

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Locals flock to Maravijaya Buddha Image, participating in good deeds on Myanmar New Year Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE PYAE**

THE Myanmar Era 1385 is over, and the New Year 1386 ME has come. People did good deeds at famous pagodas yesterday, which is the Myanmar New Year (after the Thingyan Water Festival).

They observed the Sabbath in monasteries, provided healthcare services to elderly people, released fingerlings, recited the Paritta and donated alms on the auspicious Myanmar New Year Day in Nay Pyi

Nay Pyi Taw residents engage in good deeds on Myanmar New Year

Taw Council Area. Pilgrims flocked to famous pagodas, including Up-

patasanti Pagoda, Dhadu Zaya Pagoda, Maha Thetkyaranti Pagoda,

Hlaykhwin Taung Pagoda, Phayakoesu Pagoda, Lawka Marazein Pagoda, Yanaungmyin Shwelathla Pagoda, and Phaungdaw Chakma Pagoda on the day.

Similarly, members of the Sangha were invited to the building of various ministries, staff housings and religious buildings to recite Paritta, and people shared their merits.

— Than Min Aung/KZL

Goods relocation approved from Lweje border to maritime transport or alternate checkpoints

THE Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce notified on 12 April that exporters and importers are allowed to be shifted to other border posts to facilitate trade amid the transport disruption at Myanmar-China Lweje trade zone after receiving export and import licence for the goods before 2 April.

If they want to change the mode of transport to maritime routes, authorities will give a green light to it as well.

The importers of vehicles, machinery and tractors are allowed to move

to the Tachilek border and maritime trade channel. For other goods, traders can bring in and out of them through Kenglat-Wangpong, Tachilek, Kawthoung, Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong, Ranong-Kawthoung-Yangon and Myeik border channels.

Myanmar conducts border trade with China through the Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung borders. Muse is the principal trade post among them. — NN/EM

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Venerable Sayadaws recite Paritta during airborne ceremony over Nay Pyi Taw; SAC hosts Paritta recitation for Myanmar New Year

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Myanmar ships nearly 10,000 MT of shrimp to foreign markets in FY 2023-2024

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On Myanmar New Year Day, well-wishers and devotees gather at prominent pagodas, Buddha images and destinations in Nay Pyi Taw.

Closing ceremony of Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Festival held

THE historic Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda festival in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, hosted over 400,000 pilgrims during the festival days, and the closing ceremony of the festival was held yesterday.

Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Ovadacariya Sayadaws, Magway Region Social Affairs Minister U Myo Myint, Ethnic Affairs Minister U Tun Khin and relevant

officials attended the event.

After the ceremonial procedures, attendees took five precepts from Sayadaws and donated offerings and day meals to Sayadaws.

Moreover, Sayadaws and the congregation released 10,000 pond goldfish or koi and 5,000 rohu fish into Mann Creek, marking the 1386 Myanmar New Year.

The pagoda festival was held

for 64 days, from the 5th Waxing of Tabodwe to the 1st day of Myanmar New Year. There were about 1,000 guesthouses and over 800 stalls during the festival. Although the access to two sacred footprints of the Lord Buddha have closed, visitors across the county can visit peacefully anytime, according to the pagoda board of trustees. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KTZH



Well-wishers donate alms to members of the Sangha at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG (MINBU)

Chaungtha Beach welcomes surge of visitors for Myanmar New Year 1386

ON the first day of the Myanmar New Year, 17 April, the beach at Chaungtha in Ayeyawady Region experienced a surge in visitors from across the country.

Visitors arrived at Chaungtha via various means, including boats to Phoekala Island and Thaephyu Island, as well as by car, tricycle, and motorcycle to Kyauk Maungnama. The local food and souvenir shops were bustling with visitors and buyers.

To ensure a peaceful and safe environment for visitors at Chaungtha Beach, to maintain cleanliness and beauty, as well as regulate vendors selling goods and prevent traffic congestion, the beach town administrator, U Thiha Aung, along with departmental personnel and residents,

took necessary measures.

Chaungtha, situated at seven feet above sea level in a

temperate zone, experiences a maximum temperature of 37.7°C and a minimum temperature of

17.8°C. With its expansive and flat sandy beach, clear seawater, and excellent hotel services,

Chaungtha continues to attract tourists consistently. — Kyaw Kyaw (IPRD)/TKO



Beachgoers seen enjoying the beauty of Chaungtha Beach on Myanmar New Year Day, yesterday. PHOTO: KYAW KYAW (IPRD)



Images capture members of the Sangha reciting Paritta aboard aircraft with general view of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.

Venerable Sayadaws recite Paritta during airborne ceremony over Nay Pyi Taw; SAC hosts Paritta recitation for Myanmar New Year

VENERABLE Sayadaws recited Paritta in the sky over Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory by helicopter yesterday morning to ensure peace and prosperity for the people and to be free from dangers.

Six members of the Sangha led by Presiding Patron of Aung Sithar Buddhist Learning Centre Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Visakhana of Pobbathiri Township flew over Nay Pyi Taw in recitation of Paritta.

The director-general of the Department of Religious Affairs and officials who accompanied the Sayadaws sprayed Paritta water on the Union Territory.

Similarly, the State Administration Council organized a Paritta recitation ceremony at Ngushwewah Hall of the SAC Chairman's Office on the same morning.

It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Ovadacariya of Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees Maha Thihandada Monastery in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw Sayadaw Bhaddanta



The SAC Secretary and the congregation seen taking Nine Precepts from members of the Sangha at yesterday's ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw.

Acinna and Ovadacariya of Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees Inntha Ashe Monastery in Lewe Township Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Pandita,

SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Union Minister for SAC Chairman's Office (3) U Aung Kyaw Hoe, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, departmental heads and officials.

At the event, the SAC Secretary and other attendees took Nine Precepts. They heard the Metta Sutta and Ananta Rika Kamawa recited by the venerable Sayadaws, donated offer-

ings to the monks, and shared merits.

After the ceremony, the Secretary and congregation offered day meals to members of the Sangha. — MNA/KTZH

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 29/2024

9th Waxing of Tagu 1386 ME
17 April 2024

Remitting prison sentences

In commemoration of Myanmar New Year, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds as well as on the goodwill of the government, the State Administration Council Chairman has remitted the punishment of prisoners from their respective prisons, jails and camps, reducing one-sixth of the sentence they are serving as per the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) except those convicted of murder and rape or jailed for charges under Explosives Act, Unlawful Association Act, 1878 Arms Act Section 19 (f), 1949 The Arms (Emergency Penalty held) Act (temporary), 1951 Arms (Temporary Amendment) Act, 1924 Shan State Arms Order, 2023 Weapons Law, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, Natural Disaster Management Law, Counter-Terrorism Law and Anti-Corruption Law before 17 April 2024.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 30/2024

9th Waxing of Tagu 1386 ME
17 April 2024

Pardon Order

The State Administration Council Chairman has pardoned 3,303 male and female prisoners who are serving their terms at respective prisons, jails and camps under the Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1) on the condition that "they will have to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which they were sentenced this time if more offence is committed", in commemorating Myanmar new year, on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 31/2024

9th Waxing of Tagu 1386 ME
17 April 2024

Pardon Order

The State Administration Council Chairman has remitted the punishment of eight foreign prisoners from the respective prisons, jails and camps, upon the conditions' to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which he was sentenced this time if more offence is committed" under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1), in commemoration of Myanmar new year, on bilateral relation of countries and humanitarian grounds, and they are expelled from Myanmar.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 32/2024

