

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

**SUNDAY
EDITION**

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101 vessels ship goods from Mandalay Port to Yangon, Bhamo in March

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YRTC warns YBS bus lines against overcharged fare



Traders meticulously access diverse beans and pulses at the Mandalay market.

Myanmar pulse exports cross **US\$1.48B** in FY 2023-2024

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Shoppers and vendors thrive in the bustling fish market.

Myanmar's fishery exports exceed **US\$700 mln** in FY 2023-2024


MYANMAR shipped fishery products worth US\$714.89 million to foreign trade partners in the past financial year 2023-2024 (April-March), which shrank from \$765.94 million registered in the FY2022-2023, indicating a decrease of \$51.04 million, the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce showed.

The fishery export is steadily going, but it has yet to return to normal conditions like the events in the pre-COVID-19 period.

Myanmar exports fishery products

to Japan, European countries, China and Thailand through maritime trade channels and also delivers fish, shrimp, prawns, crab and other seafood to neighbouring countries via border posts (Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik and Maungtau).

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



Now, Sky Cable car has been just opened, you can see and enjoy the beauty of Pyin Oo Lwin (Flower City) while riding the Sky Cable car.

Pwe Gauk **(BE.FALLS)** **Waterfalls Resort**

NATIONAL

Yangon hostel fees surge in high-demand areas for workers



Some 'Hostel rooms for rent' advertising stickers.

HOSTEL fees are now rising in some Yangon locations where most workers stay, said the activists advocating for workers' affairs.

"We can't tell the hostel owners not to hike the rate. They have to bear some overhead charges on their part. If they need to repair something broken in the rented hostel, the repair charges have now doubled. Other costs are also increasing because of approaching Thingyan, so they inevitably have to raise the fee. There are many rising costs such as electricity bills and cooking. While the salary is the same with no increase, workers have to pay more for hostel fees. A room at K40,000 has gone up to K60,000," said a labour advocate.

Monthly rentals range from K40,000 for singles to K80,000 to K100,000 for families, depending on the size of the room.

As people in Yangon have to rely on firewood or LPG gas for cooking rather than electricity, this adds to the cost of living.

If the time when the workers arrive back at the hostels coincides with the time the electricity is cut, they will have to buy gas or firewood to cook out of their already limited pockets.

"Look, the salary we got used to be just enough to cover the costs. Now, the cost of living has gone up, and it is difficult to make both ends meet," he said. — MT/ZN

Online electricity bill payment services expanded to 17 banks, companies

ELECTRICITY bills can be paid online through 17 banks, and companies, Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation announced.

YESC said people don't need to wait in queues at township electricity office counters to pay electricity bill. Still, they can efficiently pay online through banks and companies' mobile applications, wallets, and pay platforms before the deadline.

Electricity bill payment is available on KBZ mobile banking, KBZ Pay, Mytel Pay, CB Pay, AYA mobile banking and internet banking, AYA Pay, UAB mobile banking, UAB Pay, OK\$,

Yoma mobile banking, MAB mobile banking, Myanmar Mobile Money's Easy Pay, as well as MOB mobile banking, Tun Commercial Banking's internet banking, Citizens Pay, AGD's One Pay, Shwe Bank's mobile banking, Mo Money, A Bank's A Plus, Ooredoo application, M-Pitesan and Wave Pay.

Daw Mya Thuzar, a housewife, said, "It is much better that the electricity bill can be paid through mobile application, wallet and Pay. We no longer need to wait in a queue at the township office counters." — MT/ZS

Pedestrians prime victims in YBS accidents this year

AMONG the YBS accidents in Yangon this year, cases of pedestrians being hit by cars are the most common, said U Lyan Cin Mang, joint secretary of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

As of early April, five pedestrians died, and four were injured from the car hitting while crossing the roads; two died from falling off the bus, three bicyclists were killed, and two others were injured. One motorcyclist was dead, and five others were wounded due to YBS accidents.

Moreover, one died and one injured from accidents involving taxis, one killed and 11 injured from accidents involving private cars, nine injured when cars hit the electricity posts, and 13 deaths and 31 injuries in total up to 3 April, according to YRTC's data.

"Most casualties are pedestrians. People need to cross the roads properly. Our country adopts a right-hand drive system, and people will have to walk on the left side, facing the traffic lane, so that they can avoid cars. When


crossing the streets, they need to cross from where they have a clear view. Drivers are also instructed to drive carefully," he said.

On 2 April, in Thanlyin, a mother with a baby slipped off a bus while getting off as the driver raced to start off, and the wheel crushed the baby's head.

Thirty-five people died, and 117 people were hurt in YBS accidents in 2023. Of the 35 fatalities, 13 were hit by vehicles while crossing the streets. — MT/ZN



A YBS accident scene. PHOTO XINHUA


 (၂၀၂၄) ခုနှစ်၊ ကမ္ဘာ့ကျန်းမာရေးနေ့
 ဧပြီလ (၇) ရက်
 "လူတိုင်းလူတိုင်း ကျန်းမာရေး ကိုယ်စီပိုင် ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့"
 "My Health , My Right"
 ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Final rites of Tachilek Naga Hnakaung Sayadaw take place in Shan State (East)

A ceremony to organize the final rites of Naga Hnakaung Monastery Presiding Patron State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Dhammasiri took place in Tachilek of Shan State (East) yesterday afternoon.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and attendees took the Five Precepts from Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa.

The remains of Naga Hnakaung Sayadaw were covered with a velvet layer. Invited members of the Sangha recited messages sent by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, the Shan State Sangha Nayaka Committee, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and foreign Theravada Buddhist Missionaries.

The biography of the Sayadaw was recited. Guests donated discarded robes and alms dedicated to the Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha recited three stanzas of Gatha on Annicca Vata



The remains of Naga Hnakaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Dhammasiri seen being covered with a velvet layer during the final rites of Sayadaw in Tachilek yesterday.

Samkhara and shared merits gained.

The remains of the Sayadaw were conveyed onto the incinerator, and the remains were ablaze.

The final rites ceremony was also attended by SAC members, Union ministers, the Shan State chief minister, senior military officers from the Office

of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Triangle Region Command and guests. — MNA/TTA

Union Industry Minister inspects No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet)

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than visited No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) in Taunggyi, Shan

State, yesterday morning.

During his visit, the Union minister inspected an iron smelt-

ing kiln, room heating boiler, water treatment workshop, oxygen workshop, power substation, iron

ore processing workshop and coal storage. He also checked the status of railway construction for the storage of coal and the delivery of pig iron to the No 1 Steel Mill (Mingyan).

After that, the Union minister ordered to take full responsibility for the maintenance and installation of the equipment and to open the boiler handling and maintenance driving courses so that the boilers could be operated at full power.

The Union minister further urged the officials to study the operating conditions of each factory thoroughly to open secondary courses and to ensure that there is no remaining work to be done in the inspection and installation of equipment and to carry out inspections in accordance with

the drawings.

The Union minister also stressed that the installation work should be carried out in accordance with the set standards and that the operation steps of each machine installed according to the mill branches should be known. The handling and maintenance manual of a machine installed in the mill should be translated from English to Myanmar so that all employees can quickly learn it.

He also explicitly ordered to take strict action to effectively use the funds obtained for the 2024-2025 financial year. After that, the Union Minister toured and inspected the mill employees' housing and greeted the employees cordially. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than inspects the No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) in Taunggyi, Shan State, yesterday.

NATIONAL

DPM MoFA Union Minister participates in Thai Songkran Festival 2024



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Than Swe and dignitaries donate offerings to members of the Sangha during the Thai Songkran Festival 2024 in Yangon on 6 April 2024.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe attended the Thai traditional Songkran

Festival 2024 held at 4 pm on 6 March at the residence of the Thai Ambassador in Yangon.

Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump first offered flowers and candles to the Buddha statue before receiving a sermon from the presiding monk of Khema Yama Monastery located in Mayangon Township and observing the five precepts.

The Deputy Prime Minister, the Yangon Region chief minister, the Thai ambassador, and officials then donated offerings to the monks. They also offered water and coins to the Buddha statue before visiting traditional Thai food stalls and enjoying the festivities.

During the event, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Yangon Region chief minister, the Yangon mayor, the Thai ambassador, the Cambodian ambassador, officials and Thai citizens living in Myanmar sprinkled water on one another.

