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Employers and employees need mutual recognition and harmony to strive to increase domestic products and solve labour issues

THE following is the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing to

the ceremony marking International Workers' Day today.

Esteemed workers,

Today 1 May is a significant day called International Workers' Day with full essence in honour of workers world-

wide. I extend greetings to all workers as a main force essential for the State, and I convey to them the best wishes for enjoying physical and mental well-being with all advantages and auspiciousness.

Each year, International Workers'

Day is celebrated globally as a pivotal moment in the history of workers' movement, serving to highlight the value labour and advocate for proper working hours and conditions.

SEE PAGE-2



The Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge I officially opened on 27 April 2024.

Myawady-Mae Sot border requires UID certificate for entry/exit

THE Township Immigration Department has announced that beginning 1 May, entry and exit at the Myawady-Mae Sot border will exclusively require a UID card.

This measure aims to monitor the number of individuals crossing the border precisely and to regulate the movement of people using counterfeit or outdated identification.

The plan to mandate the use of UID cards for border crossings applies not only to Thailand but also to crossings from China and India.

A UID card is a document that electronically collects and records the personal and biological information of individuals over the age of 10. It is a



People and vehicles cross the Myanmar-Thai border.

national identification certificate with a 10-digit number administered by the respective Department of Immigration and Population. — TWA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Employers and employees need mutual recognition and harmony to strive to increase domestic products and solve labour issues

FROM PAGE-1

The government emphasizes the promotion of improved manufacturing and economic booming. On International Workers' Day today, I take pride in sending this message to recognize workers as an important force of the State contributing to the development of the economic sector with physical and mental strengths.

Esteemed workers,

Encouraging MSME businesses comprising micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises will help develop the State economy, generate jobs for citizens and enhance their socioeconomic lives.

It is necessary to develop the human resources that are essential for MSME businesses and recruit skilled workers in relevant industries. Hence, training schools have been established to conduct skill training courses, help the establishment of private training schools, issue recognized certificates at different levels of skills and encourage education for the emergence of skilled labourers with the capacity of competing with others both at home and abroad.

Garment industries based on worker strength can create employment for citizens, earning foreign exchange for the State and turning out skilled workers. As such, the government cooperates with the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association and partner organizations in order to achieve success in the gar-

ment sector, raise the export sector and develop the State economy.

As Myanmar has many good opportunities blessed by nature, these good opportunities should be efficiently utilized to increase the domestic economy and productivity and shape the nation to become an exporter from the status of an importer. In such doing, as the strength of workers plays a crucial role in shaping the nation, the physical and mental endeavours of workers can be seen as serving the interests of the State and the people.

Mutual recognition and harmony are needed between employers and employees in striving to increase domestic products and solve labour issues. For this purpose, employer and employee organization recognition certificates have been issued to 3,017 employee organizations and 28 employer organizations under the Labour Organization Law 2011. Workers representing these organizations cooperate with government representatives and employer representatives to solve labour issues, and I anticipate that good results will come out.

The government signed memorandums of understanding on labour cooperation with foreign countries in order to enable Myanmar workers to have overseas employment opportunities, protect the rights and entitlements of Myanmar migrant workers abroad and systematically apply their experiences, knowledge and technologies obtained from foreign

countries in Myanmar. Labour attachés have been appointed in the countries where most Myanmar employees are working, and those attachés are assigned to protect the rights of Myanmar migrant workers.

Esteemed workers,

Only when workers who are the primary productive force of the State enjoy the fruits of socioeconomic life, security, and healthcare services can factories operate at full capacity for production, in addition to the development of the health, education, and social sectors simultaneously. In realizing such an aim, workers are being provided healthcare services and cash compensation with facilities of three workers' hospitals, 96 social security clinics, 60 departmental clinics, one traditional medicine clinic, 64 private hospitals and clinics and two mobile medical units.

In initiating workplace safety and the development of health conditions of workers from factories and industries, I would like to urge management officials to participate in emphasizing workplace safety and healthcare services under the relevant disciplines.

Myanmar joined the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN OSHNET) as a member in 2000 as part of cooperation with regional and international organizations in order to ensure workplace safety and upgrade the health standards of Myanmar.

It is necessary to more effectively

solve difficulties in trade disputes between employers and employees in accordance with the law. In such doing, as relevant seminars and workshops have been held to solve labour disputes with the aim of seeking good ways and results, the government, employers, and employees have frankly exchanged their views.

In order to improve workplace relations, employers and employees have to initially negotiate disputes at relevant workplaces and solve them step by step in accord with the law to forge good workplace relations in the long run and contribute to the development of the nation with increased manufacturing activities.

In conclusion, I am sending this message in honour of International Workers' Day, which all people value. I would like to urge workers to join hands with the government in implementing the roadmap and objectives for building a peaceful, prosperous, modern, disciplined, developed and democratic nation, enhancing the State economy and socioeconomic life of the people by increasing the production and creating employment opportunities for socioeconomic life improvement of the massive Myanmar workers.

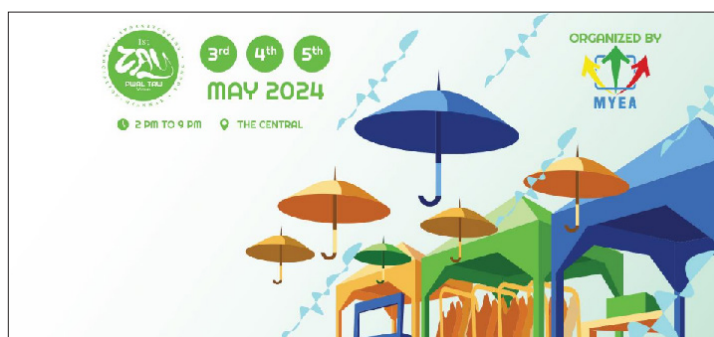
**Senior General
Thadde Maha Thray Sithu
Thadde Thiri Thudhamma
Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister
Chairman,
State Administration Council**

Early monsoon market fair to be held at Central Boulevard Yangon for 3 days

THE early monsoon market fair will be held at The Central Boulevard Yangon in Yankin Township, Yangon, from 2 pm to 9 pm from 3 to 5 May, as stated by the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA).

The festival is organized by the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA), and in the festival, there will be more than 60 shops selling products and services from Fashion & Lifestyle, Art & Craft, Technology & Innovation, Books & Media, and Food & Beverages.

The market fair is a carnival planned to strengthen the



The pamphlet says the market fair will be held at the Central Boulevard Yangon from 3 to 5 May. **PHOTO:**

entrepreneurial businesses and MSMEs and SMEs operating in Myanmar, build a good community and promote community spirit.

The festival will also include many exciting programmes every day, an official at MYEA told the GNLM. — ASH/KZL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

7th Waning of Tagu 1386 ME
30 April 2024

It is necessary to control Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection continuously. So, it is now announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing restrictions) released by Union-Level Organizations and Union Ministries up to 30 April 2024 have been extended to 31 May 2024 for prevention, control and treatment on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

COVID-19 report, 29 April 2024

NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
25,384	48	Nil

NATIONAL

DPM Union Foreign Affairs Minister receives Indian Ambassador-designate

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

During the call, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs extended congratulations to the Ambassador-designate for the latter's appointment as Ambassador of India to Myanmar. They cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further consolidation of the existing friendly bilateral relations between the two

countries, expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation in various areas, including bilateral trade, investment and connectivity, as well as closer collaboration for the maintenance of peace and stability along the border between Myanmar and India. The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister also apprised the Ambassador-designate of the latest developments in Myanmar. — MNA

The newly appointed Indian Ambassador calls on Deputy Prime Minister and Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday.



Myanmar showcases local products at ASEAN Bazaar in Cambodia

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported that Myanmar participated in the ASEAN Bazaar held in Phnom Penh on 27 April. Myanmar showcased and sold traditional local products and foods at the event.

Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Kyaw Soe Min, along with the military attaché and Myanmar students, attended the event.

During the occasion, the families of the Myanmar embassy introduced coconut noodles, tea leaf salad, and traditional Myanmar tea. Additionally, Myanmar students in Cambodia performed a dance and sang two songs in English and Cambodian.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr Sok Chenda Sophea was present

as a special guest, with over 1,000 participants from the diplomatic community in Cambodia attending the event.

The festival also featured exhibitions by the Cambodia Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Tourism, along with displays of traditional foods and local products from ASEAN nations, accompanied by cultural performances. — ASH/ TMT



Myanmar traditional and local products exhibited at the ASEAN Bazaar.

Public Notice

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

Anti-Corruption Commission

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

Statement

MYANMA Post, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, makes efforts to develop libraries across the nation and raise the reading rate of the public. Therefore, it is announced that those who want to donate books to community centres (libraries) established by the Ministry of Information can send books to the libraries free of charge by Myanma Post.

