

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar, Thailand forge cooperation in peace and stability, rule of law, counter-terrorism in border

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing and General Kittisak Boonprathamchai of the Royal Thai Army Commander-in-Chief Office frankly exchanged views on further cooperation in peace and stability, rule of law, counter-terrorism, and exchange of information at border areas of both countries.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by General Kittisak Boonprathamchai, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army and Head of the Neighbouring Countries Coordination Centre (NCCC) of Army Operations Centre, at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides continued cordial discussions on plans to further promote existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries and two armed forces. They also emphasized exchange of goodwill visits between the two armed forces and forge relations between cultural troupes of both countries.

The meeting was also attended by Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and senior military officers. The Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army was accompanied by senior military officers from the Royal Thai Armed Forces and Military Attaché of the Royal Thai Army to Myanmar Senior Colonel Thanwit Yomchinda. — MNA/TTA



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with General Kittisak Boonprathamchai, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army and Head of the Neighbouring Countries Coordination Centre (NCCC) of Army Operations Centre yesterday.

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DPM MoTC UM enjoys Naga Traditional New Year festival for 2024

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MyRO receives registration of 193 rice storage facilities

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Russian Ambassador invites UEC to observe presidential election in March

Silk Road from the Heart: Care for the Future' Initiates donations, culture and education exchange



The donation ceremony of Silk Road from the Heart: Care for the Future in progress at MIEC in Yangon yesterday.

AS part of marking the Myanmar-China friendly ties, the Silk Road from the Heart: Care for the Future and Myanmar-China friendly culture and education exchange took place at Myanmar International Education Centre at Myanmar Sports Ho-

tel in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, yesterday.

Secretary of China Foundation for Peace and Development Mr Xu Jian Guo and Chairman of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) Patron of Myanmar-China Cooperation Centre Union Auditor-General (Retired) U Tin Oo delivered speeches.

Mrs Qiao li from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar discussed Myanmar-China friendship cooperation, Yangon Region Education Officer Daw Cho Cho Myat Aung, cooperation in education and Chair of Nay Oke Foundation U Nay Oke, social cooperation.

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NATIONAL

National Objectives of 77th Union Day 2024

- To protect the perpetuity of the Union by the entire ethnic people through the Union spirit
- To join hands in harmony with the government, Tatmadaw, and the entire people to ensure the state stability and rules of law
- To promote all-inclusive livestock breeding-based manufacturing industries and MSMEs, ensuring the socioeconomic development of the entire ethnic people
- To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food security which are the two national visions
- To strive to emerge a modern and developing country, as well as a Union based on democratic and federal systems, by all ethnic nationals

Mottos of 77th Union Day 2024

1. Unity is strength,
Power of Union
2. Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float
Ethnic brethren of the land joining hand in hand
3. Marching towards with unity
Ensuring the destination of the Union
4. Let's firmly join hands among ethnic national brethren
of the Union
5. Let's go forward with unity of the ethnic nationals

Silk Road from the Heart: Care for the Future' Initiates donations, culture ...

FROM PAGE-1

On behalf of the China Foundation for Peace and Development and the Myanmar Chinese Cooperation & Communication Centre, Secretary Mr Xu Jian Guo donated stationeries, LED bulbs, sports equipment and accessories worth K10 million for Swe Myo

Pauk Phaw magazine to officials, who returned certificates of honour.

Senior President of Myanmar China Cooperation Centre U Thit Sa (aka) Mr Li Bo presented certificates of honour to volunteers from the Yangon University of Foreign Languages.

As the year 2024 is set as

the China-ASEAN cultural exchange year, the China-Myanmar cooperation especially aims for the benefits of the Myanmar people and exchange of education and culture between the two countries and people and enhancement of stability and improvement of bilateral relations between two countries. — MNA/TMT



Myanmar nationals in Canada can pay income tax as of 15 January, Myanmar Embassy announces



Myanmar Embassy to Canada in Ottawa.

MYANMAR Embassy to Canada announced that Myanmar nationals working legally in Canada can pay income tax for periods they want to pay on their monthly salary as of 15 January 2024.

Of Myanmar expats working in Canada, those who are working legally by holding Myanmar passport type- PJ (Passport-Job) and PB (Passport-Business) can pay income tax together for periods what

they want to pay when they apply for Myanmar passport extension at the embassy, as of 15 January 2024, said the embassy.

Those who have completed the passport extension can also pay for periods as they wish, it added.

According to the Union of Myanmar's Amendment Law of the Union Tax Law 2023, Myanmar citizens working in foreign countries must pay tax on their earnings in foreign currency at a lower amount calculated by two methods from 1 October 2023, announced by the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

For more information, they can contact Myanmar Embassy's email meottawa@gmail.com or office phone 613 2329990 or mobile phone 613 799 6720. — MT/ZS

More than 190 Japanese companies to recruit nearly 600 Myanmar workers

MYANMAR Embassy to Japan announced on 15 January that 190 Japanese companies would recruit nearly 600 Myanmar workers.

The embassy stated 190 demand letters that were submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification from 1 to 15 January.

Under the statement, more than 200 Japanese companies will provide jobs for more than 200 Myanmar men and more than 300 Myanmar women, totalling 592 workers.

"It is estimated that around 30,000 workers were sent from March 2022 to the end of 2023. We have expected that this year's figure will also increase because many people are going to Japan," said U Sai Sithu, managing director from Ngwe

Kyokyar overseas employment agency.

Currently, the number of official license holder among overseas recruitment agencies has risen and it is better, he said.

Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo has carried out verification of documents, whether Japan labour supervisory company, factories and companies which offered jobs are officially established in Japan or not, and after that, it re-sent its finding and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Of 295 demand letters submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 16 to 29 December, more than 1,100 Myanmar men and women will be recruited. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

DPM MoTC UM enjoys Naga Traditional New Year festival for 2024

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications, General Mya Tun Oo, participated in the Naga Traditional New Year festival for 2024 in Leshi of Naga Self-Administered Zone yesterday.

During his address, the Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the traditions, customs, and traditional dances of the Naga people, showcased during the festival. He emphasized the importance of overcoming challenges with a sense of unity among ethnic

groups, underscoring the government's commitment to ensuring proportional development nationwide, including in ethnic regions.

The Deputy Prime Minister also discussed topics such as proper healthcare services in the Naga region, the responsibilities of government employees and local staff in enhancing the socioeconomic status of ethnic communities, agricultural matters, and the development programmes for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), in addition to the agriculture and



SAC member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo poses for documentary photos at Naga Traditional New Year festival for 2024, yesterday.



Naga ethnic people enjoying traditional bonfire in Leshi on 15 January.

livestock breeding sectors.

Following this, the Deputy Prime Minister visited Leshi People's Hospital, where he provided foodstuff and cash assistance to medical staff, and interacted with local patients. He proceeded to inspect a vocational training school for women and a training school

dedicated to the development of youth from border areas, meeting with the staff and trainees of both institutions.

In the evening, he participated in the Naga traditional bonfire, enjoying traditional dances. Additionally, he presented flower baskets and cash awards to the

performers.

On 14 January, the Deputy Prime Minister attended sports competitions held as part of the Naga Traditional New Year festival for 2024, awarding medals and cash prizes to the winners. — MNA/KTZH

MoI UM attends honorary dinner for Myanmar-China Friendship



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn poses for documentary photos at honorary dinner for Myanmar-China friendship in Yangon yesterday.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the honorary dinner for Myanmar-China Friendship organized by Myanmar-China Cooperation Centre yesterday.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and ministers, Minister Counsellor from the Chinese Embassy to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Mrs Qiao Li, Mr. Xu Jian Guo of China Foundation for Peace and Development, Chairman of Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) and Patron of Myanmar-China Cooperation

Association U Tin Oo and relevant officials.

