

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Maintenance of 59 Mocha-hit Bagan temples completed

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch) has declared the completion of maintenance work on 59 ancient religious buildings affected by the Cyclone Mocha in May 2023. Additionally, lightning rods have been installed at 11 ancient religious buildings within the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone.

U Kyaw Myo Win, the department's director, stated, "The cyclone damaged 59 religious buildings in May 2023. Nine of them are under trusts, so the respective trusts funded their

restoration under UNESCO guideline, conservation guideline and maintenance standards. The remaining buildings were restored with donations from China."

The director affirmed that the restoration work strictly adhered to UNESCO guidelines on conservation.

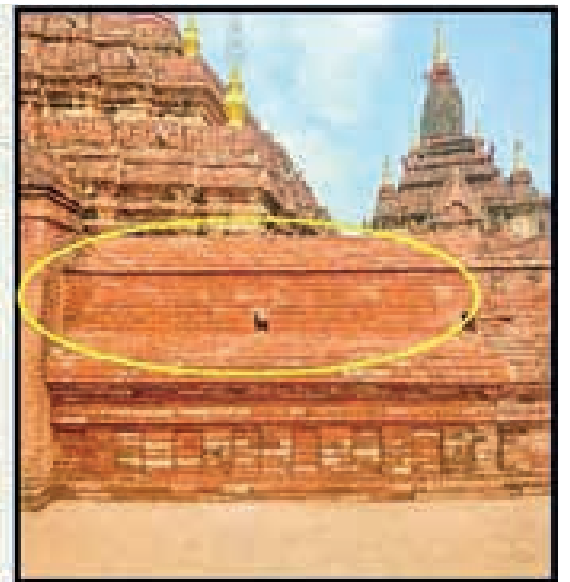
Furthermore, two instances of lightning strikes at ancient temples in June and October last year prompted the installation of lightning rods.

As of now, the Electricity Branch of the Buildings Depart-

### Renovation of collapsed brick structure of Dhammarazika Temple, ancient building No 947



Before renovation



After renovation

ment within the Construction Ministry has fitted lightning rods on 11 temples and pagodas namely Htilo Minlo, Dham-

marazika, Shwehsandaw, Mya, Manuha, Dhammayangyi, Maha Bawdi, Culamani, Pyatthatgyi, Panthaku Mahahtay and Thag-

yapone out of 22 tall and massive temples, which predominantly showcase intact ancient architectural arts. — ASH/NT



Fishery products are being prepared at the port before being exported to Thailand through the Kawthoung border.

## Myanmar expects over US\$ 800 million in aquatic product exports this year

ACCORDING to the Department of Fisheries, it is anticipated that exports of aquatic products to foreign countries will exceed US\$ 800 million in the current financial year.

In the previous financial year, over 520,000 tonnes of aquatic products were exported, generating foreign income of nearly US\$ 730 million.

Aquatic products from Myanmar

are exported to foreign countries via both normal trade and border trade channels. Presently, while the export of aquatic products is operating normally, it has not yet returned to pre-COVID situation.

Myanmar exports aquatic products such as fish, prawns, and crabs regularly to countries including China, Thailand, and neighbouring nations via border trade stations in Muse, Myawady, Ka-

wthoung, Sittway, Myeik, and Maung-taw, as well as to Japan and European countries.

According to fish and shrimp farming operators, Myanmar boasts 480,000 fish and shrimp farms, alongside over 120 cold storage facilities. Myanmar exports over 20 types of fish, including rohu, hilsa, barbus and river catfish. — TWA/KZL

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Russia offers to purchase Myanmar's Macadamia products

# NATIONAL

## Outstanding students visit famous pagodas in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone



Officials and outstanding students pose for documentary group photo during the opening event of the Outstanding Students Camp in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: NYAUNGU DISTRICT IPRD**

THE opening ceremony of the Outstanding Students Camp in Bagan took place in front of the

camp in NyaungU Township, NyaungU District yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by U Myo Aung, Chief Minister of the Mandalay Region

Government, Dr Zaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Education, the deputy director-general of the Regional Education Office, departmental officials, veteran outstanding students, school heads, teachers, outstanding students, supervisor teachers, and invited guests.

Initially, the Bagan's Outstanding Students Camp was inaugurated by outstanding students, who took memorial photos.

Following this, the ceremony proceeded at the Heritage Hotel. U Myo Aung, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, delivered a welcome speech. An outstanding student expressed gratitude on behalf of the Grade-9 outstanding students.

Later on, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, the Deputy Minister for Education, and officials presented brooches to the outstanding students.

The outstanding students also planted a commemorative tree.

Afterwards, those students visited Manuha Pagoda, Mya Pagoda, Buu Pagoda, Thatbyinnyu Pagoda, Htilo Minlo Pagoda, and Shwezigon Pagoda.

Officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) provided explanations on the pagodas' history, mural paintings, and architecture.— NyaungU District IPRD/TKO

## Opening ceremony for Taunggyi Outstanding Students Camp 2024

THE Taunggyi Outstanding Students Camp 2024 commenced with an opening ceremony at 9 am yesterday in the convocation hall of Taunggyi University.

Firstly, Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung unveiled the signboard of the Taunggyi Outstanding Students Camp 2024. Subsequently, the Chief Minister, alongside the State ministers, Director-General of the Higher Education Department, and the State Education Officer, officially inaugurated the ceremony by cutting the ribbon.

During his address, the Shan State Chief Minister encouraged the outstanding

students to study lives of residents, traditions, and cultures of the local people diligently. He emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge and preserving traditions and cultures to foster unity and friendship among different nationalities. Additionally, he urged the outstanding students to strive to become reliable citizens for the country.

Following the speeches, the Chief Minister and other officials engaged in friendly conversations with the outstanding students after presenting them with commemorative gifts.

Furthermore, Grade-10



Officials cut the ribbon at the Opening Ceremony for Taunggyi Outstanding Students Camp 2024 in Taunggyi yesterday. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THAN (TAUNGGYI)**

ic year 2023-2024) from various states and regions embarked

on visits to renowned sites in Shan State (South).— Maung

Maung Than (Taunggyi)/TRKM

## Htantabin Township to implement over 110 regional projects, investment projects worth more than K54 billion

REPORTS indicate that during the 2024-2025 financial year, 113 regional projects and investment projects, valued at K54.268 billion, are set to be implemented in Htantabin township of Yangon Region.

This total funding comprises K10.719 billion

from the regional fund and K43.549 billion from the Union fund.

Htantabin Township, located on the east bank of the Hlaing River, sharing the border with Maubin District of Ayeyawady Region, opens its township

level offices in Yangon Region. It is also a bustling port town with significant trade activity, facilitated by its connection to Yangon city via waterway. — TWA/ TRKM

# NATIONAL

## MoPF conducts annual review of 2023-2024 financial year

The Ministry of Planning and Finance held a coordination meeting yesterday at its office regarding the annual review of the 2023-2024 financial year and the activities to be implemented in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein emphasized the need to continue making progress in the upcoming financial year 2024-2025, while also maintaining the advantages of departments and organizations under the ministry, and state-owned economic organizations from the previous financial year, 2023-2024. He also instructed all to review the

weaknesses and try to implement better business methods to be able to fully realize the nation's goals.

The Union Minister also emphasized that the Ministry of Planning and Finance bears the responsibility of augmenting state revenue and supervising government department expenditures in compliance with financial regulations. Departments were urged to coordinate effectively to attain set objectives. As employees, it is imperative for them to maintain full operational capacity. He encouraged adherence to civil service rules and regulations, aspiring to be recognized as exemplary civil servants capable



A coordination meeting on the annual review of the 2023-2024 FY and the activities to be implemented in the 2024-2025 FY of Ministry of Planning and Finance in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

of serving both the state and the people, and to approach their work with a positive attitude.

Additionally, the departmental heads deliberated on the strengths and weaknesses

of the revenue and expenditure implementation for the 2023-2024 financial year, as well as the operations and activities slated for the upcoming financial year, 2024-2025. The Dep-

uty Prime Minister provided necessary instructions while addressing issues pertaining to revenue and expenditure, as well as ensuring the timely invitation of tenders. — MNA/TH

## Outstanding student camps launched in Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha



Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win receives a present from a veteran outstanding students at Outstanding Student Camp in Chaungtha yesterday. PHOTO: REGIONAL IPRD

THE opening ceremonies of the Grade-11 Outstanding Student Camp in Ngwehsaung and the Grade-12 Outstanding Student Camp in Chaungtha were held yesterday morning.

The events were attended by Regional Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and his wife, the Commander of South-West Command and his wife, officials, outstanding students, and

residents.