NATIONAL

Government-related printing management committee holds coordination meeting

THE government-related printing management committee organized a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to offer work at the state-owned printing houses using the State budget systematically.

First, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as chairman of the committee, highlighted the guidance of the Chairman of the State Administration Council to the Ministry of Information and the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare to print the books that use the budget and to offer jobs to the private printing houses only when the workload is heavy.

He continued that the min-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks at the coordination meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

istries, therefore, are informed to get printing services at the Myawady Book Store of the Directorate of Public Relations and

Psychological Warfare, Printing and Publishing Department and News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information

and KabarAye printing house of the Religious Affairs Department. They should make printing except these sites only when

they are in a critical situation.

He also talked about the formation of a committee with the permission of the SAC and pledged that the committee would manage capacity and demand. He urged the ministries to understand and be united as they carry out government policy.

Then, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, vice-chairman of the committee, discussed the current printing services, ongoing work plans, estimated work plans of departments concerned and printing capacity.

Then, attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister concluded the meeting.

— MNA/KTZH

Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Art & Design Award calls for 5th edition of competition

THE launching ceremony of the 2024 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Art & Design Award was inaugurated at the Auditorium of China International Communication Group in Beijing on 24 April 2024.

Yin Jie, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of China Centre for International Communication Development (CCICID), gave an opening remark that she welcomed the minister counsellors, diplomats from the countries along the Mekong River, esteemed guests from the media, universities, civil society organizations and domestic and international businesses. Six Lancang-Mekong member countries (China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam) shared the same water and promoted civilization with a shared future. China has been intensifying cooperation with other member countries.

Zhao Chenggang, Minister Counsellor of Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, said in his video keynote speech that "Mountains and rivers connect China and Mekong countries. He highlighted the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation



Media delegates and participants pose for the group documentary photo at the launching event in Beijing on 24 April 2024.

Art & Design Award has become a business card for cultural and youth exchanges. He expects the competition will further enhance people-to-people exchanges between the six countries and improve mutual learning among civilizations".

Daw Zin Mar Htwe, Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Myanmar in China, said in her speech that "over the past eight years, Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) has made significant progress and a great achievement to bring about practical benefits to the people of LMC countries in

various sectors. The six-member countries of LMC have further strengthened their people-to-people cooperation and implemented specialized cooperation projects in the fields of education, tourism, culture, sports and media. She reiterated Myanmar's continued commitment to active cooperation for the common dream and peaceful, prosperous and developed Mekong regions. She hoped this award could boost cultural exchange and mutual understanding of the LMC countries."

The 2024 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Art & Design Award adopted the compelling theme,

"Green Power, Lancang-Mekong's New Day", on the aspect of energy cooperation. Designers are entitled to tap into the Lancang-Mekong energy collaboration and creativity to create expressive masterworks depicting a range of themes, Lancang-Mekong's energy security collaboration, cooperative development of energy infrastructure projects, renewable energy, advancement of the power grid, photovoltaic industry, energy storage, electric vehicles and components, and investment in green development. In addition to the traditional poster design segment, the AI

poster design competition unit is also included this year. While fostering cross-cultural exchange and unity among diverse civilizations, tremendous strides in Lancang-Mekong collaboration has been made in the field of energy cooperation.

The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, jointly initiated by China and the Mekong countries, has focused on political security, economic sustainability, and socio-cultural elements. Under financial support from the Special Fund for Lancang-Mekong Cooperation established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Art & Design Award has been held regularly since 2020 to connect the Lancang-Mekong countries through artistic works and promote cultural exchange.

The CCICID, Publicity and Education Centre of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Yunnan University, Yunnan International Communication Centre for South and Southeast Asia, Bangkok University, Thailand, National University of Laos, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Fuqing School, Myanmar, hosted it. — KK

NATIONAL

FD initiates reforestation efforts and combats timber smuggling



Photos depict forests in Myanmar, where reforestation is underway.

AS part of the reforestation project, the Forest Department has established forests to 25.88 per cent and natural landscapes to

6.42 per cent of the country's area. Myanmar's forested area was 42.19 per cent in 2020. The

annual deforestation rate was 0.96 per cent, or over 700,000 acres, between 2010 and 2020. The department's goal is to

establish 30 per cent of the nation's area as forests and 10 per cent as natural landscapes. The department aims to

grow over 22 million trees in the coming rainy season. This will be achieved through State-owned tree plantations, roadside trees, and private-owned plantations. Each village will have to grow two acres of trees in the rainy season.

Similarly, the department will try to supply wood for furniture and sculpture businesses in line with procedures.

Combat against timber smuggling through cooperation between the government and the public has yielded results, as authorities seized 7,742 tonnes of smuggled timber in the financial year 2023-24 and 493 tonnes in April 2024. — ASH/NT

Excavation, restoration of ancient Bagan reservoirs underway



An aerial view of the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone — now under restoration of its ancient reservoirs.

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch), twelve out of 46 ancient water reservoirs have been excavated in the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone.

Cyclone Mocha caused floods at ancient religious buildings in Bagan in 2023. The excavation of old water reservoirs and the reconnection of ancient water distribution networks have the potential to prevent floods during the rainy season.

Director U Kyaw Myo Win stated, "Our department conducted detailed assessment surveys of 106 reservoirs between November and De-

cember in the financial year 2023-24. Among them, five are larger than ten acres, six are between five and ten acres, and 95 are below five acres".

The department graded the reservoirs, with 46 graded A and 45 graded B, based on their archaeological, historical, and social importance and usefulness. "We have completed the restoration of 12 A-grade reservoirs in the last financial year. There are nine ongoing projects. Additionally, we will excavate five reservoirs ahead of the monsoon for rural residents near Bagan," added the director.

The department consulted hydrologist Dr Massimo

Sarti from the University of Marche in Italy to consider cultural and environmental heritage, soil preservation, heritage impact assessment, and the authenticity and integrity of the reservoirs. Workers conducted test pit excavations initially and then proceeded with restoration works based on the results.

Collaboration took place with the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation. The restoration of ancient reservoirs aims to revive old water distribution networks, potentially alleviating water shortages due to climate change. — ASH/NT

Remembering Mauro Cucarzi's legacy: From Pyu cities to Bagan's world heritage nomination

ITALIAN archaeologist Mr Mauro Cucarzi, director of the Lerici Foundation, passed away in Italy on 25th April, as confirmed by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum. He was 83 years old.

Mr Cucarzi made significant contributions to Myanmar through his collaboration with local researchers, particularly in laying the groundwork for World Heritage nominations of Pyu Cities and Bagan. He was renowned for his expertise in non-invasive investigation of archaeological sites.

His involvement with the country began in 2002 during his research into Sri Ksetra, an ancient Pyu city. From 2012 to 2020, he worked closely with researchers from the Department

of Archaeology and National Museum on various projects, including mapping geographic information systems, excavation, preservation, and documentation of archaeological data on Sri Ksetra, Beikthano, Hanlin, Bagan, and MraukU. The Italian government and UNESCO sponsored these projects.

Mr Cucarzi played a vital role in establishing the laboratory at the Field School of Archaeology and provided invaluable support in educating archaeological staff in both academic and managerial aspects. He advised the department to initiate the establishment of the school.

Mr Cucarzi continued to collaborate with the department until his passing. — ASH/NT



Mr Mauro Cucarzi and Myanmar archaeologists at work.

NATIONAL

Venerable Maha Bodhi Myaing Sayadaw passes away



Maha Bodhi Myaing Sayadaw.

MAHA Bodhi Myaing Sayadaw passed away at 1:10 pm on 30 April at Nayyadham Monastery in Kanbalu Township, according to statements from the monk's disciples.

The monk started to develop a fever on 29 April at his monastery and died of kidney disease on 30 April after being treated by doctors. He was 83 years old and 45 Vasa when he passed away.

He was born to U Ba San and Daw May in Mingon Village, Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region, on the first waning day of Waso in 1303 ME. His name is Maung Nyein Maung.

His mother managed his first novice ceremony at the monastery in Mingon Village on the 6th waning day of Tabodwe, 1317 ME. He attained his monkhood on the first waning of Waso 1323 ME at the same monastery.

In 1319 ME, he passed the government's first junior class at Shwebo Wailuwun Pali University. In 1321 ME, he came to study at Mawlamyine Seinmama Pali University, where he passed the government's first intermedi-

ate class. In 1325 ME, he passed the government's intermediate class at Thathanaramthi Pali University in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region.

In 1327, due to the challenges of monastic life, he disrobed and returned to lay life before working as a clerk in a cigar factory in Yangon.