9th Waxing of Tagu 1386 ME
17 April 2024

Pardon Order

The State Administration Council Chairman has remitted the punishment of 13 Indonesians and 15 Sri Lankans from the respective prisons, jails and camps, upon the condition to serve the new punishment together with the remaining punishment to which he was sentenced this time if more offence is committed" under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1), in commemoration of Myanmar new year, on bilateral relation of countries and humanitarian grounds, and they are expelled from Myanmar:

(1)	Kathama/23/00156/Ka	Mr Suadi	Indonesia
(2)	Kathama/23/00157/Ka	Mr Pand	Indonesia
(3)	Kathama/23/00158/Ka	Mr Burhanandreas	Indonesia
(4)	Kathama/23/00159/Ka	Mr Jaryun	Indonesia
(5)	Kathama/23/00160/Ka	Mr Poniman	Indonesia
(6)	Kathama/23/00161/Ka	Mr Maximarthenabas	Indonesia
(7)	Kathama/23/00162/Ka	Mr Slameturipno	Indonesia
(8)	Kathama/23/00163/Ka	Mr Solaji	Indonesia
(9)	Kathama/23/00164/Ka	Mr Mochammadaliridwan	Indonesia
(10)	Kathama/23/00165/Ka	Mr Editriyono	Indonesia
(11)	Kathama/23/00166/Ka	Mr Hannyandrian	Indonesia
(12)	Kathama/23/00167/Ka	Mr Suprpto	Indonesia
(13)	Kathama/23/00168/Ka	Mr Kardi	Indonesia
(14)	Asa/24/01401/Ka	W S S Kaushan	Sri Lanka
(15)	Asa/24/01402/Ka	H M R H Kavishka	Sri Lanka
(16)	Asa/24/01403/Ka	S P N D Frenando	Sri Lanka
(17)	Asa/24/01404/Ka	W P S T Fernando	Sri Lanka
(18)	Asa/24/01405/Ka	M U M Asardeen	Sri Lanka
(19)	Asa/24/01406/Ka	B N S Jayasundara	Sri Lanka
(20)	Asa/24/01407/Ka	P A S Kumara	Sri Lanka
(21)	Asa/24/01408/Ka	R A A Dharmarathna	Sri Lanka
(22)	Asa/24/01394/Ka	P M Fernando	Sri Lanka
(23)	Asa/24/01395/Ka	M S K Silva	Sri Lanka
(24)	Asa/24/01396/Ka	G S P Perera	Sri Lanka
(25)	Asa/24/01397/Ka	K K P K Fernando	Sri Lanka
(26)	Asa/24/01398/Ka	R D N Ranthunga	Sri Lanka
(27)	Asa/24/01399/Ka	K A S Kumara	Sri Lanka
(28)	Asa/24/01400/Ka	J A D S Manjula	Sri Lanka

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Japanese companies to recruit more than 1,200 Myanmar workers

MORE than 400 Japanese companies will provide jobs for more than 1,200 Myanmar workers, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar Embassy in Japan.

The Myanmar embassy has carried out verification of demand letters organized in order of the date of receiving them from Japanese companies and the statement says about 403 demand letters that were received

until 5 March 2024 and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification.

According to the statement, more than 400 Japanese companies would employ up to 330 male workers and up to 940 female workers, totalling more than 1,200. The embassy said it has carried out verification of demand letters sent by the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. – MT/ZS

CORRIGENDUM

In the 'New Year Ovada Katha for 1386 ME' on page 4 of yesterday's issue, please read '... virtuous ...' instead of '... vicious ...' in the first paragraph.

(An error is regretted, Ed)

NATIONAL

MoHA families hold ceremonies: Releasing fish, paying respect to elders

THE Ministry of Home Affairs conducted ceremonies to release fish and pay respect to elders at Mingala Lake, located next to Pynmana-Taungnyo Road in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on the morning of the first day of Myanmar New Year 1386.

State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and his wife, Deputy Minister Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Ni Lin Aung's wife, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Toe Yi and his wife, Permanent Secretary U Khine Tun Oo and his wife, directors-general, senior officials and their spouses, officials, staff, and family members attended the ceremonies. A total of 3,000 golden carp fingerlings were re-

leased into Mingala Lake.

Subsequently, a ceremony to pay respects to elders was held at the meeting hall in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am. State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and his wife, along with officials, attended the ceremony. Led by State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and his wife, New Year offerings were donated to 25 elders aged 80 and above who were able to attend the ceremony in accordance with Myanmar customs and traditions. Grandma Daw Than Than Nwet conveyed prayers and good wishes on behalf of the elders.



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and his wife release fingerlings into the Mingala Lake in Zabuthiri Township yesterday.

There were 101 elders aged 80 and above, and they received cash and personal items. However, only 25 of them were able to attend the ceremony. — MNA/MKKS

16th Myanmar New Year Paritta Recitation Ceremony held at Uppatasanti Pagoda

THE 16th Myanmar New Year Paritta Recitation Ceremony occurred yesterday at the Uppatasanti Pagoda cave in Nay Pyi Taw.

Sanghas, led by the Presiding Patron Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda of the Paukmyaing Monastery in Lewe Township, graced the event with their presence. Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than

Tun Oo, council members, and distinguished guests attended the event.

Following the recitation, the chairman and council members made offerings to members of the Sangha.

After the ceremony, the chairman and his wife, accompanied by council members, visited Mingala Pond in Zabuthiri Township to release 50,000 fish into the pond.

Subsequently, they paid homage to 100 senior citizens aged over 85 and offered provisions, including K50,000 in cash, a Buddha statue, and medicine for each, at the council office.

Then, physicians from the Nay Pyi Taw Department of Medical Services and Department of Public Health provided complimentary health services to senior citizens. — MNA/NT



Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Tun Oo and congregation pay respect to elder persons from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Statement No 2/2024

1. On the occasion of the Myanmar New Year, the 9th Waxing of Tagu 1386 ME (17 April 2024), the Chairman of the State Administration Council aiming to bring about peace of mind to the public and social consideration and seeking to foster the affection and goodwill of the State, issued State Administration Council Order No 29/2024, which granted remission of one-sixth of the remaining sentences to be served under Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure except specified offences for prisoners incarcerated in respective prisons, jails, and camps under existing laws. According to Order No 30/2024, a total of 3,303 prisoners serving sentences in respective prisons, jails, and camps were conditionally pardoned under Article 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
2. Additionally, in consideration of the friendly bilateral relations and humanitarian grounds, eight foreign prisoners were remitted by State Administration Council Order No 31/2024, and 13 Indonesians and 15 Sri Lankans were remitted by Order No 32/2024, respectively. They will be deported under Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
3. This action reflects the positive initiative from the human rights perspective of the State Administration Council and on social consideration. They will have the opportunity to reunite with their families under this granted remission and pardon, which reinforces the State's commitment to protecting the fundamental unit of society, which is the family. Moreover, we believe that they would be able to participate in any sector of State building.
4. The pardoning of foreign prisoners will foster mutual understanding and promote peaceful coexistence of the global family of nations.
5. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is delighted to share the joy with the relevant family members and welcomes recognition of human rights and humanitarian endeavours.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 17 April 2024

NATIONAL

Chilli pepper traders hit by cold storage charge hike again



The picture shows bags of chilli peppers flowing into the market.

TRADERS are struggling to store the chilli pepper amid the surge in cold storage charges for the second time this year and shortage of cold storage facilities, a chilli depot owner from Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The cold storage charges increased to K125 per viss from K75 in early 2024. This month, it further rose to K175 per viss. The chilli pepper yield is pretty good. However, weak foreign demand drove the price to plunge. It is an excellent opportunity for traders who want to keep their stocks at low prices.

Nonetheless, the cold storage facilities are full of chilli stocks. The cold storage charges vary depending on the different varieties. As bell pepper is required to make more room for storage, the charges touch a high of K225 per viss, unlike long chilli.