The Thai ambassador served the Deputy Prime Minister and dignitaries with a dinner. — MNA/TKO

Myanmar pulse exports cross US\$1.48B in FY 2023-2024

FROM PAGE-1

MYANMAR bagged US\$1.48 billion from over 1.76 million tonnes of pulse exports in the past financial year 2023-2024 (April-March), the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar's seaborne trade registered over 1.6 million tonnes of pulse exports worth \$1.34 billion, whereas over 157,409 tonnes of pulses worth \$141.38 million were sent to the neighbouring countries between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

The Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated that Myanmar's pulse exports totalled over US\$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023. 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 over K3.1 million per tonne of black grams (urad) and K3.92 million per tonne of pigeon peas (tur), stated the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

On 5 February, the prices hit an all-time 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. 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

CBM Governor attends ASEAN financial meetings in Laos

AS Laos hosted the 20th ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting (ACGM), 11th ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM), and associated meetings in Luang Prabang yesterday, Myanmar's delegation led by Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe attended them.

At the ACGM, the Laos Central Bank Governor presented Laos' priorities as ASEAN's chair in 2024. The chairperson of the ASEAN Central Bank Deputies Meeting clarified the latest developments on ASEAN financial

integration under the ASEAN Senior Level Committee and ASEAN Swap Arrangement. Central Bank Governors exchanged their thoughts.

In the afternoon, the ASEAN financial ministers, Central Bank Governors, and international monetary organizations met. Representatives from the Asian Development Bank discussed finding solutions for regional problems, the World Bank talked about the economic potentials of the East Asia and Pacific regions, the International Monetary Fund elaborated on the world economy and regional economies'



Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe participates in the 20th ACGM and 11th AFMGM in Luang Prabang, Laos, yesterday.

principles, and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office shared ASEAN+3's economic forecast. The attendees offered their advice and exchanged views.

Subsequently, the 11th AFMGM commenced. Laos' Finance Minister presented the country's priorities as ASEAN chair this year, as well as recent developments of the AEC Blueprint 2025.

The Co-chairperson of

the ASEAN Financial and Central Bank Deputies Meeting presented the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN, ASEAN Sustainable Finance Cooperation, and ASEAN financial integration working committees' plans for 2024-25.

After discussions, the joint statement of the 11th AFMGM was approved. The 12th AFMGM is scheduled in Malaysia in 2025. — MNA/NT

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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

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, jade, industrial materials, foodstuffs, motorbikes and vehicles

A total of 0.354 tonne of illegal teak and 12.168 tonnes of illegal timbers valued at K774,870 were captured in Ingapu and Kyangin townships on 3 April. The action was conducted under the Forest Law.

During inspections on 3 and 4 April, illegal timbers weighing 15.932 tonnes worth K8,876,162 were seized in Mindon township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On the same day, the combined teams impounded two kinds of goods worth K107,659,944, including 5,358.24 square metres of ceramic tiles that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) from five containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port and two kinds of goods valued at K89,674,830 including 5,000 kilogrammes of Alpha cement bags (empty) that were not declared in the ID from 31 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoints. The action was taken

under Customs procedures.

On 4 April, the combined teams seized a Mitsubishi Pajero car (approximately K30 million) heading to PyinOoLwin from Mandalay, carrying 65 kilogrammes of suspected jade worth K3.25 million without official documents at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the combined team confiscated a Nissan Diesel truck (estimated value of K30 million), travelling from Thamanya to Yangon, carrying 282 sets of Mazon toilet commode valued at K7.05 million without official documents near the Shwethanlwin tollgate in Phayagyi. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

During inspections on 4 and 5 April, the combined teams captured an unregistered Honda Fit car (approximately K8 million) and two unregistered vehicles (approximately

K20 million) at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint and an unregistered Yamaha motorbike (estimated value of K1 million) in Laezin village in Monywa township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On the same day, the combined teams supervised by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force nabbed a Fuso FZ tractor head with a trailer (approximately K120 million), heading to Yangon from Thamanya, carrying two kinds of goods worth K18.81 million, including 7,500 kilogrammes of Golda Shortening chemical supplier that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Ywathagyi Dry Port and an unregistered Toyota Alphard car (estimated value of K4 million) in Insein township. These action was taken under Customs procedures and the Export and Import Law.

On 5 April, the combined



The photo shows confiscated jade stones at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint in Mandalay Region.

teams seized 1,950 kilogrammes of illegal various fishes worth K675,000 from a wooden boat in Kyunsu township, two fishing boats (approximately K7 million) without official documents in Kawthoung township and an unregistered Yamaha FINN155 motorbike (estimated value of K500,000) in Bokpyin township. These actions were taken under Customs procedures and the Export and Import Law.

On the same day, two unregistered Shacman SX-2150 trucks (approximately K40 million) were captured in Waingmaw township, and action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 41 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 3 to 5 April, with an estimated value of K497 million. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

Spreading false news: Forceful collection of money to support people's military servants in Kayan township

THE malicious media DVB is intentionally spreading false news, claiming that authorities are forcefully collecting a lot of money from the houses of Kayan township, Yangon, to support the people who serve in the people's military service.

Concerning this false news, according to an official of Kayan township, the reality is that there is no forceful collection of money, and it is just a fake one. Therefore, trustworthy information and clarifications are being provided to the public to make them aware of such kinds of false claims.

Since the activation of the People's Military Service Law, malicious media outlets have been intentionally circulating various false news to propagate and spread misinformation. They employ vulgar journalistic techniques to instigate public worry and panic. — MNA/TRKM



The screenshot validates the false news of malicious DVB.

Subversive media circulate misinformation about Aukchai village in Mindat

FALSE news is circulated on social media and online sites alleging that Tatmadaw attacked Aukchai village in Mindat Township, Chin State, with cluster bombs, resulting in injuries to five people, including two children, on 3 April.

According to a security officer in the relevant area, Tatmadaw did not bomb the area, and there were no clashes on 3 April.

Similarly, on the morning of 6 April, subversive media outlets fabricate misinformation, alleging that Tatmadaw raided Shadaw village in Shwebo Township. According

to reports from some local residents who oppose violence, the security forces conducted security activities in the area because terrorists were allegedly hiding in the village.

Terrorists attacked the security forces with heavy weapons and dropped bombs, reportedly resulting in the burning of houses and displacement of households.

Terrorist-supporting subversive media are reportedly spreading fake news and propaganda, making the public misunderstand the military. — MNA/TKO

NATIONAL



The photo shows the construction work of the Yangon City Hall Central Pavilion and water-splashing pandals on 15 March.

MoI seeks free use of copyrighted songs for Thingyan Festival

THE Ministry of Information has requested the respective song owners to allow free use of their copyrighted songs during the Thingyan festival.

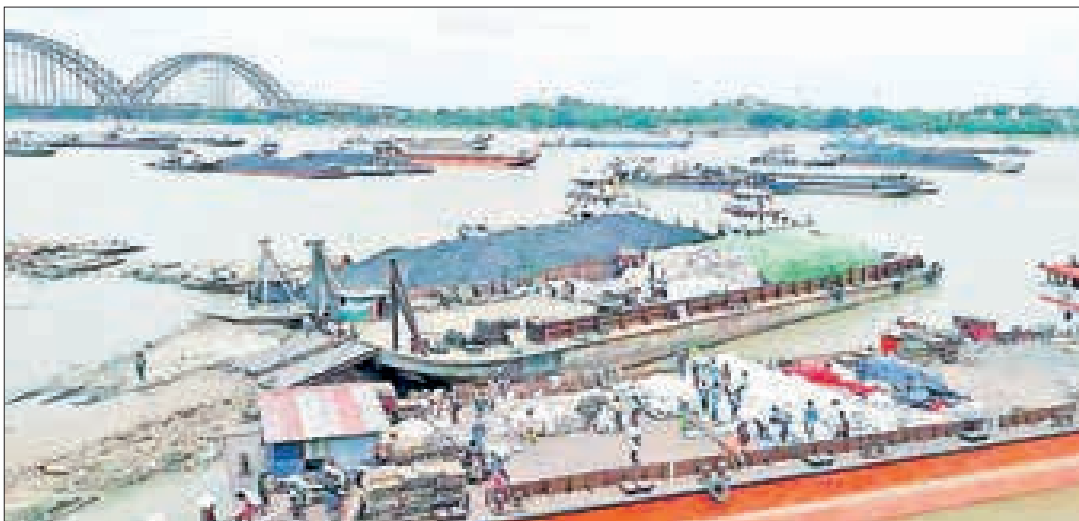
According to reports, the Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival in 2024 will be celebrated according to the customs and traditions of previous years. State organizations,

ministries, state and regional governments, and departments will perform traditional Thingyan performances, including singing and dancing, during the festival.