In 1329, he married Daw Sein May from his village and made a living by opening a clothing shop while also operating an indigo production business in Yangon's Thingangyun Township. He engaged in numerous social works and also served as a representative for a political party. Additionally, he held the position of Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

He began his Dhamma journey in 1337 ME, meditating, repairing pagodas, and wandering into the jungles to meditate.

Maha Bodhi Myaing Sayadaw resumed his monkhood on the 12th waning day of Thadingyut, 1341 ME, at the Khemathiwan Monastery in Yangon, before relocating to the jungle on the

4th waning day of Thadingyut, 1341 ME.

He gained fame in the years 1353-54-55 ME during his stay at Latlotetaung Monastery, located in a jungle in Pinyinmana Township (now Nay Pyi Taw), due to rumours that he had powers of levitation.

His remarkable achievements included the management of converting more than 2,000 Lahu and Lishaw ethnic people at Thuwannashan mountain on the full moon day of Tabaung in 1357 ME. He also sent the converted devotees to other townships, including Yangon, to enrich their general knowledge.

The venerable monk practised three principles when choosing a place to reside. He did not reside in a place where the local monks were unhappy, where some local people were thugs practising bribery, relying on cheap popularity and accomplices, or in a place where people made money by abusing the religion. The funeral arrangements for the monk will be announced soon. — TWA/TH

One JV with capital of US\$1 mln approved in Bago Region in April

THE Bago Region Investment Committee (BRIC) gave the green light to one joint venture with an estimated capital of US\$1 million, creating 60 jobs for locals.

Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win emphasized at the meeting that the factories in the designated area of the industrial park are given

priority for investments. He also instructed the officials concerned to coordinate the related departments to ensure smooth licensing procedures and facilitate the operations of the industries.

The labour-intensive businesses such as CMP enterprises and import-substitution businesses with local products

will be prioritized, he said.

Investments in the Bago region primarily flow from the manufacturing business. The BRIC has attracted foreign direct investments of US\$199.015 million and domestic investments of over K81 billion and created a total of 11,597 jobs for locals. — TWA/KK



Bago Region Investment Committee (BRIC) meeting 2/2024 was held on 29 April 2024.



The opening ceremony of the course for marketable mushroom and bamboo production was held on 29 April 2024.

FD initiates 5-day course on marketable mushroom, bamboo production

THE Forest Department has announced the commencement of a five-day course focused on marketable mushroom and bamboo production.

Scheduled from 29 April to 3 May, the course will take place at the AFoCO Regional Education and Training Centre (RETC) in Hmawby township.

Ms Soo Zin Yang, Programme Officer at the AFoCO Secretariat, highlighted the course's objective, aiming to

address the basic needs of forest-dependent communities, enhance local capacity in forest resource conservation, and promote public engagement.

Subject matter experts from the Department of Forestry and relevant universities will conduct the sessions. Twenty-four participants from Nay Pyi Taw, Bago region, Magway region, Mon state, Yangon region, and Ayeyawady region are attending the course. — TWA/TRKM

Niger seed sees good transactions in Mandalay market



The photo captures a panoramic view of a flourishing Niger seed plantation.

THE Niger seed in Mandalay market fetches good prices, and the transactions are in good condition, according to Mandalay bean merchants.

India is the largest purchaser of the Niger seed, whereas China is the second largest. Currently, 45 visses (three baskets) are priced at K220,000, and the production rate is fine during the fine weather.

“There are local and foreign demands. Some grind the seed and use it as cooking oil in snack manufacturing businesses. In foreign countries, they produce cooking oil for consumption and cosmetic and medicine production. Therefore, Shan farmers expanded their plantations as their

staple crops to earn income. The price is higher than last year,” said U Soe Win Myint, owner of Soe Win Myint wholesale centre in Mandalay.

The Niger seed can be planted as a winter crop just in one season per year. It earns foreign income and grows well only in hilly regions. They are mainly grown in northern Shan State, hilly areas, Kayah State, Kachin State and the upper part of Sagaing Region. In December, the yellow Niger seed plantations can be seen in northern and southern parts of Shan State as a picturesque painting with the Shan hills. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/KTZH

Consumer Affairs Dept warns entrepreneurs of mandatory labelling



A shopper browsing the brand of the edible oil at the shopping mall.

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce announced legal action against entrepreneurs who fail to comply with product labelling directives on cooking oil under the existing laws.

All the edible oil companies and manufacturers have to provide labels in the Myanmar Language or both Myanmar and another one, as per Notification 2/2019 of the Myanmar Consumer Protection Commission released on 3 December 2019.

Types of goods, size, quantity, net volume, and instructions on how to store the product are required to be mentioned on the label, including Myanmar’s standard measurement (viss and

ticals) in Myanmar’s language.

The Ministry of Commerce also released a directive (1/2021) on 20 December 2021 regarding the labelling requirements of vegetable oil and cooking oil.

In a bid to ensure food safety and quality, the edible oil distributed in the market must have the label in the Myanmar language, with net size and volume with Myanmar standard measurement units, such as viss and tical and types of goods. The companies must provide enough information to identify the goods.

Those who violate those directives will face legal action under the Law, the Consumer Affairs Department warned. — NN/EM

Myanmar Port Authority: 52 container vessels scheduled to call in May

A total of 52 container vessels will dock at the Yangon Port in May 2024, the Myanmar Port Authority announced.

In May, seven container vessels run by Maersk A/S Line, six each by Cosco Shipping Line and Samudera Shipping Line, five each by MSC Line and SITC Shipping Line, four by Ti2 Container Line, three each by BLPL Shipping Line, CMA CGM Line, ONE Line and RCL Line, two each by Evergreen Line, IAL Shipping Line and PIL Line are slated to enter the Yangon Port.

Myanmar Port Authority stated that 49 vessels in January, 53 in February, 55 in March

and 50 in April arrived at the Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled 629 container vessels in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanmar Port Authority’s statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River had been found, the draft extension work was accelerated. Afterwards, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel (185.99 metres LOA, 35.25 m Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU)

Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

Since May 2021, the arrival of ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run in 2021.

Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 meters, the larger ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/EM



An aerial view of Yangon Port along the Yangon River, set against the backdrop of the city skyline.

OPINION

Enhance socioeconomic life of workers

INTERNATIONAL Workers' Day, also known as May Day, is an annual celebration of labourers and the working classes promoted by the international labour movement. Observed every year on 1 May or the first Monday in May, it is a national public holiday in many countries, often named "International Workers' Day" or something similar.

While some countries, like the United States and Canada, celebrate Labour Day on different dates, such as the first Monday of September in 2024, the focus is on "Social Justice and Decent Work for All", highlighting the fundamental principles of fairness, equality, and dignity in the workplace.

Workers are the backbone of productivity, dedicating themselves to enhancing production in their respective workplaces. They contribute greatly to the state, society, and businesses, often without adequate emphasis on their own interests. Therefore, it is imperative to prioritize the enhancement of their capacity and interests to honour their relentless efforts in the workplace.

Myanmar's Constitution (2008) underscores the importance of protecting workers' rights. Section 24 of the Constitution states that "The Union shall enact necessary laws to protect the rights of workers", while Section 31 declares that "The Union shall, to the extent possible, assist in reducing unemployment among the people".

The government of Myanmar is actively involved in various initiatives aimed at enhancing the socioeconomic status of its workers. These initiatives include support for domestic manufacturing, transforming the country from an importer to an exporter; improving the basic education sector to produce qualified human resources, providing vocational training in rural areas, and promoting the sustainable development of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to create jobs and improve the lives of its people.

To address the issues and difficulties faced by Myanmar workers abroad, the government has appointed labour attachés at relevant Myanmar embassies in countries like Thailand, Malaysia, and the Republic of Korea. By doing so, the government ensures that Myanmar workers receive the entitlements they deserve, both at home and abroad.

It is now more crucial than ever to improve the socioeconomic status of workers in Myanmar. These workers, who have sacrificed their lives and blood for the nation, deserve to enjoy the fruits of equality, liberty, and justice in their workplaces. Only when workers can focus solely on their work without worrying about basic family needs such as food, clothing, and shelter can they fully dedicate themselves to the development of their workplaces and enhance production.

It is now more crucial than ever to improve the socioeconomic status of workers in Myanmar. These workers, who have sacrificed their lives and blood for the nation, deserve to enjoy the fruits of equality, liberty, and justice in their workplaces. Only when workers can focus solely on their work without worrying about basic family needs such as food, clothing, and shelter can they fully dedicate themselves to the development of their workplaces and enhance production.

EPISODE:33

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

THIS episode continues the narrative from the previous instalment, Episode 32, delving into the northern extension of the gold field in the Wuntho District of Upper Myanmar. Furthermore, it offers insights into ongoing gold explorations carried out by both local and foreign companies in collaboration with the Mining Enterprise (2).