Nevertheless, the rise in cold storage charges is nothing compared with the price fluctuation of chilli.

The prices significantly jumped to around K20,000 per viss of bell pepper and K10,000 for long chilli and Moehtaung chilli in 2022. The prices of various types of chilli drastically fell in 2024. The long chilli pepper price plummeted to K4,500 per viss in Yangon's market prior to the Thingyan holidays. They were sold only at K4,000 per viss on the roadside of a highway in Maubin Township, Ko Ye, who came from Mawgyun area to Yangon, witnessed it.

The red chilli pepper from the delta region fetched K11,500-K12,500 per viss on 1 February. The prices of chilli peppers supplied by Wake-ma and Eainme areas dropped to K4,000-K4,500 per viss during the pre-Thingyan period. — TWA/EM

FD implements fishing restrictions during non-fishing season

ACCORDING to the Department of Fisheries, fishing permits in the Myanmar sea are granted based on the fishing equipment used during the non-fishing season.

Despite this year's non-fishing season being set for three months from April to June, fishing permits are being issued in some regions and states due

to difficulties presented by the Entrepreneurs' Associations.

During these three months, fishing is reportedly allowed only in Yangon Region for April, in Taninthayi Region for April and May, and in Ayeyawady Region and Mon State for April, but only with specific types of fishing vessels.

Furthermore, all other offshore fishing vessels must cease operations for three months, from April to June. Only in-shore fishing boats will be permitted to fish, according to the Department of Fisheries.

A total of 3,000 fishing vessels from various regions and states operate in the Myanmar sea. — TWA/TRKM



The photo shows some offshore fishing vessels.

DMH warns of strong winds, thunderstorms nationwide in April—May

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has issued a warning about the likelihood of strong winds and thunderstorms across all regions of Myanmar during April and May.

According to the department, daytime temperatures will gradually increase, leading to the formation of thermal clouds. Additionally, cumulonimbus clouds may develop in the afternoons and evenings.

Along the paths where cumulonimbus clouds move, there is a possibility of adverse weather conditions such as strong winds, lightning, hail, and scattered thunderstorms. The statement further indicates that wind speeds on land

and sea could reach 40 to 50 miles per hour during these strong wind events.

In Monyo township of the Bago Region, five houses in Kyunthida village and five houses in Myayza village collapsed due to strong winds around 10:15 am on 13 April. Search and rescue teams from fire stations in the Sinmanaing and Yaykin areas responded to the incident to provide necessary assistance, as reported by the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

Given these conditions, the DMH has advised the public, as well as domestic flights and waterways, to remain vigilant and heed weather forecasts closely. — TWA/MKKS



The search and rescue teams launched rescue operations of collapsed houses due to strong winds.

Kampaiti border trade crosses US\$13.424 mln in April 1st week



Trucks loaded with export and import cargo are seen passing the Kampaiti border.

TRADE value at the Kampaiti border post between Myanmar and China reached US\$13.424 million in the first week of April 2024, which accounts for 45.397 per cent of the total trade target in April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The Kampaiti border aims to achieve a trade target of \$29.57 million in April, comprising exports worth \$27.42 million and imports worth \$2.15 million. Kampaiti border saw exports worth \$11.685 million and imports worth \$1.739 million as of 8 April. The total trade balance reached 45.397 per cent of the trade target of this month.

Myanmar exported tissue-culture bananas, fruits, pulses, marble Buddha statues and briquettes, while capital goods, construction goods, industrial goods, consumer goods, fruits and CMP raw materials were brought into the country. — TWA/KK

Myanmar ships nearly 10,000 MT of shrimp to foreign markets in FY 2023-2024

MYANMAR shipped around 10,000 metric tons of shrimps worth US\$38.18 million to global markets in the past financial year 2023-2024 (April-March), according to the Department of Fisheries.

Myanmar's seaborne shrimp export reached 9,137 tonnes worth \$33.74 million, and the border saw exports of 841.67 tonnes worth \$4.445 million in

the past FY. Myanmar exports fishery products to Japan, European countries, China, Thailand and neighbouring countries through maritime and border trade channels.

Myanmar's fishery export has returned to normal conditions. Yet the export volume still declines compared to that of the pre-COVID.

More than 20 fish species,

including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass are exported to foreign markets, according to Myanmar Fisheries Federation. Myanmar ships fishery products to over 40 countries, mainly to Thailand and China. — NN/EM

Workers are seen working in the seafood processing workplace.



Twantay to introduce eel hatchery farming for fishermen



Eels seen arranging for sales in the domestic market.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (Yangon Region), the distribution of eel breeding technique to fish-

ermen in Twantay Township, Yangon Region, will be carried out starting in May.

U Than Zaw Htun, Chief Executive of the Myanmar Fishery Federation (Yangon Region), said that they would distribute eel farming technology using Vietnamese technology to fish farmers and rice farmers who want to raise eel in their own way so as to expand the eel market, which dominates the domestic and foreign markets.

"Starting in May, eel hatchery technology will be distributed to rice farmers and fish farmers in Twantay Township. This technology is Vietnamese, and this eel hatchery breeding method was studied in Viet Nam by the Myanmar

Fisheries Federation and was successfully piloted in 2019 in Myanmar. This technology is being distributed," U Than Zaw Htun said.

The red eel and black eel found in Myanmar are popular Myanmar aquatic products in the Chinese market. Myanmar is trying to acquire eel packaging technology from Viet Nam, and is also working to penetrate the European market.

Eels are found in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Mon State and Kayin State. Still, most of the eels are caught in Ayeyawady Region and exported abroad. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar-Thailand border trade totals US\$4.4 bln in 2023-2024FY

MYANMAR'S border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand amounted to US\$4.4 billion in the past financial year 2023-2024 (April-March), the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The figures reflected a significant drop of over \$927 million compared with the trade balance of \$5.35 billion recorded in the FY 2022-2023.

Myanmar carries out cross-border trade with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung border. Of them, the Hteekhee border performed the most extensive trade worth \$2.69 billion in the past FY.

Moreover, the trade values stood at \$1.147 billion at Myawady border post, \$234.38 million at Kawthoung, \$171.66 million at Tachilek, \$154.3 million at Myeik and \$26.779 million at Mawtaung.

Myanmar conducts border trade with neighbouring countries, such as China, Thailand, Bangladesh, and India. It exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other goods, while it brings in capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer goods, and raw materials from the CMP enterprises. — NN/EM

CBM revokes licences of 7 money changers, suspends 19 for 6 months

THE Central Bank of Myanmar revoked the licences of seven money changers and suspended those of 19 money changers for six months in the past 15 days as they failed to comply with the rules, guidelines and directives issued by CBM.

CBM cancelled the licences of New World Financial Group of Co Ltd, GST Travels & Tours Co Ltd, Prima Win Co Ltd, Great Jewel Star Co Ltd, Shwe D P Co Ltd, JMJ International Co Ltd and Shwe Khaing Toe Co Ltd for non-compliance.

The suspended foreign exchange companies are Myanmar Sunflower Co Ltd, Air Thanlwin Ltd, Albert Brothers Co Ltd, Dagon Win Win Co Ltd, Emerald Rose Garden Ltd, Grand Andaman Co Ltd, Grumman Investment Holding Ltd,

Maha Bawga Money Exchange Co Ltd, Mann Yadanabon Airline Co Ltd, Min Myanmar Chit Khant Family Services Co Ltd, Myanmar Hotels International Co Ltd, New Dawn Co Ltd, Safe Net Union Co Ltd, Shwe Nay La Win Co Ltd, Smile World Co Ltd, Taw Win San Htar Hotel Co Ltd, Yadana Sein Win Win Co Ltd, Yadana Shwe Pyi Co Ltd and Yoe Yoe Yin Yin Co Ltd. CBM notified revocation of 14 money changer licences and suspension of 11 this month for non-compliance with the CBM's rules and directives in March.