Furthermore, Myanmar Radio and Television will broadcast Thingyan performance programmes freely, covering both the walking

Thingyan festival in Nay Pyi Taw and the City Hall Central Pavilions.

Hence, these performances and broadcasts are not for personal financial benefit but for public entertainment, and song owners and professionals are kindly requested to allow the unrestricted use of copyrighted songs. — TWA/TRKM



Cargo ships at Mandalay Port.

101 vessels ship goods from Mandalay Port to Yangon, Bhamo in March

ACCORDING to the Department of Transport, 101 cargo vessels shipped goods from Mandalay Port to Yangon and Bhamo along the Ayeyawady River in March.

A fleet of 101 cargo vessels transports sent 49,502.35 tonnes of cement, 32,719.7 tonnes of

corn, 1,567 tonnes of coal, 125 tonnes of lime, 100 iron pipes, 103.5 tonnes of salt, 85.93 tonnes of molasses, 600 pieces of plywood, 14,833.6 tonnes of sugar, 389.65 tonnes of rice and broken rice and a tractor.

Due to the large quantity of goods to be transported

from Mandalay Port, the Department of Transport has instructed that vessels should not be loaded beyond the specified tonnage. Carrying goods beyond the vessel's capacity, regardless of its size, may pose a danger for ships travelling on the river. — TWA/TKO

NEWS In BRIEF

Plans underway for safe Maha Thingyan Festival

THE Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion will be constructed in front of the City Hall for the public to be able to play water happily and safely during the Maha Thingyan Festival. Moreover, there will be water playing pandals, district water throwing pandals, group dance performance and an awarding ceremony at People's Square, said the vice-mayor during the second coordination meeting of Yangon City Maha Thingyan Festival Organizing Committee held on 5 April.

This year, the Yangon City Maha Thingyan Festival will feature performances by artistes from the movie, music and theatrical arenas.

Inlay to host floating Thingyan festival

THE floating Thingyan festival will be held from 13 to 16 April in Inlay Lake of Nyaungshwe township in Shan State (South), according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. The directorate invites people to visit Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda to enjoy the floating water festival.

Myawady returns to normal

THE people are wandering in Myawady as usual. The system breakdown occurred at the No 1 Thai-Myanmar friendship bridge, and the people had to queue, but they could pass through as normal. The trade is also operating as expected at the No 2 bridge and other crossings, such as Myawady/Hpa-an-Htaw Kaw Koe, KyatOoTaung and Thitkathi. The entry and exit of people to Myawady also return to regular passages. The lines of ATOM, Mytel and MPT have also resumed at 5:30 pm, but the data cannot be used, according to a Facebook post made by Bangkok tour guide Ko Sai on the evening of 6 April.

Unregistered private and language schools face legal action

THE Private Education Law was enacted on 12 May 2023. All the private schools are required to apply for registration at their respective region and state education offices' private schools supervisory board under the law. Moreover, private schools and language schools will be taken action if they fail to register, the private schools supervisory board announced.

Nine regions/states to face high daytime temperatures in two days

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) has forecasted a slight increase in daytime temperatures over the next two days in nine regions and states.

According to the 6 April statement, there might be high daytime temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, the lower part of Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Bago Region, Shan State, Rakhine State, Kayah State, Kayin State and Mon State.

Similarly, weather watcher Su Su San warned the people to be aware of heat waves as the daytime temperatures in Mandalay and Magway regions are high. — Htun Htun/KTZH

NATIONAL

Myanmar attends Siberian Hospitality Forum in Novosibirsk

MYANMAR attended the Siberian Hospitality Forum 'Wild Plants' 2024: VI Siberian Tourism Forum and International Hospitality Exhibition 'HoReCa Siberia' which took place in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Myanmar Consul-General to Novosibirsk U Pyae Phyto Wai was present at the event on 3 April at the Russian Export Centre in Novosibirsk.

U Pyae Phyto Wai clarified at the forum that Myanmar's

MAI airline operates flights twice a week from Yangon to Mandalay and then to Novosibirsk.

He also disclosed plans to promote tourism services between Myanmar and Russia and showcased a video clip titled 'Friendly Myanmar' aimed at boosting Myanmar's tourism sector. Additionally, U Pyae Phyto Wai provided attendees with a leaflet briefing about tourism in Myanmar before responding to the questions raised by journalists.

Mr Nikolay A Afonarov, Head of the Regional Office in Novosibirsk of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, gave the opening remarks. Mrs Elena Sergeevna Kryzhanovskaya, Head of the Department of Development of Domestic and Inbound Tourism, and Mr Dmitry Manin, Head of the touristic agency "Pegas" discussed the tourism industry in Siberian and ways to promote Siberian tourism. Views were also exchanged between the attendees. — ASH/ TMT



The photo depicts the Siberian Hospitality Forum "Wild Plants" 2024: VI Siberian Tourism Forum and International Hospitality Exhibition "HoReCa Siberia".



Actress Saung Eaindray Tun seen donating K1 million.

K1 million donated to support artistes in film industry

ON 6 April, actress Saung Eaindray Tun, also known as Ma Ma Saung, donated K1 million to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) in support of its 14th plan to assist artistes in the film industry, according to Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay of the organization.

The organization provided the artistes with rice and food-stuffs from 3 to 6 April. The vice-chair mentioned that the MMPO is making 14th Thingyan donation and each person from the organization received five-Pyi of rice, one viss of cooking oil, a half viss of gram and two tins of fish.

He also stated that the donation for purpose of consumption in the Thingyan festival, which benefits the artistes from different strata, is always made every first week of April. — ASH/TRKM

YRTC warns YBS bus lines against overcharged fare

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee announced that there will be a reduction in the number of YBS buses available to one-third of the original number during the Thingyan water festival and vowed to take action against any instances of fare overcharging, according to U Lyan Cin Mang, joint secretary of the committee.

He added: "Even though we observe fewer commuters during the Thingyan holiday, suspending the entire operation is impractical.

"We require all bus lines to continue operating, albeit at a reduced capacity, and will closely monitor any instances of fare overcharging and unauthorized passengers besides the driver."

In Yangon Region, more than 650,000 commuters rely on YBS, or Yangon Bus Service, which operates nearly 3,000 buses daily. Throughout the Thingyan holiday, from 13 to 16 April, around 60 bus lines under 16 companies will maintain operations with over 1,200 buses in service daily.

On Myanmar New Year Day, 17 April, all 18 companies will resume operations at full capacity, with three bus lines from the Thet Yin Aung Company offering free service. — ASH/NT



Some buses from YBS station in the terminal.

OPINION

Strengthen Myanmar's health sector: A vital pursuit

IN MYANMAR, a popular saying echoes the sentiment that "Health is Wealth", emphasizing the indispensable nature of good health in daily life. Indeed, without good health, individuals are limited in their ability to pursue various endeavours.

In 2024, the World Health Organization launched a significant campaign themed 'My Health, My Right'. This initiative aimed to address the widespread lack of access to quality healthcare, education, and essential resources faced by millions worldwide. Factors such as poverty, geographical barriers, discrimination, and conflicts contribute to this disparity. The WHO's goal is to advocate for a world where optimal health and well-being are achievable for all.

To meet the healthcare needs of its citizens, Myanmar has made concerted efforts to establish and operate healthcare institutions and facilities nationwide alongside private healthcare service providers.

Through government initiatives and collaboration with relevant organizations, healthcare services have been extended from grassroots levels to major cities, ensuring broader accessibility.

Moreover, medical universities and training institutions are actively producing a significant number of medical professionals and healthcare workers who are deployed across the nation, even in remote areas. Additionally, military medical teams conduct field trips to provide essential healthcare services, including surgeries, at grassroots levels. Meanwhile, private clinics are also providing healthcare treatments to people not only in urban areas but also in rural areas.

Health professionals are dedicated to leveraging their expertise for the betterment of society. The commitment to providing comprehensive medical coverage across the nation is unwavering.

However, despite the recognition of health as a fundamental human right by at least 140 countries, many fail to enact and enforce laws guaranteeing access to healthcare services. This has resulted in over half of the global population, approximately 4.5 billion people, lacking full coverage of essential health services as of 2021.

Recognizing imperfection as inherent, Myanmar endeavours to cultivate a healthier society within its means. Access to quality healthcare services is deemed a deserved right for its people. The advancement of the nation's health sector is intrinsically linked to its economic development. Therefore, concerted efforts from all sectors are essential to fortify the health sector and ensure its resilience and sustainability.