Firstly, the Regional Chief Minister, the Commander of the South-West Command, the Regional Minister for Ethnic Affairs, and officials cut the rib-

bon to inaugurate the Grade-11 Outstanding Student Camp in Ngwehsaung for the 2024 academic year.

Following this, at the Yamonna Oo Hotel, outstanding students sang the "Myanmar School" song to commence the second part of the ceremony. The Chief Minister addressed the audience, highlighting that outstanding students excel not only in academic subjects but also in extracurricular activities such as literature, sports, arts, and communications. He urged them to broaden their knowledge in agriculture and livestock breeding activities and to enjoy peace and happiness during their visit to the Ayeyawady Region.

Subsequently, the head of the camp in Ngwehsaung and the Regional Education Director provided an overview of the

camp. The Chief Minister, along with other officials, awarded brooches to outstanding students individually.

A dance was performance by students from Shaukchaung Basic Education High School Branch, and they sang the song "Zatiman".

Following this, the Chief Minister attended the opening ceremony of the Grade-12 Outstanding Student Camp in Chaungtha.

The head of the camp in Chaungtha provided insights into the camp's activities. Subsequently, brooches were decorated at outstanding students.

The head of the camp and veteran outstanding students from 1964 to 1988 academic years presented souvenirs to the Chief Minister and officials. — Regional IPRD/TKO

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# NATIONAL

## National Security Advisor Union Minister attends 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of High-Ranking Officials on Security Issues in Russia



National Security Advisor and Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung shakes hands with Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council Mr Nikolay Patrushev during bilateral meeting.

A delegation led by Admiral Moe Aung, National Security Advisor and Union Minister at the State Administration Council Chairman Office Ministry 4, returned from the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of High-Ranking Officials on Security Issues in St Petersburg, Russia, on 27 April.

The meeting took place from 23 to 25 April. On 24 April, the Admiral and the Myanmar Consul-General in St Petersburg participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Russia Meeting of High-Ranking Officials on Security Issues, jointly chaired by Mr Nikolay Patrushev, Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, and a representative from Cambodia. Dur-

ing this meeting, the Myanmar delegate discussed the country's security measures and ongoing processes in line with the SAC's five-point roadmap.

Following this, the Admiral and party attended the opening ceremony of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of High-Ranking Officials on Security Issues. After viewing a video message from Russian President Vladimir Putin, Mr Nikolay Patrushev delivered the opening remarks. The meeting focused on the challenges and opportunities of the multi-polar world and information security.

In the evening, they joined the ceremony to laying wreaths to pay tributes at the monument of those who died in Leningrad

in 1941-44.

On 25 April, the Admiral expressed his views on preserving national identity and cultural values while maintaining security, peace, and order. In the afternoon, round-table discussion on the protection of people during natural and man-made disasters and armed conflicts was participated by Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant of the Defence Ministry of Myanmar.

The Admiral also held bilateral meetings with Mr Patrushev, Mr Chen Wenqing, member

of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and current chairman of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Committee, Mr Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor to India, Mr Tarique Ahmed Siddique, Defence and Security Advisor to Bangladesh, and Mr Somvanh Saylongpha, Deputy Minister of Public Security of Laos. Discussions covered topics such as combating drug trade, terrorism, BIMSTEC security matters, and security and information exchange, and implementation of the five-point

roadmap of SAC.

The Admiral also met with Mr Abdulaziz Ahmed Adem of Ethiopia and Mozambican Interior Affairs Minister Mr Pascoal Ronda and exchanged views.

On 26 April, the delegation met with Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, chairman of the Committee for External Relations of St Petersburg, to discuss bilateral cooperation. They also took the opportunity to greet Myanmar cadets studying in the city and presented them with food gifts.— MNA/NT



National Security Advisor and Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung meets Mr Chen Wenqing, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China in St Petersburg, Russia.

## Union Industry Minister vows to boost edible oil production

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than inspected six oil mills in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During his meetings with oil mill officials, he emphasized the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation's dedication to achieving the yield target for edible oil crops by designating spe-

cific plantation zones. Additionally, he underscored the Ministry of Industry's pledge to support oil millers in enhancing production capacities.

Emphasizing the significance of adhering to high manufacturing standards and minimizing waste, he mentioned the government's provision of

loans from development funds to foster growth in the edible oil sector.

Subsequently, the Union minister met with officials at the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

He directed officials to ensure that the information of registered oil mills

accurately reflects the ground reality, emphasizing workplace safety, health standards, and environmental friendliness. He additionally requested officials to share the process for producing high-quality oil and providing support to oil millers in this endeavour.— MNA/NT

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# NATIONAL



Mon State Chief Minister and officials provide foodstuffs to local reentering Dhammathat Village.

## Residents return home as order restored in Mon, Kayin villages

THE Tatmadaw have regained control of Dhammathat Village in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, and Kawbein Village in Kawkaik Township, Kayin State, following counter-terrorism operations. Rehabilitation and mine-clearance operations have commenced in these ar-

reas.

As of 27 April, 220 residents from Dhammathat, Tayana, and Kawthat villages, and 485 residents from Kawbein Village who had temporarily fled from the conflicts, have returned home. Officials have warmly welcomed the returning resi-

dents and provided assistance and healthcare services. The Chief Minister of Mon State and officials have met with and comforted the residents, offering food and provisions. Temporarily displaced people continue to return to their homes. — MNA/NT

## Seoul hosts kick-off meeting to develop intl worker hotline, including Myanmar



Attendees pose for documentary group photo at the Kick-off Meeting: Hotline for Rapid Assistance to EPS Workers.

A kick-off meeting to discuss matters pertaining to the launch of a hotline system for foreign workers, including those from Myanmar, who constitute the largest group of workers sent to the Republic of Korea, was held on 24 April in Seoul, the ROK, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The kick-off meeting was organized by the Korea Labour and Employment Service-KLES at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seoul, and Secretary General and CEO Dr Kim Dae Hwan of KLES gave the opening speech at the meeting.

The Myanmar ambassador to the Republic of Korea stated that Myanmar is one of the 16 countries that dispatch workers to South Korea through the EPS system. The Myanmar Embassy will participate in the implementation of the hotline system and collaborate with the Korean government and organizations.

The meeting was attended by ambassadors and heads of embassies from Bangladesh, Laos, Mongolia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as the labour attachés from six countries, including Myanmar. — ASH/MKKS

## Specified amount of foreign currency can be used through Debit or Credit Cards

THE Central Bank of Myanmar has announced that Myanmar citizens can use international payment cards (debit cards, credit cards) issued by local banks.

To efficiently manage currency flow, the Central Bank of Myanmar collaborates with Kanbawza, Ayeyawady, and UAB Banks to sell foreign currency to individuals planning to work abroad, seek medical treatment, embark on pilgrimages, pursue studies abroad, or attend meetings upon invitation by foreign governments and associations. This special programme is available in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, and Taunggyi cities.

They can buy petty cash of US\$300 to 500 or other equivalent foreign currencies at AD licensed banks in addition to airport counters. — TWA/TH

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They can buy petty cash of US\$300 to 500 or other equivalent foreign currencies at AD licensed banks in addition to airport counters. — TWA/TH

## Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, commodities, three-wheel motorcycle, vehicles

ON 27 and 28 April, combined enforcement teams overseen by the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted operations resulting in several seizures.

At the Yadanabon Bridge checkpoint, a Toyota Passo without registration (valued at approximately K50 million) was intercepted. It was transporting seven types of goods worth K59.77 million, including 13,104 ceramic plates from China without official documents. Additionally, a Lifan three-wheel motorcycle worth K1.2 million was seized near the Taungpulu junction in Monywa Township, and nine types of goods valued at K8.052 million, including 80 pairs of sandals, were confiscated in Pabedan Ward of Sagaing. Action was carried out under



Confiscated illegal timbers seized in Toungoo District, Bago Region.

the export/import Law.

Furthermore, on 28 April, the combined teams seized illegal teak weighing 35.916 tonnes, illegal hardwood weighing 10.231 tonnes, and illegal other timbers weighing 2.363 tonnes, valued at K32.425 million, in Toungoo District. This

enforcement was conducted in accordance with the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported five arrests made on 27 and 28 April, with an estimated total value of K106.456 million. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

## Annual Tartet festival Taungyoe ethnic people celebrated across southern Shan State

THE Taungyoe ethnic community is currently hosting the traditional Tartet festival in Kalaw, Pindaya, and Pinlaung townships of Shan State (South), as reported by Sai Aye Zan, a member of the central working committee of the Taungyoe Literary and Culture Association based in Pindaya Township.