CBM vowed to conduct surprise inspections at money changers in order to stabilize foreign exchange rates in line with the provisions stipulated in the existing laws, CBM announced on 11 March.

CBM initiated an online trading market in which exporters/importers and private banks are engaged in developing the FX market. Additionally, the authorized money changers sell the foreign currency as petty cash to those going abroad, according to CBM's notification. Moreover, surprise visits are underway at money changers to ensure they abide by the directive issued by the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

A combined team led by the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market, comprising competent authorities from CBM, Yangon City Development Committee, the Department of General Administration and law enforcement agencies, has been conducting the surprise inspections. — NN/EM

OPINION

Let's forge internal peace and stability, cease fighting and clashes

THE Maha Thingyan festival in Myanmar holds a special place in the hearts of its Buddhist community. While it may seem like a simple water dousing tradition to cleanse the body for each other, its deeper purpose is to cleanse the soul of hate, grudges, and hostilities, fostering the internal peace and tranquility of individuals.

Today marks the Atet Day of the festival, signalling the end of the four-day celebration. Throughout Akyo, Akyat, and Atet days, set in the traditional Myanmar Thingyan festival, people joyfully engage in water-splashing activities, bringing a sense of coolness and refreshment to the minds of all participants.

While the festival's traditions have evolved, its essence remains rooted in the cultural fabric of Myanmar. Beyond just

cooling off in the summer heat, the water-throwing rituals serve multiple purposes, including cleansing both physical and mental impurities, embracing the joy of defying the hot season, and promoting a sense of vitality and freshness, as well as greening the environments elsewhere.

Participants across the nation are reminded to engage in the festivities with kindness and goodwill, letting go of any past grievances and fostering bonds of friendship. It's a heartfelt endeavour that embodies the spirit of the Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival without forging alien cultures that cannot be in line with Myanmar's cultures, including those of all national races.

As the festival bridges the transition between old and new years in the Myanmar calendar, many seize the opportunity to perform acts of merit. From offering alms to monks and engaging in meditation to hosting charitable feasts, individuals come together to cultivate goodness and generosity.

Above all, as Myanmar prepares to usher in the New Year, it's essential for everyone to release feelings of hate and animosity. Only through collective efforts to discard these negative emotions can the nation truly achieve peace and stability, transcending barriers of religion and ethnicity.

Let us all embrace the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation, paving the way for a future where peace and harmony reign supreme. Everybody needs to forge internal peace and stability, cease fighting and clashes, ease tension among all and revitalize the national strength for implementing the nation-building plans by empathizing with the life of people who are now facing the loss of life and property in all war-tomb areas with terrible plights, sufferings, frets and miseries.

Let us all embrace the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation, paving the way for a future where peace and harmony reign supreme. Everybody needs to forge internal peace and stability, cease fighting and clashes, ease tension among all and revitalize the national strength for implementing the nation-building plans by empathizing with the life of people who are now facing the loss of life and property in all war-tomb areas with terrible plights, sufferings, frets and miseries.

ABIG, angry monster woke up after sleeping for many, many years. In the past three years, it started making cracks in the ground in the southwest part of Iceland. It also spits out hot, melted rock called lava. People all over the world are amazed and scared by it. Experts say this monster, called the Icelandic fault line, was quiet for 800 years, but now it's waking up again. This could go on for many years.

Iceland is a special place in the ocean. It has more than 30 angry mountains that can explode. It's not uncommon for one of these mountains to blow up every three to five years. But sometimes, many of them wake up at once, and then they go quiet again. In the last 500 years, Iceland's mountains have sent out a lot of lava, about one-third of all the lava on Earth.

Iceland is so angry because of where it sits on Earth. It's on a crack between two big pieces of Earth's outer shell. These pieces are slowly moving away from each other, making the crack bigger. Iceland also sits right above a place where the hot melted rock comes up from deep inside the Earth.

The hot rock comes from way down, over 1,200 miles under the ground. There aren't many places on Earth where both the crack and the hot rock are so close together. This makes Iceland special, according to Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson, who teaches about Earth at the University of Iceland.

Fire And Ice

Iceland is a place of opposites. Even though it's very hot with all the volcanoes, it's also icy because it's near the North Pole. About 11 per cent of Iceland is covered in ice. Some of the mountains have ice on top of them, and when the hot lava meets the ice, it explodes. This happened in 2010 with a mountain called Eyjafjallajökull. The explosion sent bits of rock into the air, and many flights around the world got cancelled because it wasn't safe to fly.

Another dangerous mountain in Iceland is Katla. It's one of the biggest, and it's under a thick layer of ice. If Katla were to blow up, it would melt a lot of ice and cause big floods. Katla last blew up in 1918, and people are watching it closely in case it wakes up again.



AFTER THREE YEARS OF FIERY ERUPTIONS, EXPERTS ARE NOW CONFIDENT THAT ICELAND'S REYKJANES PENINSULA HAS



The Awakening of Iceland's Volcanic Giants

By Min Zan

The Reykjanes Peninsula is right on top of a big crack in the ground called the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. There are four mountains there that sometimes wake up and throw out hot rocks. This happens every 800 to 1,000 years.

Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson says this happens in episodes, which means there are times when the mountains are very active. During these times, there are eruptions every 20 to 30 years.

The last time the mountains on the Reykjanes Peninsula erupted was a long time ago, in the 12th century. They were very active between the years 1211 and 1240 AD. This was called the Reykjanes Fires. The Reykjanes and Eldvörp-Svartsengi mountains were both very angry at that time. They threw out a lot of hot rock and made big fields of lava. After that, everything became quiet for 800 years.

But now, things are not quiet anymore. In early 2020, scientists noticed earthquakes and

the land moving near a mountain called Þorbjörn. This is about 40 kilometres south of Reykjavík, the capital city of Iceland. Scientists thought this might mean the mountains were waking up again.

Their suspicions grew stronger when the Fagradalsfjall mountain erupted dramatically in March 2021. A big crack opened up in the mountain, and hot rock shot out of it for almost six months. Then, after a little break, it erupted again in August 2022. In the summer of 2023, another crack opened on a nearby mountain called Litli-Hrútur, and lava flowed out.

In late October, after the Litli-Hrútur eruption, things got active again. Magma started moving up near Þorbjörn mountain. This made the ground rise by about six centimetres in just 12 days. Then, in early November, there were thousands of small earthquakes near the town of Grindavík, which made people worry another eruption was coming. The town was evacuated,

and people waited anxiously to see what would happen. Finally, on December 18, a big crack opened north of Grindavík, and lava started shooting out.

Even though these recent eruptions were not very big compared to other ones in Iceland, they are still worrying because they are so close to where people live and important buildings, like the Svartsengi power station, which gives electricity and hot water to the peninsula. Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson says it's serious because of this, not because the eruptions were very huge.

The Keflavík airport in Iceland is on the Reykjanes Peninsula, but it's not in danger from the lava, so it's stayed open during the recent eruptions. Another famous place, the Blue Lagoon, is also on the peninsula near the eruptions. But it's been closed for safety reasons. Reykjavík, the capital city, is just a few kilometres away from the peninsula. Lots of people in Iceland live there. Like the airport, Reykjavík

is not in the danger zone, but it's close enough to the eruptions that tourists and people who love volcanoes can easily go see them.