Speaking at the dinner, the Union minister said the Myanmar-China bilateral tie was established since the reign of Myanmar's ancient kings', forging friendly relations. The Prime Minister attended the Chinese New Year Day in person in Yangon in January 2023 and delivered a New Year speech, saying "Myanmar is a true-hearted neighbouring country for China and the Chinese people, and China is an important neighbour and a comprehensive strategic cooperative partner of Myanmar."

The Union minister added that Myanmar is willing to carry on "Paukphaw" (fraternal) friendship and strengthen the bilateral ties via Myanmar-China community through thick and

thin. Moreover, the people of two countries should enjoy the shared benefits achieved from the bilateral relationship of two countries.

He also expressed gratitude to Mr Xu Jian Guo for his donations of computers and printers to IPRD offices in 2023.

He then pledged to build a good future for peoples of two countries despite the doings of destructionists who spread false information to affect Myanmar-China friendships.

Mr Xu Jian Guo visited the Community Centre of IPRD in Bahan Township, and the relevant officials briefed awareness programmes for the public and the opening of public libraries. Then, the Chinese guest planted a tree in the compound of the Community Centre. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Organizations condemn destruction of Buddhist temples, shrines, religious structures by terrorists

TERRORISTS target temples, pagodas, and religious buildings in certain regions and states. They attack churches by throwing bombs and shooting with heavy weapons. In response, defensive measures, such as the estab-

lishment of defensive camps, are implemented to counteract these terrorist acts.

The Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) (Central), Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central),

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance, Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), Faith Evangelical Church (Bago), Deliverance Church (Yangon), All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, All Myanmar

Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association, Myanmar Islamic Association, Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque, Buthidaung-Maungtau Region Development Association, Myanmar War

Veterans Organization, Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Sports Media Federation, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Myanmar Music Association (Central), Myanmar Artists Association (Central), Myanmar

Theatrical Association (Central), Myanmar Comedians' Association, and Myanmar Writers Association issued statements strongly condemning the acts of terrorism that seriously affect the religious sector. — MNA/KZW

Statement on strong condemnation issued by Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central)

16 January 2024

TERRORISTS intentionally destroy pagodas, stupas, temples and religious buildings, which are hearts of Buddhists in Myanmar. Moreover, a video clip on destroying a Buddha image spread on the social media network in the first week of January.

The YMBA (Central) issued a statement that it is very regrettable that terrorists insult the Buddhism; and the association does not totally accept the terrorist organizations which tarnished image of Buddhism and strongly condemned it.

Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central)

Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) Statement

16 January 2024

THE Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) does not totally accept the destructions of pagodas and stupas by terrorists in some regions and states, and it issued a statement strongly condemning such acts.

Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar)

Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) Statement

16 January 2024

THE Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) issued a statement, stating that it hereby strongly condemned the destructive acts of terrorists on pagodas, stupas and temples as well as religious buildings of Buddhists in some regions and states.

Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) Statement

16 January 2024

THE Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) hereby issued a statement that it strongly condemned the acts of terrorists intentionally destroying religious buildings of various religions including pagodas, stupas and temples of Buddhists.

*Executive Committee
Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)*

Deliverance Church (Yangon) Statement

16 January 2024

AS terrorists are committing demolishing and destroying pagodas, stupas and religious buildings, the Deliverance Church (Yangon) issued a statement that it did not totally accept and strongly condemned such acts.

Deliverance Church (Yangon)

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance Statement

16 January 2024

WE see and hear that terrorists are destroying religious buildings and temples of various religions including pagodas and stupas of Buddhists with violent attacks in some regions and states.

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance does not totally accept such destructions of terrorists on religious buildings, pagodas and stupas and hereby strongly condemns such acts.

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council Statement

16 January 2024

1. Terrorists are committing terror acts, firing and demolishing religious buildings, including pagodas, stupas and Buddha images of Buddhists with bombs and heavy weapons in some regions and states.
2. In issuing the statement, the All Myanmar Hindu Central Council strongly condemned those terrorists.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

NATIONAL

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) Statement

16 January 2024

1. It is sorrowful to hear that terrorists and PDF terrorists are demolishing pagodas and stupas of Buddhists and firing religious buildings.
2. Their terror acts intend to insult the faith and religion of Buddhists, discriminate races and destroy the Buddhism. So, the statement was issued that the All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) hereby strongly condemned these terrorist organizations.

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association Statement

16 January 2024

TERRORISTS are destroying the pagodas, stupas, Buddha images, and religious buildings by using bombs, and heavy weapons in some regions and states.

The Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association does not totally accept those terrorists and strongly condemns the actions of terrorists destroying the religious buildings.

Buthidaung-Maungtau Regional Development Association

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association Statement

16 January 2024

IT can be seen that terrorists commit appalling acts of destroying pagodas, stupas, temples and religious buildings of Buddhists, and Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association cannot accept it and strongly condemns such acts.

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association

Myanmar War Veterans Organization Statement

16 January 2024, Tuesday

1. Skirmishes are happening in some regions and states in the territory of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar due to attacks of armed insurgents. It can be seen that those armed insurgents drop bombs to destroy targets such as pagodas, stupas, religious buildings, and temples of Myanmar Buddhists with the use of drones and heavy weapons and destroy Buddha images as inhumane acts.
2. The Myanmar War Veterans Organization strongly condemns all armed insurgents who are committing violent destructions with an intention of fueling religious and racial riots and cause instability of the internal affairs by destroying religious buildings, including churches, pagodas, stupas and temples.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization

Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar Statement

16 January 2024

1. It was heard that terrorists demolished pagodas, stupas, Buddha images and religious buildings with firing of small arms, heavy weapons and bombs in some townships.
2. The Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar hereby strongly condemns those terrorists for their terror acts.

Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar

Myanmar Press Council Statement

(1/2024)

1. The Myanmar Press Council has learnt that the terrorists destroyed and bombed the religious buildings and temples, including pagodas, Buddha images and stupas which are scared to the Buddhists.
2. The demolishing of pagodas and stupas including religious buildings of other religions sadden and insult the Buddhists not only from Myanmar but from all over the world, and Myanmar Press Council released this statement strongly condemning such doings of terrorists.

Myanmar Press Council

Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque Statement

16 January 2024

1. Terrorists are destroying pagodas, stupas, Buddha images, temples and religious buildings by dropping bombs and shooting with heavy weapons in some regions and states.
2. As such acts insult the faith of Buddhists, the Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque strongly condemns the actions of terrorists.

Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar Sports Media Federation Statement

16 January 2024

THE terrorists destroyed and bombed the religious buildings and temples of other religions including pagodas and stupas which are sacred to Buddhists and launched various kinds of terrorist attacks. The Myanmar Sports Media Federation released this statement condemning such activities of terrorists.

Myanmar Sports Media Federation

Myanmar Comedians' Association Statement

16 January 2024

TERRORISTS are destroying a Buddhist pagoda scared to Buddhists and intentionally firing religious buildings.

The Myanmar Comedians' Association does not totally accept terrorists who tarnished image of Buddhism and strongly condemns the actions of terrorists.

Myanmar Comedians' Association

Statement of Myanmar Music Association (Central) on destruction of terrorists over pagodas, stupas and religious buildings of Buddhists

16 January 2024

TERRORISTS are committing terror acts, bombing and firing pagodas, stupas, religious buildings and temples with heavy weapons in some regions and states in addition to using pagodas and stupas as covers and defensive camps.

As acts of terrorists rudely insulting religions and faith of Buddhists are unacceptable in any ways, the Myanmar Music Association (Central) hereby strongly condemns it.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Myanmar Writers' Association Statement

16 January 2024

1. Terrorists are destroying the pagodas, stupas, temples and other religious buildings of Buddhists by dropping bombs, shooting with heavy weapons to demolish in some regions and states.
2. The Myanmar Writers' Association strongly condemns the actions of terrorist organizations that are insulting and destroying pagodas, stupas, Buddha images and religious buildings of ethnic people.