This annual festival takes place in various Taungyoe settlements, commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> Waning of Tagu and concluding on the 1<sup>st</sup> Waning of Kason, typically falling within the final weeks of April and May.

Sai Aye Zan mentioned, "This year's festival commenced on 24 April and will extend to Aungban, Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe, Panglong, and Yaksawk townships".

During the festivities, families gather meals, betel, gold foils, sweets, and fruits installed a structure and offer it to

the village monastery. Meanwhile, young men carry fireballs and dance while the donations are paraded around.

In a traditional courtship ritual, these young men may approach girls from the audience, whom they admire, asking for their names, addresses, and permission to visit. If the girls agree, they demonstrate their acceptance by throwing roasted beans at the young men. Hence, the Tartet festival provides an opportunity for young people to seek potential partners.

Even today, girls, especially those from Pindaya, where the majority of the population is Taungyoe, continue the tradition of bringing beans when they attend the festival.

The Taungyoe community resides in Hsihseng, Pinlaung, Kalaw, Pindaya, Nyaungshwe, Yaksawk, Namhsam, and Panglong townships. — ASH/NT



Taungyoe ethnic people in processing of the Tartet festival.

## Highway express buses vehicles require installing telematics system to ensure road safety

ALL highway express buses travelling on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway required installing a telematics system in order to avoid road hazards, according to a Staff Officer of the Department of Transport Planning U Sithu Tun.

By installing telematics system on highway passenger buses travelling from 0 to 336 mile-posts of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, the Common & Control Centre monitors the movement of these buses 24 hours a day, and check whether

they are driving according to the specified route and speed.

"This is what we are doing in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and the Ministry of Construction after introducing the system quoting existing laws. The system will be installed on buses running along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway starting from May. The installation of the telematics system in buses will be undertaken by Myanmar Millennium Group. It is a must do measure. Thanks

to the system, passengers will be able to travel safely to their destinations," said U Sithu Tun.

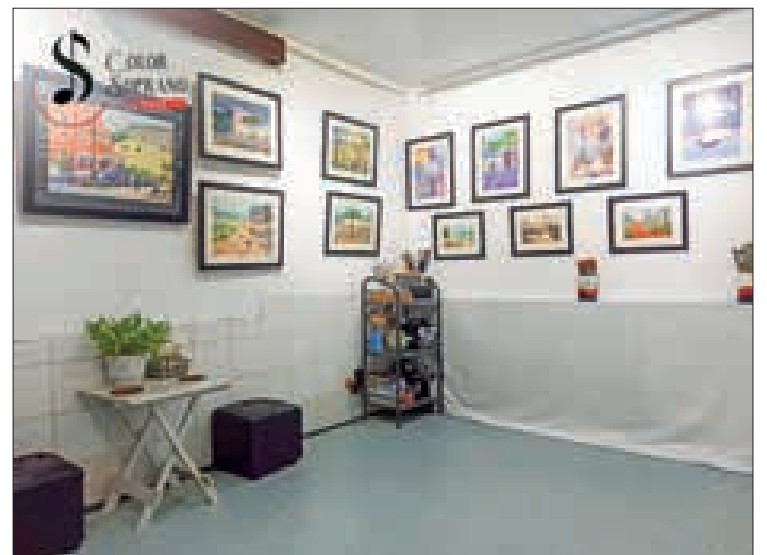
Starting from May 2024, the passenger bus lines that fail to install the system will be warned, prohibited and taken action step by step.

In Nay Pyi Taw Bawgathiri highway bus terminal, there are more than Nay Pyi Taw-based 30 highway bus lines and more than 110 highway passenger bus lines from various regions and states, totalling more than 140. — ASH/TKO



Highway express buses park at highway bus terminal.

## Color Soprano Art Space to host 'WOMAN IN ART: Our Palette' group exhibition



Some paintings to be displayed at "WOMAN IN ART: Our Palette".

THE Color Soprano Art Space, located in Sangyoung Township, Yangon, will host a group exhibition titled "WOMAN IN ART: Our Palette".

The exhibition will showcase various paintings by artists Cho Cho Naing, Hay, Jasmine, Mon Mon Kyaw, OM Saw, Saw Thuzar Hlaing, and Tin Yu Khine, which will be available for viewing and purchase.

A representative from the Color Soprano Art Space stated, "This exhibition aims to show-

case the diverse creations of female artists, reflecting their emotions and perspectives through their artwork. Additionally, visitors can explore the curator's note provided by the Color Soprano Art Space, offering insights into the background concept and themes of the exhibition. We extend a warm invitation to all art enthusiasts to attend. The exhibition will run from 1 to 3 May." — ASH/ TRKM

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

## Russia offers to purchase Myanmar's Macadamia products

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Russia has proposed to purchase finished Macadamia products from Myanmar.

Macadamia plantations are expanded in PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region, Ywangan and Yaksawk of southern Shan State and Nawngkhio of northern Shan State in Myanmar.

Raw products of the Macadamia produced by Myanmar were primarily exported to China and Thailand. However, Russia proposed buying the finished Macadamia products during this harvesting time, according to the ministry.

The Macadamia nut is good for health because it has rich vitamins and minerals, anti-carcinogenic anti-oxidants, carbohydrates, fibres, and proteins. It also reduces cholesterol, and thus, it can prevent cardiovascular diseases. What is more, since the nut includes Omega 3, it is suitable for pregnant mothers, brain development in children, gastro-intestinal tract; it increases the child's intelligence; and it also has anti-constipation, anti-ageing and anti-wrinkle effects. Macadamia powder can be used as a supplement food for infants above eight months. — TWA/TMT



Female workers sorting Macadamia fruits.

## Stability Reigns: Maize prices hold firm in market

ACCORDING to the market information, Myanmar's maize price remains unchanged, without fluctuation in the domestic market at K1,060 per viss, which has remained since before the Thingyan Festival.

Myanmar exports maize to Thailand and China via border trade route and to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam through shipment, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Thailand granted Myanmar maize exporters tariff benefits under Form D from 1 February to 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the interests of their growers if the maize is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

In addition, China also purchases maize from Myanmar through land borders under the poppy substitution



Heaps of Myanmar's maize at the purchase centre.

programme. Moreover, Myanmar and China commenced the legitimate maize trade schemes at the end of 2023. A total of 112 companies were allowed to export maize under the abovementioned schemes.

Myanmar exported more than two million tonnes of corn

to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of maize every year. — NN/TMT

## Beef price rises amid transport situation

BEEF price is on the rise due to transport costs, according to the interview with the beef sellers' circle.

From K 17,000 a viss three days ago, the price increased by K 1,000 and became unstable.

"Beef price has increased. Its retail price is K 17,000-K18,000 a viss. In our area, it is cheaper. In the downtown area, it sells for over K20,000. We have just started increasing it to K18,000 today. It is because of transport. There are high transport costs on the way. Our wholesaler hasn't talked

about further increases, but there is no prospect of prices going down," said a beef shop owner in Yangon.

There is a difference between the price of pure meat and that of beef tendons, the latter costing K 13,000 per viss.

Beef price has gradually increased from K 16,000 a viss since the pre-Thingyan period, and with a high price, there are concerns for fewer consumers.

Beef is a common meat with high consumption in Myanmar, which also exports frozen beef. — Thit Taw/ZN



A beef shop.

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# OPINION

## Nurture student youths to become responsible citizens

Basic education marks the beginning of a child's learning journey. It is not only the responsibility of parents and teachers at this level but also that of departmental officials and local authorities to create a conducive learning environment for schoolchildren.

The Ministry of Education is primarily responsible for managing basic and higher education institutions. These institutions aim to provide schoolchildren and student youths with the education they need to broaden their scope of knowledge. The initiatives undertaken are aimed at nurturing students to develop five essential strengths of capacity, enabling them to thrive in society and fulfil their national duties effectively.

Therefore, it is essential to carefully nurture these youths carefully, instilling in them a love for their nation and teaching them to value themselves and their education. Understanding the value of their education enables them to comprehend society and its history better.

On 12 May 2023, the government enacted the Myanmar Private Education Law. This law outlines the procedures for registering private education institutions and managing academic measures for both teachers and students. It aims to produce qualified student youths, particularly at the basic education level.

Importantly, the law mandates that all private and international schools in the country have to manage teaching Myanmar history, and geography as compulsory subjects to the students. Furthermore, it aims to instil a sense of student youths to flourish in patriotism and preserve Myanmar's rich cultural heritage. Additionally, all private schools are required to incorporate daily practices such as singing the national anthem and saluting the State flag to foster the national spirit.