Preliminary Report on the Auriferous Tract in the Wuntho District in Burma

The Wuntho District in Sagaing Division has been renowned for its gold deposits since 1899, encompassing the gold fields of Bamauk, Kawlin, and Pinlebu. The Kyaukpazat primary gold mine, situated 26 miles north of Wuntho and 11 miles from Namhkam, the nearest railway station, holds the distinction of being Myanmar's first gold mine.

In 1995, Ivanhoe Myanmar Holdings, Ltd secured the Kyaukpazat gold block through a bidding process facilitated by the Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration under the Ministry of Mines. The company conducted extensive exploration in Kyaukpazat and its environs, including drilling operations. Unfortunately, Ivanhoe eventually abandoned the Kyaukpazat prospect due to unfavourable economic outcomes. During this exploration phase, I served as the secretary of the Joint Coordination Committee between DGSE and Ivanhoe, overseeing the progress and outcomes of the Joint Venture company. However, I did not have the opportunity to visit the Wuntho Kyaukpazat mines area during my tenure with DGSE.

Following my early retirement in 2005, I was appointed as a consultant geologist by Ruby Dragon Mining Co, the proprietor of the Kyaukpazat gold field. I was fortunate to work at this renowned gold mine and explore other promising prospects. Despite the abandonment of the old Kyaukpazat mine, which had collapsed in some parts of the tunnel and shafts, my studies led me to believe that there may still be remaining economic ore reserves in the surrounding areas.

During Ivanhoe's tenure, a significant number of drill holes were sunk based on previous records, but they failed to interest gold-bearing quartz veins of economic significance. Similarly, during my tenure with Ruby Dragon, we encountered challenges due to the brittle nature of the highly pyritic gold-bearing quartz veins, which varied in thickness from 0.3m to 3m. The rapid passage of quartz vein fragments often led to drillers' oversight, potentially contributing to Ivanhoe's decision to abandon the prospects.

Under Ruby Dragon Company's management during my tenure, three producing mines with high-grade gold were operational. It became evident that gold prospects were associated with Tertiary consolidated and well-stratified tuffs and breccias of andesitic character, occasionally intruded by quartz-diorite. While the veins were intermittently clean, they were typically well mineralized, containing five per cent chalcocopyrite, pyrite, galena, and franklinite. Altaite, a relatively rare telluride of lead, served as a favourable indicator of gold presence (Chhibber, 1934). Remarkably, during my tenure with Ruby Dragon, the average monthly gold production ranged between 13.04 kilogrammes and 16.30 kilogrammes.

During my tenure as Project Manager at Care Mineral Corp. of Switzerland from 2006 to 2012, I spearheaded gold and copper exploration efforts in Legyin and Khanpat gold prospects, both of which are situated as northern extensions of the Kyaukpazat gold deposits. Subsequently, as a consultant geologist with KBZ Power Mining Co from 2012 to 2014, I furthered exploration activities in the Khonan prospect. Despite the geological and mineralization similarities shared with Kyaukpazat, Care Mineral Corp faced several obstacles preventing progression to the production stage. Similarly, KBZ Power Mining encountered challenges in acquiring the Khonan Prospects, which constitute the northern extremity of the Kyaukpazat gold deposit, largely due to complex policy issues.

Regarding the auriferous tract in the Wuntho District in Burma, mining specialist G. A. Stonier of the Geological Survey of India documented the Kyaukpazat and Legyin gold deposits in 1899-1900. His report provided significant insights, which can be summarized as follows:

During the field season of 1899 to 1900, I was engaged in investigating the conditions under which minerals (particularly gold) occur in the district bounded by Bamauk on the north, Kawlin on the south, Seu on the east, and Pinlebu on the west. I have done as much original prospecting as was possible during the time at my disposal, but the work was seriously impeded by the desire for skilled labour to carry out ordinary methods of prospecting, such as those adopted in America and Australia.

During the month of February, I was employed in detailed prospecting work, a close study of the Choukpazat (Kyaukpazat) lode (underground and on the surface), and the survey of



Pyritic gold-bearing quartz veins at Khonan Prospect. PHOTO BY THAN HTUN, 2012

several traverses which were necessary on account of the incomplete character of the plans supplied to me.

Choukpazat

Burmans discovered the Choukpazat reef, and they worked the outcrop to a depth of 8 to 10 feet. Mr C M P Wright, who was prospecting in the neighbourhood in 1894, came to these old excavations, and after a series of tests, he discovered the shoot of gold and commenced to sink upon the reef. To illustrate the difficulties connected with the preliminary proceedings, it may be mentioned that, at one time, the strike of the vein was believed to be north and south, and it was only by a considerable amount of work that the direction was found to be E 30° N, and the underlying to be S 30° E at 62°. The vein has been proved to a depth of 420 feet, though all the slopes are above the 310 feet level. The length of the vein is 240 feet, and the richest part of the deposit has been found midway between the northeastern and southwestern boundaries. The thickness varies from two inches to ten feet and averages about three feet six inches. The veinstone contains 14 dwts of gold to the ton of stone and consists chiefly of compact quartz, generally white in colour, but in places banded with black streaks which are roughly parallel with the walls of the vein and show very clearly by candlelight in the mine. The quartz varies considerably in character and below the 310 feet level is associated with calcite: in places, it is devoid of an accompanying mineral, but in other parts of the vein, there is so much galena, copper pyrites, and iron pyrites present that the ore has the appearance of a complex copper ore.

The free gold is fine, irregular in occurrence, and is most abundant where altaite (telluride of lead, tin-white in colour) is present: it is frequently associated with copper pyrites and is visible at the 310-foot level. Unless the character of the stone is known, a heap of milling ore may be examined without a single "specimen" being discovered; under the circumstances, it is needless to add that miners do not steal specimens.

The footwall and hanging wall are sometimes well-defined, and the latter is polished and occasionally striated. "Horses" (i.e., included country) are of common occurrence and have been found to carry payable gold. "Breaks" are met with in the footwall and less frequently in the hanging wall.

The vein is cut off on the southwestern end by intrusive felsite(?), a description of which must await microscopic examination. The vein thins as it approaches this rock and passes into a small mullocky vein at the junction of the intrusive and intruded rocks. At the northeastern

end, the lodestuff appears to be cut off at the outcrop by a fault, but in the Main Adit (94 feet level) there is no sign of a fault, and the vein gradually thins until it cannot be traced even as a division-plane traversing the country. Below the Main Adit, the levels have not been extended in a north-easterly direction from the main shaft, which latter is wholly in ore. It is of considerable importance that the mine should be proved, not only in-depth but also in the horizontal direction indicated.

Attempts to trace the extension of the view beyond the auriferous shoots have failed both in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction.

Specimens sent by Mr Wright from the hanging wall at the 310-foot level have been examined by Messrs. Middlemiss and Holland, both of whom report it to be a "pyroxene". I think that both the hanging wall and footwall belong to the series, which is the tuffs, a series largely developed in the district. The rocks have the general appearance of sediments, although it was impossible to obtain evidence of their sedimentary origin – the sections are poor. In some respects, the rocks resemble a thick series of tuffs, breccias, etc., of Devonian age, which I discovered at Bingera (New South Wales). In the absence of paleontological evidence, I should consider the Choukpazat rocks to be as old as the Australian beds referred to.

Within 75 yards of the outcrop of the Choukpazat vein, intrusive diorite has been found: a specimen, selected by me, has been examined microscopically by Mr T H Holland. This rock can be traced northerly along the Choukpazat Stream, where it is found at intervals of a distance of one mile.

A mass of diorite occurs at Shinthia, four miles north of Choukpazat village, and appears to be on the same line of disturbance. Taking into consideration the wavy line of junction, the occasional (perhaps even frequent) alteration of the tuffs at the junction, and the thin tongues of diorite penetrating the tuffs, there is no room for doubt that the diorite is of a later age and intrusive into the tuffs.

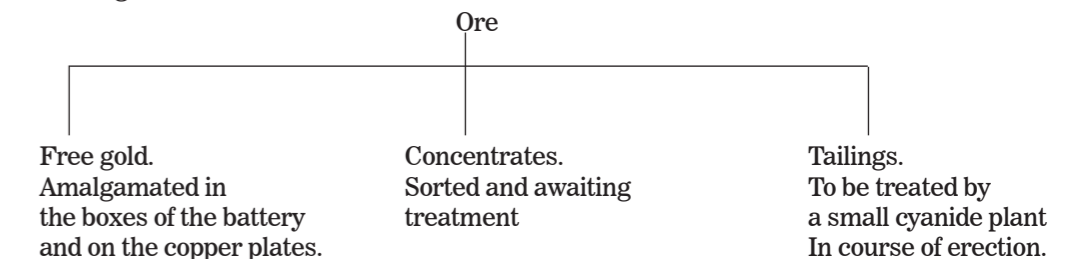
The evidence for the relation of the felsite to the tuffs is not as satisfactory but is, I think, sufficient to establish the intrusive character of the felsite. At about one mile south of Choukpazat village, a good section is seen: porcellanites rest vertically on felsite, which is indistinctly schistose in places.