Friendly for Tourists In Iceland, where people have lived near big volcanoes for thousands of years, some eruptions are called "tourist eruptions." These are eruptions that are not very big, and people can predict when they will happen. In other places, people might run away from a volcano, but in Iceland, these eruptions can bring in lots of tourists. The Fagradalsfjall eruptions in 2021 and 2022 were like this. They were easy to get to and pretty safe to watch. They went on for weeks or months, so people had time to plan a trip. Many tourists came to see the flowing lava.

But this winter, the eruptions were different. They were more explosive and shorter, and experts told tourists to stay away. The eruption in December was especially different, according to Guðmundsson.

Preparing for Trouble Last November, when people started worrying about another eruption, the government started doing things to protect important buildings. They built a big wall to keep the lava away from a power plant. They finished the wall in December and then started building another wall near Grindavík, a town close to the eruptions. They hoped this wall would stop the lava from going into homes and businesses. But it wasn't finished when the next eruption happened.

On January 14, there were over 200 small earthquakes. Then, two cracks opened up north of Grindavík. The cracks were further south than people expected, and it surprised everyone. The first crack went towards the new wall, but the second crack went past the wall and towards the town. One person said it was the worst thing that could happen to Grindavík.

The lava destroyed three houses, and the moving ground broke water pipes and power lines. People in Grindavík were very surprised and scared. But the wall did help. It stopped most of the lava from destroying the town.

Scientists have fancy tools to help them watch for signs of eruptions in places like the Reykjanes Peninsula. But it's super hard to know exactly when or where a volcano will erupt.

The recent eruptions in Reykjanes have been caused by long cracks in the ground called fissures. These are harder to predict than eruptions from tall, pointy mountains that we often see in movies. Scientists can guess where an eruption might happen by looking at how the ground moves and by watching for earthquakes. This is how they knew to tell people in Grindavík to leave before an eruption happened in November. This warning helped save lives. But even with all their fancy tools, scientists can't say for sure when or where an eruption will happen. Once they see magma moving under the ground, they can't say if it'll come out in a few days, weeks, months, or not at all.

Scientists in Iceland have different tools to help them guess when a volcano might erupt. They use things called seismometers to listen for lots of small earthquakes. These earthquakes can mean that magma is mov-

ing underground. Sometimes, earthquakes happen before an eruption, giving people time to get away.

They also use special GPS machines to see if the ground is rising. This can happen when magma is moving underneath it. Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson says these machines can show where magma is gathering underground. Pictures from satellites can show where the ground is getting higher because of magma moving under it.

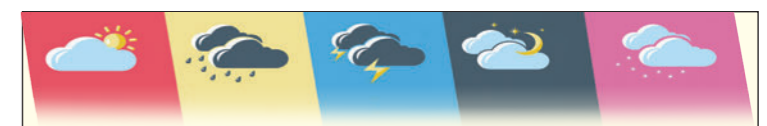
Even with all this cool technology, it's still hard to say what will happen in Grindavík and the Reykjanes Peninsula. Some people had to leave their homes because of the recent eruptions. Even though some went back, they had to leave again when the volcano woke up again in Janu-

ary. They don't know when they can go back for good.

The Reykjanes Peninsula has been quiet for 800 years, but now it's waking up again. There have been more earthquakes there in the past few years than ever before. But even though we can guess that there might be more eruptions in the next few months or years, nobody knows for sure.

Experts think that eventually, all the magma near the surface will come out, and things will calm down again. But based on what's happened before, it could take many decades or even longer for the Reykjanes fault line to go back to sleep. We can't be sure what will happen next.

Reference: BBC Science Focus Feb 2024



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 17 April 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 18 APRIL 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin states, scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and (Southern and Eastern)Shan State and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in the Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan and Chin states. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 APRIL 2024: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 APRIL 2024: Partly cloudy

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 APRIL 2024: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

NATIONAL

834 prisoners released from Insein prison on Myanmar New Year Day

IN commemoration of Myanmar New Year and for the sake of public peace and humanitarian concerns, 3,303 prisoners in various jails were granted pardon under Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 834 male and female inmates, including foreigners, were released from Insein prison in Yangon.

Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Win Tint and commander of the Yangon Region Police commander Police Brig-Gen Myo Min Htike delivered speeches to the inmates at the gymnasium of the Insein

Prison. The released prisoners included 20 foreigners, 754 males and 60 females, totalling 834, and they were transported to their respective townships by YBS buses at noon. The State Administration Council released its 17th amnesty for Insein Prison on 17 April during its term. SAC pardoned 236 prisoners from Insein Prison: 3,015 male and female prisoners who face punishment from their respective prisons, jails and camps and 98 foreign prisoners, totalling 3,114 prisoners, on Myanmar New Year Day in 2023. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Released prisoners are pictured lining up for their homes in Insein prison, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: KANU**

236 inmates from Mandalay Central Prison granted pardon

THE government has granted pardon to a total of 3,303 male and female prisoners from both prisons and detention camps in commemoration of Myanmar New Year and on humanitarian grounds. Among them, 205 males and 31 females are from Mandalay Central Prison.

Colonel Nay Lin Soe, Minister for Security and Border Affairs of the Mandalay Region government, and Police Brig-Gen Sein Lwin, Commander of the Mandalay Region Police Force, provided a briefing to the released prisoners from Mandalay Central Prison yesterday morning. Prisoners also underwent medical checks and received daily allowances and travel grants before their release.

U Cho Win Tun, Director of the Mandalay Region Prisons Department, stated, "The duty of the Prison Department is to detain those who have broken the law and must serve prison terms. However, the inmates are like our brothers and sisters.



Released prisoners reunite with their families in front of the Mandalay prison yesterday. **PHOTO: MAUNG AYE CHAN**

Therefore, we are truly happy for their release. We must train and nurture them to become good and capable individuals upon their release. Since the prisoners released today have demonstrated good behaviour, I believe they will be responsible not only to their families but also to the country".

A person granted a State pardon said, "I am thrilled that the government granted us pardon. I hope my friends who remain in prison will also be

released soon. Authorities provided us with travel expenses to return to our hometowns. I am eager to reunite with my family. I sincerely thank the State leaders who granted us pardon to reunite with our families".

Yesterday, a total of 406 prisoners (335 males and 71 females) from five prisons in Mandalay Region and 74 prisoners (68 males and six females) from labour camps in Mandalay Region were granted pardon. — Maung Aye Chan/TMT

Myanmar New Year amnesty: 40 prisoners released in Kayin State

UNDER the New Year pardon granted by the government on humanitarian grounds, 40 prisoners (36 males and four females) who had exhibited good behaviour during their prison terms were released from prisons under the Kayin State Prisons Department.

Code of Under Section 401 (1) of the Criminal Procedure, prisoners were released on the condition that, if they committed

another crime, they would be required to serve the remaining portion of their original sentence in addition to the punishment for the new offence.

The released prisoners received briefings, release certificates, travel expenses, and allowances from U Chit Lwin, Director of the Kayin State Prisons Department, and personnel from Hpa-an Prison. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/TMT



Released prisoners get on the truck for their homes in Kayin State yesterday. **PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN(IPRD)**

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NATIONAL

Moeyungyi Sanctuary receives 5,000 visitors in April

ABOUT 5,000 holidaymakers visited the Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary in April, including the Thingyan holiday, according to its warden, Daw Thin Thin Yu.

Since the beginning of the month, native waterfowl have become more prominent at the sanctuary, where they reside year-round. The sanctuary, being a wetland, is also home to various shrubs.

The warden said: "We have provided facilities for recreation besides observation. Most visitors were from Yangon and Bago. We have documented various species of waterfowl and wintering birds, including rare

bird species such as red-necked cranes and pelicans."