Nurturing a sense of national pride and love for the Union among all student youths is crucial. The school years play a vital role in shaping the future of the students. Only by nurturing student youths from a young age can they grow into responsible citizens who understand the importance of the role of independence and sovereignty of the nation.

As such, the tripartite endeavours among parents, teachers and authorities have to lead nurturing the students to become qualified youths at different levels to be ready to serve the relevant age-wise duties as training. As youths are one of the national reserves, student youths have to recognize themselves as valuable youths. Moreover, this will enable them to understand their role in society and become responsible citizens who contribute positively to their nation's development and preserve its cultural heritage.

As such, the tripartite endeavours among parents, teachers and authorities have to lead nurturing the students to become qualified youths at different levels to be ready to serve the relevant age-wise duties as training. As youths are one of the national reserves, student youths have to recognize themselves as valuable youths. Moreover, this will enable them to understand their role in society and become responsible citizens who contribute positively to their nation's development and preserve its cultural heritage.

As I sit down to write this article, I can't help but reflect on the incredible journey I've had as an English teacher. It's hard to believe that I've been teaching for over four decades, starting way back in 1979. Over the years, I've had the privilege of meeting countless students from all walks of life, each with their own unique stories and backgrounds. Teaching English has been more than just a profession for me – it's been a lifelong passion.

One of the things that has always amazed me about teaching is the diversity of my students. From young children to adults, from beginners to advanced learners, I've had the opportunity to work with people of all ages and skill levels. Every year brings a new group of eager faces, ready to embark on their journey to mastering the English language.

But as the years have gone by, I've noticed a significant change – the age gap between my students and myself seems to grow wider with each passing year. This year, for example, my youngest students are just seven years old, while I myself am turning seventy. The age difference is staggering – ten times, to be exact.

At first, I'll admit, it was a bit daunting. How could I relate to students who were so much younger than myself? Would they even take me seriously as their teacher? As my own health began

## Overcoming Challenges with Untiring Perseverance

to show signs of ageing, I found myself wondering if I was still suited for the rigours of teaching.

But then I remembered why I became a teacher in the first place – a love for the English language and a desire to share that passion with others. And so, armed with determination and a sense of purpose, I forged ahead.

Teaching young children has its own set of challenges, to be sure. Patience is key, as is finding creative ways to keep their attention and make learning fun. But I've discovered that children are remarkably receptive to new ideas and concepts, and their enthusiasm is contagious. Watching their faces light up as they grasp a new word or concept reminds me why I love teaching so much.

Of course, teaching older students has its own rewards as well. Many of them come to me with a genuine desire to improve their English skills, whether for personal or professional reasons. Some are preparing for exams, while others simply want to be able to communicate more effectively with others. Whatever their motivation, I take pride in knowing that I can play a small part in helping them achieve their goals.

However, perhaps the greatest challenge I face as an ageing teacher is the toll it takes on my



Balancing in-person and online teaching required adaptation, but the satisfaction of connecting with students and fostering their growth remained a driving force.

health. Teaching can be physically and mentally demanding, and as I've gotten older, I've had to learn to listen to my body and pace myself accordingly. Gone are the days of marathon teaching sessions – now, I make sure to take regular breaks and prioritize

self-care.

Despite the challenges, however, I wouldn't trade my job for anything in the world. Teaching has been my life's work, and I'm grateful for every moment I've spent in the classroom. And while I may not have the energy I once

did, I have something far more valuable – experience, wisdom, and a lifetime of memories.

As I look ahead to the future, I know that there will be more challenges to face and obstacles to overcome. But as long as there are students eager to learn, I'll be

there, ready to impart whatever knowledge and wisdom I can. At the end of the day, it's not about the age difference between my students and me – it's about the shared love of learning and the bond that connects us all.

So here's to another year of teaching English – may it be filled with laughter, learning, and endless possibilities. And who knows? Maybe I'll even learn a thing or two from my students along the way. That means you're never too old to learn something new.

In my journey as a teacher spanning over four decades, I've encountered unexpected twists, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The shift to online teaching was a significant change for me. Initially, my students were solely from my town. However, as I began sharing my activities on social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube, my classes gained recognition beyond geographical boundaries. Suddenly, I found myself with a diverse array of online students from different towns, expanding my reach in ways I hadn't imagined before.

While this expansion brought new opportunities, it also presented challenges. The increased workload from managing a more extensive student base left me

By Min Zan

feeling exhausted at times. Balancing both in-person and online teaching required careful planning and adaptation. Yet, amidst the exhaustion, the satisfaction of reaching students beyond my immediate community kept me motivated.

As I reflect on this journey, I realize that teaching, whether in-person or online, is about more than just imparting knowledge. It's about fostering connections, igniting curiosity, and empowering individuals to reach their full potential. The COVID-19 pandemic forced me to embrace change and innovation, pushing the boundaries of my teaching practice.

Looking forward, I remain committed to navigating the ever-changing landscape of education with resilience and determination. While the challenges may persist, so too will the rewards of seeing my students grow and succeed. As I continue to adapt and evolve, I am reminded that true fulfilment comes from the impact we make on the lives of others.

In addition, I am grateful for the opportunity to share my passion for teaching with students near and far. Whether through

traditional classrooms or virtual platforms, the journey of learning knows no bounds. As I embark on the next chapter of my teaching career, I carry with me the lessons learned, and the memories made, knowing that the impact of education transcends the limitations of time and space.

Looking ahead, I am optimistic about the future of education and the endless possibilities it holds. As I continue to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of teaching, I remain committed to fostering a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where students feel empowered to explore, discover, and grow. With each passing year, I am reminded that the true essence of teaching lies not in the age difference between myself and my students but in the shared love of learning and the transformative power it holds.

So here's to another year of teaching English – may it be filled with laughter, learning, and boundless opportunities for growth. As I embark on this next chapter of my journey, I am grateful for the privilege of shaping young minds and contributing to a brighter, more interconnected future through the power of education. And who knows? Perhaps amidst the lessons taught, I'll find myself learning a thing or two from my students along the way, proving once again that you're never too old to embrace the joy of lifelong learning.



Components of the Science Eye: The Science Eye comprises two main parts: an implant consisting of a wireless power coil and an ultrathin, flexible micro-LED array. ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/PIXABAY

## Former Neuralink President Launches Eye Implants For The Blind

The surgery required for implanting the Science Eye is more invasive compared to other procedures, such as repairing cataracts. This indicates that the procedure involves a higher level of surgical complexity and may carry additional risks or require a longer recovery period.

According to the National Eye Institute (NEI), retinitis pigmentosa is a group of rare eye diseases that affect sight by making cells in the retina break down slowly over time, eventually leading to vision loss. It is something that people are born with, and symptoms usually start in childhood.

A start-up company in Alameda, California called Science has designed a visual prosthesis called the Science Eye that could

restore vision in people with retinitis pigmentosa, according to a recent report. Max Hodak is the company's CEO and co-founder who helped create the company after his time as the president of Elon Musk's controversial company Neuralink.

"The Science Eye [is] a visual prosthesis targeted at retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD), two forms of serious blindness presently without

good options for patients," the company wrote on its website, adding that the device won't work for those with glaucoma or cataracts.

"In diseases like RP and dry AMD, the light-sensitive cells in the back of the eye – the photoreceptors – have died, but the cells of the optic nerve itself remain. By inserting a gene into the cells of the optic nerve, we can make it possible to stimulate them using a small display inserted into

the eye."

Hodak's company is not the only one hoping to restore sight to those who suffer from the disease, though. The Paris-based biotech company GenSight Biologics and Bionic Sight in New York are also experimenting with optogenetics – a form of gene therapy that delivers proteins called opsins through an injection into the eye to increase the sensitivity of the cells in the patient's retina.

The Science Eye is made up of two parts: the first is an implant composed of a wireless power coil and an ultrathin, flexible micro-LED array that is applied directly over the retina. During this procedure an implant is slid over the eye and the display is inserted through an incision. The implant is then secured and the display is laid over the retina. This surgery is far more invasive than other procedures like repairing cataracts.

The second is a pair of frameless glasses that are similar in size and shape to typical prescription glasses which contain miniature infrared cameras and inductive power coils.

"The Science Eye is a combination device that uses an optogenetic gene therapy targeted at the cells of the optic nerve (the retinal ganglion cells) in conjunction with an implanted flexible

thin-film, ultra dense micro-LED display panel inserted directly over the retina," the company writes.

The company explains that making the optic nerve sensitive to light won't necessarily restore vision. The company explains: "the signal sent down the optic nerve is heavily compressed relative to the image that is formed onto the photoreceptors through the eye's lens" and it is "this compressed data the Science Eye implant stimulates into the optic nerve".