The mode of occurrence of the quartz and its association with calcite show that the quartz, occurring in the vein, is not interbedded but is younger than the enclosing rocks and has been deposited from solution. The question will be more fully dealt with in a subsequent report.

Half a mile in a northerly direction, a quartz reef (parallel to and in the same country as the Choukpazat vein) has been discovered but has not been prospected.

Nine hundred yards to the north-north-east, two quartz veins have been found. One, known as the Peregrine, has been cut by an adit 136 feet long, and a level is being driven N. 10° W. in a direction along the vein which varies from 12 to 16 inches in thickness: a quantity of ore has been raised, and awaits treatment. Seventy yards west-north-west of the Peregrine adit, a vein known as the Masheeboo has been cut in a level driven 24 feet S. 51° E. and N. 51° W. from an adit ninety-five feet long. The reef is seen only at the western end of the level and varies from an inch to a foot in thickness. A parcel of ore is being raised.

The mill is situated on the Nevalabo Choung, one mile north-west of Choukpazat village, and consists of a ten head stamps battery (750lbs. stamps, 7-inch drop, 92 blows per minute, .02-inch screens) with ordinary amalgamated copper plates and two small shaking tables: nine dwts. of gold per ton are obtained by amalgamation. Concentrates are collected on two Frue Vanners and are being stored with a view to the erection of a suitable plant for their treatment. The tailings contain 3 dwts. of gold per ton: a small cyanide plant is being erected to deal with them. The following table illustrates the method: -



SEE PAGE-12

NATIONAL

School essentials sale begins increasing



Schoolchildren seen trying to wear uniforms at a school uniform shop.

SALES of school accessories have begun rising again and orders have also mounted in Yangon market this month.

Schools will be reopening soon and school accessories such as backpacks, bags, school uniforms, trousers, dresses, loggys and blouses have been selling steadily since the beginning of April, and currently, there are orders from other regions and states, said Ma Yin Nan who sells school accessories.

“The green-coloured textile sale has re-surged as of early April. At present, rather than

Yangon customers, we have received orders from customers in other regions and states. They order from Yangon and resell in their towns and also distribute to others from different towns. They buy from Yangon to stock goods before the school season resumes and before prices go up,” she said.

Depending on size, a white short-sleeved Arrow brand shirt made of tetron fabric costs from more than K4,000 to K5,000 and trousers (short and long) from around K4,000 to K5,000. Dress prices vary depending

on size. A-grade shankhan green-coloured textile price is K5,000 a yard and yaygepoe is K6,500 a yard.

It is expected that demand will be larger in Yangon market in around May, she said.

“Schools are going to resume in June so not only customers outside Yangon but also parents in Yangon will buy the supplies in May. It is a little early in April but demand from Yangon residents will increase next month. Currently, orders from outside-Yangon have been larger,” said a salesperson. — MT/ZS

People over 45 top among heat stroke patients

AMONG heat stroke patients due to high temperatures, there were more people of the age above 45 years old, according to social welfare associations.

With rising temperatures this summer, the number of heat stroke patients is rising and as it can lead to loss of consciousness and death, people should take care of themselves and their families, said Mandalay-based Mani Sala Social Welfare Association.

“Deaths from heat stroke have significantly increased compared to normal days. If a person is 45 years old or above, they suffer more. Under rising temperatures, heat stroke can happen and people should take special care,” said the information section of the Social Welfare Association (Mandalay)

An official from a Yangon-based social association also said that there had been cases of people losing consciousness, dying from haemorrhagic stroke, and being hospitalized due to acute fever, low oxygen levels and oversweating caused by the heat at night.

“As it was very hot in Yangon at night, people suffered from oversweating, low oxygen levels and a sudden rise in body



Mani Sala Social Welfare Association (Mandalay) brings a patient suffering heat exhaustion to the hospital. **PHOTO-MANI SALA SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (MANDALAY)**

temperature. One person was over 50 and another over 30, and they were at home alone. We sent them to Yangon General Hospital. If no one noticed them, they might even die. People with obesity and underlying health problems should take more precautions,” said an official from the Shwegon Yeikmon social association in Bahan Township.

U Hla Tun, Director-General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology said that the temperatures in central Myanmar and delta areas could increase slightly by about one degree on 28 and 29 April. — MT/ZN

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

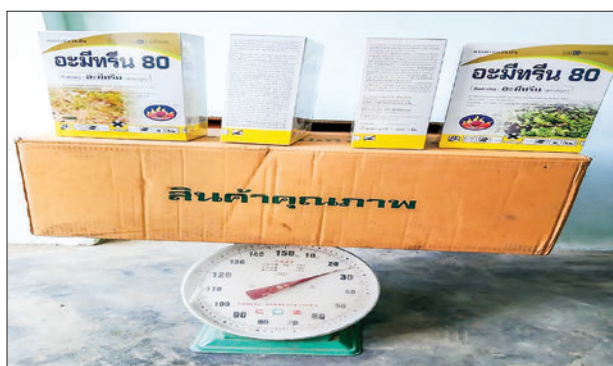
BETWEEN 26 and 29 April, combined law enforcement teams conducted several operations to combat illegal activities in different regions.

On 26 April, an unregistered Honda Fit vehicle, valued at approximately K500,000, was intercepted at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Kanphya village in Magway township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Over the next few days, further illegal activities were uncovered. In Thaboung and Nyaungdon townships, on-duty teams seized illegal timbers weighing 37.796 tonnes, valued at K21.959 million. Additionally, at



Seized illegally imported commodities.



the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint, a Toyota HiAce mini bus, estimated at K35 million, was apprehended while transporting 242 kilogrammes of bracelets suspected to be made of jade, worth K7.744 million, without

official documents. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

On 28 April, combined teams confiscated a Yutong bus, valued at K40 million, travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon. The bus

was carrying goods worth K17.75 million, including 1,440 boxes of Quick instant noodles without official documents, at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. Customs procedures were followed in this operation.

Subsequently, on 29 April, a Honda Click-125 motorbike, worth K2.8 million, was seized in Kawthoung township. Additionally, authorities intercepted 96,310 kilogrammes of illegal lead, valued at over K2.889 billion, from a Padamya-21 wooden boat near Mali island in Kyunshu township of Myeik district. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and the Myanmar Mines Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 12 arrests were made over the four consecutive days, from 26 to 29 April, with an estimated value of over K3 billion. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

250 MoU workers sent to Thailand by air for first time

AS the first batch, about 250 MoU workers were sent to Thailand by air, according to the Myanmar Labour Attache Office in Thailand.

Myanmar agencies- Hein Myint Myat Company Limited, Human Wave Company Limited, Moon Bean Services Company Limited, Yun Nadi Oo Company Limited, Htoo Thit Zae Company Limited, An Emissary for Myanmar Employer Agency Company Limited and Pwint Phoo Aung Company Limited provided the first batch sending of new Myanmar MoU workers by air.

In this batch, 116 male work-

ers and 130 female workers, totalling 246, were included, and they arrived at Don Mueang Airport from Yangon Airport by MAI and Air Asia Airlines.

Myanmar labour attaché and director U Myo Min Aung, Don Meaung Airport officials, the deputy director-general from Thailand Department of Employment (DoE), Thailand agency and Myanmar agency welcomed the workers and provided health tests, visa and work permit service and education about their workplaces, the labour attaché office said in a statement.

In the past, Myanmar work-

ers were despatched to Thailand through the Yangon-Myawady route and Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong route, which made them tired, and because of it, officials of the two countries made an agreement on using air travel through negotiations, said an official from MOEAF.

“Air travel is used for despatch of workers to other countries, except Thailand. So, sending them through border routes exhausted them because, geographically, the land is quite wide. For example, it takes overnight to go to Yangon from Rakhine, overnight again from



Myanmar MoU workers were sent to Thailand by air for the first time. **PHOTO- MYANMAR LABOUR ATTACHE OFFICE**

Yangon to Myawady, and from there, it takes overnight again to go to Mae Sot, so they have to spend three nights along the journey. But they can arrive with-

in a short time by plane, and the tiresome journey will be eased. For it, the two countries had negotiations and now reached agreement,” he said. — MT/ZS

421 EPS Myanmar workers sent to ROK on E-9 visas in April



Arrival of 179 new manufacturing workers sent by POEA to the Republic of Korea under the EPS system at Incheon airport on 30 April. **PHOTO-MYANMAR EMBASSY, SEOUL**

THROUGH the government's Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), another 421 new workers were sent to the Republic of Korea in April, according to the Myanmar Embassy in the Republic of Korea.