Bolstering Myanmar's health sector requires collective contributions and commitment. By prioritizing health as a fundamental human right and investing in comprehensive healthcare infrastructure and services, Myanmar can strive towards a healthier and more prosperous future for all its citizens by granting healthcare services.

ARTICLE POEM/ BOOKRACK

When Golden Padauk Blossoms

By Maung Swe Ngae



- ❖ When we see Padauk blossoms shine At this auspicious summertime Usually, it comes with the summer's heat Paying no attention to its peak.
- ❖ Thingyan comes with a big splash. We welcome a shower as expect Depending on the generosity of the thrower Receive a cool splash of water.
- ❖ Thingyan marks the end of the old year And the beginning of a new year Everyone we see is all smiles Revellers are jovial all the while
- ❖ In pandals, gather lads and damsels To take part in the water festival Revellers dance, shout and yell To their hearts' content for revel
- ❖ Like quail-egg-size dough balls Mont-lone-yaybaw is served to all
- To satisfy the comers feeling hungry Just only to be satiated orally.
- ❖ Decorated floats rove round the City To entertain people to be happy Dousing and splashing water with each other Cleanse away the dirt of the old year.
- ❖ Older generation performing meritorious deeds This can be seen during the festival, indeed Try to preserve our traditional cultures Not let alien cultures creep into ours.
- ❖ Novitiation and ordination ceremonies take place Making foreigners who see them amazed Essence be still and all unchanged Lovely traditions are never on the wane.
- ❖ Traditional Thingyan is rendered more colourful By Padauk, Ngu-wa and Yingat blossoms in full Wishing you a merry Thingyan Festival!! May you be overjoyed without interval!!

Notes

1. **Thingyan** : Water festival that annually falls in mid-April in Myanmar
2. **Mont-lone -yaybaw** : It is synonymous with Thingyan. Rice dough balls with a jaggedy centre are put into boiling water in large pans. Within minutes, they pop up to the surface, cooked and ready to eat. Usually, the mont-lone-yaybaw is served on pieces of banana leaf (now small plates) with a sprinkling of grated coconut.
3. **Novitiation** : Buddhist novice making
4. **Ordination** : a ceremony of making a layman a Buddhist monk
5. **Padauk** : (ပိတောက်) Pterocarpus macrocarpus
6. **Ngu-wa** : (ငူဝါ) Cassia fistula
7. **Yingat** : (ရင်ခတ်) Gardenia

Young Gardeners

By Arnt Maung
Translated by Myint Zan

Yangon with new and beauteous clothes making waves, attracting attention prettifying and effervescent it seems 'tis a city for youngsters

but when one looks carefully

it is a city of young persons on the move, actively at work that bees would have to admit defeat

one cultivates oneself one takes care of one's land and waters indeed, one helps construct the world:

the young gardeners from the new generation

The original poem appeared in Volume 23 December 2001 issue of Beauty magazine



ဥယျာဉ်မှူးကလေးများ

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အံ့မောင်



- Book Title - Billionaire Thahtaygyi Elon Musk
- Translator - Myat Thet
- Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho
- Publication Date - October 2023 (1st Edition)
- Price - K3,000

Billionaire Thahtaygyi Elon Musk

ELON Reeve Musk is a businessman and investor. He is the founder, chairman, CEO, and CTO of SpaceX; angel investor; CEO, product architect, and former chairman of Tesla Inc; owner, executive chairman, and CTO of X Corp; founder of the Boring Company and xAI; co-founder of Neuralink and OpenAI; and president of the Musk Foundation. He is one of the wealthiest people in the world, with an estimated net worth of US\$190 billion as of March 2024, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, and \$195 billion, according to Forbes, primarily from his ownership stakes in Tesla and SpaceX. Elon, a member of the

wealthy South African Musk family, was born in Pretoria. He briefly attended the University of Pretoria before immigrating to Canada at age 18, acquiring citizenship through his Canadian-born mother. Two years later, he matriculated at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada. Musk later transferred to the University of Pennsylvania and received bachelor's degrees in economics and physics. He moved to California in 1995 to attend Stanford University but dropped out after two days and, with his brother Kimbal, co-founded the online city guide software company Zip2. Compaq acquired the startup for \$307 million in 1999, and that same

year, Musk co-founded X.com, a direct bank. X.com merged with Confinity in 2000 to form PayPal. In October 2002, eBay acquired PayPal for \$1.5 billion, and that same year, with \$100 million of the money he made, Musk founded SpaceX, a space-flight services company. In 2004, he became an early investor in electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla Motors, Inc. (now Tesla, Inc.). He became its chairman and product architect, assuming the position of CEO in 2008. In 2006, Musk helped create SolarCity, a solar energy company that was acquired by Tesla in 2016 and became Tesla Energy. In 2013, he proposed a hyperloop high-speed

vactrain transport system. In 2015, he co-founded OpenAI, a nonprofit artificial intelligence research company. The following year, Musk co-founded Neuralink – a neurotechnology company developing brain-computer interfaces – and the Boring Company, a tunnel construction company. In 2022, he acquired Twitter for \$44 billion. He subsequently merged the company into the newly created X Corp and rebranded the service as X the following year. In March 2023, he founded xAI, an artificial intelligence company.

Musk has expressed views that have made him a polarizing figure. He has been criticized for making unscientific and misleading statements, including COVID-19 misinformation and antisemitic conspiracy theories. His ownership of Twitter has been similarly controversial, being marked by the laying off of a large number of employees, an increase in hate speech, misinformation and disinformation on the website, and changes to Twitter Blue verification. In 2018, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) sued him, alleging that he had falsely announced that he had secured funding for a private takeover of

Tesla. To settle the case, Musk stepped down as the chairman of Tesla and paid a \$20 million fine.

Elon Reeve Musk was born on 28 June 1971 in Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital. He is of British and Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. His mother, Maye Musk, is a model and dietitian born in Saskatchewan, Canada, and raised in South Africa. His father, Errol Musk, is a South African electromechanical engineer, pilot, sailor, consultant, emerald dealer, and property developer who partly owned a rental lodge at the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve. Elon has a younger brother, Kimbal, and a younger sister, Tosca.

The family was wealthy during Elon's youth. Despite both Musk and Errol previously stating that Errol was a part owner of a Zambian emerald mine, Errol recounted that the deal he made was to receive "a portion of the emeralds produced at three small mines". Errol was elected to the Pretoria City Council as a representative of the anti-apartheid Progressive Party and has said that his children shared their father's dislike of apartheid.



- Book Title - Htin Shar Thu Doh Ei Bawa Ponbyin
- Translator - Nine Nine Sa Nay
- Publishing House - Sar Yeik Myaing
- Publication Date - January 2024 (1st Edition)
- Price - K7,000

Htin Shar Thu Doh Ei Bawa Ponbyin

(Their Stories by Lee Ming Yi)

THIS week, I would like to recommend a book to the readers. This book is a translation work of Sayama Nine Nine Sa Nay, who is popular among young readers. She has translated this book with the aim of enabling the younger generation to learn lessons from the experiences of the achievers and to imitate them in their efforts to achieve success in life.

This book under review is composed of five chapters written in over 200 pages. The original writer said in a story, "Success starts with a dream." She said that nothing can be

achieved without the exertion of effort, that there are always opportunities and costs, and that all those who have become great people have never been seen abandoning their dreams despite great difficulties. She has highlighted the importance of not giving up hope.

For young readers to be able to imitate, she has provided the detailed efforts exerted by 39 great people such as Thomas Edison, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Stephen Hopkins, and Ernest Hemingway, among other things. The writer has emphasized their

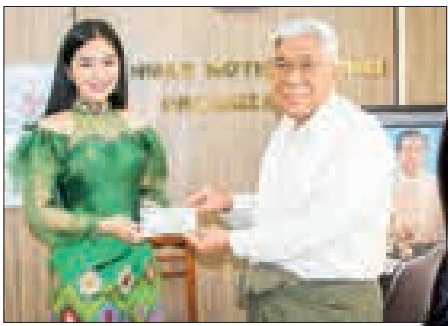
mentality, mindset, morale, conviction, diligence and creative imagination with only a few pages left for their biography.

The translator of this book said, "Everybody has their own dreams. They have their own convictions. People, by nature, prefer to become brilliant professionals like doctors and engineers. Or they would choose to become great athletes. There will still be those who would like to become famous singers or actors. Nevertheless, having a big dream is only the beginning."