Myanmar Writers' Association

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) Statement

16 January 2024

TERRORISTS are destroying pagodas, stupas, Buddha images and religious buildings by bombing and shooting with heavy weapons in some regions and states.

The Myanmar Artists Association (Central) strongly condemns the actions of terrorists insulting faith of Buddhists.

Myanmar Artists Association (Central)

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Statement

16 January 2024

1. Due to the teachings of Buddhism, Myanmar has been enjoying prosperity and peace for thousands of years, constructing pagodas rich in delicate culture and valuable traditions.
2. Presently, owing to the attacks by terrorists, numerous religious structures, including temples and stupas, have been destroyed.
3. The Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization strongly condemns the acts of terrorists who have bombed and destroyed Buddhist pagodas and stupas enshrined with culture and customs of Myanmar.

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) Statement

16 January 2024

1. Terrorists are destroying the pagodas, stupas and temples as well as other religious buildings of Buddhists by bombing and shooting with heavy weapons in some regions and states with various terror acts.
2. The Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) strongly condemns the actions of terrorists destroying pagodas, stupas, Buddha images and religious buildings.

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)



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52nd Myanmar Health Research Conference

22 to 26 January 2024

Department of Medical Research
(Head Office)

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MyRO receives registration of 193 rice storage facilities

A total of 193 warehouse facilities for rice storage have been registered on the online registration platform – Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) so far, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The MRF has informed warehouse operators and wholesalers to register on MyRO at www.myro.com.mm. This registration is necessary for the procurement of more than 5,000 baskets of paddy or over 50 tonnes of rice. The aim is to ensure rice price stability, establish a systematic approach to rice export, guide the market to avoid price manipulation, maintain rice stocks at supermarkets and wholesale shops in a systematic display, and develop a warehouse financing system.

As of 13 January 2023, 193 warehouse facilities in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago, Mandalay, and Sagaing regions, Rakhine State, and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area have been registered. The feder-



Bags of rice are stored in warehouse.

ation encouraged the remaining facilities on 12 January this year to proceed with registration.

On 3 January, the Department of Consumer Affairs notified the MRF, affiliated associations, regional, state, district, and township-level sub-associ-

ations, as well as related committees and depots, to conduct registration matters promptly. Companies and individual entrepreneurs are also urged to register on MyRO following regulations. Supermarket chains are instructed to register for rice

sacks on display and stocks at warehouse facilities, according to the MRF.

For further information regarding MyRO registration, please contact the MRF at Ph: 09 893095503 and 09 9758642607 or Email: myromyanmar.mm@gmail.com. You can also reach

the Department of Consumer Affairs at Ph: 067 3430563 and 067 3430131, and the Myanmar International Trade Centre located at No. 622/626 on Merchant Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon, at Ph: 01 385323. — NN/EM

Strong domestic, foreign demand elevate peanut prices

THE strong demand from Chinese buyers and domestic oil millers has driven up peanut prices, as reported by the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre.

In mid-December, prices fluctuated between K6,300 and K8,100 per viss in the domestic market, depending on varieties. This marks an increase of K500-K1,000 per viss compared to the rates recorded in early December. Record-high prices of K7,550-K11,000 per viss were observed on 18 August 2023 due to robust foreign and domestic demand.

Myanmar has been exporting oilseeds, including sesame seeds and peanuts, to foreign countries. In April 2022, Indonesia, the world's leading palm oil exporter and a major oil supplier to Myanmar, imposed an export ban on cooking oil to address domestic shortages. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department, under the Ministry of Commerce, temporarily halted the exports of oil crops (peanuts and sesame) from 9 May 2022 to achieve oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed when the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normal operations, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 from the Trade Department. Over the past nine months of the current financial year (2023-2024), the country exported over 11,000 kilogrammes worth US\$16.954 million to foreign markets through seaborne and border trade channels. — NN/EM

MRF releases reasonable market price of rice for January, price set to rise against last month

ACTUAL market price of rice is way higher than the reasonable price for January.

The reasonable market price for January 2024, as determined by the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), has increased compared to that of December 2023.

The reasonable market prices set for January are K70,000-K72,000 per 108-pound sack of Aemahta rice (25 per cent broken), K72,000-K75,000 for Aemahta rice (15 percent broken), K75,000-K78,000 for Aemahta (10-5 per cent broken), K80,000-K85,000 for 90-day short matured rice, Pakan, Anyarthar, special Aemahta rice varieties (5-10 percent broken), K95,000-K100,000 for Ayarmin, Ayeya Padaytha, Ayarmin (5-10 per cent broken), K100,000-110,000 for Ayeyawady Pawsan rice and K90,000-K100,000 for non-premium Shwebo Pawsan, K110,000-K115,000 for Ayeyawady Kyarpyan (5-10 per cent broken) and K125,000-K135,000 for Shwebo Pawsan (5-10 per cent broken).

These figures indicate a significant increase of K5,000-K40,000 per

sack compared to that of December. However, in the Yangon market on 15 January 2024, rice was reportedly transacted at a higher price than the set reasonable market prices, according to a rice trader interviewed by the Global New Light of Myanmar.

With the actual market value rising in the Yangon market, the concerned institution raised the set prices higher for January, as per the MRF's statement. The new Pawsan rice price in the domestic market was K30,000 per sack higher than the set rate in December. Similarly, rice prices stood at K80,000-90,000 per sack of low-grade rice, K114,000-120,000 per sack of new Pawsan rice, K125,000 per sack of Ayeyawady Kyarpyan, and K150,000 per sack of new Shwebo Pawsan rice in mid-January. The old premium Shwebo Pawsan fetched up to K170,000 per sack in the market, while the old Ayeyawady Pawsan was sold at K150,000 per sack, as reported by Ko Lin Wai to the GNLN.

The federation determines reasonable market prices by consid-

ering factors such as fair profit for farmers, millers, and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices, and other commodities prices. Consequently, MRF encourages affiliated associations, members of commodity depots, exporters, and rice companies to adhere to these prices.

However, there is a five to ten per cent price difference between the retail and wholesale markets and a 10-20 per cent difference for modern trade with consumer packaging at mini-marts, according to the MRF. These reasonable market prices only influence the new monsoon paddy produced this year, MRF states. To facilitate smooth trade, MRF urges buyers to contact MRF and the relevant wholesale centers. The federation notified on 21 September the paddy reference price for the 2023 monsoon paddy and called for its affiliated companies, millers, and traders to buy the paddy at the reasonable market price during the monsoon paddy harvest season. — NN/TWA/EM

OPINION

Carefully protect IP rights for all living beings

INTELLECTUAL property (IP) rights play a crucial role in safeguarding the fruits of creativity and innovation as the law dictates. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) defines intellectual property as encompassing industrial innovations, trademarks, and industrial designs, as well as literary, musical, and visual works. Nations worldwide acknowledge the significance of protecting creators, offering legal safeguards to secure their rightful interests in diverse fields such as economics, education, and social spheres.

IP rights have gained paramount importance in the rapidly evolving technology landscape across all sectors. Despite legal frameworks put in place by governments and responsible organizations to safeguard innovations and creations, creators in fields like science, technology, fine arts, and literature face annual losses amounting to millions of US dollars due to piracy and violations of IP rights.

The sustainability of human society hinges on continuous creation and innovation. Intellectual capacity must thrive for progress to endure. Without robust protection of IP rights, creators and innovators may abandon their pursuits, leading to a loss of valuable contributions that fuel societal advancement.