A total of 179 Myanmar workers, including 173 new manufacturing workers and six new construction workers, arrived at Incheon International Airport on 30 April via Myanmar National Airlines UB 8301 (charter flight) from Yangon. Labour attaché from the Myanmar Embassy in

Seoul welcomed the workers upon their arrival at Incheon, instructed them on what they needed to know and follow, and provided them with necessary assistance.

Moreover, 193 Myanmar workers, including 172 new manufacturing workers and 21 new construction workers, arrived at Incheon International Airport on Myanmar National Airlines UB 8301 (charter flight) from Yangon on 9 April.

According to the embassy, 1,333 EPS workers and 862 EPS workers on E-9 visas were sent to the Republic of

Korea in February and March, respectively, including new workers for agriculture, livestock breeding, construction and manufacturing sectors.

The recruitment of Myanmar workers in the Republic of Korea's service sector will be extended to both men and women in the 16th TOPIK Test, the 7th marking employment system which will be held in 2024, and this first-time recruitment of women who have passed the matriculation exam has attracted a lot of interest, according to the training schools. — MT/ZN

K15.2 mln donated to assist 38 kidney dialysis patients

WITH the contribution of donors, Pynmana Sangha Hospital provided more than K15.2 million for 38 patients who need financial aid to undergo kidney dialysis in March 2024, said medical superintendent Dr Than Min Htut.

The hospital's renal department provided kidney dialysis 577 times to 92 patients in February. Of them, 38 patients who have financial difficulty have tried to continue providing free dialysis with the help of donors, Dr Than Min Htut said on his Facebook page.

“Significantly, we could provide free dialysis for patients with K5 million donated by a gold and diamond jewellery shop in Pynmana,” he said.

Depending on stages of the disease, kidney patients need to have dialysis; some need eight times a month, and some need six times a month, each time costing K55,000 for medicines only; the monthly cost is K330,000 for a patient who needs six times and K440,000 for a patient who needs eight times, he said.

“If dialysis is stopped as they don't have money, patients can't urinate and very hard to breathe, and finally, they arrive again at the hospital. Each dialysis costs K55,000, but when it takes longer,

they begin to struggle financially. It happens to all kidney patients. That is why I always encourage my donors to donate kidney patients when they ask what donation they should do,” he said.

For kidney dialysis machine maintenance, K1 million was donated by the family of deceased singer U Min Naung and his wife, singer Daw Yi Lay, and other donors are listed too.

Pynmana Sangha Hospital provided medical treatment to 5877 monks, 937 nuns and 500 poor lay people, totalling 7,314 patients in the entire year of 2023. From January to March 2024, a total of 1,870 patients, including 1,554 monks, 197 nuns and 119 poor lay people, received medical treatment at the hospital.

In 2023, free medical treatment worth K299.4 million was provided to a total of 7314 patients and over three months from January to March 2024, free medical treatment worth more than K90.9 million was provided to 1870 patients.

These included patients undergoing surgery, cancer patients and stroke patients included.

Besides, the hospital also provides door-to-door healthcare services for old monks. — MT/ZS

ECONOMY

WORLD/ARTICLE

Eurozone stocks sag on strong euro as region exits recession



An electronic board displays the exchange rate for the Japanese yen against the US dollar in Tokyo on 30 April 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

EUROZONE equities sagged Tuesday, weighed down by the strong euro as investors digested bright economic news, while London hit another record peak on earnings-driven optimism.

Frankfurt and Paris stocks retreated but the euro jumped

against the dollar, as figures showed the eurozone economy emerged from recession in the first quarter with inflation under control.

London meanwhile zoomed to yet another record peak at 8,195.96 points, with HSBC soar-

ing almost five per cent on a bumper stock buyback despite sliding first-quarter profits and the exit of its chief executive.

Eurozone gross domestic product grew by a stronger-than-expected 0.3 per cent in the first three months of 2024 compared to the prior quarter, having slid into a shallow recession in the second half of last year, official data showed. Annual inflation held at 2.4 per cent in April from the previous month. The figures are unlikely to stop the European Central Bank from cutting interest rates in June, according to economists.

The US Federal Reserve is predicted to stand pat on rates after meeting on Wednesday, but its statement and boss Jerome Powell's comments will be pored over for clues about the outlook. — AFP

Asia-Pacific economy to grow at 4.5% in 2024: IMF

THE growth in the Asia-Pacific region will moderate to 4.5 per cent this year from the outperformed five per cent in 2023, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its "Regional Economic Outlook Asia and Pacific" launched in Singapore Tuesday.

Asia-Pacific is expected to remain the most dynamic region across the world, contributing about 60 per cent of global growth in 2024, the report noted.

The region embraces diverse growth drivers, from resilient domestic consumption in most ASEAN countries to a sharp uptick in tourism in the Pacific Island countries, IMF said. Near-term risks are now broadly balanced. Retreating inflation and the prospect of earlier monetary easing have increased the likelihood of a soft landing, IMF said. Stronger-than-expected growth in Europe and the United States will bring

growth to Asia's exporters while increased geo-economic fragmentation and geopolitical tensions continue to pose serious downside risks to medium-term growth in the region, it added. Central banks should ensure that inflation returns smoothly to target, and policymakers should avoid making decisions overly dependent on anticipated interest rate moves by the Federal Reserve, IMF noted. — Xinhua

NEWS DIGEST ECON

Viet Nam's retail, service revenues up 9% in April, largely contributed by tourism

VIET Nam's total goods retail sales and consumer service revenues increased by nine per cent year-on-year in April to 522.1 trillion Vietnamese dong (21.4 billion US dollars) thanks to the contribution of the tourism sector, according to the latest statistics of the General Statistics Office. In April, the tourism revenues increased by 57.6 per cent compared to the same period last year, according to the office. During the January-April period, Viet Nam's tourism revenues stood at 19.4 trillion Vietnamese dong (765.4 million US dollars), up 49.3 per cent year on year.

Khanh Hoa, Da Nang, Binh Dinh and Ho Chi Minh City reported the highest revenues in four months. — Xinhua

Foreigner hotel stays in Japan surges 68% to record high in March

OVERNIGHT stays at accommodation facilities in Japan by foreigners jumped 68.2 per cent in March from a year earlier to about 12.70 million, the highest monthly figure on the back of a weaker yen, preliminary government data showed Tuesday.

The latest number exceeded the previous single-month high for overnight stays by foreigners of around 12.30 million in December 2023, according to the Japan Tourism Association.

Overnight stays by all guests including Japanese travelers also rose 8.2 per cent from a year earlier to around 54.86 million in the reporting month, the data showed.

The total figure represents a 7.2 per cent increase from March 2019 before hotel operators were affected by the outbreak of COVID-19, with Japanese and foreign guests rising 1.3 per cent and 33.4 per cent, respectively, according to the data. — Kyodo

French economy up by 0.2% in Q1 2024, better than expected: statistics

THE gross domestic product (GDP) of France increased by 0.2 per cent year on year in the first quarter of this year, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies.

The quarterly growth is slightly better than expected, following an increase of 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Final domestic demand (excluding inventories), such as household consumption and gross fixed capital formation, bounced back and contributed positively to the GDP growth. But foreign trade's contribution to GDP growth fell to zero while inventory changes made a negative contribution to GDP growth once again. — Xinhua

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to ...

FROM PAGE-9

There is no doubt that free gold will be found in the auriferous shoots at greater depths than 420 feet, to which the Choukpazat vein has been proved. This feature is important because it means that a fair percentage of the gold in most of the workable lodes can be extracted with the aid of simple machinery. Only one complete plant is necessary for the district, and the concen-

trates from the smaller mines could be sold on assay value to the owners of the larger plant. There has not been as favourable an opportunity as the present for the development of small mines: a comparatively small addition would make the Choukpazat plant suitable for the purpose indicated.

Legyin

Eleven miles north of

Choukpazat, an area is being prospected for by Mr N Lazarus. Several quartz veins have been discovered, and a level of thirty-four feet in length has been driven along a reef bearing northwest and heading 10 degrees to the southwest. The reef varies from 15 inches to two feet in width, is well defined and worthy of exploitation. The other veins referred to have not been prospected. Legyin was a base

camp of Care Minerals Corp. during 2005 and 2006.

Conclusions

The two properties described in this report are the only places where work is in progress, and as will be seen from my remarks, only one payable vein has been found to date.