SEE PAGE-11

NATIONAL Entertainment

Saung Yoon Zan
ACTRESS Saung Yoon Zan donated K1.7 million for 750 visses of onion (for 1,400 people) at Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, marking the pre-donation of Myanmar New Year on 5 April. MMPO Chairperson U Kyi Soe Tun received the cash. She also organized a gold foil donation ceremony at 'Walaylone Pagoda' on the victory platform of Shwesandaw Pagoda in Pyay on 24 March.



Artistes of 'Aphyu Yaung Thagayit Yae Atar Thingyan Nay Yet Myar' series.

MRTV 4 to air 'Aphyu Yaung Thagayit Yae Atar Thingyan Nay Yet Myar' series

MRTV 4 will broadcast the 'Aphyu Yaung Thagayit Yae Atar Thingyan Nay Yet Myar' series starting from 12 to 17 April, according to actor Bhone Shein Khant. The new series is not the second season of the 'Aphyu Yaung Thagayit' series that has been aired on the MRTV-4 channel, and it is a separate series including almost all the stars of that former series.

"This series is not the second season of 'Aphyu Yaung Thagayit'. It is another story. Almost all the stars of that series can be seen this series.

This can be said mini-series. Please support us," he said.

The novel and story of the 'Aphyu Yaung Thagayit Yae Atar Thingyan Nay Yet Myar' was created by Pyone Maung and his team, and Su Su Sabei Phoo, Khin Sabei Hlaing and San Yu Maung made the script. Director Hein Ko Ko directed it.

The stars are Bhone Shein Khant, Phyo Than Thar Cho, academy Wah Wah Aung, academy Aung Khine, academy Khin Moh Moh Aye, Kan Pwint, Daung Wai, Htoo Thar, Hein Min, Ma Chit Su, Thar Thar, Aye Aye Aung, Myo Myo Khine and Shin Pyone Khin.

The series will be aired daily at 7 pm from 12 to 17 April. — ASH/KTZH

Bunny Phyoe
SINGER Bunny Phyoe released his Hi-Resolution 'Gaba Asetset' MV with subtitles in three languages on the 'Bunny Phyoe' YouTube channel and Facebook page. The audio is available on all streaming platforms. The singer said, "If it is possible, please support us by watching or listening to the items broadcast on our official channels rather than the video and audio posted by the illegal pages that copy and repost others' properties." Director Ko Aung Myat made the MV, and the artistes are Bunny Phyoe, Amara Bhone, U Tain Nyunt, and Daw Aye Mi San.



Pan Yaung Chel
THE fans criticize Pan Yaung Chel for her acting skills in the Yin Htae Kyway Tae Kyel series. She informed her fans via media that "Vee is very childish. She smiles while crying. She can be coaxed and scolded for something. But, she will be mature in coming episodes." Her co-actor Alinn Yaung made a positive comment under her post urging her to keep trying hard for her character.

Poe Mahme Thar
ACTRESS Poe Mahme Thar, who first started in the 'Theingara ThaChin Ta Bote' MV of Sai Sai Kham Leng, received applause from the audience with the 'Padauk Ka Tae Gita' movie and also with the currently broadcasting 'Yin Htae Kyway Tae Kyel' TV series. The actress, who is also a doctor, participated in the 'Heat Protection Week' talk show by sharing the fitness lifestyle and workout tips and tricks held at Yangon Zoology Gardens in Yangon on 6 April.



Hngtet Pyaw Gyaw
COMEDIAN Hngtet Pyaw Gyaw made comments regarding the grandson of actor Lwin Moe, saying that although his daughter Yoon Wady Lwin Moe is not seen in this field frequently, his grandson Liam will be his new generation. Nga Pyaw Gyaw posted about the health issue of comedian Nyaung Nyaung, who is currently under treatment at Grand Hantha Hospital, on his Facebook page.



Celebrity Brief

STARRING : HAN LAY
HAIR AND MAKE UP : Jessica Han - Make-up Artist
DESIGNER : Designer Thein Zaw Win - The Atelier
PHOTO : Love Space Photo Studio

Han Lay
HAN LAY, who missed the Miss Universe Myanmar 2015 title nine years ago, won the Miss Universe Yangon South 2024 Winner, representing Yangon in "Miss Universe Myanmar 2024". "I enter this field to showcase what I wanted to do in the past and what I am an expert at. Everyone is surprised and supports me, so I am very energized and excited," she said. — Htun Htun/KTZH

WORLD

Mexico suspends ties with Ecuador after police break into embassy in Quito

MEXICO suspended its diplomatic relations with Ecuador after Ecuadorian police broke into the Mexican embassy in Quito and arrested former Ecuadorian Vice-President Jorge Glas, who has been taking refuge in the embassy since last December.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador announced the suspension of diplomatic ties with Ecuador on X Friday night local time (GMT 0431 Saturday), calling the Ecuadorian move “a flagrant violation of international law and the sovereignty of Mexico”.

Less than 10 minutes earlier,

the Ecuadorian president’s X account affirmed Glas was detained by police in a statement at 11:22 local time (GMT 0422 Saturday), saying that “Ecuador is a sovereign country and we are not going to allow any criminal to go unpunished.”

Mexico’s diplomatic personnel in Ecuador will leave that country immediately and will appeal to the International Court of Justice to “denounce Ecuador’s responsibility for violations of International Law,” said Foreign Minister Alicia Barcena on X at 11:23 local time (GMT 0423 Saturday). — Xinhua



Former Vice-President Jorge Glas. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Htin Shar Thu Doh Ei Bawa Ponbyin

(Their Stories by Lee Ming Yi)

FROM PAGE-9

In this regard, it is worth mentioning an old adage, “Well begun is half done.” It is also appropriate here in this juncture to quote our forefathers as saying, “Those who have no dreams, lacking big ambitions, can be said to have already been dead spiritually despite no physical death.” I agree with them because these people are leading a meaningless life. It is said that birds die while flying and men die while thinking. How can one move ahead without an exact direction? They will be like a boat without a rudder. Such a boat will never reach a destination. This being so, people must have a direction in mind. Only when people are ambitious will they exert their utmost effort, and only when people do not lose sight of their goals will they be able to make their dreams

come true. And only when they have enough diligence and perseverance they will be able to realize their objectives. In this regard, it is also of vital importance to learn lessons from the past experiences their seniors have undergone. This is one of the reasons why I have chosen this book to recommend to our readers, particularly the younger readers.

It is pretty apparent that the world’s famous great people have not walked on the path strewn with flowers. They have had to tread on the path paved with the thorns. Only with the firm determination to overcome all the obstacles did they accomplish the Herculean tasks. In fact, there is no easy way or shortcut to the road to success. In a nutshell, failures are the stepping stones to success, goes as a saying.

China, Thailand to cooperate in lunar exploration missions

As part of the collaboration, China’s upcoming Chang’e-7 lunar exploration mission, scheduled for around 2026, will carry a global space weather monitoring device developed by Thailand.

CHINA and Thailand will cooperate on the exploration and peaceful use of outer space as well as on the International Lunar Research Station, according to two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) signed Friday in Beijing.

China National Space Administration (CNSA) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation of Thailand signed the two MoUs.

China’s Chang’e-7 lunar exploration mission, to be launched around 2026, will have onboard a Thailand-developed global space weather monitoring device, which is designed to observe cosmic radiation and space weather from the lunar perspective. It will be the first time that a scientific instrument from Thailand has entered deep space from Earth



Photo taken by the rover Yutu-2 (Jade Rabbit-2) on 11 January 2019 shows the lander of the Chang’e-4 probe. PHOTO: CHINA NATIONAL SPACE ADMINISTRATION/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

orbit.

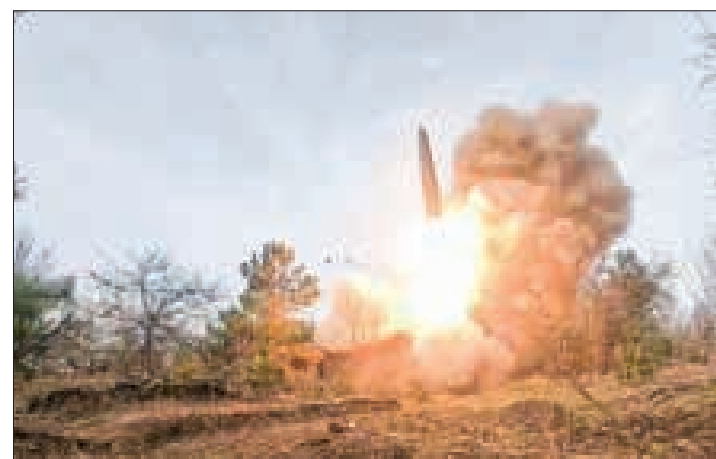
China’s Chang’e-8 mission, to be launched around 2028, provides a payload capacity of 200 kilogrammes for international cooperation, and multiple applications from Thailand for lunar surface operation robots and scientific payloads are currently under selection.