The sanctuary stretches 15,600 acres, with the Forest Department leasing 360 acres long-term to the Shwe Pyi Aye Company for resort development. The amenities feature a water lily pond and boat rental services.

As the Moeyungyi Sanctuary is home to 172 species of waterfowl and wintering birds, it attracts birdwatchers nationwide.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the sanctuary enjoyed about 80,000 domestic and foreign travellers annually. — ASH/NT



Holidaymakers at the sanctuary.

Hlegu historians investigate potential ancient sculpture depicting Buddha's footprint



A presumably ancient work of Buddha's footprint in sandstone. PHOTO: HGU KHINMGOO

THE Historical Team of Hlegu Township (HTHT) has observed a recently discovered sandstone Buddha footprint sculpture in Hlegu, Yangon Region, which is believed to be an ancient work, according to an official.

On the advice by the Sayadaw of Maggin monastery, vice chairman of Hlegu township Sangha Maha Nayaka committee, HTHT visited the Buddha's footprint located at the old pagoda hill near 11 mile, Kanni village.

Made of sandstone, the

footprint is 4.5 feet by 2.5 feet wide and was initially classified as an ancient craft.

"It has existed for a long time and it becomes more accessible now. After visiting and studying it, we came to understand that it is an ancient work of great value and significance. So, we all will have to preserve it. A great archaeologist briefly estimated that it was at least 400 - 500 years old. It is a rare opportunity to see an ancient work and we must value it highly. As we are also doing research

on the Pyu era, we know that the Horal patterns and marks around this Buddha's footprint sculpture are quite ancient," he said.

Access to this site of the Buddha's footprint is easy, and people should visit and pay homage to it, he said, giving a good message.

If it is gilded or gold-plated, its authentic value can be destroyed, so he also advised the public to follow the authentic preservation of this ancient Buddha's footprint sculpture in its originality. — MT/ZN

Mon State sees tourism surge of over 1.25M visitors in 2023-24FY

MORE than 1.25 million local and foreign visitors journeyed to tour destinations in Mon State during the 2023-24 financial year, as reported by U Zeya Tun, Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism for Mon State.

The breakdown reveals that over 1.2 million domestic travellers and over 50,000 foreign visitors explored the region. It marks a notable increase of over 50 per cent compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

U Zeya Tun highlighted the primary attractions drawing travellers to the state, including Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto



Visitors at the Setse Beach.

Township, Kyaikkhami Mid-water Pagoda in Thanbyuzayat, Setse Beach, Kyaikthanlan Pagoda, Taungwine Mountain, Mawlamyine viewpoint in Mawlamyine, Zinkyaik Waterfall in Paung, and the Ywalut area in Chaungzon-Bilukyun for observing handicraft works.

Moreover, Mon State has developed 63 tour destinations catering to both local and foreign visitors. Additional sites such as Kyaukpachi Beach in Thanbyuzayat, sightseeing cruises along the Mawlamyine strand road, and hot springs in Chaungzon Township have been designated as tourist sites. — ASH/TMT

NATIONAL

600+ entrepreneurs apply for registration in Yangon in 2023-2024 FY



Images capture diligent artisans and workers crafting handmade goods in their small-scale workshops.

MORE than 600 entrepreneurs have applied to register small-scale enterprises in Yangon Region for the financial year 2023-2024, as stated by U Thet Naing Oo, Director of the Small-Scale Industries Department for Yangon Region.

Highlighting the application

process, the director mentioned, “We received 638 applications, with a majority focused on the food manufacturing sector. Our laboratory rigorously tests their products to ensure safety and quality standards before granting permits”.

Moreover, he revealed plans

for training classes aimed at empowering local communities to establish their own businesses in the region.

“From these trainees, we select five individuals and provide them with the necessary equipment. This initiative has facilitated the emergence of 45

entrepreneurs across nine townships during the 2023-2024 financial year. We intend to expand this programme to support 80 entrepreneurs across 16 townships in the upcoming year,” he said. The department remains committed to promoting the production of value-added agro-based products

and handicrafts derived from natural resources. It also focuses on disseminating knowledge and technology to enhance the production of high-value goods among household enterprises, conducting product testing in laboratories, and offering vocational training. — ASH/NT

New Year donations boost pork, chicken sales

MANY people made donations on Myanmar New Year’s Day, resulting in pork and chicken sales climbing up, according to the meat and fish retail market.

Most Myanmar people traditionally make donations on New Year’s Day. The sale of meat and fish has climbed, especially pork and chicken, which are the most served for Myanmar food donations and have been sold better.

“Today is Myanmar New Year’s Day, so two pigs are sold out now. The sale of pork and chicken is better this morning. Retail price per viss is just K15,000 at our shop while some have raised price these days,” said the owner of Atee meat and

fish shop in Hlinethaya township.

Similarly, chicken sales have been good too, and the price has increased slightly, with many orders.

“Price gets high in Thingyan. The retail price is now K12,000, which is up from K10,000 a viss. It has been three days, and the price has been increasing. Both chicken and pork sales are good because today is Myanmar New Year’s Day,” he added.

On every New Year’s Day, people make New Year donations and Satuditha (food donations to all comers) in wards and villages, by either groups or families. — Thit Taw/ZS



A pork and chicken retail outlet.

Severe temperatures trigger heat stroke emergencies, leading to shortness of breath, low blood oxygen

DUE to high temperatures this summer, there have been cases of people being hospitalized for low blood oxygen after experiencing shortness of breath at night, according to social associations.

Average temperatures in April rose sharply across Myanmar, resulting in fainting and deaths from daytime heat stroke in regions and states, while many people were sent to the emergency unit of Yangon General Hospital for low oxygen levels at night after over-sweating, fatigue and an acute rise in body temperature, said Shwelon Yeikmon social welfare association.

“In previous summers, it was only hot during the day and not much at night. Now, in summer, it is hot both during the day and at night. People, especially those in poor health, should be cautious. Symptoms include over-sweating, low oxygen level, fatigue, sudden rise in body temperature, fainting, and if there is no one around to help, it may even lead to death. There have been some recent



Shwelon Yeikmon Social Welfare Association helps hospitalize patients with shortness of breath and low oxygen levels at night due to rising temperatures. **PHOTO: SHWELON YEIKMON SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

cases. We sent some patients to the hospital – the first one was over 50, and the second one was over 30. The emergencies happened when they were at home alone. We sent them to the emergency ward of Yangon General Hospital. We advise all people to be careful. It is immeasurable how much life is worth,” said an official, giving compassionate advice.

People with underlying medical conditions like hypertension, diabetes, kidney or heart diseases and obesity should be more vigilant if they over-sweat, he added.

“I fell asleep all night with the fan on. When I woke up in the middle of the night, I was sweating, my mouth was dry, and I could hardly breathe. My suffering was relieved only after I drank water until my stomach was full and breathed a lot of air on the veranda,” a housewife in Yangon told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Since high temperatures can happen at night as well as during the day, people living in confined spaces without good ventilation are reportedly being advised to take extra precautions. — MT/ZN

Price of milk on Israel going up 4.48%

This adjustment follows an evaluation indicating that dairy product prices under consumer supervision should rise by an average of 4.48%.

ISRAEL'S Ministry of Agriculture said that, according to the periodic price calculation, an increase of 4.48 per cent in the price of milk will go into effect on 1 May 2024. The price of eggs will remain unchanged.

The results of the periodic price calculation, said the min-

istry, showed that the prices of dairy products under consumer supervision should be increased by an average rate of 4.48 per cent.

According to the calculation in the milk, the update was affected by the current price increase in indices of 1.13 per

cent, as well as an addition of 3.35 per cent as part of the price spread agreement from May last year, which was signed between the dairies and the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture, on the eve of the previous price increase.

