In Myanmar, fish farms mainly breed Rohu, Pomfret, Pangas catfish, white Mrigal Carp, Grass carp and Tilapia. In the retail market, Rohu is priced between K9,000 and K10,000 a viss and between K7,000 and K8,000. Rohu weighs 50 ticals in some retail shops.

A total of 70,000 visses of Rohu were exported to the Yangon market from Bogale township, Ayeyawady Region, in December 2023, according to the Bogale fishery market. — Thit Taw/ZS

## 14<sup>th</sup> Thingyan donation of MMPO for film industry people

VICE Chairperson U Aye Kyu Lay stated that there will be 14<sup>th</sup> Thingyan donation of Myanmar Motive Pictures Organization (MMPO) for the people from film industry and the donation things are rice, oil and food products.

It is reported that the donation will be offered from 3 to 6 April. U Aye Kyu Lay said, “We are offering 5-Pyi of rice, 1 Viss of cooking oil, 50 Kyathar of chickpea and 2 cans of canned fish per one person as the annual Thingyan donation.”

It is also known that the mentioned donation will be offered to people from the different stratum of the film industry such as administration, distribution, scriptwriting, production, engineering, supporting. — ASH/ TRKM

## Results of 61<sup>st</sup> Aungbarlay lottery draw



Officials inspecting letters and numbers for the 61<sup>st</sup> Aungbarlay lottery.

THE 61<sup>st</sup> Aungbarlay lottery opened on 1 April, and the fol-

lowing are the lucky numbers. The number F161888 of

the K500 million prize, the K200 million prize number is H772712, and the K100 million prize number is H375594.

For the 61<sup>st</sup> Aungbarlay prize, more than K5,522 million were collected from the sale of lottery tickets.

The 61<sup>st</sup> Aungbarlay prizes are one K500 million prize, one K200 million prize, one K100 million prize, two K50 million prizes, two K20 million prizes, five K10 million prizes, eight K5 million prizes, twelve K2 million prizes, thirteen K1 million prizes in addition to small prizes. — TWA/TKO

## YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate flat for three weeks

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market remained unchanged at K5,250 per viss for the week ending 7 April, like those of the past two weeks from 18 to 31 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



Workers seen arranging jerrycans of cooking oil for distribution and sale.

under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharg-

ing 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.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over Hot Line: 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

## Mon State's dried areca nut penetrating Chinese market

MON State's Agriculture Department stated that dried soft areca nuts processed in roasting machines are exported to China.

Hai Yuan Agricultural Development Co Ltd, located at Mawlamyine Industrial Zone 1, purchases fresh soft areca nuts and processes them in roasting machines. A baking oven has a capacity of roasting eight tonnes. Roasting fresh areca nuts takes about four to five days. Roasting 80 tonnes of fresh areca nuts can produce 20 tonnes of dried ones.

Due to the lack of value addition, they are kept in cold storage for exports.

Areca palm is one of the leading agricultural businesses in Myanmar. Only ripe areca nuts were earlier traded. Soft areca nuts are now being sold well.

The prices of dried areca nuts and soft and unripe areca nuts are the same. After peeling the outer shell, a viss (1.6 kilogrammes) includes 220 dried areca nuts. Yet, 62 soft shell areca fruits weigh a viss. Thus, soft and unripe areca nut trade can reap a profit three times higher than that of dried ones. The growers,



File photo shows a worker peeling areca nuts in Minbya Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: THEIN NU AUNG**

therefore, eye the soft areca nut market rather than ripe harvest.

The soft areca nut can be harvested when it weighs 20-30 grammes and is one inch in size. Conical-shaped nuts, rather than round ones, are mostly traded. After baking the soft areca nuts with

heat, they are exported to China.

Areca palm thrives well in moist soil, yet overwatering and soaking it wet is bad for them. They are commonly found in the Ayeyawady and Bago regions, Mon, Taninthayi, Kayin, Kachin and Rakhine states. — NN/EM

## Yangon Region Tourism Committee issues four hotel business licences

YANGON Region Tourism Committee granted licences for four hotels and one hotel construction permit at the meeting 1/2024 held at the meeting hall 4 of the Yangon Region government office on 29 March.

The committee issued four hotel licences and one hotel construction permit, having a total of 452 rooms, with an estimated capital of K20.7 billion and US\$4.6 million, on 24 October at the meeting.

Additionally, the committee endorsed 64 tour licences (inbound and outbound), 42 tour agency licences, 21 tour guide licences and 22 domestic pilgrimage tour certificates. Those businesses are investment projects made by Myanmar citizens, creating over 437 jobs for locals.

After the endorsement of the projects, tourism development activities were addressed at the meeting.

At the meeting 2/2023, the committee also granted licences for six hotels, one hotel construction permit, one motel licence and one motel construction permit, having 474 rooms, with an estimated capital of over K23 billion and creating 189 jobs. The committee issued six hotel licences and one motel construction permit having 217 rooms at the last meeting 1/2023, with an estimated capital of over K10 billion, creating 120 jobs for locals. — NN/EM

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.

# OPINION

## Honour blood donors: A vital contribution to healthcare

**B**LOOD, the lifeline of living beings, plays a pivotal role in supporting bodily functions. Recognizing its significance, many individuals engage in charitable acts by willingly donating blood to those in need, extending their lifespans and enhancing their quality of life.

With four major blood groups determined by the presence or absence of antigens A and B, along with the Rh factor (+ or -), the diversity of blood types is vast. This includes common types like A+, A-, B+, B-, O+, O-, AB+, and AB-, as well as over 600 other known antigens, creating rare blood types. Certain blood types are specific to particular ethnic or racial groups, emphasizing the importance of diverse donors.

Honouring blood donors is not merely a gesture of gratitude but a vital step towards building a healthier and more compassionate society. Through their generosity, these individuals embody the spirit of solidarity and empathy, enriching the lives of those in need and shaping a brighter future for all. As their actions, directly and indirectly, contribute to society, everybody needs to express their gratitude to all blood donors.