China is implementing the fourth phase of its lunar exploration programme with the main target of building up the basic model of the International Lunar Research Station, according to Guan Feng, director of the Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Centre of CNSA. — Xinhua

Russia unleashes massive retaliation in response to Ukraine’s bid to damage oil & gas facilities

THE Russian Armed Forces have carried out 39 strikes on Ukrainian energy and military facilities in response to the Kyiv regime’s attempts to damage Russian oil and gas and energy facilities, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

“From 31 March to 5 April, the Russian armed forces have carried out 39 massive strikes with high-precision long-range land- and air-based weapons, unmanned aerial vehicles, on Ukrainian energy industry facilities, as well as enterprises of military-industrial complex, air defence systems, arsenals, fuel depots, temporary deployment sites for Ukrainian units and foreign mercenaries in response to attempts by the Kyiv regime



In this handout photo released by the Russian Defence Ministry, Iskander short-range ballistic missile system is used during the Russian military operation in Ukraine. PHOTO: PRESS SERVICE OF THE RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY // SPUTNIK

to cause damage to oil and gas industry and energy facilities in Russia,” the ministry said in a statement. The ministry

added that “the objectives of the strikes were achieved and all the targeted objects were hit”. — SPUTNIK

ECONOMY

WORLD

Healthy China-US economic ties require true cooperation over self-interest

Talking up “Chinese overcapacity” in the clean energy sector also smacks of creating a pretext for rolling out more protectionist policies to shield US companies.



This photo taken on 10 January 2024 shows a factory of Chinese electric vehicle (EV) maker Li Auto Inc. in Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: JI CHUNPENG/XINHUA**

BEFORE starting her second trip to China in less than a year, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen asserted her focus of “advancing a healthy economic relationship that provides a level playing field for American workers and firms”.

When it comes to fair play in business and trade, isn't it Washington that should wean itself off the practice of abusing the national security pretext to elbow aside leading Chinese high-tech and clean energy companies?

It appears that Washing-

ton's notion of healthy economic ties is largely self-centered, prioritizing America's interests above all else. In contrast, China has, as always, been committed to nurturing an economic and trade relationship built on mutual benefits and win-win outcomes for all parties involved.

The divergence also exists in their ways of dealing with each other. China insists that the two countries should respect each other, coexist in peace and pursue win-win cooperation, while Washington, as Yellen said, aims to manage US-China economic relations “from a position of strength.”

This seems to be the modus operandi for Washington — relentlessly aligning everything with its own interests while disregarding the perspectives and concerns of others. — Xinhua

World food prices rise for first time in 7 months: FAO



Vegetable oil prices reached a one-year high last month. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

GLOBAL food prices rose in March, the first increase since July, pulled higher by cooking oil prices despite the cost of grains continuing to ease, the UN's Food and Agricultural

Organization said Friday.

The FAO's overall Food Price Index climbed 1.1 per cent over the month to stand at 118.3 points in March 2024. On an annual comparison it

was 7.7 per cent lower.

The sub-index for vegetable oils jumped by 8.0 per cent over the month to reach a one-year high. The FAO said prices for palm, soy, sunflower and rapeseed oils all climbed higher.

Rising palm oil prices were driven by seasonal drops in output in leading producing nations that coincided with strong demand in Southeast Asia, while demand from the biofuel sector pulled up soy oil prices. Dairy prices rose by 2.9 per cent in March on a monthly basis, while meat prices climbed 1.7 per cent.

Meanwhile, cereals prices slid 2.6 per cent on a monthly basis, while sugar prices fell 5.4 per cent. — AFP

India allows export of certain quantities of essential commodities at Maldives request

AMID the India-Maldives row, India has allowed for the export of certain quantities of essential commodities for 2024-25 under a unique bilateral mechanism, at the request of the Maldives government.

The High Commission of India in the Maldives posted on Thursday on X, stating that the quotas for each of these items have been revised upwards.

“Upon the request of the Government of Maldives, the Government of India has allowed for export of certain quantities of essential commodities for the year 2024-25 under a unique bilateral mechanism, wherein, the quotas for each of these items have been revised upwards,” the

post stated.

Notably, the approved quantities are the highest since this arrangement came into effect in 1981.

The quota for river sand and stone aggregates, crucial items for the booming construction industry in the Maldives, has been increased by 25 per cent to 1,000,000 tonnes. There has also been an increase of five per cent in the quotas for eggs, potatoes, onions, sugar, rice, wheat flour and dal (pulses).

Moreover, last year as well, India continued to export rice, sugar and onions to the Maldives despite a worldwide ban on the export of these items from India. — ANI



Additionally, quotas for eggs, potatoes, onions, sugar, rice, wheat flour, and dal have seen a 5 per cent increase. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

Israel passes new environmental law adopting European standards for industries

THE Knesset plenum approved in second and third readings (which passes a bill into law) the new environmental licensing law. The Ministry of Environmental Protection said this reform is expected to bring about “a real environmental improvement in industrial activity and a direct and indirect benefit” of up to three billion shekels (USD 820 million).

“This is the most significant environmental reform in Israel since the Clean Air Law, which was enacted in 2008,” said the ministry. The reform will allow the State of Israel to align with the environmental standards of the European Union and reduce pollution and environmental risks from industrial activity in Israel. With the entry into force of the law and in the next decade, approximately 1,500 factories in Israel will be required to hold a unified environmental permit instead of the three separate permits required until now: an air emission permit, a toxic permit for hazardous substances and the Ministry's approval of the business licence. The unified permit will be issued from time to time according to the applicable European regulations. — ANI

Profits of foreign-invested firms in China up 31.2% in first two months: data

The NBS data also indicated overall growth in China's industrial economy, with profits of large, medium-sized, and small companies increasing by eight per cent, six per cent, and 18.9 per cent, respectively, during the same period.

FOREIGN-INVESTED firms as well as those with investors from China's Hong Kong, Macao and Chinese Taipei regions reported profit growth of 31.2 per cent year on year in the first two months of 2024, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The recently released NBS data showed general growth in China's industrial economy. According to the data, profits of large, medium-sized, and small companies grew by eight per cent, six per cent, and 18.9 per cent, respectively, year on year during the



This photo taken on 22 February 2024 shows a workshop at the Jiangxi MTC Visual Display Co Ltd (VMTC) in Nanchang, east China's Jiangxi Province. **PHOTO: ZHOU JINYU/XINHUA**

first two months of 2024.

The data also revealed that the business revenues of surveyed industrial firms rose by 4.5

per cent year on year during this period — which marked an increase of 3.4 percentage points from the growth rate registered for

the whole of 2023, indicating a recovery in the industrial economy.

While noting the positive rebound of industrial production in China in the first two months of this year, Wang Xin, chief statistician at the NBS industrial statistics department, said the current international situation remained "complicated and severe" in the face of challenges such as insufficient effective demand and corporate profitability, which means that the recovery momentum of the industrial economy needs to be further consolidated. — Xinhua

Apple explores making personal robots: report

APPLE engineers are working on making personal robots, a report said on Wednesday, just weeks after the iPhone-maker abandoned its efforts to develop an electric car.

The tech titan has people working on a robot that would follow people around at home and be helpful, according to Bloomberg that cited unnamed people familiar with the situation.

The project was in a nascent stage and it was unclear whether it would lead to a product sold by Apple, the report indicated.

Apple did not reply to a request for comment.

The California-based company has been looking for new ways to

make money beyond its iPhones and the digital content and services it sells to users.

Apple recently abandoned its ambitions to produce an electric car, according to US media reports, ending a struggling decade-long project.

It has never publicly disclosed its EV plans, despite a steady drip of media leaks over the years.

Apple is reported to have transferred employees from the shuttered car division to generative artificial intelligence projects. The robot project is being overseen by Apple's hardware engineering division and its AI and machine learning group, Bloomberg reported. — AFP

Thailand's headline inflation inches down in March

The consumer price index (CPI) dropped by 0.47 per cent year on year in March, showing a slight improvement from the 0.77 per cent decrease recorded in February.