Violation of IP rights goes beyond mere financial losses; it erodes the very essence of creators' lives, undermining their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being while disregarding their efforts. Underdeveloped and least-developed countries, facing economic downturns and lacking public awareness, become breeding grounds for IP rights violations. Governments and authorities must take proactive measures to protect both the IP rights and creators' lives. Simultaneously, efforts should be directed towards enhancing public awareness regarding the detrimental consequences of IP rights violations and fostering empathy towards creators.

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The potential consequence is a regression to a primitive state, halting global processes and plunging humanity into an era resembling the Stone Age. To avert such irrationality and darkness, steadfast protection of IP rights is imperative without any destructions and disturbances, ensuring the perpetual evolution and enlightenment of the world to be able to avoid the terrible dark world.

These creations are a testament to human creativity, critical thinking, and the diligent accumulation of knowledge. Creators invest considerable time and effort throughout their lives to attain the capacity for such innovations. The sacrifices made in personal lives, family, youth, and physical toil underscore the dedication required to bring forth valuable creations. It is imperative for society to empathize with the creators and recognize the immense value embedded in their innovations.

While every part of the pancreas is vital, not every part has the same function. A closer look reveals an interesting internal structure, with islets of cells known as islets of Langerhans,

Loss of cells in pancreas in elderly might cause age-related diabetes: Research

Tokyo Metropolitan University researchers conducted a study on pancreatic islet cell loss (ICL) in individuals without prior pancreatic issues, revealing significant trends in cell loss across different age groups and sexes.

TOKYO Metropolitan University researchers investigated pancreatic islet cell loss (ICL) in persons who had no prior pancreatic issues. They discovered major trends in the types of cells lost owing to islet cell loss in different age groups and sexes, concluding that ICL in the elderly was mostly caused by insulin-producing beta cell loss. This could be the cause of age-related diabetes and could aid in the development of novel preventative medicines. The pancreas is an incredibly important part of the human digestive system, particularly for regulating blood sugar levels by secreting the hormone insulin.

It was possible for such islets to be surrounded by either healthy cells or lesions, and it remained to be seen what they could teach us about a person's health. This led the team to undertake a thorough survey of pancreatic sections taken from the cadav-

ers of people with no pancreatic diseases before death, aged 65 to 104. Islet cell loss in healthy populations is something that is rarely studied.

A potential driver

They make a small proportion of all the cells in the pancreas, approximately one per cent, making any changes to their morphology or state a potential driver for health problems. A team led by Professor Shuang-Qin Yi of Tokyo Metropolitan University have been studying the phenomenon of pancreatic islet cell loss (ICL), where voids are observed in these islet regions when observed under the microscope.

They focused on trends by age and sex and kept a close eye on the type of cells left in the pancreas, covering the four most abundant cell types, alpha, beta, delta, and PP (pancreatic polypeptide-producing) cells. The team paid extra attention to the number of beta cells, the cells responsible for producing insulin. While there were no notable trends in the other cell types, it was found that the proportion of beta cells in the pancreas seemed to significantly decrease with ICL.

The degree of cell loss in each sample was found by observing stained sections from the pancreas under the microscope and analyzing the images.

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The research indicates that ICL in the elderly is primarily attributed to the loss of insulin-producing beta cells, potentially contributing to age-related diabetes and offering insights for the development of preventative medicines. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

Beta cell loss

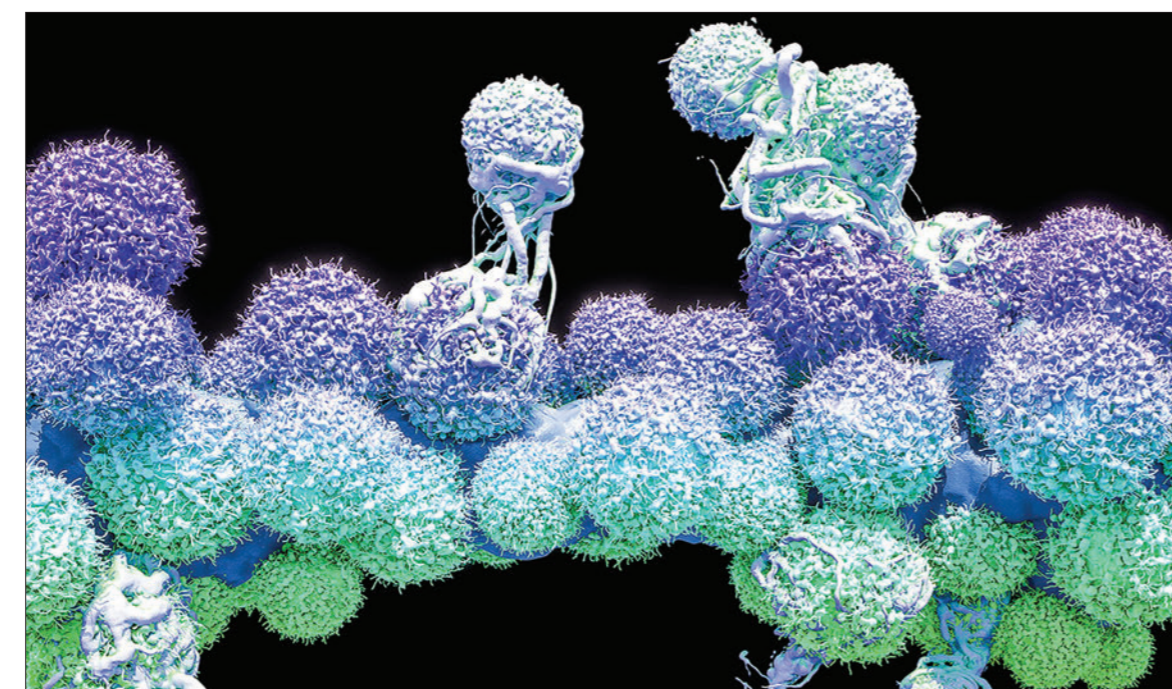
This leads to the conclusion that ICL in the elderly is largely due to beta cell loss in the islets. ICLs also correlated with microscopic lesions in the pancreas known as pancreatic intraepi-

thelial neoplasias (PanIN), while severe ICL seemed less likely at more advanced ages. Curiously, it was found that women tended to be more likely to show severe ICL. The team's findings are consistent with data from the Inter-

national Diabetes Foundation presented in 2021, which showed that women over 70 had a higher incidence of diabetes than men, while the trend reversed for those under 70.

SOURCE: ANI

Do you know cancer immunotherapy can cause colitis? Study reveals



Immunotherapy has shown promise as a treatment for various types of cancer. T cells attacking tumor cells. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ MAURIZIO DE ANGELIS/SCIENCE SOURCE**

The study, published in Science, reveals a technique to deliver the cancer-killing effects of immunotherapy while avoiding unwanted side effects such as colitis.

RESearchers at the University of Michigan Health Rogel Cancer Centre discovered a mechanism connected to serious gastrointestinal problems following immune-based cancer treatment. Additionally, they discovered a technique to deliver the cancer-killing effects of immunotherapy without the unwanted side effect. Science has published the results.

"This is a good example of how understanding a mechanism helps you to develop an alternative therapy that's more beneficial. Once we identified the mechanism causing the co-

litis, we could then develop ways to overcome this problem and prevent colitis while preserving the anti-tumor effect," said senior study author Gabriel Nunez, M.D., Paul de Kruif Professor of Pathology at Michigan Medicine. Immunotherapy has emerged as a promising treatment for several types of cancer.

Immune checkpoint inhibitors

But immune checkpoint inhibitors can also cause severe side effects, including colitis, which is inflammation in the digestive tract. Colitis can cause severe gastroin-

testinal discomfort, and some patients will discontinue their cancer treatment because of it. The problem facing researchers was that while patients were developing colitis, the laboratory mice were not. So researchers couldn't study what was causing this side effect.