In Myanmar, influenced by Buddhist teachings, people donate blood as a virtuous act, not seeking recognition or rewards as well as self-interest. Regardless, their noble deeds deserve acknowledgement and respect. Actually, those blood donors in Myanmar society are satisfied with their prominent act of donating blood with pleasure. Those who have donated blood once are always keen to donate blood once more.

In 2024, the government introduced the "Excellent Performance in Social Field" medals, with ten blood donors receiving first-class honours, one receiving second-class, and five receiving third-class. Additionally, 145 donors who contributed more than ten times and 249 donors who donated between 40 and 95 times were recognized, totalling 394 individuals honoured at a ceremony.

Thanks to these donors, the National Blood Centre distributed 93,385 units of blood to hospitals in 2023, saving countless lives and alleviating the anxieties of those in critical condition. Blood donors and charitable organizations serve as crucial pillars in the development of the healthcare sector, ensuring the availability of essential resources and medical services for patients nationwide.

Honouring blood donors not only acknowledges their selfless contributions but also encourages others to follow suit, thereby fostering a culture of altruism and community support. By recognizing their invaluable role, we reinforce the importance of blood donation and its profound impact on society's well-being.

Honouring blood donors is not merely a gesture of gratitude but a vital step towards building a healthier and more compassionate society. Through their generosity, these individuals embody the spirit of solidarity and empathy, enriching the lives of those in need and shaping a brighter future for all. As their actions, directly and indirectly, contribute to society, everybody needs to express their gratitude to all blood donors.

# The Magic Embedded Within The 22 Letters

By Yin Nwe Ko

**I**N the vast realm of language, the power of letters stands as a testament to the incredible ability of a select few characters to shape our communication. As we delve into the world of these consonants, excluding the familiar vowels, we embark on a fascinating exploration of how these letters form the backbone of our language, allowing us to express thoughts, share stories, and connect with others on a profound level. Let us unfold the magic embedded within these characters, tracing their impact from the building blocks of words to the diverse sounds they create and, ultimately, to their role in connecting people globally.

At the heart of the written and spoken language lies the alphabet, a collection of 26 letters that provides the foundation for our communication. The magic begins as we narrow our focus to the consonants, the steadfast 22 letters that navigate the terrain of language creation.

These 22 consonants act as the essential building blocks of words. Through various combinations, they construct the rich tapestry of vocabulary that enables us to convey meaning and articulate our thoughts. From the simplicity of words like "cat" to the complexity of terms like "elephant," these letters harmoniously come together, weaving the fabric of our language.

Each of the 22 letters contributes a distinct sound, and when blended in different arrangements, they orchestrate a symphony of sounds that make up our spoken language. The power of 22 letters manifests in the ability to articulate a myriad of sounds, allowing for the expression of ideas, the sharing of stories, and the establishment of connections through spoken words.

As we embark on the journey of literacy, the magic of 22 letters reveals itself on the pages of books and written texts. These letters, when aligned in specific sequences, transport readers into worlds of fantasy, impart knowledge and foster

connections with characters and ideas. The power of 22 letters is instrumental in shaping our reading experiences and expanding our understanding of the world.

When individuals pick up a writing instrument, whether a pen or a keyboard, they wield the power of 22 letters as if holding a magical wand. The act of arranging these letters becomes a transformative process, creating written expressions of thoughts, feelings, and imagination. From heartfelt letters to creative narratives, the written word becomes a canvas on which the power of 22 letters unfolds.

Beyond the written and spoken aspects, the 22 letters play a pivotal role in connecting people across diverse cultures and geographies. Whether in the form of books, letters, or digital messages, these letters serve as bridges, fostering a shared understanding among communities worldwide. The power to connect transcends linguistic barriers, creating a sense of unity through the common thread of these 22 letters.

For beginners, the mastery of the power of 22 letters marks an exciting journey into the world of language. Learning the alphabet, often one of the first educational milestones serves as a foundation for future linguistic exploration. As individuals navigate the intricacies of these 22 letters, they unlock the doors to reading, writing, and effective communication.

The power of 22 letters is not static; it evolves with the dynamic nature of language. Over centuries, languages have developed and adapted, incorporating new words and expressions. The influence of these 22 letters extends beyond individual languages, shaping the way we communicate in a constantly changing linguistic landscape.

While this article has primarily focused on the English alphabet, it's essential to acknowledge the vast diversity of languages worldwide. Each language possesses its unique set of letters, sounds, and lin-



Photo Credit: Reader's Digest Feb 2024

guistic nuances, contributing to the rich tapestry of global communication. The power of letters extends far beyond the confines of a single alphabet, encompassing the varied linguistic expressions of humanity.

For children learning to read and write, the power of 22 letters plays a crucial role in cognitive development. As they grasp the intricacies of language, these letters become tools for intellectual growth, en-

hancing vocabulary, and fostering critical thinking skills. The process of decoding and understanding the power of letters contributes significantly to a child's educational journey.

While the power of 22 letters is transformative for many, it's essential to recognize that not everyone has equal access to literacy and effective communication. Efforts to address literacy challenges and promote inclusive communication envi-

ronments are integral to ensuring that the benefits of these letters reach every individual, regardless of background or ability.

In the contemporary era, the power of 22 letters has found new avenues for expression through digital technology. From emails and social media to blogs and e-books, these letters continue to be at the forefront of written communication. The digital age has not diminished

the significance of these letters; instead, it has expanded their reach and accessibility.

Beyond the functional aspect of communication, the power of 22 letters is embedded in the artistry of language. Poets, writers, and wordsmiths leverage these letters to craft literary masterpieces that evoke emotions, provoke thoughts, and capture the essence of the human experience. The artistry lies in the skilful arrangement of these letters to create linguistic symphonies.