After the surgery, the eye isn't receiving images, but is instead receiving digital information. Hodak explains that a person should be able to walk across the street "without being hit by a car". Hodak adds that clinical trials for Science Eye should start sometime in the next 18 months.

SOURCE: SPUTNIK



# NATIONAL

## Tatmadaw columns assault KKO (splinter) Kyaw Thet group, PDF terrorists around Kawkareik, forge peace and stability in town

KKO (SPLINTER) Kyaw Thet group and PDF terrorists with excessive strengths had tried to enter Kawkareik via Kaunghmu, Yankok and Kyaungshagon villages, north of Kawkareik through Kawka-reik-Thingan Nyinaung old road with attempts to attack Kawkareik and local military headquarters since early April. So, they engaged with local security forces 13 times.

Those terrorists gathered reinforcements and committed terror acts such as setting fire to houses and robbing people's

property with continuous attacks on the northern part of Kawkareik, firing at Kawkareik via eastern villages with the use of heavy weapons and secretly entered outskirts wards of the town.

Hence, Tatmadaw added its reinforcements and systematically performed the Counter-Terrorism Operation with the use of heavy weapon supporting fire to terrorists around Kawkareik from 19 April. In this regard, both sides engaged each other nine times. On 22 April, Tatmadaw recon-



The houses in No 5 Ward from Kawkareik destroyed by terrorist's arson.



Photos show local people from Kawkareik reentering to their residence.



Fire arm and ammunition and related items seized during Kyondo-Kawkareik area battle.

trolled the region whereas terrorists withdrew to Kaunghmu Village, north of Kawkareik, in disarray. After the fighting, some dead bodies of terrorists, arms, ammunition and related equipmetn were seized and some officers and other ranks of Tatmadaw were wounded.

Military columns of Tatmadaw are in a hot pursuit of

terrorists while carrying out clearing of debris and landmines in the town, rehabilitation and safety of people. As Tatmadaw organize residents to return to their homes, 597 people—362 men and 235 women—from 288 households have returned home up to 27 April.— MNA/TTA

## Nearly 30% of municipalities in Japan have no physical bookstores

*In certain prefectures like Okinawa, Nagano, and Nara, over half of their cities, towns, and villages have no bookstores, with rates reaching 56.1 per cent, 53.2 per cent, and 51.3 per cent, respectively.*

NEARLY 30 per cent of municipalities in Japan have no physical bookstores due to the impact of population shrinkage and the prevalence of online stores, according to a survey by a publishing industry association.

Of the country's 1,741 municipalities, 482 cities, towns and villages, or 27.7 per cent of the total, had no bookstores as of March, with the rate increasing from 26.2 per cent in the previous survey in September 2022,

according to data released by the Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture.

In the prefectures of Okinawa, Nagano and Nara, more than half of their cities, towns and villages had no bookstores at all, with the rate standing at 56.1 per cent, 53.2 per cent and 51.3 per cent, respectively.

Rural areas suffering depopulation have been particularly hit by vanishing bookstores, while all 23 wards in central Tokyo still had bookstores.



File photo taken on 17 April 2024, shows Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Ken Saito (front) visiting a bookstore in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The central government has been searching for effective measures to prevent physical bookstores from disappearing.

They are considered important for expanding knowledge by offering opportunities to discover books outside one's usual in-

terests, in contrast to the online trend of narrowly tailored searches for specific interests. — Kyodo

## Indonesian student designs a life in fashion

AT a graduation show in Guangxi Arts University in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, students stop in their tracks, enthralled by the beauty of five blue and white patchwork outfits that blend Indonesian batik patterns with traditional Chinese Peking Opera elements.

The collection was created by Yusuf Maulana Firdaus, an international student from Jakarta, Indonesia.

Yusuf says he dreams of a future in fashion and makeup artistry, but in reality, this life is already well within reach. Since he was a child, he has lived and breathed fashion, and his work has won many awards



Yusuf Maulana Firdaus (Front R), an international student from Jakarta, Indonesia, poses for photos with his teacher Huang Yanbing (Front L) among fashion models in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 17 June 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

in Indonesia. Yusuf's journey in China began in 2020, when he started studying character

design as an undergraduate student at Guangxi Arts University. — Xinhua

## Music 'haven of freedom' Tangiers hosts global jazz festival

THE Moroccan city of Tangiers, which has a long history as a haven of inspiration for American jazz musicians, will host UNESCO's International Jazz Day for the first time on Tuesday.

Over the last century, jazz greats such as Randy Weston,

Idrees Sulieman and Max Roach all crossed the Atlantic to play and record music in the North African port city, perched on the edge of the Strait of Gibraltar.

"The city has had a fascinating power of attraction on a wave of intellectuals and musicians,"

Philippe Lorin, the founder of an annual Tangiers jazz festival, told AFP.

This year's Jazz Day will be held over four days starting on Saturday, during which talks and open-air performances will be held in Tangiers. — AFP

### LIFESTYLE: BRIEFS

#### China's urban passenger trips jump 27.7% in 2023

CHINA'S urban passenger trips soared 27.7 per cent in 2023, official data showed.

A total of 101 billion passenger trips were made in China's urban areas during the period, according to the Ministry of Transport.

Passenger trips handled by ferries logged a sharp year-on-year growth of 85.3 per cent to 82.67 million. The number of passenger trips via the country's urban rail transit networks neared 29.39 billion, soaring 52.2 per cent from the previous year. The data also showed that China's urban passenger trips operated by taxis and buses and trams rose 21.7 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively year on year in 2023. — Xinhua

#### Louvre says Mona Lisa could get a room of her own

THE Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci, the world's most famous portrait, could get a room of its own in the Louvre, the museum's president said on Saturday.

Such a move would give visitors, many of whom visit the Louvre for the iconic painting alone, a better experience, Laurence des Cars told the France Inter broadcaster.

"It's always frustrating when you don't give visitors the best possible reception, and that is the case for the Mona Lisa," she said.

The Louvre, the world's most popular museum, welcomed close to nine million visitors in 2023. Des Cars said 80 per cent of them — 20,000 people per day — braved the crowd to catch a glimpse of the Mona Lisa's enigmatic smile, often taking selfies in front of the painting. The Mona Lisa currently hangs in the Louvre's Salle des Etats (State Room), the museum's biggest, in a protective glass case, but Da Vinci's masterwork is not alone there. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

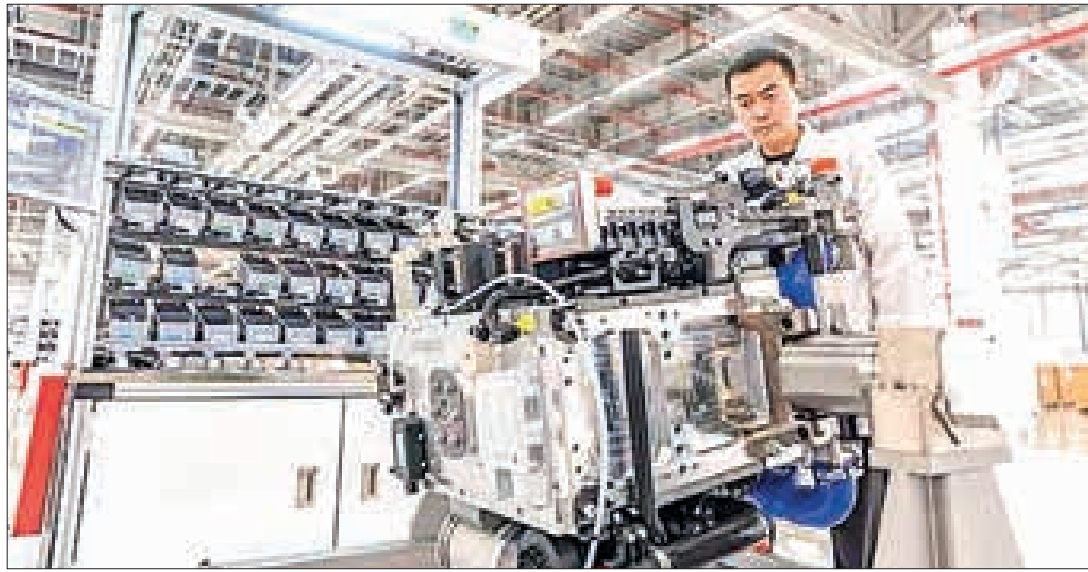
## Decoding foreign investment in China

*FDI in high-tech manufacturing accounted for a larger share of the total investment.*

FOR those who just sit in offices and focus solely on numbers, it will remain an open question whether China is losing its allure to multinational corporations and becoming "un-investable".