To get past this, the Rogel team, led by first author Bernard C Lo, PhD, created a new mouse model, injecting microbiota from wild-caught mice into the traditional mouse model. In this model, the mice did develop colitis after the administration of antibodies used for tumor immunotherapy. Now, researchers could trace back

the mechanism to see what was causing this reaction.

Colitis developed because of the composition of the gut microbiota, which caused immune T cells to be hyper-activated while regulatory T cells that put the brakes on T cell activation were deleted in the gut. This was happening within a specific domain of the immune checkpoint antibodies. Researchers then removed that domain, which they found still resulted in a strong anti-tumor response but without inducing colitis.

Presence of certain bacteria
"Previously, there was some

data that suggested the presence of certain bacteria correlated with response to therapy. However, it was not proven that microbiota was critical to developing colitis. This work for the first time shows that microbiota is essential to developing colitis from immune checkpoint inhibition," Nunez said. To follow up on what they saw in mice, researchers reanalyzed previously reported data from studies of human cells from patients treated with immune checkpoint antibodies, which reinforced the role of regulatory T cells in inducing colitis.

SOURCE: ANI

Morning Festival

By Nyunt Aye (Inwa)
Translated by Myint Zan

lights enter thru the window
commemorating
my continuing journey

the night which retreats furtively
leaves tomorrow as today:
its footprints

at a far distance
the rose farm
radiates the sweet odour
of the light

the river that circles the village
where boats come in and out
weaves the waves like
a spinning-wheel

for me to carry myself
the white light splashes:
the road in front of the house
(which) verily is ready to carry my footsteps

this burden on me
I myself carry (the weight)
endearingly indeed:
piercing the light
towards the small town...

The original poem appears in Volume 131, June 2004 issue of Sataing Thit ('New Style') magazine. The translator is uncertain whether the poem can be classified as Khit Paw Kabyar ('modern poetry') or Khit Pyaing Kabyar ('contemporary poetry').

NATIONAL

Russian Ambassador invites UEC to observe presidential election in March



UEC Chairman U Thein Soe holds talks with Ambassador of Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov at UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Thein Soe, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, held discussions with Mr Iskander Azizov, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and his delegation at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the UEC Chairman highlighted the 76-year longstanding friendship between Myanmar

and Russia, dating back to 1948. He mentioned the UEC's visit to Russia in September 2023 to study local elections and the ongoing preparations to conduct free and fair elections in line with the State Administration Council's roadmap.

The Russian Ambassador extended an invitation to the UEC Chairman and other high-ranking commission members to visit and study

the Russian Federation's presidential election in March. He outlined the arrangements to facilitate the study tour.

Discussions between the chairman and the ambassador also covered the conditions fostering increased friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

Other members and officials of the Union Election Commission also attended the meeting. — MNA/TRKM

MoFA Deputy Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo receives Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India yesterday.

U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Vinay

Kumar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on further enhancement of the friendly bilateral relations between the two countries, cooperation in areas of mutual interest, particularly capacity building and human resource development, progress of the on-going development projects, cooperation to maintain peace and stability in the border area, as well as closer collaboration in regional and international contexts such as the BIMSTEC. — MNA

MoI UM discusses plans for 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards event

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met with officials of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization and the Myanmar Music Association for the 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards event in Yangon yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister stressed the need to focus on invitations, accommodation, event procedures, awarding plans, transportation, health, and security affairs. He also emphasized the importance

of proper cooperation for medical checkups for senior artistes and urged everyone to work together as per the plans drafted by the relevant subcommittees to complete the work on time.

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Chairman U Kyi Soe Tun, Myanmar Music Association (Central) Chairman U Lwin Myint, and participants raised their suggestions regarding the successful holding of the 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards event. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaking at the meeting with artistes yesterday.

Counter-argument to false information

Heavy weapon attack in Madaya Township sparks tragedy amid allegations of misinformation spread by DVB

TWO local residents lost their lives, and six individuals, including children, sustained wounds in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, on the evening of 15 January due to heavy weapon attacks from the Tatmadaw without provocation.

It has been noted that the malicious media outlet DVB is spreading misinformation on social networking sites.

When questioned about the accuracy of the incident, a security official in the relevant area explained that on 15 January, while Tatmadaw columns were engaged in area security duties near Ohngon village in Madaya Township, PDF terrorist groups

committed an attack from a distance using heavy weapons. This led to explosions in the nearby Ohngon village, resulting in wounds to some local innocent civilians. The alleged intention of the malicious media is to spread misinformation in order to conceal the actions of the terrorists. — MNA/KZW



NATIONAL

Shwedagon Pagoda plans gold foils offering in 2024-2025 financial year

IN the 2024-2025 financial year, the Board of Trustees for the Shwedagon Pagoda plans to present gold foils to the entire pagoda.

“At present, efforts are in progress to donate gold foils to the Naungdawgyi Pagoda. In the upcoming financial year 2024-2025, we will continue the tradition of offering a gold foils to the Shwedagon Pagoda. The

production of gold plates intended for donation has also commenced,” stated the Treasurer of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The complete gold foils offering for the Shwedagon Pagoda typically occurs every five years, with the last one held in the 2018-2019 financial year.

Tenders will be invited, commencing with the procurement of



Witnessed the installation of scaffolding for the gold foils offering at Naungdawgyi Pagoda in December.

the necessary bamboo for constructing the scaffolding required for presenting gold foils to the

Shwedagon Pagoda. The tendering process for the scaffolding construction will involve inviting

work groups, screening, and selecting them based on their work experience. — TWA/KZW

Export earnings surge in early 2024 in pre-Chinese New Year

THANKS to a peak in fruit exports leading up to the Chinese New Year, Myanmar’s overall exports between 30 December 2023 and 5 January 2024 surpassed US\$234 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The exports of Myanmar’s agricultural produce, including corn, pigeon pea, chickpea, butter bean, peanut, sesame, onion, dried ginger, tamarind, watermelon, avocado, tangerine, tissue-culture banana, and banana with natural reproduction, significantly increased.

As Chinese New Year 2024 approaches, the demand for Myanmar’s fruits is steadily growing. During the week ending 5 January, Myanmar shipped about 35,000 tonnes of watermelon, muskmelon, and bananas to China through Kengtung, Lweje, and Kam-



A photo shows a trader showcasing quality Myanmar watermelon before exportation to China.

paiti border points.

Additionally, Myanmar exported tangerines, avocados, and bananas to Thailand at Tachilek and Maungtau borders. The fruit exports for that week amounted to over \$10 million.

Moreover, fisheries exports in the three modes of transport (air, sea, and road

at the border) also surged, covering over 20 foreign countries.

Myanmar shipped 10,850 tonnes of fisheries that week, with 3,070 tonnes destined for external markets via maritime trade and 7,780 tonnes sent to neighbouring countries (China and Thailand) at borders. — TWA/KK



Western China International Fair: Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo attends 5th Investment and Trade Fair.

Myanmar entrepreneurs invited to 6th Western China International Fair for Investment and Trade

BUSINESSPERSONS and entrepreneurs from Myanmar are invited to participate in the 6th Western China International Fair for Investment and Trade (WCIFIT), scheduled to be held in Chongqing, People’s Republic of China, on 24 May 2024.

WCIFIT is a national-level international event in western China, serving as a crucial platform for diplomatic, trade, and investment collaboration. It plays a key role in enhancing international and domestic cooperation.