The power of 22 letters extends into cultural realms, influencing traditions, rituals, and expressions of identity. Alphabets are often intertwined with cultural heritage, providing a unique identity to different communities. From calligraphy to linguistic traditions, the significance of these letters permeates various aspects of cultural practices.

In the grand tapestry of human expression, the power of 22 letters stands as a universal tool. Whether through written words, spoken language, or symbolic communication, these letters empower individuals to express their thoughts, share stories, and connect with others on a profound level. The simplicity of the 22 letters belies their immense impact on the human experience.

### Conclusion

The power of 22 letters is a force that transcends time, culture, and technological advancements. From the foundational aspects of language acquisition to the intricate artistry of literary expression, these letters shape our ability to communicate, connect, and express ourselves. As we continue to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of language, let us appreciate the magic embedded within these 22 characters. The magic that allows us to weave the fabric of human connection through the wondrous world of words can be seen in the following story. My dear readers, please continue reading and take some pleasure from it.

On my son Andrew's 15<sup>th</sup>

birthday, I whisked him to a shoe store near our home in Toronto to get a pair of sandals.

We knew the exact style and size he wanted and arrived right when the store opened. Andrew is nonspeaking autistic and prefers shopping when it's not busy.

"Size 41 of those black slip-on sandals, please," I told the clerks.

Andrew slipped his feet into the shoes with no protest or head banging (signs of distress we have seen in the past) — a perfect fit. We boxed them up, paid, and thanked the clerks.

"It's Andrew's birthday today. Fifteen! Got our new shoes, and now we're off to celebrate with family," I said.

"Happy birthday!" they said. "Have fun!"

What comes next only happens when you act on intuition when the voice inside says to stop and do things differently. Instead of having Andrew point to the "thank you" symbol on his picture chart, I hold up his letter board.

For ten years, Andrew has used a picture chart to communicate. "The images represent important and common words: people, places, food, greetings, and activities."

Years ago, we discovered that Andrew could communicate more than just his basic needs via a letter board: an alphabet grid with letters he can point to and spell out words, statements, and thoughts. It's a simple but profound tool affixed to the back of his picture chart.

Using the letter board requires significant time and effort for Andrew, but it gives him an opportunity to share far more of who he is than he can convey through pictures and basic words. So, instead of dashing out, I hold up the letter board and ask Andrew how he'd like to respond.

"The store clerks are quiet, watching. Andrew points to each letter, one by one: "Thank you." I smile and turn to leave.

One of the clerks, a man about my age, speaks up: "Um, can I ask you ... what is that? How does he ... what are you using there? Because I have a

brother-in-law ... and he doesn't talk."

"Oh! This is an alphabet board that Andrew uses to communicate," I reply. "We've practised it for years. It's quite incredible, as we just didn't know Andrew was so 'in there.' We didn't even know this tool existed — it's relatively uncommon. It's changed everything for us, for our family, for Andrew."

This is what happens when we invite others into our humanness and allow them to share theirs.

"Let me give you my contact info, as well as the website of the spelling-to-communicate organization," I continue.

I ask the clerk about his brother-in-law. He tells us that Jason is 30 and doesn't speak, but he can do a lot for himself. Still, no one really knows him. Maybe there's more, the clerk wonders.

"Amazing!" I say. "We've met people — haven't we, Andrew? — who started using this method when they were 50 or 5 or 15! Andrew, what do you think?"

Andrew starts pointing to letters: "Tell Jason ..."

I choke up. Sometimes, I forget how powerful the letter board is. How powerful Andrew is.

"Tell Jason he will change everyone's opinion of him in 26 letters."

We are all moved, inspired, and thrilled.

"Wow," the clerk says. "Thank you."

Andrew smiles.

"It really does change everything," I say.

And we leave. I am floating, and Andrew is singing as he does.

This is how it happens, how we impact another person's life in a split second: by vulnerably leading with our own.

Maybe Jason and the store clerk are reading this. I hope their whole family's life is changed because Andrew showed up on his 15th birthday to buy a pair of shoes.

**Reference:** *Reader's Digest February 2024*



# NATIONAL

## Parahita group assists Myanmar woman stranded at Malaysia airport



An airport facility is at the façade of Malaysia airport.

**PHOTO- LOVELY HEART PHILANTHROPIC MYANMAR YOUTH BLOOD DONOR GROUP (KUALA LUMPUR- MALAYSIA).**

A Parahita group, which is organized with Myanmar nationals in Malaysia, helped a Myanmar woman who was stranded at Kuala Lumpur airport as she failed to catch her flight to return home.

The woman arrived in Ma-

laysia just a month ago, and she failed the pre-employment screening.

She was unable to board in time and was left at the airport as she was asked questions, said Lovely Heart Philanthropic Myanmar Youth Blood Donor

Group (Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia).

“She arrived in Malaysia just a month ago. Officials drove her to the airport to send her back to Myanmar because her medical check failed. At the airport, she was questioned and was left because of the language barrier. She was stranded at the airport for two days,” said the group. After her friends requested help from the group, they went to the airport and gave the necessary assistance along with her friends. According to follow-up information, she could finally return to Myanmar on 1 April.

The group urged Myanmar nationals to enquire about information from people who know if they would take Air Asia airline to return home. — MT/ZS

## 36.82 tonnes of restricted chemicals seized in Mohnyin Township

THE Myanmar Police Force has reported the seizure of 36.82 tonnes of restricted chemical (ammonium nitrate) in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State.

Following a tip-off, a combined team, comprising members of the security force,

intercepted and searched three motorbikes and three Yangfong vehicles travelling through the forest road in Nantyin village in Mohnyin Township at 7.30 am on 29 March.

Police arrested nine men, including Win Zaw, Htet Wai

Moe, and Zaw Lin Htun, with 36.82 tonnes of restricted chemical (ammonium nitrate).