The current component was affected by the increases in the consumer price index (1.5 per cent), the wage index (2.7 per cent) and the price of raw milk (0.6 per cent).

The price calculations are reviewed according to fixed formulas every six months to a year within an automatic mechanism that does not require the signature of ministers and takes into account the changes that have occurred in the main inputs in the production of the products taking into account the change in the input and price indices. — ANI



Milk prices rise by 1.13% due to index price increases and an extra 3.35% from a previous agreement between dairies and government ministries. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ITRADE.GOV.IL**

Canada's CPI rises 2.9% in March

CANADA'S Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.9 per cent on a year-over-year basis in March, up from a 2.8 per cent gain in February, Statistics Canada said Tuesday.

Gasoline prices contributed the most to the year-over-year headline acceleration, as prices at the pump rose faster in March compared with February. Excluding gasoline, the all-items CPI slowed to a 2.8 per cent year-over-year increase, down from a 2.9 per cent gain in February, according to the national statistical agency.

Shelter prices continued to apply upward pressure in March, with the mortgage interest cost and rent indexes contributing the most to the year-over-year gain in the all-items CPI, the agency said.

Prices for services continued to rise in March compared

with February, driven by air transport and rent, outpacing price growth for goods which slowed compared with February on a yearly basis, the agency said.

On a monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.6 per cent in March. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.3 per cent in March, Statistics Canada said. — Xinhua



A customer shops for groceries at a supermarket in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 16 April 2024. **PHOTO: LIANG SEN/XINHUA**



File photo taken in January 2023 shows the building housing Toshiba Corp.'s headquarters in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Toshiba mulls cutting thousands of domestic jobs to reduce costs

Toshiba had 106,648 employees as of March 2023.

TOSHIBA Corp is considering cutting thousands of workers in Japan as part of efforts to reduce costs and improve business efficiency, sources familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

The job cuts, mainly targeting the company's back-office departments, are expected to be included in its business strategy due to be announced by mid-May, the sources said.

The technology conglomerate had 106,648 employees as of the end of March 2023, according to its website.

The restructuring is part of its efforts to focus its resources on its growth domains such as infrastructure, energy and digitalization, according to the sources.

Toshiba delisted in December through a two trillion yen (\$13 billion) buyout from a consortium led by Japan Industrial Partners Inc. The move was aimed at turning around its business, which was undermined by a spate of problems in the 2010s, ranging from an accounting scandal to massive losses in its US nuclear business. — Kyodo

Indian Mutual Fund industry witnesses significant expansion over past five years

THE Indian mutual fund (IMF) industry has experienced an expansion over the past five years, with the total number of folios nearly doubling to reach 17.79 lakh crore in March 2024, compared to 8.97 lakh crore in March 2020.

This surge in folios is attributed to increasing awareness and growing interest among retail investors in equity and bond investments through mutual funds, according to a report by ICRA Analytics.

The widening reach of asset management companies (AMCs) beyond the top 30 towns has played a significant role in encouraging more individuals to explore mutual funds as a viable investment avenue. — ANI

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Ukraine tells United States it wants to be treated like Israel

Iran's missile and drone strike on Israeli military sites prompted the United States to support Israel. This assistance led Ukraine to assert that Tel Aviv isn't the sole recipient of US aid and taxpayers' funds.

IRAN'S missile and drone strike against Israeli military facilities this weekend prompted the United States to leap to Israel's defence.

The United States' efforts to help Israel defend against the Iranian missile attack has prompted Ukraine to declare that Tel Aviv is not the only entity in the world eager to receive US assistance and US taxpayers' money.

Commenting on the attempts by the United States and several other countries to intercept the Iranian missiles, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelen-



Photo taken on 15 April 2024 shows a battery of Israel's Iron Dome defence system deployed near Jerusalem. Herzi Halevi, chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces, stated on Monday that a response is imminent following Iran's "unprecedented" missile and drone attack on Israel.

PHOTO: JAMAL AWAD/XINHUA

sky wrote on social media that the entire world witnessed this

"allied action", which "demonstrated how truly effective unity in defending against terror can be when it is based on sufficient political will".

Zelensky's call comes as US lawmakers appear quite eager to approve military and financial assistance to Israel while at the same time seeming a lot less willing to do the same for Ukraine.

According to The Wall Street Journal, Washington's reluctance to satisfy Kyiv's every whim has already displeased at least some people in Ukraine, even as Ukrainian officials try to refrain from criticizing the US directly

out of fear of antagonizing their main sponsor.

"People are beginning to sour on the US," Volodymyr Dubovyk, associate professor at the Odessa National University, told the newspaper, adding that the United States was "a decisive factor for Ukraine in the first two years of the war, but now of course there's a huge slowdown".

The newspaper does point out, however, that the "special relationship" Israel enjoys with the United States differs drastically from the relationship between the US and Ukraine. — SPUTNIK

Foreign visitors to Japan top 3 mln in March, single-month record

In March, Japan welcomed over 3.08 million foreign visitors for the first time in a single month, driven by cherry blossom enthusiasts and Easter holidaymakers.



The Nakamise shopping street in Tokyo's Asakusa area is crowded with visitors, including tourists from overseas, on 17 April 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE number of foreign visitors to Japan rose to over 3.08 million in March, the first time the tally exceeded the three million mark in a single month, boosted by tourists drawn to cherry blossoms and Easter holidaymakers, government data showed Wednesday.

The amount of money spent by overseas travellers

in the country grew to a record 1.75 trillion yen (\$11.3 billion) between January and March, the highest ever for a three-month period, on the back of a weak yen, according to the Japan Tourism Agency.

If inbound tourists continue to return at the current pace, it could eclipse the annual record of 31.88 million arriv-

als logged in the pre-pandemic era in 2019.

The previous monthly high for overseas visitors was 2,991,189 recorded in July 2019.

The report came as Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held a meeting of a ministerial council on promoting Japan as a tourism-oriented country. — Kyodo

20 decomposed bodies found in boat off coast of Brazil

AT least 20 severely decomposed bodies have been found in a boat off the coast of northeastern Brazil, CNN reported, citing officials.

The Brazilian Federal Public Ministry announced that the boat was found on the coast of Braganca, northeast of Para, on 13 April.

Following which, two investigations have since been opened, according to CNN.

The officials said that at least 20 bodies had been found in the boat, however, due to the decomposition of the remains, it is unknown how many died on the boat.

"Some reports say there could be up to 20 corpses" in the boat, the Attorney-General's office said in a statement, reported CBS News.

The office announced it was opening a criminal and a civil investigation into the incident.

Moreover, the deceased are not thought to be from Brazil but possibly from the Caribbean, according to the investigators.

Additionally, the local authorities said that there have been no recent reports of missing Brazilians, reported CNN.

This is a developing story, more details are awaited. — ANI



The boat was found near Braganca, northeast of Para, on 13 April, leading to the initiation of two investigations. **PHOTO: ANI**

SPORTS

Team Myanmar draws Viet Nam 1-1 in AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024 opener

MYANMAR'S national futsal team played a 1-1 tie match against the Asian powerhouse, Viet Nam, at the opener of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024 group match held in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday.

Both teams played a competitive game, and in the first half, neither side scored a goal. In the second half, the Vietnamese side scored first. Team Myanmar tried hard to win, but Ko Ko Lwin managed to score the equalizing goal.

"I am happy that we drew against a good team like Viet Nam in today's match. The players played their best according to my technique and the defensive play was very good. However,

some players are still nervous. The new players will also get good experience. We will prepare the best for the next match, including the match against Thailand," said Myanmar national futsal team head coach Mr Bunlert Charoen Wong after the match.

The AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024, in which the Myanmar national futsal team is competing, will be held from 17 to 28 April at the Huamark Indoor Stadium and Bangkok Arena in Bangkok, Thailand.

Tickets will be sold at 200 baht for the special class and 100 baht for the ordinary class. Spectators can purchase tickets at the arenas where the compe-



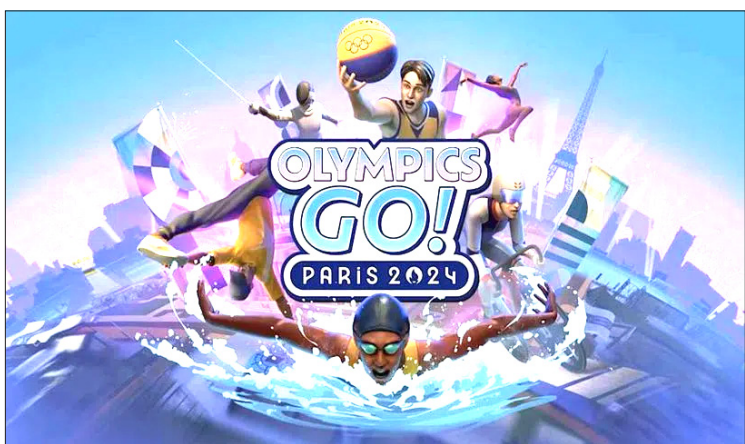
tion is held. Tickets can also be purchased in advance on the <https://www.ticketmelon.com/futsalthaileague/afc24> website. Team Myanmar will take on host Thailand on 19 April and China on 21 April in Group A. — Htun Htun/KZL



Myanmar futsal team players are seen celebrating the victories during the opening group match of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2024 against Viet Nam in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 April 2024. **PHOTO: MFF**

IOC launches Paris 2024 official mobile game

Players can engage in sports like breaking, fencing, archery, golf, and swimming, while also exploring iconic landmarks around the Olympic venues in Paris, integrated as city-building elements within the game.



IOC announced Tuesday that the official mobile game for the Paris 2024 Olympics - Olympics Go! Paris 2024 - was launched to provide truly Olympic gaming experience to the fans.

ILLUSTRATION: OLYMPICS.COM

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Tuesday that the official mobile game for the Paris 2024 Olympics — Olympics Go! Paris 2024 — was launched to provide truly Olympic gaming experience to the fans.

Sports like breaking, fencing, archery, golf, and swimming are available to fans to play while they can also experience the iconic

landmarks around the Olympic venues in Paris, which are simulated into the games as city-building elements.

"Olympics Go! Paris 2024 encapsulates the Olympic spirit and global appeal of the Olympic Games Paris 2024," said Elisabeth Allaman, Deputy Managing Director of IOC Television and Marketing Services. — Xinhua

Ulsan edge Yokohama in Asian Champions League semi-final opener

The South Korean champions will face either Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal or Al-Ain of the United Arab Emirates in the final, with the winners advancing to the Club World Cup.

SOUTH Korea's Ulsan claimed a slender lead in their Asian Champions League semi-final with a 1-0 win over Harry Kewell's Yokohama F-Marinos in Wednesday's first leg.

The victory also clinched Ulsan's place at next year's Club World Cup. They qualified as one of Asia's highest-ranking teams and will be one of 32 sides appearing at the expanded competition in the United States. Lee Dong-gyeong scored in the 19th minute at Ulsan Munsu Football Stadium to give the South Korean champions the advantage heading into next week's second leg in Japan.

The winners will face either Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal or Al-Ain of the United Arab Emirates in next month's two-legged final.

Ulsan are looking to win Asia's top club title for a third time while Yokohama are appearing in the Champions League semi-finals for the first time.

Former Liverpool and Leeds forward Kewell replaced



Ulsan and Yokohama F-Marinos will play the second leg of their Asian Champions League semi-final next week in Japan. **PHOTO: AFP**

fellow Australian Kevin Muscat as Yokohama coach at the start of the year. Ulsan made the brighter start and Um Won-sang should have done better when Gustav Ludwigson teed him up in front of goal following a stray pass from the Yokohama defence.

Lee showed him how it was

done just over five minutes later, firing Ulsan in front with a crisp left-foot shot from Joo Min-kyu's lay-off.

Ulsan proceeded to sit on their lead and almost paid the price as Yokohama threatened with two free-kicks from dangerous positions late in the first half. — AFP



**e-ATV
REQUIREMENT**

Indians transiting through Istanbul airport to South America now need an "Electronic Airport Transit Visa"

THE Turkish Embassy in New Delhi announced that Turkish authorities will now require the "Electronic Airport Transit Visa" (e-ATV) for Indian and Nepalese passport holders travelling to Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela, transiting via the Istanbul Airport.

"Important announcement regarding Indian and Nepalese passengers travelling to Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela via Istanbul Airport, starting from 15 April 2024," The Turkiye embassy in New Delhi posted on X.

"The Embassy of the Republic of Turkiye announces that Turkish authorities has commenced requiring the "Electronic Airport Transit Visa" (e-ATV) for Indian and Nepalese passport holders travelling to Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela, transiting via the Istanbul Airport," it stated.

Moreover, the statement further read that Indian and Nepalese passport holders, subjected to the requirement of e-ATV, can get their e-ATV via the website "evisa.gov.tr" starting from 15 April, free of charge as per the current practice.

The Indian and Nepalese passport holders, travelling to the mentioned countries should carry the print-out of their e-ATVs while travelling as it would be checked by the relative airlines and service providers. — ANI



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's interview with the General Manager of Xinhuanet Singapore, Mr Wu Lei, on 16 September 2017.
PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PMO.GOV.SG/FILE

Outgoing Singapore PM Lee to remain in Cabinet: reports

Wong will assume leadership from Lee on 15 May, as announced by Lee's office. Lee follows in the footsteps of his father, Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime minister, and Goh Chok Tong, who both served as senior minister for their successors after stepping down.

SINGAPORE Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will assume the role of senior minister in the Cabinet after stepping down next month, local media reported on Tuesday.

The reports quoted Lee's successor, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, as saying he will announce the members of his new Cabinet a few

days before the handover ceremony on 15 May.

He said that he plans to retain most of the current Cabinet after taking office, with shuffling to occur after the next general election.

Wong made the comments to local media a day after Lee's office announced in a statement on Monday that

he will transfer power to Wong on 15 May in a planned leadership succession.

Singapore had two prime ministers before Lee -- his father and the country's first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, followed by Goh Chok Tong — and both served as senior minister for their respective successors after stepping down. — Kyodo

Russia and Ukraine nearly signed a new Black Sea shipping deal, media claims



A vessel in the second caravan of ships transporting grain from Ukraine passes through the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul, Türkiye, 7 August 2022.
PHOTO: SHADATI/XINHUA/FILE

Despite Ukraine's initial consent for Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan to announce the agreement on 30 March, they withdrew from the deal abruptly, resulting in its collapse.

AN alleged draft agreement between Russia and Ukraine was supposed "ensure the safety of merchant shipping in the Black Sea".

Russia and Ukraine had nearly managed to work out a deal on shipping safety in the Black Sea before said draft agreement was torpedoed by Kyiv at

the last moment, Reuters claims citing "people familiar with the matter".

According to the media outlet, the deal was reached in March with the help of Turkiye who mediated the negotiations, and was meant to "ensure the safety of merchant shipping in the Black Sea". Though the Ukrainian side

was for some reason reluctant to sign the agreement formally, "it gave its assent for Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan to announce it on 30 March," as the media outlet put it. However, "at the very last minute, Ukraine suddenly pulled out and the deal was scuttled," one of the sources said. — SPUTNIK