According to the report,

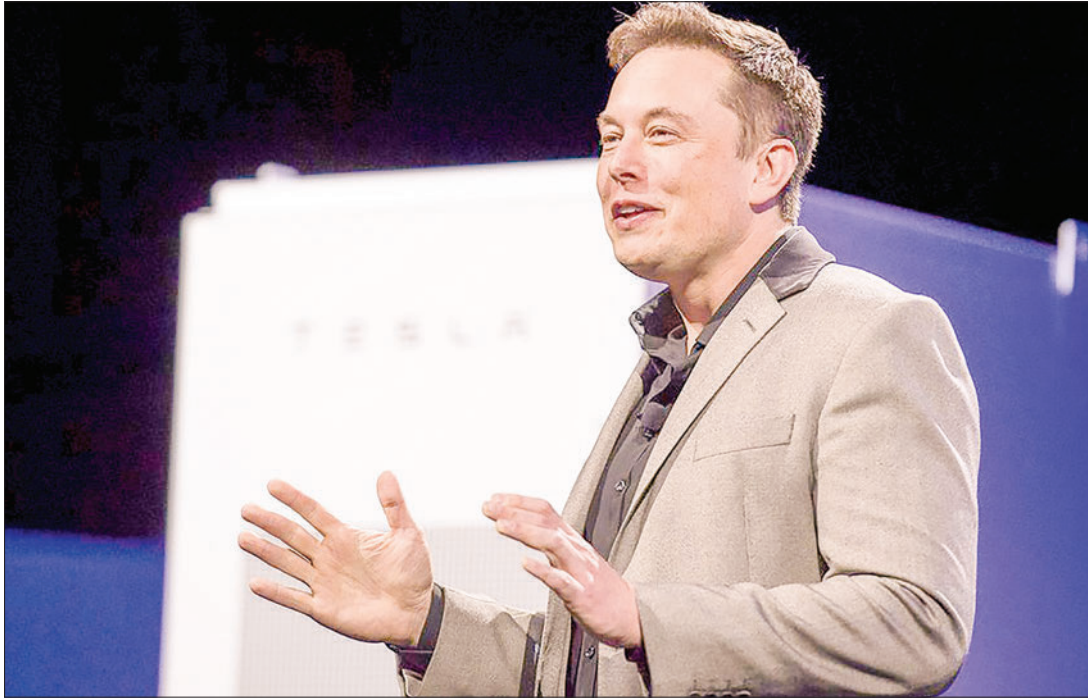
there will be a discounted price of 1,500 RMB for a 9-square-metre standard booth in the main channel and 1,000 RMB for a 9-square-metre standard booth in the second channel, respectively. As experts and businesspeople from western countries will be attending the event, participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussions on trade and expand their market.

Those willing to participate in the event can inquire at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. — TWA/TMT

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.

ECONOMY WORLD

World's 5 richest men more than doubled fortunes since 2020: Oxfam



Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, unveils a suit of batteries for homes, businesses, and utilities at Tesla Design Studio in Hawthorne, California, the United States, 30 April 2015. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE world's five wealthiest men have more than doubled their fortunes since 2020, as a spate of global crises has widened the gap between the rich and the poor, the international charity organization Oxfam said in a report on Monday.

Oxfam published the report as global dignitaries, from political elites to business leaders, gathered in Davos for the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The Oxfam report said that billionaires worldwide are 34 per cent richer than they were in 2020, "with their wealth growing three times as fast as the rate of inflation".

Meanwhile, about five bil-

lion people around the world have become poorer since 2020, plagued by a slew of global crises including the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, geopolitical conflicts and extreme weather, according to the report.

Large and wealthy firms, like the super-rich, have also experienced "prosperity like never before". The report showed that 148 of the world's biggest corporations together raked in 1.8 trillion US dollars in total profits in the 12 months leading up to June 2023, "an 89-per-cent jump compared to average total profits in 2017-2020".

Economic disparities between the Global North and

Global South as well as between men and women are also growing. Countries in the Global North, while representing 21 per cent of the global population, own 69 per cent of global wealth. Globally, men own 105 trillion US dollars more wealth than women, according to the report.

Oxfam attributed the widening wealth gap to rising corporate and monopoly power, saying that "huge corporations are using their power to drive down wages, dodge paying their fair share in taxes and influence governments to privatize vital public services like healthcare and education."

— Xinhua

Indonesia's foreign debt rises to 400.9 bln USD

INDONESIA recorded foreign debt of 400.9 billion US dollars as of November 2023, rising 2.0 per cent compared to the same period last year and an increase of 0.7 per cent compared to the previous month, Bank Indonesia said on Monday.

"Apart from public sector foreign debt, the external debt position in November 2023 was also influenced by broad-based US dollar depreciation against most global currencies includ-

ing rupiah, which has an impact on increasing statistical figures for Indonesian external debt in other currencies in US dollars," said Head of the Communication Department of Bank Indonesia Erwin Haryono.

Government debt was recorded at 192.6 billion US dollars, up 6.0 per cent annually and 3.0 per cent monthly due to increased investment in the domestic and international Government Bond markets.

Meanwhile, private sector foreign debt contracted 3.2 per cent annually and 2.3 per cent monthly to 196.2 billion US dollars, mainly from the manufacturing industry, financial and insurance services.

Haryono assesses that Indonesia's foreign debt structure remains healthy, as the foreign debt-to-GDP ratio is 29.3 per cent and 87.1 per cent of the foreign debt is long-term. — Xinhua

German economy shrinks 0.3% in 2023: Destatis

GERMANY slipped into recession in 2023, the country's Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) said on Monday. Based on initial calculations, Destatis said that Germany's gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 0.3 per cent year-on-year, with global crises weighing on the economy.

Europe's largest economy did "not continue its recovery from the sharp economic slump experienced in the pandemic year of 2020", said Destatis president Ruth Brand. In 2022, GDP still grew by 1.8 per cent.

"Despite recent price declines, prices remained high at all stages in the economic process and put a damper on economic growth," Brand said, add-

ing that "unfavorable financing conditions due to rising interest rates and weaker domestic and foreign demand also took their toll."

Inflation in Germany gradually weakened last year, but picked up again at the end of the year, to 3.7 per cent in December. Compared to other European countries, consumer prices in the country normalized slowly, as the average value for the eurozone was already 2.9 per cent last month. Food prices in particular continued to rise at above-average rates, and were still up 4.5 per cent at the end of last year. Although real wages rose, consumption remained subdued. — Xinhua



Vehicles run on a bridge in Berlin, Germany, on 15 January 2024. Germany slipped into recession in 2023, the country's Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) said on Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Malaysia achieves record car sales of 799,731 units in 2023

MALAYSIA'S new motor vehicles sales in 2023 rose to a new all-time high of 799,731 units, propelled mainly by the passenger cars sub-segment, amid a resilient domestic economy and a stable socio-political environment.

The Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA) said in a statement on Tuesday that the total Industry Volume (TIV) rose 11 per cent year on year, surpassing the previous highest sales result of 721,177 units achieved in 2022. The industry's sales growth last year has marked the second annual gain since the downturn in 2020-2021 caused by the COV-

ID-19 pandemic.

It was also the second consecutive year the TIV exceeded the 700,000-unit mark.

According to the MAA, the stellar performance in 2023 can be attributed to a number of factors including fulfillment of tax-free car bookings received, resilient domestic economy, new model launches and improved industry supply chain environment. Meanwhile, the total industry production (TIP) of new vehicles in 2023 increased by 10 per cent to reach a total of 774,600 units compared to 702,275 units in 2022. — Xinhua

RCEP boosts China-Thailand trade ties

THAILAND'S coconut, famous for its rich and sweet taste, has gained significant popularity in the Chinese market. In recent years, it has been extensively used in various foods and beverages in China, such as cakes, coffee, and hot pot, especially after the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.