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BIZ NEWS BRIEFS

Singapore records lower employment growth in Q1

TOTAL employment in Singapore grew by 4,900 in the first quarter this year, down from 7,500 in the previous quarter, according to the labour market data released by the Ministry of Manpower Tuesday.

The growth came entirely from Singapore citizens and permanent residents, mainly in financial services, health services, public administration, and education. Non-resident employment fell for the first time in the city-state since the fourth quarter of 2021 due to a decline in the construction sector. Retrenchments fell for the second consecutive quarter to 3,000 in the first quarter this year from 3,460 in the previous quarter.

The number of employed persons in Singapore totalled 3,718,300 as of March, except for migrant domestic workers, according to the data.

The overall unemployment rate grew slightly in March to 2.1 per cent from 2.0 per cent in 2023. — Xinhua

Volkswagen profits fall in 'slow start to year'

VOLKSWAGEN reported Tuesday a more than 20-per-cent fall in first-quarter profits as sales slipped but stuck to its 2024 targets, insisting new models will provide a boost.

The 10-brand German auto giant made a net profit of 3.7 billion euros (\$4.0 billion) from January to March on sales of 75.5 billion euros.

"Our first quarter results show a slow start to the year," said Arno Antlitz, VW's chief financial officer. Volkswagen's sales fell two per cent in the first quarter, with increases in Asia-Pacific and South America offset by declines in Europe and North America. Deliveries of its less expensive — but less profitable — Volkswagen, Skoda and Seat cars increased. But deliveries of pricier Porsche and Audi models fell. — AFP

Japan job availability down to 1.29 in FY 2023, 1st fall in 3 yrs

JAPAN'S job availability ratio for fiscal 2023 fell 0.02 point to 1.29 from the previous year, marking its first decline in three years, government data showed Tuesday, as companies reduced their recruiting practices amid pressure from rising materials costs. For March, the job availability ratio was up 0.02 point from February to 1.28, meaning there were 128 jobs available for every 100 job seekers, figures from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare showed.

The monthly rise was attributed to fewer people looking for new jobs as they anticipate pay rises in their current positions. Major firms awarded their highest salary increases in 33 years during the latest "shunto" spring wage negotiations this year. — Kyodo

Microsoft CEO pledges \$1.7 bln AI, cloud investment in Indonesia

MICROSOFT'S chief executive officer pledged a \$1.7 billion investment in artificial intelligence and cloud computing to help develop Indonesia's AI infrastructure after a meeting with the archipelago's president on Tuesday. Indonesia is Southeast Asia's biggest economy and has a population of around 280 million across its sprawling archipelago, with a growing demand for data centres and AI tech in the region.

Satya Nadella held talks with President Joko Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, at Jakarta's presidential palace before delivering a keynote speech about AI in the Indonesian capital. "The thing I am really excited to announce today is the expanded announcement of data centre investment, so \$1.7 billion to bring the latest and greatest AI infrastructure to Indonesia," Nadella told a crowd, adding data centres would be built in Indonesia soon.



This handout picture taken and released on 30 April 2024 by Indonesia's presidential palace shows Indonesian President Joko Widodo (R) talking with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella at the Merdeka Palace in Jakarta. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / INDONESIA'S PRESIDENTIAL PALACE / AFP**

"We are going to lead this wave in terms of the next generation of AI infrastructure that's needed," he said. "Our mission ultimately is to empower every person and every organization

in Indonesia to take advantage of this next big AI wave."

He said the tech giant would provide AI training for hundreds of thousands of Indonesians. — AFP

German economy grows in first quarter, dodges recession

THE German economy expanded marginally between January and March, official figures published Tuesday showed, dodging a recession after a weak end to 2023.

Output rose by 0.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2024 in comparison with the previous three months, federal statistics agency Destatis said in preliminary figures.

Europe's largest economy shrank 0.5 per

cent in the fourth quarter of 2023, Destatis said.

The revised figure was worse than its previous estimate that GDP fell by 0.3 per cent in the quarter.

The statistics agency however revised its estimates for the whole of 2023 up, suggesting the German economy contracted only 0.2 per cent over the year instead of 0.3 per cent. — AFP

Samsung says Q1 operating profits soar nearly tenfold YoY



People walk past the Samsung logo displayed on a glass door at the company's Seocho building in Seoul on 30 April 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAMSUNG Electronics said Tuesday that its first-quarter operating profits had risen nearly tenfold year on year amid recovering chip prices and growing demand, notably for generative AI.

The firm is the flagship subsidiary of South Korean giant Samsung Group, by far the largest of the family-controlled conglomerates that dominate business in Asia's fourth-largest economy. "Operating profit increased to KRW 6.61 trillion (\$4.85 billion) as the Memory Business returned to profit by addressing

demand for high value-added products," it said in a statement.

Strong smartphone sales, higher prices for semiconductors plus a focus on high-value-added products including HBM — the high-bandwidth memory used in AI hardware — were key to the strong performance, it said.

"Looking ahead to the second quarter, the industry is expected to remain solid, led mainly by demand for generative AI," the company added.

Sales were up 12.8 per cent year on year to 71.9 trillion won,

the company said.

"Demand for on device AIs and high resolution features continues to drive our production," said Tommy Kwon, vice-president of Samsung's system LSI business, on an earnings conference call. The weakness of the Korean won — down nearly seven per cent against the US dollar so far this year — "resulted in a positive impact on company-wide operating profit of about KRW 0.3 trillion compared to the previous quarter," Samsung added. — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Indonesia volcano erupts, thousands evacuated over tsunami threat

INDONESIA'S remote Mount Ruang volcano erupted several times on Tuesday, authorities said, issuing the highest level of alert and ordering thousands of people to evacuate due to the threat of a tsunami from debris sliding into the sea.

The country's volcanology agency had warned the threat from the volcano was not over after it erupted more than half a dozen times this month, sparking the evacuation of more than 6,000 people.

Ruang, located in Indonesia's North Sulawesi province, erupted at around 01:15 am local time on Tuesday (1715 GMT Monday) and then twice more that morning, the volcanology agency said in a statement.

The volcano sent a tower of ash more than five kilometres (3.1 miles) into the sky, it added, as well as a fiery column of lava.

The national disaster agency BNPB estimated 11,000



An eruption from Mount Ruang volcano is seen from Tagulandang island in Sitaro, North Sulawesi, on 30 April 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

to 12,000 people had to be relocated from near Ruang's crater, spokesman Abdul Muhari

told a press conference. "Currently local disaster mitigation agency... military

and police are evacuating residents," he said.

Images released by the

agency showed a molten red column bursting into the sky, a large ash cloud spilling from the crater and burning embers near local houses.

The disaster agency imposed a seven-kilometre exclusion zone around Ruang after volcanology officials warned locals of "the potential for ejections of incandescent rocks, hot clouds and tsunamis due to eruption material entering the sea".

Abdul said a rescue ship and a warship had been dispatched to help move thousands from neighbouring Tagulandang island north to Siau island because of the tsunami warning.

"We urge people in Tagulandang island to stay away from coastal areas, to be on alert for the potential of a tsunami to occur," he said, citing an 1871 wave that killed around 400 people after volcanic debris fell into the sea. — AFP

Bank executive on stand as Trump hush money trial resumes

DONALD Trump's historic criminal trial resumes on Tuesday with testimony from a former executive of the bank used to make a hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels.

Trump is the first US former president to face criminal charges, and his required attendance in court is limiting the 77-year-old's time on the campaign trail less than seven months before his likely election rematch with President Joe Biden.

The Republican is accused of falsifying business records to reimburse his then-lawyer, Michael Cohen, for the \$130,000 funnelled to Daniels just days ahead of the 2016 election against Hillary Clinton.

Daniels, 45, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, was threatening at the time to go public with her story about



Former US President Donald Trump, sitting with attorneys Emil Bove (L) and Todd Blanche (R), attends his trial for allegedly covering up hush money payments linked to extramarital affairs, at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York City on 26 April 2024. **PHOTO: MARK PETERSON / POOL / AFP**

an alleged 2006 sexual encounter with Trump that could have potentially derailed his White House campaign.

Trump denies having sex with Daniels and has used appearances outside the

Manhattan courtroom to rail against his indictment, claiming it is a "witch hunt" brought by Democrats to torpedo the ex-president's bid to recapture the White House in November. — AFP

THE WORLD IN BRIEF

Conflict, natural disasters force over 4.1 mln children out of school in northern Ethiopia: UN

CONFLICT and natural disasters have forced more than 4.1 million children out of school in Ethiopia's Amhara Region, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has disclosed.