Legal action has been initiated against the offenders, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend other individuals involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



Offenders seen alongside seized restricted chemicals and vehicles.

## Confiscations of illegal items; Timbers, fuel oil, motorbikes and vehicles



Confiscated fuel bowsers in Mandalay Region.

ON 30 March, authorities seized 0.813 tonne of illegal teak valued at K92,500 in Ingapu township. This enforcement was conducted under the Forest Law.

On 31 March, combined teams overseen by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated a Nissan fuel bowser (approximately valued at K55 million) carrying 400 gallons of illegal diesel, valued at K4.455 million, at the Shwegyin combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

During inspections on 1 April, the combined team confiscated an unregistered Toyota Probox car (approximately valued at K4.2 million) in Dawei

township, an unregistered Honda Wave motorbike (estimated value of K500,000) in Bokpyin township, and illegal timber weighing 19.76 tonnes, worth K4.414 million, in Myeik district. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law.

Additionally, on 1 April, an unregistered Kenbo 125 motorbike valued at K250,000 was seized in Taze township. The action was carried out under the Export and Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that eight arrests were made over three consecutive days from 30 March to 1 April, with an estimated value of K68.9 million. — MNA/MKKS

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.

## Tan Tan, oldest panda in Japan, dies after postponed return to China



Photo shows Tan Tan, a giant panda at Oji Zoo in Kobe, in January 2024. (Photo courtesy of the Kobe municipal government) photo: **KYODO**

TAN Tan, the oldest giant panda in Japan, has died at age 28 at a Kobe zoo after her planned return to China was delayed for medical treatment several years ago, the zoo in the western city said Monday.

The panda, whose age was equivalent to being in her 80s in human years, came to Oji Zoo from China in 2000 for breeding purposes.

She had been scheduled to be sent back to her home country in July 2020 upon the end of her lease agreement, but it was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2021, the zoo said Tan Tan was being given medicine due to apparent age-related cardiac disease. She remained in Japan following discussions between the zoo and Chinese officials, taking into consideration the need of medical treatment and the risks of transporting the aged animal.

The zoo had refrained from showcasing Tan Tan to the general public since spring 2022 due to her health condition. Since the fall of last year, she had been less active and sleeping longer. — Kyodo

## Princess Aiko begins 1<sup>st</sup> day of work at Japanese Red Cross Society

PRINCESS Aiko, the only child of Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, began her first day of work on Monday at the Japanese Red Cross Society.

The princess joined as a contracted employee and is working at a department focused on training volunteers while also continuing to fulfil her official duties, according to the Imperial Household Agency.

“I feel joyful, but also humbled to be taking my first step as a working member of society,” she told reporters at the Red Cross headquarters in Tokyo’s Minato Ward.

The princess was one of eight new employees to start their jobs at the headquarters on Monday. She graduated last month from Gakushuin University where she studied Japanese literature.

“While my days as a working member of society have just begun, I will endeavour to adjust quickly to the workplace



Princess Aiko is pictured at the Japanese Red Cross Society headquarters in Tokyo on 1 April 2024, her first day of work there. **PHOTO: KYODO**

and be of assistance,” she said, adding that her parents had wished her luck.

The Red Cross society has close ties with the imperial family, with empresses serving as honorary presidents.

The Imperial Family the same day made their debut on social media by opening an official Instagram account, in a bid to increase public under-

standing of the household.

The account, set up under the agency’s name, posted more than a dozen photographs and videos of the imperial couple and the princess, taken between the New Year and March. It garnered around 200,000 followers as of late Monday afternoon, although comments on the posts have been disabled. — Kyodo

## Jakarta-Bandung high-speed train becomes Indonesians’ new favourite transport during Eid homecoming exodus

ZAHRA Zalfa Farida, a 26-year-old employee in Jakarta, will have her sixth experience taking a trip with the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed train, locally called Whoosh, back to her hometown in West Java province.

Since the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed train was first launched in Indonesia in October 2023, Farida took the train almost every month to return home.

The train has now become her favourite mode of transport. The train has made her life easier, not only because the Halim station is located near her apartment, but also because the train itself can get her to Bandung faster, only 40 minutes, compared to the two-hour shuttle bus she used to take.

“The high-speed train makes everything more efficient for me, from the location to the time. The train is also comfort-



A boy poses for photos with a model of a high-speed electrical multiple unit (EMU) train of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway in the waiting hall at Halim Station in Jakarta, Indonesia, 3 March 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

able, very clean and has no disturbing noises. It is really worth the price,” Farida told Xinhua on Sunday.

Farida will take the train for her exodus trip to Bandung on 8 April to celebrate Eid al-Fitr day with her family which is expected to fall on 10 April. She booked the ticket a couple of weeks ago.

Meanwhile, for Aditya Perdana Putra, a 20-year-old university student in Bandung, next week will be his second time experiencing the high-speed train to return to his hometown in Bekasi, a city in West Java province, bordering Jakarta.

“I tried it once, and it is very comfortable and time-efficient. That is why I prefer to take it to return home for the Eid celebration. I think I will keep taking this train every time I go to Bandung and return to Bekasi,” Putra told Xinhua over the phone. — Xinhua