THAILAND'S headline inflation dropped for the sixth consecutive month in March due to lower fresh food prices from increased market supply and last year's high comparative base, official data showed on Friday.

The consumer price index (CPI) inched down 0.47 per cent in March from a year earlier, easing from a 0.77 per cent decrease in February, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The March inflation was below the Bank of Thailand's target range of 1-3 per cent for the 11th month.

The core CPI, which



A vendor displays a fish at a food market in Bangkok, Thailand, 30 March 2022. **PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA**

excludes raw food and energy prices, rose 0.37 per cent in March, compared to 0.43 per cent in the previous month.

For the first three months of 2024, the headline CPI declined by 0.79 per cent compared to the same period last year, said

Poonpong Naiyanapakorn, director-general of the ministry's Trade Policy and Strategy Office.

Headline inflation is expected to increase in the second quarter of this year, mainly owing to the rising trend of prices for global crude oil, Thai baht depreciation, and last year's lower base price for electricity, Poonpong told a news conference.

He also noted that the ministry revised its headline CPI projection for 2024 to 0-1 per cent, from between minus 0.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent expected earlier. — Xinhua

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Embassy of Pakistan, A4, Pyay Road, Diplomatic Quarters, Dagon Township, Yangon
within 15 days of the publication of the advertisement or
Email to: accttspakembygn@gmail.com, Ph: (01222881)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2413E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2413E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-4-2024** 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.

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

S Korea's early voting turnout hits record high for parliamentary elections

This turnout surpassed the 26.69 per cent recorded in the previous 2020 parliamentary elections, marking the highest participation rate since the adoption of early voting in the 2014 local elections.



An airline employee casts her ballot during early voting at a polling station at the departure hall of Incheon International Airport on 5 April 2024, ahead of next week's parliamentary elections. South Koreans can cast their ballots for the upcoming 10 April parliamentary elections during the two-day early voting period until 6 April. **PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE / AFP**

SOUTH Korea's early voting turnout for parliamentary elections hit a record high of 31.28 per cent, the country's election watchdog data showed Saturday. Of 44,280,011 eligible voters, 13,849,043 voters cast their ballots at 3,565 polling stations across the country for the past two days, according to the Na-

tional Election Commission (NEC).

It was higher than 26.69 per cent tallied in the previous 2020 parliamentary elections and marked the highest turnout for any parliamentary elections since the early voting was first adopted in the 2014 local elections for the nationwide elec-

tion. The upcoming parliamentary elections were scheduled for 10 April.

The turnout of overseas voting, which had run for six days through Monday among domestic voters staying abroad, hit a new high of 62.8 per cent. The overseas voting was introduced in 2012. — Xinhua

SWISS flight to Beirut turned back over security fears

SWISS International Air Lines said Friday it had turned back a flight in mid-air heading from Zurich to Beirut because the security situation in Lebanon had become "difficult to assess".

The flight, with 138 passengers and five crew on board, did not have permission to land back in Zurich overnight Thursday so was instead diverted to Vienna, SWISS said. "In view of the latest developments in the Middle East... the situation in Lebanon

last night was difficult to assess," a spokesman told AFP.

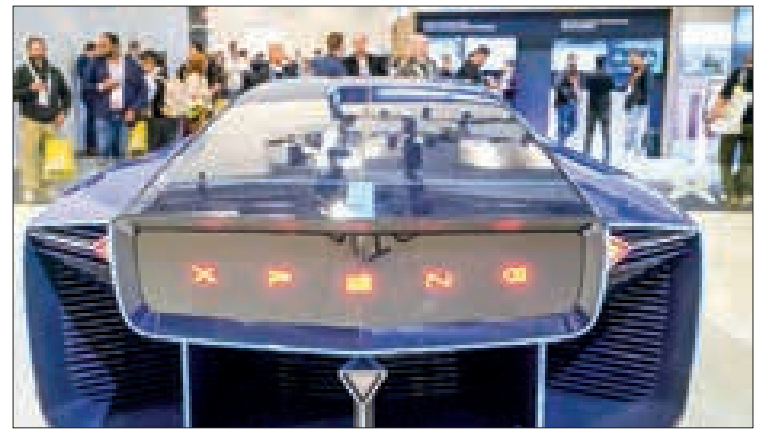
"In order to gain time and to be able to properly assess the situation, they decided to take this step out of an abundance of caution." In Vienna, passengers were rebooked onto other flights.

"We hope for the understanding of the passengers concerned and did our utmost to get them to their destination as quickly as possible," the spokesman said.

Following a review, SWISS

decided to maintain its flight programme to Beirut and Tel Aviv, but said it would monitor developments "very closely".

The airline operates flights twice weekly from Zurich to Beirut. Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah have exchanged near-daily cross-border fire since the Palestinian militant group Hamas carried out an unprecedented attack on southern Israel on 7 October triggering war in Gaza. — AFP



A flying car developed by XPeng AeroHT, a subsidiary of Chinese e-automaker Xpeng, is displayed at the 2024 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, the United States, 11 January 2024. **PHOTO: WU XIAOLING/XINHUA**

Chinese company to produce Slovakia's flying cars

The flying car boasts a flight speed of up to 300 kilometres per hour and a flight distance of over 1,000 kilometres.

A Chinese company is set to manufacture certified flying cars developed by Slovak company Klein Vision. On Thursday, Klein Vision announced that it sold its flying cars' production and sales authorization for the Chinese market to Hebei Jianxin Flying Car Technology, a company based in Cangzhou, north China's Hebei Province, in March this year.

"We are pleased to announce the sale of the licence for our certified flying car technology to the esteemed Chinese company," said Stefan Klein, Chairman of the board of Klein Vision. "This partnership represents a significant step in our mission

to expand global access to revolutionary mobility solutions and drive progress in the industry," added Anton Zajac, co-founder of Klein Vision.

The car, designed for land and air use, can transform from a vehicle to an aircraft within 3 minutes, with a flight speed of up to 300 kilometres per hour and a flight distance of over 1,000 kilometres. The car was granted the official Certificate of Airworthiness by the Slovak Transport Authority 2022 after it completed 70 hours of rigorous flight testing, which was compliant with European Aviation Safety Agency standards. — Xinhua



The airline emphasized the precautionary nature of the decision, citing the need to properly evaluate the situation in light of recent developments in the Middle East. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/CC BY-SA 3.0/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

SPORTS

Myanmar beat Kuwait 4-2 in Futsal Friendly

THE Myanmar national futsal team, which arrived in Thailand in advance to compete in the final stage of the Asia Cup futsal tournament, won the friendly match against the Kuwait national futsal team by four goals to two on the evening of 6 April. Team Myanmar won two matches in a row in international friendlies as they beat Kuwait in Thailand.

The Myanmar futsal squad has been showing good form in the pre-tournament warm-up matches, winning this match by four goals to one from

the first half. Winning goals for Myanmar were scored by Mai Soe Myat Htwe, Myo Thet Kyaw, Hlaing Min Htun and Myo Myint Soe.

Team Myanmar will also play another friendly match against Kyrgyzstan on 10 April. The Myanmar national futsal team has played three friendly matches against national teams from the Asian region, winning against Kuwait and Afghanistan and losing the first friendly match against the Afghanistan team. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



A Myanmar player (red) passes over the Kuwaiti player during the friendly match in Thailand on 6 April 2024. PHOTO: MFF

Indian-American Bhatia leads in Texas, needs to win to qualify for Masters

INDIAN-AMERICAN Akshay Bhatia is just 36 holes away from a maiden start at the Masters next week. The 22-year-old Bhatia, however, needs to stay on top and win the Valero Texas Open, where he leads a strong field by as much as five shots with two rounds to go.

Augusta National is holding one spot for the winner of the Valero Texas Open.

After a stunning 63 on the first day, he added 2-under 70

with a pair of late birdies for a 2-under 70 that stretched his lead to five shots. He had started with a three-shot lead and opened at the tenth with a 15-foot birdie putt, perhaps a sign that this might be another easy day. However, he bogeyed the 11th from the bunker on the next hole and then three-putted for bogey on 15. He also failed to birdie the par 5s on the back nine, his first nine for the day. He also lost the lead. — ANI



Players from Dagon Star vie for the ball with Hanthawady United players during the Week-5 match of the Myanmar National League. PHOTO: MNL

Dagon Star still leading Myanmar National League

DAGON STAR FC is still leading the Myanmar National League standing table amid the victories of the Yadanabon FC and Ayeyawady United in the Week-5 matches of the Myanmar National League played in Yangon on 6 April.