The RCEP, which entered into force on 1 January 2022, comprises 15 Asia-Pacific countries, including 10 ASEAN member states and their five trading partners, namely Chi-

na, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Two years on, many Thai industries in agriculture, textiles, and automobiles have benefited from the RCEP. Tariff cuts have further stimulated trade and investment growth of RCEP member countries. In 2022, Thailand's trade with other RCEP members rose 7.11 per cent year on year to 300 billion US dollars. The agreement has also boosted trade cooperation between China and Thailand. According to Han Zhiqiang, Chinese Ambassador to Thailand, in

the first 10 months of 2023, bilateral trade between the two countries reached 105.1 billion dollars. China continued to be Thailand's largest trading partner for 11th consecutive year and its largest agricultural export market, of which tropical fruits alone reached 5.8 billion dollars, accounting for 90 per cent of Thailand's fruit exports.

Han said that Thai durian has transformed from a niche fruit to a "top stream" product in the Chinese market. Chinese consumers favour Thai fruits, and the Chinese government supports Thai



Exhibitors display fruits from Thailand during the 20th China-ASEAN Expo at Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 17 September 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

agricultural exports to China. "As a fruit importer, the RCEP agreement brings real benefits to me. The

growing popularity of Thai coconuts in China is also bringing me new opportunities," said Mo Jiaming,

a fruit dealer in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. — Xinhua

Cambodia exports bicycles worth nearly 417 mln USD last year

CAMBODIA exported bicycles worth 416.7 million US dollars in 2023, a decrease of 53.6 per cent from 899.7 million dollars in a year earlier, said a General Department of Customs and Excise's report on Monday.

Ministry of Commerce's Secretary of State and Spokesperson Penn Sovicheat said the made-in-Cambodia bicycles had been shipped to the European Union, the United States, Britain, Canada, Japan, and China, among others.

"The decline was due to global economic slowdown and uncertainties that had resulted in a plunge in purchase orders," he told Xinhua.

Sovicheat said bicycles are one of Cambodia's major manufacturing products for exports after garments, textiles, footwear, and travel goods. — Xinhua

S Korea's ICT export rises for 2nd month in December 2023

SOUTH Korea's export of the information and communication technology (ICT) products rose for the second consecutive month due to strong demand for locally-made semiconductors, government data showed Tuesday.

The ICT products

shipment gained 8.1 per cent over the year to 18.26 billion US dollars in December 2023 after expanding 7.6 per cent in the previous month, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Semiconductor export advanced 19.3 per

cent to 11.07 billion dollars last month, keeping an upward trend for the second straight month.

Display panel shipment grew 7.3 per cent to 1.71 billion dollars on robust demand for OLED panels used for mobile devices, but mobile phone export shrank 1.0 per cent

to 940 million dollars.

Shipment for computers and peripherals dived 29.6 per cent to 820 million dollars, and communications equipment export retreated 25.5 per cent to 190 million dollars.

The ICT products export to the United States and Viet Nam climbed in

single digits, but those to the European Union (EU) and Japan declined in single figures last month.

Import for ICT products dwindled 7.2 per cent over the year to 10.94 billion dollars in December, sending the trade surplus in the ICT industry to 7.32 billion dollars. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV5QE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PADIAN 4 VOY.NO. (0UV5QE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2024** 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.

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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

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Public Announcement

**Capital Reduction of Noble Drilling (Myanmar) Limited
(Notice of passing of the Special Resolutions pursuant to
Section 116(i) under MCL)**

At the Special General Meeting of the Members of **NOBLE DRILLING (MYANMAR) LIMITED** on 28th December 2023 at 10:00 am, the following "Special Resolutions" were duly passed pursuant to Section 116(c) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 ("MCL").

The Company has resolved to reduce its unpaid capital of USD 25,000, representing 25,000 ordinary shares, by canceling and extinguishing 50% of the total issued and subscribed share capital. This reduction amounts to USD 12,500 for the 12,500 ordinary shares held by each member. This capital reduction is the company's decision to opt for voluntary winding up and to simplify the capital structure to be more efficient and reduce the unpaid share capital that exceeds the company's wishes and extinguish the members' liabilities and their respective shares. The decision is grounded in the company's capacity to meet all financial obligations and winding up expenses utilizing its existing paid-up capital. Consequently, the company will initiate the reduction of its unpaid capital.

For **NOBLE DRILLING (MYANMAR) LIMITED**

DFDL Myanmar Limited
Chan Myae Khine, Senior Manager
Corporate Compliance

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Lavrov discusses situation on Korean Peninsula with North Korean counterpart in Moscow



Russian Foreign Ministry, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov shows the way to North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday that he will discuss the situation on the Korean Peninsula with North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui.

“As for the international agenda, of course, we would like to continue our confidential dialogue on the situation

on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia in general,” Lavrov said at a meeting with his North Korean counterpart.

Russia reaffirms its principled position in favour of a comprehensive and just settlement of the existing problems on the peninsula, the minister said.

Russian President Vladimir

Putin has been invited to visit North Korea, and Pyongyang hopes to intensify the exchange of high-level delegations with Russia in 2024, North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said on Tuesday. North Korea will make every effort to develop relations with Russia, the minister added. — Sputnik

Trump projected to win Iowa Republican presidential caucuses — US media

MULTIPLE US media outlets on Monday night projected former US President Donald Trump, who is the front-runner in the Republican presidential race, will win the 2024 Iowa Republican caucuses.

CBS News, NBC News, the Associated Press, Fox News and CNN, among others, made the projection just a little over half an hour after Iowa caucuses had opened for first vote in the 2024 White House race.

CBS News said Trump’s expected win proves his grip on the party even as he faces numerous felony charges in four criminal cases. CNN reported that the win cements Trump’s front-runner status in the GOP field.



Former US President Donald Trump speaks at a caucus site in Clive, Iowa, the United States, 15 January 2024. Multiple US media outlets on Monday night projected former US President Donald Trump, who is the front-runner in the Republican presidential race, will win the 2024 Iowa Republican caucuses. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

It remains to be seen who will win the second place, as former South Carolina Governor and UN Ambassador Nikki Ha-

ley, and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis battle to emerge as a top alternative to the former president. — Xinhua

Woman killed, 17 wounded in stabbing, ramming attacks in central Israel

COMBINED car-ramming and stabbing attacks carried out by two Palestinians killed an elderly woman and wounded 17 others in central Israel on Monday, Israeli authorities said.

Commander of the Central District of Israeli Police Avi Bitton said that two suspects were in custody after being arrested at the scene in the city of Ra’anana, northeast of Tel Aviv.

In a statement, Israel’s internal security agency Shin Bet identified the attackers as Ahmed Zidad, 25, and Mahmoud Zidad, 44, members of the same family from Hebron, a city in the occupied West Bank. They

entered Israel without permits.

“They acted together and in parallel, approaching two separate locations, took two cars and launched a series of ramming attacks,” Bitton said.

He said the two attackers switched cars three times during their rampage, including one that they took over by stabbing the driver, and rammed the vehicles into pedestrians in several locations in Ra’anana.

Video footage on Israel’s Kan TV news showed personal belongings strewn across the road and a shattered bus stop, with at least four children reportedly injured in the attack, the report said. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 15 January 2024 shows the scene of car-ramming and stabbing attacks in the central Israeli city of Ra’anana. Combined car-ramming and stabbing attacks carried out by two Palestinians killed an elderly woman and wounded 17 others in central Israel on Monday, Israeli authorities said. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Iranian FM warns US, Britain to stop attack against Yemen

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Monday warned the United States and Britain to stop the attack against Yemen, according to Iran’s semi-official Tasnim news agency.

He made the remarks at a joint press conference with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyan Jaishankar in the Iranian capital Tehran.