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in China experienced a year-on-year decrease in the first quarter of this year, while the number of newly established foreign-invested companies saw a significant growth of 20.7 per cent. Moreover, FDI in high-tech manufacturing occupied a larger proportion of the total. Behind these figures are global investors exiting the China market en masse or increasing their bets instead?

Xinhua reporters travelled to the country's eastern and southern regions, where most foreign-funded firms are located, to learn about their take on investing in China and what



A worker operates at Bosch Hydrogen Powertrain Systems (Chongqing) Co., Ltd. in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, 19 April 2024. PHOTO: HUANG WEI/XINHUA

they are doing and planning to do.

### "RISKY" TO DECOUPLE

US food giant Kraft Heinz's Asia headquarters, which was relocated from Singapore to Shanghai due to "the growing importance of China business", was officially certified recently by the Shanghai government.

"China has a large population and vast market space, and the demand for diversified and high-end consumption is increasing day by day," said

Frederico Freire Jardim, Asia President of Kraft Heinz, which will invest 320 million yuan (45 million US dollars) in China this year after investing 670 million yuan over the past three years.

German chemical giant BASF's Verbund site in Zhanjiang city, south China's Guangdong Province, months ago started production of TPU, a material widely used in new energy vehicles (NEVs), biological medicine and other sectors.

"China is now the world's

largest chemical market and it has great strategic importance for BASF," said Haryono Lim, President of Mega Projects Asia, BASF (China) Company Ltd., Shanghai. In fiscal year 2022/23, ZEISS in Greater China generated annual revenue totalling 13.5 billion yuan, up 22 per cent compared to the prior year. Bosch Group's sales in China increased 5.2 per cent last year to 139.1 billion yuan, which accounted for about one fifth of its global total. — Xinhua

## Philippines hones skills of workforce in digital technology

THE Philippine government is honing the skills of the Filipino workforce in digital technology as the country aims to create 45 million "green and high-quality jobs," according to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) statement released Friday night.

During Friday's meeting with the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) and the DTI, Trade and Industry Secretary Alfredo Pascual highlighted the crucial role of digital capabilities in elevating the Philippine workforce.

"We are steering our workforce towards high-value tasks that enable them to climb the ladder of value creation," said Pascual, adding that the move "is especially crucial in the field of digital technology, which does not require extensive machinery but focuses on intellectual and creative skills".

He said the DTI and DOLE collaboration aims "to establish a robust employment framework focused on job creation, quality, and sustainability". — Xinhua

### NEWS DIGEST: ECON

#### Republic First Bank closed as first US bank failing in 2024

REPUBLIC First Bank, a regional lender operating in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, has been closed by Pennsylvania state regulators, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) said in a statement on Friday.

"Philadelphia-based Republic First Bank (doing business as Republic Bank) was closed today by the Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities, which appointed the FDIC as receiver," said the statement. — Xinhua

#### Old Zimbabwean dollar notes cease circulation

OLD Zimbabwean dollar notes ceased circulating on Friday to introduce the new gold-backed Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) currency.

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mushayavanhu unveiled the new currency on 5 April giving the public 21 days to exchange their old, inflation-battered Zimbabwean dollar notes for the ZiG.

So far, most businesses have completed their configuration system to conduct business in ZiG, as more market players embrace and show confidence in the new currency. African low-cost carrier Fastjet Zimbabwe was one of the first major companies to embrace the ZiG, announcing this week that customers can now pay for their flight tickets using the ZiG currency. — Xinhua

## Pakistan: Federal government proposed to impose tax on solar panel users

THE federal government is considering a proposal put forth by the Central Power Purchasing Agency to levy tax on individuals using solar panels for residential or commercial purposes, ARY News reported.

According to the sources, the CPPA has proposed a tax of Pakistani currency (PKR) 2,000 per kilowatt on residential and commercial consumers installing 12 kilowatts or more. According to ARY News, the CPPA's proposal initially sent to the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) for approval, has now been forwarded to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for final authorization.

Following the prime minister's endorsement, consumers opting for 12-kilowatt solar



The federal government is contemplating a proposal by the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) to impose taxes on individuals utilizing solar panels for residential or commercial purposes. PHOTO: ANI

panels will incur a tax of PKR 24,000.

Simultaneously, the federal government is assessing the pricing of solar panels, and considering suggestions to lower their costs, as per

ARY News.

Earlier, on Friday, Sindh Minister for Jails Ali Hasan Zardari announced plans to transition prisons across the province to solar energy. — ANI

### Pakistan: Electricity bills to rise as govt set to privatise power distribution companies

THE Pakistani government has finalized a plan to privatize profit-making power distribution companies (Disco), adding that electricity prices are likely to go up reported ARY News, citing sources.

According to the sources, the Shehbaz-led coalition government has finalized this plan to privatise five profit-making power companies. The power companies include Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO), Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) and Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO).

In the first phase, the government has decided to constitute a new board for power companies, adding that the privatization ministry has sent a summary to the cabinet regarding the formation of a high-powered 12-member board for Discos privatization, ARY News reported. — ANI

## China's cargo, container throughputs at ports log steady growth in 2023

*Cargo throughput reached 16.97 billion tonnes, marking an 8.2 per cent increase from the previous year.*

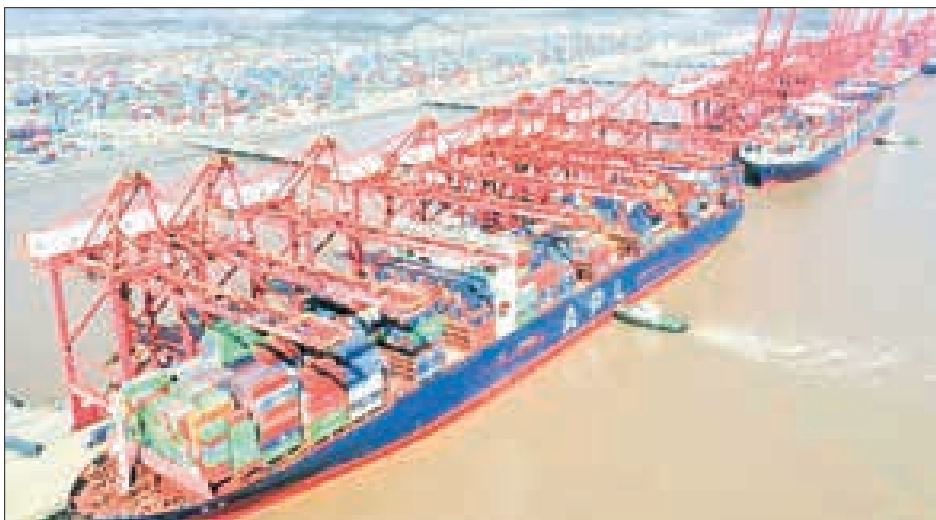
CHINA'S cargo and container throughput at ports saw steady expansion in 2023, official data showed.

The country's cargo throughput at ports totaled 16.97 billion tonnes during the period, up 8.2 per cent year on year, according to the Ministry of Transport.

Specifically, foreign

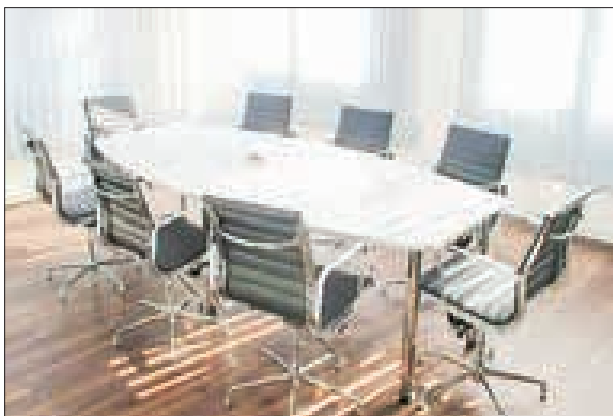
trade cargo throughput at the ports rose 9.5 per cent from the previous year to 5.05 billion tonnes, according to the ministry.

In the same period, China's ports handled 310.34 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of containers, marking an increase of 4.9 per cent year on year. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 24 January 2024 shows a cargo ship docking at the Meishan port area of the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port in east China's Zhejiang Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Strong start to office real estate in India in 2024: Report



Office real estate in India did well in the first quarter of 2024, increasing to 13.40 million sq ft from 11.85 million sq ft same quarter of last year. PHOTO: ANI

OFFICE real estate in India did well in the first quarter of 2024, increasing to 13.40 million sq ft

from 11.85 million sq ft same quarter of last year, as per the latest office market report from Ves-

tian, a US-headquartered workplace solutions firm.