Dagon Star FC beat the famous Hanthawady United 4-1 to lead the standing table. Hanthawady United lost two consecutive games to the Ayeyawady United and Dagon Star teams, so they will have to struggle to reach the semi-finals.

Both teams used a reliable line-up from the start. Maung Maung Win from Dagon Star scored an icebreaker with a header at 10 minutes. The sec-

ond goal for Dagon Star was also created by Peter Aung Wai Htoo at 36 minutes and led the first half by 2-0.

Hanthawady's Nay Moe Naing equalized at 69 minutes, but Dagon Star's Kyaw Zin Lwin scored the third goal at 84 minutes and Swan Htet at 90+3 minutes to extend their winning result to 4-2.

Meanwhile, Yadanabon FC beat Thitsar Arman 2-0 at Padonma Stadium in Yangon. Khin Kyaw Win scored the winning goals for Team Yadanabon at the 38-minute mark and Moe Swe at the 52-minute mark. Saw Myo Zaw scored the lone goal for Thitsar Arman at 85 minutes.

Likewise, Ayeyawady United played against Dagon Port FC at the University Sports Complex in Yangon, and Team Ayeyawady edged Dagon Port 2-1.

Mogu from Dagon Port touched the ball into the net, leading the score at the 35-minute mark. But Ayeyawady showed come-from-behind action in the second half as Yarzar Aung scored an equalizer at 69 minutes, and Chan Nyein scored the winning goal at 77 minutes.

After the first round, Dagon Star led the scoreboard with 12 points, while Ayeyawady and Yadanabon are following the first-place team with nine points. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

China dominates opening day with 3 golds at Artistic Swimming World Cup

Xu expressed her growth and maturity from previous competitions and emphasized the need for self-improvement and adaptation to rule changes.

CHINESE artistic swimmers claimed three out of the four gold medals on offer as the first leg of the World Aquatics Artistic Swimming World Cup 2024 kicked off at the National Aquatic Centre here on Friday. China's Xu Huiyan triumphed in the women's solo technical with 244.9183

points, while neutral international athlete Vasilina Khandoshka and Aruba's Kyra Hovertsz finished the second and third respectively.

"In 2024, I have gained much experience at the World Aquatics Championships in Doha and the Artistic Swimming World Cup this time, which helped me grow up

and get mature. I still need to improve myself and adjust to the new changes to the rules," said Xu, who won the bronze medal at the Doha Championships.

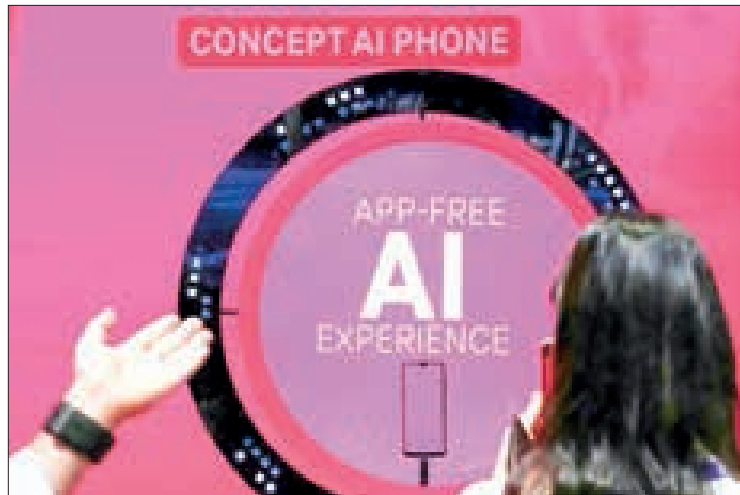
The 18-year-old added, "The audience supported us with loud cheers. I can feel the enthusiasm in the Water Cube." — Xinhua



Hung Sze Ching of China's Hong Kong competes during the women's solo technical event at the World Aquatics Artistic Swimming World Cup 2024 in Beijing, capital of China, 5 April 2024. PHOTO: JU HUANZONG/XINHUA

A majority of corporate executives across leading economies believe artificial intelligence will be a “game changer” for their industry but admit their leadership teams lack the knowledge to understand AI’s risks and rewards, a study showed Friday.

Adecco, the world’s biggest temporary staffing agency, and Oxford Economics conducted a survey to see how companies are preparing for a technology that is growing fast but also raising concerns about what it



Around 41 per cent of executives in leading economies say they will employ fewer people within five years due to AI. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AI a ‘game changer’ but company execs not ready: survey

Generative AI streamlines tasks but raises job displacement concerns. 41 per cent of execs expect fewer employees in five years due to AI; 66 per cent plan to hire AI specialists, and 34 per cent aim to train existing staff.

means for jobs.

Around 2,000 CEOs, chief financial officers and other executives in companies across nine countries were surveyed between October and December. The poll found that 61 per cent believe AI is a game changer for their industry, with the figure rising to 82 per cent in the tech sector and 51 per cent among automakers.

But 57 per cent “lack confidence in their leadership team’s AI skills and knowledge”, the report found.

Adecco chief executive

Denis Machuel said companies bosses must be ready for the AI transition.

“Almost all kind of jobs will be impacted, more or less, even leadership jobs,” Machuel said in a telephone conference.

“One thing that this survey helped us reflect upon is what leaders have to embark on. If us leaders are not AI ready, how can you make sure that your workforce is AI ready?” he said.

The rise of generative AI is expected to transform an array of jobs, helping to simplify tasks, but it has also raised concerns

that it could take away work done by humans.

The survey showed that 41 per cent of executives say they will employ fewer people within five years because of the technology.

At the same time, 66 per cent said they will recruit AI specialists externally while 34 per cent said they will train existing staff to fill the technological gap.

“The ‘buy’ mindset could exacerbate skills scarcity and create a two-speed workforce,” the report warned.

“Only half of leaders say they will redeploy employees affected by AI. Organizations must urgently rethink this approach, building relevant skills within the organization to ensure continued employability of today’s workforce,” it said. — AFP

Dubai welcomes 3.67 million overnight visitors in January-February 2024

Europe led the list of visitor origins with 773,000 tourists, followed by South Asia with 604,000 visitors, and Gulf Cooperation Council countries with 549,000 visitors.

DUBAI welcomed 3.67 million overnight visitors in January-February 2024, with an increase of over 18 per cent year-on-year (YoY), figures released by the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) showed. According to the DET’s Tourism Performance Report for January-February 2024, Dubai recorded 1.77 million international visitors in January, and 1.9 million in February.

Among the origin of visitors, Europe led the list for the January-February 2024 period with 773,000 tourists (21 per cent). South Asia came in second with 604,000 visitors (17 per cent) of the total, followed by Gulf Cooperation Council countries with 549,000 (15 per cent). Coming in fourth, the number of tourists visiting Dubai from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Eastern Europe reached 530,000 (14 per cent), compared to 448,000 (12 per cent) from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, which landed in fifth. Meanwhile, Dubai recorded 340,000 visitors (nine per cent) from North and Southeast Asia; 240,000 (seven per cent) from the Americas; 138,000 (four per cent) from Africa and 53,000 from Australia, which accounted for around one per cent. — ANI



The Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) released these figures, revealing 1.77 million international visitors in January and 1.9 million in February. **PHOTO: CC-BY-2.0/FLICKR/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**



US singer-songwriter Taylor Swift arrives for the 66th Annual Grammy Awards at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles on 4 February, 2024. Swift was officially named a member of the three-comma-club on 2 April 2024, as Forbes confirmed rumors estimating her wealth exceeds a billion dollars. **PHOTO: ROBYN BECK / AFP**

Taylor Swift officially declared a billionaire by Forbes

FORBES has officially confirmed rumours that Taylor Swift has joined the three-comma-club, estimating her wealth to surpass a billion dollars. The financial news outlet reported that she is the first artist to achieve billionaire status solely through her music, with an estimated fortune of \$1.1 billion.

Other industry heavyweights who’ve hit the mark — Rihanna and Jay-Z among them — have earned their massive wealth in part via fashion brands, alcohol companies or entertainment holdings, among other interests.

Along with her vast songwriting catalogue, Swift staged the first billion-dollar tour ever — the ongoing Eras Tour has boosted economies and delighted fans around the world.

Swift, 34, also has a significant real estate portfolio, with homes in New York, Beverly Hills, Nashville and a coastal mansion in Rhode Island.

Her touring milestone was one of many records Swift shattered over the past year, including winning a fourth Grammy for Best Album, the most of any artist. — AFP