More than 4.1 million children are out of school in the Amhara Region due to ongoing clashes, drought, and other compounding factors, the UNOCHA said in an update on Monday. It said the figure represents about 35 per cent of the total number of students in the region for the current academic year. — Xinhua

Media forum in Beijing discusses AI development

FOCUSING on the development of artificial intelligence (AI), the third CMG Forum was held on Monday in Beijing. Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, attended the opening of the event and delivered a speech. Guests at the forum stressed the role of media in promoting the innovative application of AI as well as its governance.

Efforts should also be made to boost the development of AI in creating positive, healthy, diverse and high-quality content, so that AI can become a force for good and benefit mankind, they agreed. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Nadal fitness improves to battle into fourth round in Madrid Open

RAFAEL Nadal continued his return from injury at the Mutua Madrid Open on Monday to qualify for the fourth round with a 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-3 win over world number 91 Pedro Cachin.

After losing the second set in a tie-break, Nadal showed his increased fitness to battle through in the third set to win a marathon match that lasted three hours and four minutes.

In front of a very vocal, sold-out crowd on the Manolo Santana centre court in Madrid, 37-year-old Nadal gave flashes of the tennis that has seen him crowned champions in Madrid on five occasions.

“Let’s see how I feel when I wake up tomorrow, I hope I’ll be OK,” Nadal commented on Spanish TV after his win.

Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev had to dig deep again in Madrid to beat big-serving American Sebastian Korda, who won the first set 7-5 and had Medvedev, who never looks completely comfortable on clay, under pressure at 5-4 up and deuce on the Russian’s serve in the second set.

The Russian held his serve and won the set on a tie-break, before claiming the third set 6-3 in a match that lasted two hours and 22 minutes. — Xinhua



Spain’s Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning against Argentina’s Pedro Cachin during the third round of the 2024 ATP Tour Madrid Open tournament tennis match at Caja Magica in Madrid on 29 April 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

US, Mexico withdraw joint bid for 2027 Women’s World Cup: official



US Soccer President Cindy Parlow Cone speaks during a press conference prior to a match between Inter Miami CF and Atlanta United at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on 16 September 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia. **PHOTO: KEVIN C COX/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

THE United States and Mexico withdrew their joint bid for the 2027 Women’s World Cup on Monday, just weeks before FIFA is due to vote to award the tournament at a meeting in Bangkok.

In a joint statement from the US and Mexico football federations, the two governing bodies said they would now switch focus towards mounting a successful bid for the 2031 tournament.

The shock decision comes as FIFA officials prepare to hold a vote at the global governing body’s Congress in Bangkok on 17 May to decide the 2027 hosts.

The US and Mexico withdrawal leaves two rival bids

for the tournament -- a joint bid from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands and a solo bid from Brazil.

The end of the US-Mexico bid came after FIFA said earlier on Monday that the 2027 tournament hosts would for the first time be decided by an open vote when the FIFA Congress convenes in Thailand next month.

The US had been bidding to stage the women’s football flagship event for the third time after hosting the tournament successfully on its own in 1999 and 2003.

Had the US-Mexico bid for 2027 been successful, it would have meant another large-scale

sporting event taking place in North America in what has become a crowded calendar for the region.

The United States, Mexico and Canada are already gearing up to stage the men’s 2026 World Cup, while Los Angeles is preparing to host the 2028 Olympics. The United States is also due to host next year’s expanded FIFA Club World Cup, and is also staging this year’s 16-team Copa America.

US Soccer said waiting until 2031 would give tournament organizers more breathing space to plan for the tournament while absorbing lessons from the region’s staging of the 2026 men’s World Cup. — AFP

Lewandowski treble fires Barca to Valencia win

ROBERT Lewandowski hit a second-half hat-trick to power Barcelona to an entertaining 4-2 win over 10-man Valencia on Monday in La Liga. The champions’ victory denies leaders Real Madrid the chance to take the crown by simply beating Cadiz next Saturday. Los Blancos are 11 points clear of Barcelona with five matches remaining.

Fermin Lopez sent the hosts ahead before Valencia striker Hugo Duro levelled and Pepelu netted from the spot to turn the game round. Valencia goalkeeper

Giorgi Mamardashvili was sent off late in the first half for handball and Lewandowski equalized soon after the break before adding another two late on. It rained all day in drought-ridden Barcelona and the threat of a soaking left the Olympic Stadium half empty, with an attendance of 30,000.

The small crowd might also have been a response to last weekend’s Clasico defeat, which laid out the red carpet for Real Madrid to whisk away Barcelona’s title, as well as the detested Monday night slot. — AFP



Barcelona’s Polish forward (9) Robert Lewandowski heads the ball and scores during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Valencia CF at the Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys in Barcelona on 29 April 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**



CAUTIOUS hopes were building Tuesday for a Gaza truce and hostage release deal as Hamas said it was studying the latest proposal and US top diplomat Antony Blinken was due to head back to Israel.

The Palestinian militant group whose 7 October attack started the Gaza war said it was considering a plan for a 40-day ceasefire and the release of scores of hostages for larger numbers of Palestinian prisoners.

The Islamist group, whose envoys returned from Cairo talks to their base in Qatar, would “discuss the ideas and the proposal”, said a Hamas source, adding that “we are keen to respond as quickly as possible”.

Sources in Egypt — a key mediator alongside the United States and Qatar — told Al-Qahera News, a site linked to Egyptian intelligence services, that Hamas envoys were due to “return with a written response”.

Washington, Israel’s top ally, has heightened pressure on all sides to reach a ceasefire — a message pushed by Blinken, who was on his seventh Middle East crisis tour since the war broke out.

Blinken, who arrived in Jordan from Saudi Arabia and was later heading to Israel for talks with its leaders on Wednesday, described Israel’s offer as “extraordinarily generous” and urged Hamas to “decide quickly”.

Washington has strongly backed its ally but also pressured it to refrain from a ground invasion of Gaza’s far-southern city of Rafah, which is packed with displaced civilians, and to do more to protect the territory’s 2.4 million people.

Hamas says readying response to Gaza truce offer



Flags of the Palestinian political party Fatah and a poster of its later leader Yasser Arafat, are pictured placed in the debris of a building destroyed during previous Israeli bombardment, in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip on 29 April 2024 amid the ongoing conflict in the Palestinian territory between Israel and the militant group Hamas. **PHOTO: AFP**

President Joe Biden — facing strong criticism abroad and rising fury on US university campuses — urged the Egyptian and Qatari leaders Monday “to exert all efforts to secure the release of hostages

held by Hamas”. Biden called this “the only obstacle” to securing relief for civilians who have been trapped for almost seven months in the bloodiest Gaza war.

Anger about the unprecedented Palestinian suffering has sparked weeks of large-scale protests at universities across the United States and elsewhere, including in France. — AFP

G7 agrees to phase out coal-fired power plants by mid-2030s

G7 energy and climate ministers agreed a time frame Tuesday for phasing out coal-fired power plants that are not equipped to capture emissions in a significant step towards

curbing fossil fuel use.

The Group of Seven two-day meeting in Turin is the first big political session since the world pledged at the UN’s COP28 climate summit in De-

cember to transition away from coal, oil and gas.

The G7 commits to “phase out existing unabated coal power generation in our energy systems during the first half of 2030s”, the final statement read.

However it left some wiggle room, saying nations could follow “a timeline consistent with keeping a limit of 1.5°C temperature rise within reach, in line with countries’ net zero pathways”.

The G7 includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Negotiations over a fixed date were reportedly tricky, with Japan — which relies heavily on coal — reluctant to commit.

The 2015 Paris Agreement

saw countries agree to cap global warming at “well below” 2C above preindustrial times — with a safer limit of 1.5C if possible.

To keep the 1.5C limit in play, the UN’s climate expert panel has said emissions need to be slashed almost in half this decade, but they continue to rise.

France’s Ecological Transition Minister Christophe Bechu said the commitment “shows the determination to implement the transition away from fossil fuels decided at COP28”. Luca Bergamaschi from the Italian climate think tank ECCO said the G7 had taken a “decisive step forward” in translating the Dubai agreement into national policies. — AFP

Kenya floods death toll rises to 169, with more heavy rains expected

HEAVY rains pounding several parts of Kenya and devastating flash floods have left 169 people dead, a government official said.

Government Spokesman Isaac Mwaura confirmed the death toll on Monday evening, saying a dam which burst on Monday morning in the western Kenyan town of Mai Mahiu has killed 48 people and affected scores of others. “We have lost 169 people since the onset of the rains. The government has also intensified search and rescue operations to find persons who have been reported missing,” Mwaura said on national television. — Xinhua



(FILES) A balloon flies above the coal-fired power station ‘Scholven’ in Gelsenkirchen, western Germany, on 10 April 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**