During the January-March 2024 quarter, the office market showcased a 13 per cent increase in absorption. However, the absorption declined by 31 per cent on a quarterly basis.

The southern cities of Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad accounted for 61 per cent of the pan-India absorption in the first quarter of 2024, increasing its share from 54 per cent a year earlier, the Vestian report said. — ANI

### BIZ NEWS : BRIEFS

#### Sri Lankan economy stabilized with currency appreciated against USD: minister

SRI Lankan State Minister of Finance Shehan Semasinghe said on Saturday the country's economy stabilized with the local currency appreciating from 360 in 2022 to 300 against one US dollar at the moment. The growth is now emerging, the minister said on social media. — Xinhua

#### Maruti Suzuki's annual sales up

MARUTI Suzuki India disclosed its quarter four results for FY 2023-24, indicating a notable rise in net profit by 47.8 per cent to Rs 3,877.8 crore compared to Rs 2,623.6 crore in the same period last fiscal year. The annual sales volume of the Maruti Suzuki has also surpassed the 2 million units. The company has retained its position as the top exporter of passenger vehicles in India for the third consecutive year. — ANI

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA RATNA VOY.NO. (KRNA0163W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RATNA VOY.NO. (KRNA0163W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV76E1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV76E1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ST. MARY VOY.NO. (0UVUWE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ST. MARY VOY.NO. (0UVUWE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## South Africa interested in Russian experience in nuclear technologies

*With a global focus on reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to cleaner energy sources, South Africa sees Russia's experience as valuable for diversifying its energy mix and achieving environmental goals.*

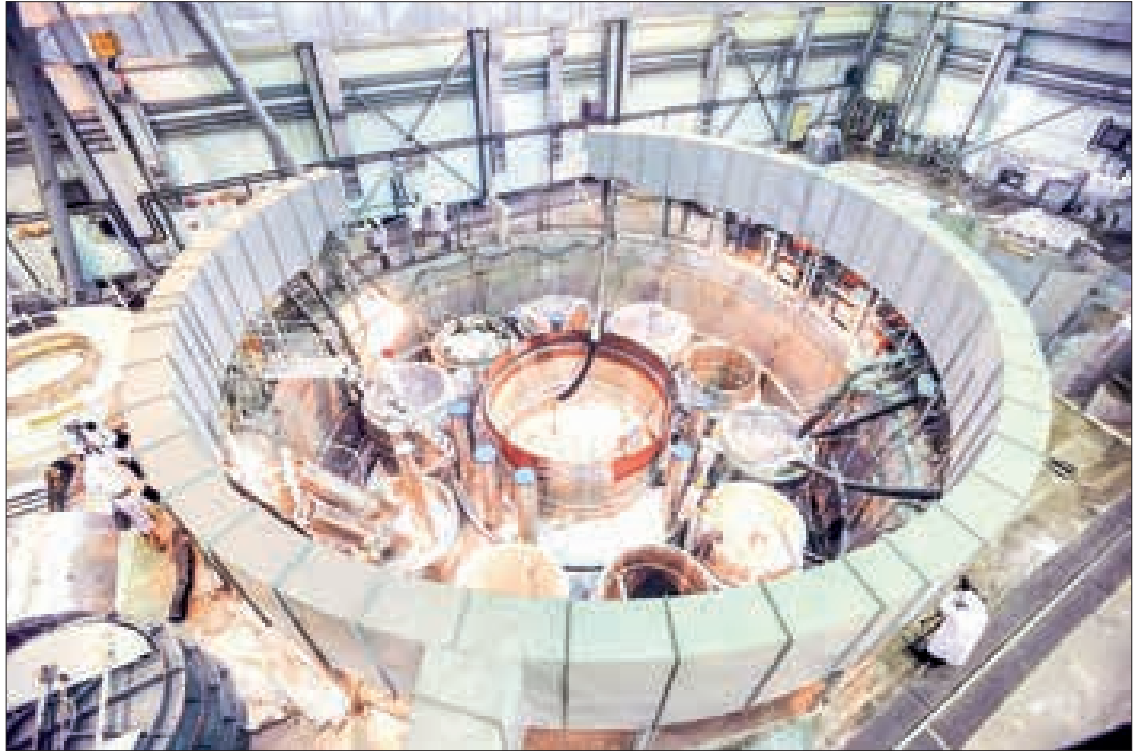
SOUTH Africa is keen on Russia's expertise in nuclear technologies and Moscow is ready to act as a reliable partner and offer solutions within the framework of appropriate tender procedures, Russian Ambassador to South Africa Ilya Rogachev told Sputnik.

"South Africa is interested in Russia's experience in the energy sector, especially nuclear technologies and the long-range transmission of electricity.

In the context of global ef-

orts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, the desire to diversify the energy balance and switch to cleaner energy sources makes the Russian experience particularly relevant for South Africa," Rogachev said.

Such interest stems from South Africa's desire to enhance its energy security, address the issue of frequent power outages and reduce dependence on coal-powered plants, which currently remain the main source of electricity in the country, the diplomat noted. — SPUTNIK



Russian Ambassador to South Africa, Ilya Rogachev, expressed South Africa's interest in Russia's nuclear technology expertise. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

## Fans flock to Hokkaido station featured in film as line section closes



Photo taken on 11 March 2024, shows JR Hokkaido's Ikutora Station in Minamifurano, with the "Horomai Station" sign used in filming the 1999 movie "Poppoya" still displayed. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A remote train station on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido that served as a filming location for the award-winning 1999 movie "Poppoya" (Railroad Man) saw an influx of visitors last month as train service on the little-used section of the line officially ended.

Ahead of the final run on 31 March the operator JR Hokkaido used addi-

tional carriages on its local trains to accommodate railroad enthusiasts and movie fans coming to bid farewell to the scenic part of the Nemuro Line, which opened in 1907 and became a tourist draw after the release of the film starring the late Ken Takakura.

"On a clear day, the view of Mt. Ashibetsu is really spectacular, especially when

the mountain is capped with snow," said Tokio Ohashi, 23, praising the line's scenery during a visit from Sapporo on 11 March.

In the award-winning film "Poppoya," Takakura portrays an isolated station-master coping with personal loss while fulfilling his duties, amidst the impending closure of his branch line.

Directed by Yasuo Furuhata, the movie earned accolades at the 1999 Japanese Academy Awards, with Takakura winning best actor at the Montreal World Film Festival.

Filmed at Ikutora Station in Minamifurano, Hokkaido, the location has become a pilgrimage site for fans, despite train service being replaced by buses.

Takakura's impact on the community, marked by humorous interactions and continued correspondence, highlights the enduring legacy of "Poppoya" and its captivating portrayal of resilience. — Kyodo

### THE WORLD IN BRIEF

#### New museum on Great Wall opens in China

A new museum themed around the Great Wall opened in northeast China's Liaoning Province on Friday.

Covering a floor area of 9,835 square metres, the Jiumenkou Great Wall Museum is located at the foot of the Jiumenkou section of the Great Wall in Suizhong County in the city of Huludao.

The exhibition hall area covers about 2,252 square metres, displaying the Great Wall section within the city along with its related history, protection and other aspects. A scene replicating the on-site excavation has also been created.

Chang Xiao, a publicity official of Suizhong County, said the museum took four years to plan and construct, and it combines multiple functions such as collection, exhibition and research of cultural relics. — Xinhua

#### Macron ready to 'open debate' on nuclear European defence

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron is ready to "open the debate" about the role of nuclear weapons in a common European defence, he said in an interview published Saturday.

It was just the latest in a series of speeches in recent months in which he has stressed the need for a European-led defence strategy.

"I am ready to open this debate which must include anti-missile defence, long-range capabilities, and nuclear weapons for those who have them or who host American nuclear armaments," the French president said in an interview with regional press group EBRA.

"Let us put it all on the table and see what really protects us in a credible manner," he added. France will "maintain its specificity but is ready to contribute more to the defence of Europe". — AFP

# SPORTS

## Former Chelsea manager Villas-Boas elected president of FC Porto

Villas-Boas, aged 46, secured a landslide victory with 21,489 votes compared to his 86-year-old rival's 5,224 votes.

FORMER Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur manager Andre Villas-Boas has been elected president of Portuguese football giants FC Porto, ending the 42-year reign of Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa.

Villas-Boas, 46, obtained 21,489 votes, to just 5,224 for his 86-year-old rival, who had won his previous 15 successive elections to head 'The Dragons'.

"What a historic night... our

club is alive and today proved its strength," said Villas-Boas, in a statement issued by Porto.

Villas-Boas enjoyed his most successful managerial spell at Porto.

Aged just 33, he guided them in the 2010/11 season to the domestic double — crowned champions without losing a game — the Portuguese Cup and the Europa League.