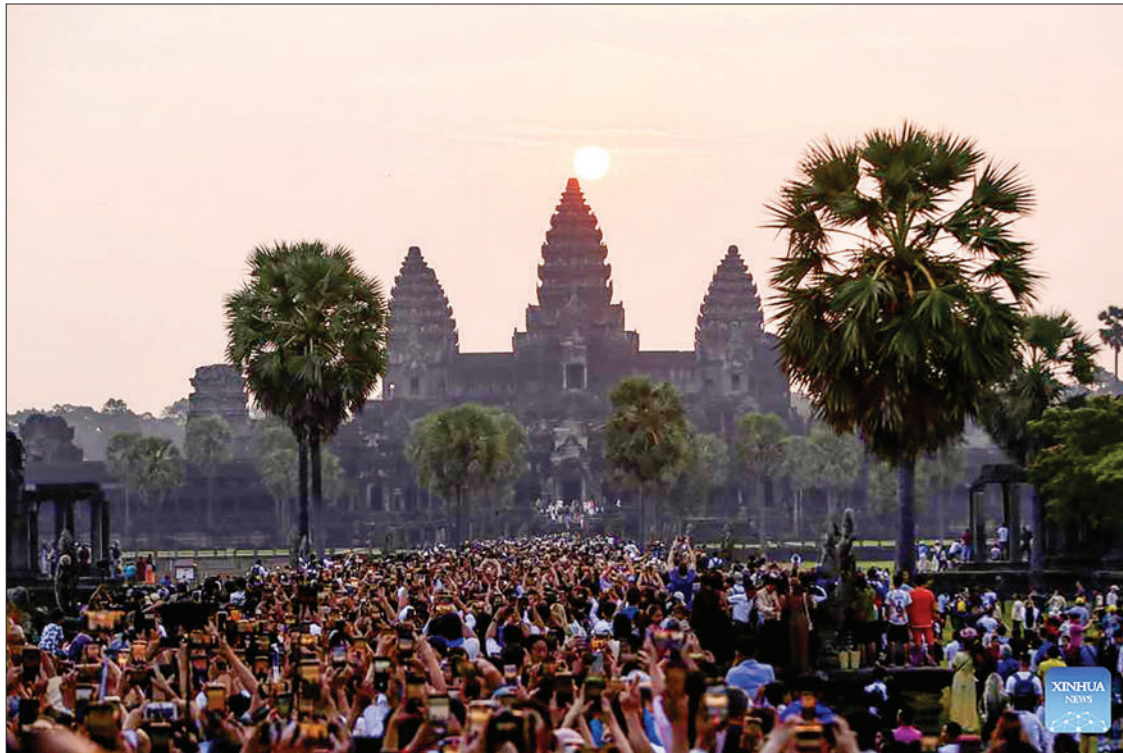
# ECONOMY WORLD

## Cambodia's famed Angkor records 47% rise in int'l tourists in Q1

CAMBODIA'S famed Angkor Archaeological Park received 347,534 foreign visitors in the first quarter (Q1) of 2024, up 47 per cent from 236,341 over the same period last year, said a news release on Monday.

The ancient park earned 16.5 million US dollars in revenue from ticket sales during the January-March period this year, also up 48 per cent from 11.1 million dollars over the same period last year, said the news release from the state-owned Angkor Enterprise. Situated in northwest Siem Reap province, the 401-square-kilometre Angkor Archaeological Park is home to 91 ancient temples, which had been built from the ninth to the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The park, inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scien-



Tourists watch sunrise at the Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, 22 March 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

tific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian country.

The Ministry of Tourism's Secretary of State and Spokesperson Top Sopheak is confident that the Chinese-invested Siem Reap Angkor International Airport, which officially began commercial operations last November, would help attract more international travellers to the Angkor park.

"This international airport is playing a crucial role in helping boost the country's tourism, economy, trade, investment," he told Xinhua.

With a 3,600-metre-long runway, the 4E-level international airport is currently the kingdom's largest airport and also the main international gateway to the Angkor park. — Xinhua

## S Korea's export grows for 6<sup>th</sup> month in March

SOUTH Korea's export grew for the sixth consecutive month in March due to strong global demand for locally-made tech products, government data showed Monday.

Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, gained 3.1 per cent from a year earlier to 56.56 billion US dollars in March, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

The outbound shipment kept an upward trend since October last year. The daily average export climbed 9.9 per cent to 2.51 billion dollars last month.

Import dipped 12.3 per cent over the year to 52.28 billion dollars in March, sending trade surplus to 4.28 billion dollars. Trade balance stayed in black for the 10<sup>th</sup> successive month since June last year.

Of the country's 15 major export items, seven products saw an expansion in outbound shipment.

Semiconductor shipment jumped 35.7 per cent over the year to 11.67 billion dollars in March, maintaining an upward momentum for the fifth straight

month.

It marked the largest in 21 months since June 2022 on higher price for NAND flash memory chips and solid demand for mobile and server chips.

Display panel export advanced 16.2 per cent to 1.42 billion dollars last month on the back of higher demand for flat screens used for cars and the launch of new smartphones and OLED TVs.

Mobile phone export increased 5.5 per cent to 1.12 billion dollars, registering the first rebound in four months, while computer shipment soared 24.5 per cent to 890 million dollars on higher price for solid state drive (SSD).

Oil products shipment added 3.1 per cent to 4.63 billion dollars owing to strong product demand, but petrochemical export shrank 2.2 per cent to 4.03 billion dollars on lower product prices.

Automotive export retreated 5.0 per cent to 6.17 billion dollars due to less working days, continuing to slide for the second successive month. — Xinhua

## Croatian mayor welcomes Chinese tourists for Easter eggs exhibition

MISEL Jaksic, mayor of Koprivnica in northern Croatia, voiced his welcome to Chinese tourists as the annual traditional outdoor Easter eggs exhibition is underway in the city.

Although Croatia is perhaps best known for its Mediterranean tourism, "we are convinced that the continental part of Croatia also offers incredible experiences," Jaksic said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

According to the mayor, the Easter eggs combine tradition

and a public space available to all visitors, curious people and lovers of naive painting, and the painters use special painting techniques that were developed precisely in small rural areas in the houses of workers, farmers, and artists of the region.

Moreover, the motifs on the Easter eggs depict the landscape and rural life of the region, as it once was and as it can still be found in its hidden corners, hills and agricultural plains, Jaksic said.

On 14 March, the Tourist

Board of Koprivnica-Krizevci County unveiled its annual exhibition of large decorated Easter eggs on the city's centre square, and the Easter eggs, 2.05-metre high and 1.5-metre wide each, are believed to be the largest in Croatia.