Amir-Abdollahian stressed that Iran strongly supported

shipping security in the region, saying “we warn the United States and Britain to stop the attack against Yemen, and also warn the United States and Israel to end the conflict in Gaza.”

He added that Yemen’s Houthi group has “assured us that it would not disrupt maritime security”, and its position is to “take action against Israeli ships’ movement (in the Red Sea) as long as the conflict continues in Gaza”. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar Futsal team to play friendly matches in Indonesia

THE Myanmar national futsal team is set to engage in friendly matches in Indonesia as part of their preparation for the 2024 Asian Cup Futsal Tournament.

Camp training is scheduled from 20 January to 11 February, and the team will embark on their journey to Indonesia in

the first week of February for the friendly matches.

Departing for Surabaya, Indonesia, on 5 February, the Myanmar national futsal team will play against the Indonesia Futsal League champion

Bintang Timur Futsal Club on 7 and 9 February, followed by a match against the Regional East Java Team on 10 February.

A total of nine coaches will handle the Myanmar team consisting of 25 players. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The Myanmar futsal team players are seen at the previous international futsal match. PHOTO:MFF

Former Lethwei champion advises holding more matches for new generations

MYANMAR traditional boxing (Lethwei) competitions are required to nurture new blood, suggested former champion Lone Chaw. He works as a trainer for new players and is still often seen fighting in the boxing rings. "What is required is a lot of competitions. There are more events now compared to our time. As far as I know, there are three big fights, not ordi-

nary ones, in Thailand every week. In our country, we even have to struggle to host one competition per month. So, we need to hold many more competitions," he said.

Although he is satisfied with the new players, their training is weak because they play so few games, he commented. "As long as it is Lethwei (for boxers who go abroad to play),

it's okay. Foreigners and Myanmar players can fight. Foreigners are trained to fight in Thailand. I recommend both foreign players fighting in Myanmar Lethwei and Myanmar players going abroad to fight. Just fight to the best of their ability," he said.

He believes that Myanmar lethwei industry would be promoted if more matches could be held. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

3MA kickboxing and MMA event set for ANS Fight Zone on 21 Jan



THE 3MA Kickboxing and MMA competitions organized by ANS are scheduled to take place at 1 pm on 21 January 2024 at ANS Fight Zone in Shwelinpan Industrial Zone, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon.

The event will feature a total of 12 rounds, consisting of six kickboxing rounds and six MMA rounds. The matchups include Kaung Kaung (Dojo 9) versus Ten (YMA), Zaw Zaw (Htila Thar) versus Thar Gyi (KCK Myitkyina), Nay Min (YMCA) versus Thura (Burma Lethwei Club), Laka Paw (Yoeyar Tiger) versus Myint Myat Hein (Lone Chaw), Lwin Htet (Yangyi Aung) versus Htet Zeyan (Warriors), and Naing Win Tun (Top Lethwei

Club) versus Luke (Wan Chong Club).

Similarly, other matchups include Kyaw Wai Yan (Eagle) versus Win Hlaing Htun (Golden Tiger), A Htun Bwar (Warriors) versus Phoe Chan (Kyar Yine Marn), Zin Phyoo (The Garage Lethwei) versus Myat Thu (Kyar Bayin), Naw Naw (Python) versus Hein Thant (Lone Chaw), Wunna (Ray Club) versus Kyarlay (Kyar Yine Marn), and Tharka Paw (Hmawby versus Dan Dan (KCK Myintkyina).

Live coverage of the competition will be available on the ANS Facebook page, Tangboe Facebook page, and ANS official YouTube on the day of the event. — Bala Soe/TKO

Messi retains FIFA best male player award

ARGENTINE superstar Lionel Messi retained the best FIFA men's player award here on Monday, two months after he claimed the Ballon d'Or.

The 36-year-old was absent from the ceremony held in London, while Pep Guardiola, who coached Messi at Barcelona, showed up to collect the trophy for the men's best coach.

The Spaniard steered Manchester City to the Premier League title, the FA Cup and a first Champions League

last season. The treble also gave bonuses to many Man City players, as Ederson received the goalkeeper award, and six of the Brazilian's club teammates were named in the men's team of the year.

Besides, England manager Sarina Wiegman was crowned the women's best coach while Spain and Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmati added the women's best player award to her women's Ballon d'Or. Marta has been

honoured with the FIFA Special Award for her outstanding career achievements. The 37-year-old Brazilian scored 17 goals in 23 matches at six World Cup tournaments. She was recognized as the world's best female player six times. — Xinhua

Winners gather on stage with FIFA president Gianni Infantino (7th, L) during the Best FIFA Football Awards 2023 in London, Britain, 15 January 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA



Lavrov discusses situation on Korean Peninsula with North Korean counterpart in Moscow

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WORLD

Economic optimism doubles but tech, climate pressure rises: PwC



People attend the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2024 in Davos, Switzerland, 15 January 2024. The WEF Annual Meeting 2024 opened here on Monday. In the face of escalating global division and uncertainty, the 54th WEF Annual Meeting has assembled leaders from around the world for a week of dialogue aimed at enhancing cooperation and cultivating partnerships. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ECONOMIC optimism has more than doubled year-on-year but almost half of CEOs doubt the viability of their businesses as tech and climate pressures accelerate, a new PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) survey presented at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos on Monday showed.

CEOs' optimism about global growth prospects has grown from 18

to 38 per cent compared to last year as concerns about inflation and macroeconomic volatility are easing, PwC's 27th "Annual Global CEO Survey" revealed.

Up to 39 per cent of global chief executives said they expect their company's headcount to increase by 5 per cent or more in 2024.

However, the survey also showed that confidence is fragile with 45 per cent not believing that their business

will be viable in a decade without reinvention, up from 39 per cent in 2023.

Meanwhile, CEOs expect more pressure over the next three years due to such challenges as technology and climate.

The survey, which interviewed 4,702 CEOs across 105 countries and territories, also showed that four in ten CEOs have accepted lower returns for climate-friendly investments. — Xinhua

DPRK decides to abolish agencies handling inter-Korean affairs

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) decided on Monday to abolish its agencies handling inter-Korean affairs, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Tuesday.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK issued, during its session on Monday, the decision on abolishing the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country, the National Economic Cooperation Bureau and the Kungangsan International Tourism Administration, agencies designed to facilitate inter-Korean dialogue, negotiations and cooperation, the KCNA report said.

The decision was made on the grounds that "the reunification of Korea can never be achieved with the Republic of Korea which set it as its state policy to achieve the 'unification by absorption' and 'unification under liberal democracy,'" according to the report.

"It is quite contrary to our national reunification line based on one nation, one state and two systems which we have adhered to for nearly 80 years," the report said. — Xinhua

Indian-Thai Navy first bilateral exercise "Ex-Ayutthaya" connects to Ayodhya



The Indian Naval ships Kulish and IN LCU 56 participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE/ANI**

THE Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) conducted a maiden bilateral exercise, named 'Ex-Ayutthaya', which symbolizes the significance of 'Ayodhya' in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand, which holds historic legacies and has rich cultural ties. The Indo-Thai Bilateral Exercise 'Ex-Ayutthaya' translates to 'The Invincible One' or 'Undefeatable', and "symbolizes the significance of two of the oldest cities, Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand, the historic legacies, rich cultural ties and shared historical narratives dating back to several centuries," the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

The exercise between the two navies was conducted from 20 to 23 December

last year. The Indian Naval ships Kulish and IN LCU 56 participated in the inaugural edition of the exercise. The Royal Thai Navy side was represented by His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Prachuap Khiri Khan, according to the statement. The 36th edition of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was also conducted along with the maiden bilateral exercise.

Moreover, the Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the sea phase of the exercise. By holding such bilateral exercises, both navies have taken a step towards boosting operational synergy and progressively increasing exercise complexity. — ANI