The victory in the Europa

League — beating Portuguese rivals Braga — made him at 33 years and 213 days the youngest coach ever to win a European club trophy.

Villas-Boas promised during his campaign to hire former Spanish international goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, who he came across while he was manager of Ligue 1 side Marseille, as sporting director.

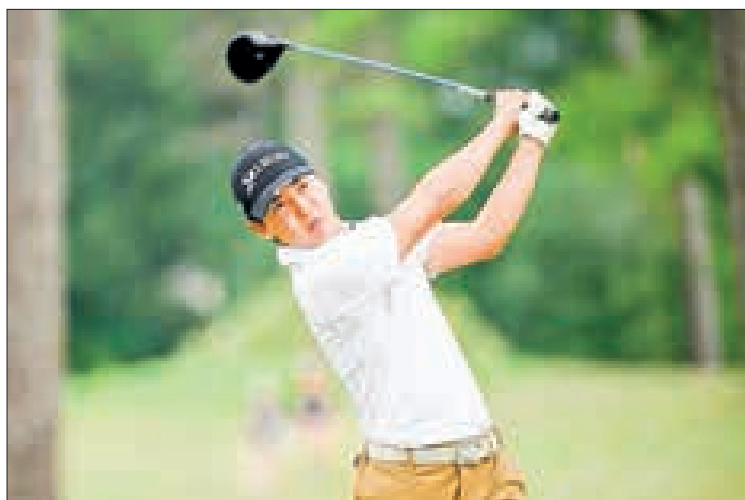
He also pledged to install



Andre Villas-Boas is the new president of FC Porto who he guided to the domestic double and the Europa League in 2011 as head coach. **PHOTO: AFP**

former Portuguese international defender Jorge Costa as head of the football department.

Pinto da Costa had on his part this week extended the contract of present head coach Sergio Conceicao. — AFP



Yuto Katsuragawa shot a final-round 63 to win the ISPS Handa Championship in Japan. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Katsuragawa makes it back-to-back DP World Tour wins for Japan

YUTO Katsuragawa continued Japan's recent success on the DP World Tour after shooting a final-round 63 to win the ISPS Handa Championship on home soil Sunday.

The 25-year-old had seven birdies and no bogeys to finish on 17-under par after equalling the course record, three strokes ahead of Sweden's Sebastian Soderberg at the Taiheiyo Club in Gotemba, overlooked by Mount Fuji in central Japan.

It was the first time that Japanese players had won back-to-back DP World Tour events, following Keita Nakajima's victory at the Indian Open earlier this month.

Katsuragawa's win was his first on the European-based circuit and his reward was a DP World Tour card.

He will enter the top 25 of the 2024 Race To Dubai standings as he pursues his dream of playing on the US PGA Tour.

"I have been practising a lot to stand on the big stage," said the world number 434.

"I can now go on the DP World Tour, which is really great and I'm really happy with it. I'm aiming to become a member of the PGA Tour in the future." — AFP

## Messi scores two more as Miami win 4-1 at New England

LIONEL Messi continued his rich vein of scoring in MLS, finding the target twice as league leaders Inter Miami came from behind for a 4-1 win at the New England Revolution on Saturday.

With his brace Messi, the top scorer in MLS, took his tally to nine goals from seven appearances this season.

A crowd over 65,612 turned up at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, the stadium the Revolution share with the NFL's New England Patriots, to see the Argentine World Cup winner.

New England, who had been hit by a virus in the build-up to the game and bottom of the Eastern Conference, delighted the bumper home crowd after just 40 seconds through an Argentine of their own — Tomas Chancalay.

Miami defender Nicolas Freire gave the ball away to Spanish midfielder Carles Gil who clipped a ball over the top to Chancalay, who spotted Drake Callender well off his line and chipped it over the stranded Miami keeper for the opening goal.

Messi got Miami back on level terms in the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute when he was found by Robert Taylor's through pass and the 36-year-old made no mistake, slotting home.

The eight-times Ballon d'Or winner struck again to put Miami ahead in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute when he collected a superb defence-splitting pass from his former Barcelona team-mate Sergio Busquets and finished with his usual ease.

Miami added two more in the final stages — both created by Messi. — AFP



Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez of Inter Miami were on the scoresheet in a 4-1 win at the New England Revolution on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**



KEY FEATURES OF 6G  
TECHNOLOGY

6G to be commercially available by about 2030: experts

BY about 2030, 6G will be commercially available in areas where infrastructure conditions are met, including China, according to panelists at a Saturday forum on 6G innovation and development, which ran parallel to the ongoing 2024 Beijing Zhongguancun Forum.

Dai Xiaohui, secretary-general of the China Communications Standards Association, said that 6G has higher speeds, extremely low latency and greater connection density, and can realize the deep integration of artificial intelligence, intelligent perception and other technologies.

Huang Yuhong, general manager of the China Mobile Research Institute, said that 6G provides not only communication services but also services such as perception and computing, expanding the mobile communication network into a mobile information network.

Gao Tongqing, deputy general manager of China Mobile Communications Group, said that “6G will promote changes in lifestyles, production methods, and innovations in social governance.” — Xinhua

## Russia creates 1<sup>st</sup> space surveillance system over Arctic: Roscosmos

Russia has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first country to establish a space system dedicated to monitoring the Arctic region. The state commission, overseen by Russian space agency Roscosmos, officially accepted the Arktika-M satellite No 2 into operation, marking the culmination of extensive flight testing.



Roscosmos announced the successful completion of flight testing for the Arktika-M spacecraft, affirming its readiness for operational deployment. **PHOTO:RUSSIAN SPACE AGENCY ROSCOSMOS/SPUTNIK**

RUSSIA has become the first country in the world to create a space system for monitoring the Arctic region after a state commission had accepted the Arktika-M satellite No 2 into operation, Russian state space corporation Roscosmos said.

In a groundbreaking technological achievement, Russia has announced

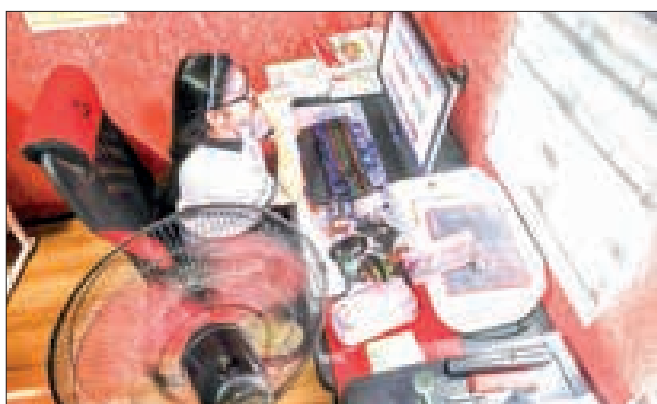
the development of a space-based hydrometeorological system that allows for continuous observation of the Arctic region, according to a statement.

“Today, 27 April 2024, the state commission for flight testing of space complexes for socio-economic, scientific and commercial purposes reviewed the results of flight testing of the highly

elliptical hydrometeorological space system Arktika-M with the spacecraft Arktika-M No 2.

Based on the results of the review, the state commission decided to complete the tests with the commissioning of the Arktika-M spacecraft No 2,” Roscosmos said in a statement on Saturday. — SPUTNIK

## Philippines suspends in-person classes due to heat, jeepney strike



A fourth-grade student attends an online class at her home in Quezon City, the Philippines, 5 April 2024. **PHOTO:ROUELLE UM/XINHUA/FILE**

THE Philippines will suspend in-person classes in all public schools for two days due to extreme heat and a nationwide strike by jeepney drivers, the education department said Sunday.

Extreme heat has scorched Southeast Asia in recent weeks, prompting thousands of schools to suspend in-person operations and authorities to issue health warnings.

Many schools in the Philippines have no air-conditioning, leaving students to swelter in

crowded, poorly ventilated classrooms.

“In view of the latest heat index forecast... and the announcement of a nationwide transport strike, all public schools nationwide shall implement asynchronous classes/distance learning on 29 April and 30 April 2024,” the department said on Facebook.

The education department oversees more than 47,000 schools across the archipelago nation.

Some jeepney drivers also plan to hold a three-day nationwide

strike starting Monday to protest the government’s plan to phase out the smoke-belching vehicles used by many Filipinos to commute to work and school.

The suspension of in-person classes comes after Manila recorded its highest ever temperature.

The temperature in the city hit a record high of 38.8 degrees Celsius (101.8 degrees Fahrenheit) on Saturday with the heat index reaching 45C, data from the state weather forecaster showed. — AFP