The Easter eggs from Koprivnica, while having enjoyed the status of Intangible Croatian Cultural Heritage, have been gifted to other cities including Munich, Rome, New York, Prague, and Vienna. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 30 March 2024 shows a view of the annual traditional Easter eggs exhibition held in Koprivnica, Croatia. PHOTO: XINHUA

## New Zealand breeds “super snapper” to boost aquaculture industry

THE New Zealand government looks to grow and future-proof the country’s aquaculture industry through breeding “super” snappers that are more resistant to disease, grow faster, and can thrive in warmer water.

The super snapper could help drive more economic growth through aquaculture, New Zealand’s Oceans and Fisheries Minister Shane Jones said on Sunday.

“The potential here goes far beyond growing a better and more resilient breed of fish,” Jones said, adding climate change is affecting the condition of the oceans and this project is a practical response by a key industry to that change. In the wild, snapper can take many years to grow to catch size. The ability to grow them faster, getting them from farm to plate in a shorter time, could open up a new export market and reduce pressure on wild snapper stock, the minister said. — Xinhua

## Japan big makers’ sentiment worsens for 1<sup>st</sup> time in 4 quarters: BOJ

BUSINESS confidence among major Japanese manufacturers worsened for the first time in four quarters, falling to 11 in March from 13 three months earlier, after a sharp drop in the auto sector caused by production cuts, the Bank of Japan’s Tankan survey showed Monday.

But large nonmanufacturers, including the service sector, benefited from a revival of inbound tourism and the passing of higher costs on to consumers. The index improved for the eighth straight quarter to hit its highest level since 1991, rising to



Photo taken on 23 January 2024 shows the Bank of Japan headquarters in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

34 from 32 in the previous survey in December.

The Tankan index represents the percentage of

companies reporting favourable conditions minus the percentage reporting unfavourable ones.

The closely-watched survey comes after the BOJ in March went ahead with its first interest rate

hike since 2007, ending its unorthodox monetary easing steps aimed at bringing an end to deflation, which in turn has weakened the yen. Economists say the outcome was broadly in line with market expectations and is unlikely to impact the BOJ’s policy outlook, though the yen coming under renewed selling pressure is adding a layer of uncertainty.

The average market forecast was nine in a Kyodo News survey for the reading of the key index measuring confidence among companies such as those in the auto and electronics sectors. — Kyodo

### Member’s Voluntary Winding-up & Appointment of a Liquidator for Myanmar Azusa Co., Ltd. (Registration No. 104526403) pursuant Articles 147(a)(ii) and 152(a) of Insolvency Law 2020 & Notice to Creditors

With respect to Myanmar Azusa Co., Ltd. (Registration No. 104526403) (the “Company”) which is located at No.704, Building (B), SPACE Condominium, Yanshin Road, Corner of Yan Aye Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar, it is hereby noticed that:

- According to Article 147(a)(ii) of Insolvency Law, the Company unanimously passed the following resolutions:
  - to wind up the Company voluntarily effective on 31 March 2024; and
  - to appoint the following liquidator (the “Liquidator”) pursuant to Article 152(a) of Insolvency Law, effective on 31 March 2024:  
Name: Daw Nilar Thwin  
Name of the Company/Title: Global United Myanmar Ltd./Managing Director  
MAIP member serial: 00120  
Phone number: 095049113  
Address: #14-11, Level 14, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar 11182
- Any creditors who have any debts or claims against the Company are required to submit their names, addresses, and details of their claims, together with any documentary evidence in their possession, to the Liquidator on or before 30 April 2024.

**Daw Nilar Thwin**  
Liquidator  
Global United Myanmar Ltd./Managing Director  
#14-11, Level 14, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road  
Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar 11182  
Phone number: 095049113

### Notice for Change of Distributor

We, **Pilarquim (Shanghai) Co.,Ltd.** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **Marga Min Co.,Ltd.** to **Seinn Lae Thwin 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 (2) weeks.

Sr.	The Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.	The New Distributor
1	Marga Min Co.,Ltd.	Pilar-Neuro Gain	Clethodim 240 g/l EC	Provisional	P2020-5034	Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd.
2	Marga Min Co.,Ltd	Pilar-Top One	Boscalid 20% + Cyprodinil 6%w/w SC	Provisional	P2022-4879	Seinn Lae Thwin Co.,Ltd

Address: **SEINN LAE THWIN CO.,LTD.** No.(525), First Floor, Corner of Merchant Street & 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Ward No.(6), Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Tel 09-455188188

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0318-767N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0318-767N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-4-2024** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0316W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0316W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

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

Agent For:

**M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES**

# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## Delivery driver overtime cap introduced as worker shortage worsens

AN overtime limit of around 18 hours per week for drivers of trucks, taxis and buses took effect on Monday, as Japan looks to improve standard work conditions in an industry struggling with an acute labour shortage.

While the move seeks to address the widespread practice of driver overwork, the change has raised concerns about a drop in transport delivery capacity. The logistics shortfall, brought about by the new overtime restriction, is known in the industry as the "2024 problem".

Restricting the number of hours drivers can work may lead to customers experiencing poor-

er service and longer delivery times.

Japan is already facing a shortage of drivers due to an aging workforce, poor wages in the industry and difficult working hours, while demand for package delivery is increasing.

The overtime cap will also cover doctors and those working in the construction industry, as well as in the sugar industries in Kagoshima and Okinawa prefectures.

Under the law on workstyle reform, implemented in 2019, overtime for doctors and drivers will be capped at 960 hours per year, while emergency medical



People board a bus in Yokohama on 1 April 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

workers can do up to 1,860 overtime hours per year.

Those working in the con-

struction sector will be capped to an annual 360 hours, or 720 hours in special cases, while the upper

overtime limit for workers in the sugar industry is under 100 hours per month.

The government has said the nation's delivery capacity will be 14 per cent lower after the changes are implemented.

According to credit research agency Tokyo Shoko Research, 39 per cent of firms in the logistics and construction industries said they would have to reevaluate delivery times under the new rules.

Meanwhile, the Japan Medical Association found that 30 per cent of hospitals and medical facilities surveyed would find it more challenging to maintain 24-hour care. — Kyodo

## Türkiye's opposition takes election lead in key cities

TÜRKIYE'S main opposition, the Republican People's Party (CHP), led in local elections in key cities, including the country's largest city Istanbul and the capital Ankara, on Sunday, with over 51 per cent of the votes, local NTV broadcaster reported, citing initial results.

Turkish Supreme Election Council Chairman Ahmet Yener said 51.2 per cent of the total votes were counted and the vote count is still ongoing.

After 79 per cent of ballot boxes in Istanbul opened, the incumbent mayor Ekrem Imamoglu representing the CHP garnered 50.53 per cent of the votes, while Murat Ku-

rum, the candidate of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), got 40.72 per cent.

The CHP is also poised to retain its control of the capital Ankara as well, as the incumbent mayor Mansur Yavas from the CHP has kept his post, with 58.98 per cent of the votes, against the AKP candidate Turgut Altinok, who got 32.9 per cent.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party lost control of both cities in the last local elections in 2019. In May last year, Erdogan was reelected as president and his alliance secured a majority of seats in the parliament. — Xinhua



A woman casts her vote at a polling station in Ankara, Türkiye, 31 March 2024. Turkish citizens head to voting stations Sunday for local elections, a crucial test for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who seeks to retake control of major cities that his party lost to the opposition in 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Iranian, Turkish presidents discuss bilateral ties, Gaza situation over phone

IRAN'S President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday held a phone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, calling for practical measures to enhance bilateral ties and address the Gaza crisis.

During their talks, Raisi said it was necessary for the two sides to further strengthen political, economic and cultural relations, according to a statement published on the website of the Iranian President's Office.

He also expressed Iran's willingness to enhance bilat-

eral cooperation with Türkiye in the energy sector, hoping that Tehran-Ankara cooperation would help safeguard the interests of both nations and promote unity and solidarity in the Muslim world.

As regards the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza, Raisi said that Israel violated international law by continuing its military operations in Gaza, despite a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the coastal enclave during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The Iranian president called for greater synergy, cooperation and unity among Muslim countries within the frameworks of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as well as other regional and international organizations to help Gazans and send humanitarian aid to the Strip.

For his part, the Turkish president reaffirmed his government's commitment to following up on and implementing the agreements signed between the two sides during the Raisi's visit to Ankara in late January. — Xinhua

## ADB grants loan to boost health services in Laos

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a financing package of US\$24.9 million to help improve access to quality health services in the border provinces in Laos, the multilateral lender said on Monday.

The project will upgrade the facilities, equipment, and human resources in Champasak, Savannakhet, and Phongsali provincial hospitals

and two district hospitals in Phongsali, the ADB said in a press release.

According to the ADB, the strengthened regional cooperation and integration in the Greater Mekong Subregion have facilitated migration and driven economic growth. However, population movement has also generated unique health challenges, most evident in border areas.

The project will enable Lao health authorities to better respond to the health needs of migrant workers and border area populations, the ADB added.

The project will also roll out an electronic medical record to strengthen continuity of care between border area hospitals and health facilities in other regions of the country. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Midweek games in hectic Premier League schedule

THE Premier League has a midweek round of fixtures to coincide with the Easter holidays, with five games to be played on Tuesday that will have an important effect on the race to qualify for Europe and to avoid relegation.

Newcastle United was inspired by winger Anthony Gordon to fight back from 3-1 down at home to West Ham to win 4-3, but the winger won't face his former club Everton after seeing a late red card on Saturday.

That is good news for Everton, who hasn't won in the league since 15 December after Seamus Coleman's late own goal at Bournemouth on Saturday left them three points above the bottom three, with the threat of a further points sanction for breaching Financial Fair Play issues.

Nottingham Forest claimed a point from their home game against Crystal Palace on Saturday thanks to Chris Wood's header, but with just a one-point lead over third-from-bottom Luton Town, they desperately need their first win in six matches when they host mid-table Fulham. — Xinhua

## MNL Cup Week-4 matches continue on 31 March, 1 April

THE Week-4 matches of the Myanmar National League Cup were held at four stadiums in Yangon on 31 March and 1 April.

On 31 March 2024, Shan United Football Club trounced Kachin United FC 5-1 at Thuwunna Stadium, while Yangon United FC beat GFA 3-0 at Yangon United Sports Complex. Meanwhile, Rakhine United FC crashed Rainbow FC 11-2 at the University Sports Complex and Maha United FC smashed Shwepyitha FC 8-1

at Padonma Stadium.

On 1 April 2024, the Institute of Sport and Physical Education FC defeated Yadanabon FC 2-1 at Thuwunna Stadium, while Ayeyawady United FC secured victory with a single goal from Yazar Aung against Hanthawady FC at USC. Meanwhile, Dagon Star United FC whitewashed Silver Star FC 9-1 at YUSC. Myawady FC beat Rakhapura United FC with one goal of Myawady FC's striker Naing Zin Htet at Padonma Stadium.

Maha United got nine points each. Yangon United led Group A, and Maha United stood in second place in terms of goal difference. In Group B, Shan United stood in first position with nine points, followed by Rakhine United with six points. In Group C, Dagon Star took the first position with nine points, and the Hanthawady team and Ayeyawady team stood in second and third places with six points each. In Group D, the ISPE team led with seven points, followed by Yadanabon FC with six points. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Shan United's Ye Yint Aung (red) touches the ball into the net amid the rivals during the Myanmar National League Week-4 match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 31 March 2024. PHOTO: MNL

## Jerusalem dethrones Shigeoka in split decision

JAPAN'S Yudai Shigeoka relinquished his WBC minimumweight championship to Filipino challenger Melvin Jerusalem in a split-decision upset on Sunday.

Younger brother Ginjiro Shigeoka defended his IBF minimumweight crown with a second-round knockout of Jake Amparo of the Philippines earlier in the world championship doubleheader at Nagoya Congress Centre.

Former WBO champion Jerusalem scored knockdowns in the third and sixth rounds on his way to finishing ahead on two of the three judges' scorecards at the end of 12 rounds.

Having fallen behind early, the 26-year-old Yudai worked his way back into the bout with some solid combinations but was unable to put sixth-ranked challenger Jerusalem on the canvas.

The Japanese southpaw's record now stands at eight wins and one loss, with five wins by knockout, while Je-

rusalem improved to 22-3 with 12 KOs.

The 24-year-old Ginjiro (11-0, 9 KOs) completed his second title defence with a body-shot knockout of Amparo (14-6, 3 KOs), who stepped in at short notice after countryman ArAr Andales pulled out of the bout for medical reasons.

The younger Shigeoka ended the contest at 1:15 in the second with a left to the sixth-ranked challenger's midsection.

"I didn't expect a body-shot knockout," he said. "I'm relieved. I could sense how dangerous he was as an opponent."

Fighting on the same card, Tomoki Kameda (41-4, 23 KOs), the last of the three Kameda brothers still active in the ring, won his non-title fight against Mexican Kevin Villanueva (22-5, 15 KOs), whose corner threw in the towel between the fifth and sixth rounds. — Kyodo



Japanese boxer Yudai Shigeoka (R) fights Melvin Jerusalem of the Philippines in a WBC minimumweight world title match at Nagoya Congress Centre in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 31 March 2024. PHOTO: KYODO



## Israel prepares attack on Rafah as truce talks resume in Egypt

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday that Israel's military was preparing to launch an attack on Rafah, as truce negotiations resumed in Egypt.

Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city, has become a refuge for over one million displaced Palestinians seeking shelter from bombardments. United Nations experts and several countries have warned that any ground operation in the city would lead to catastrophic consequences for civilians.

In a press conference, Netanyahu said that following his approval of the military's plan for a ground attack in Rafah earlier in March, the army is now preparing to evacuate the population before attacking the city.

"It will take time, but it will be done," he said. "We will get into Rafah and kill Hamas battalions there. There is no victory without entering Rafah and eliminating Hamas battalions there."

In northern Gaza, where the UN said famine was imminent, Israeli forces continued the raid on the Al-Shifa Hospital, the enclave's largest medical centre before the conflict. According to Netanyahu, at least 200 militants have been killed in the medical complex. According to the Hamas-run Health Ministry, dozens of people were killed at the hospital, where about 3,000 patients and refugees were seeking shelter.

In the afternoon, an Israeli dele-



People wait to receive food relief in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah on 30 March 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

gation of security officials departed for a new round of talks with negotiators in Cairo.

Meanwhile, Israel has continued to carry out heavy strikes in the Palestinian enclave. The military said that its warplanes targeted an operational Islamic Jihad command centre and militants in the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa Hospital in the central Gaza Strip. The statement did not mention the names of the militants.

The Hamas-run media office in Gaza said in a statement that the airstrikes hit a tent housing journalists and displaced people within the hos-

pital compound. Palestinian medical sources said the attack killed four people and injured 17 others with varying injuries, including two journalists.

Over the past day, Israeli attacks killed at least 77 Palestinians and wounded 108 others, the Health Ministry in Gaza said in a press statement. Overall, at least 32,782 Palestinians have been killed and 75,298 wounded since Israel launched its retaliatory attack against Hamas on 7 October 2023. The Israeli death toll from Hamas's surprise attack stands at 1,139, with about 100 still held hostage in Gaza. — Xinhua

## Bangladesh mulls to suspend services of Facebook, YouTube: minister

A Bangladeshi minister on Sunday said that the country would temporarily suspend services Facebook and YouTube if they don't obey government instructions to control "disinformation".

The country's Liberation War Affairs Minister and Chairman of Cabinet Committee on Law and Order AKM Mozammel Haque told media after a meeting of the committee, the national news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) reported.

Highlighting the decisions of the meeting, he said that the social media platforms are not sincere about the government's recommendations on various issues. As their head offices are not in Bangladesh, it has become difficult for the government to check rumours and control cybercrimes in the platforms, he added. The minister said the platforms will be informed about their noncompliance and then, if they don't comply, the government might resort to advertising in the newspaper mentioning their noncompliance before taking any action. He said the public notices will be served to the media giants so that they can't complain about curbing their rights and thus, the government won't be held responsible. — Xinhua

## Palestinian new govt sworn in

THE Palestinian new government headed by Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa was sworn in here in the West Bank on Sunday.

The new government consists of 23 ministerial portfolios, including at least six ministers from the Gaza Strip. Mustafa will also take over the position of foreign minister from veteran diplomat Riyad Al-Maliki. During the swearing-in ceremony in front of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Mustafa pledged that his new government would serve all Palestinians, stressing the government's political references are the Palestine Liberation Organization and its

political programme and international commitments, as mandated by the letter of assignment outlined by Abbas.

At a meeting with the new government after the ceremony, Abbas reaffirmed that work is underway in coordination with Arab and international parties to stop the conflict in Gaza. "Our political goal is to achieve freedom, independence and liberation from the (Israeli) occupation, and we are working with concerned Arab and international parties to obtain full membership in the United Nations," said the president, according to the official news agency Wafa. — Xinhua



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (2<sup>nd</sup> R, front) poses for a picture with Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa (3<sup>rd</sup> L, front) and other members of the new government in the West Bank City of Ramallah, on 31 March 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA