

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the inaugural occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference at the Naypyitaw State Academy yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

## Research findings to contribute to accomplishment of two national visions

The Senior General expressed his belief that the research processes of universities can contribute to the successful implementation of two national visions: the prosperity of the State and food security.

At the opening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference held at Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing men-

tioned that the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science aims to conduct research conferences beneficial for the State and gives guidelines for research processes.

Speaking on occasion, the Senior General said that as education is fun-

damental to the nation's development, enhancement of comprehensive education is of great importance to turn out qualified human resources which are reliable for building the Union based on genuine disciplined democratic and federal systems. He continued that research conferences and paper-reading sessions can contribute much to the education promotion plan.

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### **BUSINESS** PAGE-7



Pigeon pea price hits 3-week high, tracking global market sentiment

### **NATIONAL** PAGE-10

2024 Myanmar-China Media Tea Party held in Yangon

## Yangon Railway Station opens enquiries for Bagan express train schedule

THE Yangon-Bagan express train service is intended to operate daily. However, Myanma Railways has advised that passengers contact the Yangon station by dialling 01 251181 to confirm the daily schedule, as it is contingent on passenger numbers.

The scheduled Yangon-Bagan-Yangon direct express train will depart from Yangon at 4:15 pm and arrive in Bagan at noon the next day. It will leave Bagan at 4:15 pm and return to Yangon at noon the following day. The total travel time for one trip is expected to take 19 hours and 45 minutes.

The train will make stops at Thayawady, Letpadan, Minhla, Okpo, Gyobingauk, Zigon, Nattalin, Paungde, Patigon, Thegon, Sinmeezwe, Pyay (Shwetakha), Aunglan, Saththa, Taungdwingyi, Myothit, Natmauk, Layeain, Tharmya, Pingchaung, Kyaukpadaung, Ngaminmay, and Suti. Ticket prices are K7,200 for the ordinary class, K14,400 for the upper class, and K19,800 for the sleeper. — TWA/TKO



A train from Yangon seen being stopped at Bagan station. (PHOTO: MR PAGE)

# NATIONAL

## National Objectives of 77<sup>th</sup> 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 rule 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 77<sup>th</sup> 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

## 83<sup>rd</sup> intake of Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Management) Course, 57<sup>th</sup> intake of Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Engineering) Course, 9<sup>th</sup> intake of Tatmadaw (Navy) Female Junior Officer Course conclude



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Zwe Win Myint delivers the speech on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services at the event yesterday in Thanlyin, Yangon Region.

THE passing-out parade of the Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Management) Course (83), the Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Engineering) Course (57), and the Tatmadaw (Navy) Female Junior Officer Course (9) was held at the Naval Training Command Headquarters in Thanlyin yesterday.

During the event, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Zwe Win Myint delivered a speech on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

First, the graduate company and honouring companies marched into the parade ground and saluted the State Flag.

Then, Vice-Admiral Zeya Kyaw

Htin Zwe Win Myint took salute of the graduate companies and honouring companies.

He then presented the awards to the outstanding officer trainees of the courses.

In his speech, the Vice-Admiral said that those who completed the courses should practise the afloat duty seriously. The naval members who will serve duties on naval vessels also should practise their respective subjects.

The leaders need to read the literature to differentiate between the right and wrong. The proficiency of a leader plays a crucial role in accomplishing the assigned duties, so only the learning power of individuals can strengthen

their thinking skills.

He also appreciated the role of Tatmadaw (Navy). He highlighted the military operations of Tatmadaw (Navy), including combined fleet exercise that started in 2014, maritime exercises jointly with ASEAN members, Russia, China, India and neighbouring countries, joint patrols, operations and security measures together with Tatmadaw (Army) and Tatmadaw (Air), operations and military-related transport along Ayeyawady river and Chindwin river, transport of foodstuffs and relief items to Rakhine State that Cyclone Mocha seriously hit on 14 May 2023.

He also urged the junior naval officers to follow the orders and instruc-

tions made by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

He added that the Tatmadaw (Navy) is currently facing riverine operation in addition to sea operation and is also working together with the relevant organizations to conserve the rivers and creeks that support the trade network while serving security measures along trade sea routes and at the jetties to protect the interests of the country.

He then took the salute of the graduate company and honouring companies and took a commemorative photo with graduates and senior military officers. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## Research findings to contribute to accomplishment of two national visions

### FROM PAGE-1

He noted that universities must arrange the technology transfer from research findings for manufacturing technologies for new products to factories and share knowledge from new research findings with relevant organizations. If so, the State economy will boom quickly, and these universities will be reliable for the country, he added.

As such, he continued that the government increases the research funds for universities, provides laboratory equipment for research and extends more research centres yearly.

The Senior General stressed that when faculty members of domestic and foreign universities conduct joint research sessions, valuable research results can emerge.

He disclosed that researchers from six ministries, including



The Senior General looks into the exhibits at the event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

turn out graduates and researchers who will conduct fishery, breeding of shrimp and pearl, offshore oil and natural gas sectors, while universities across the nation need to improve the State and socioeconomic life through new technologies and expertise.

Before delivering the speech, the Senior General cut the ribbon to open the conference together with Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council members General Mya Tun Oo and Admiral Tin Aung San and Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe.

The Senior General viewed round research posters and research booths of relevant universities.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC members, Union ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers, rectors, professors, the president of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, resource persons, faculty members, students and guests.

The Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, formed in August 1999, has held talk shows, research paper-reading sessions and conferences on arts, science and social genres yearly since 2001. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference for 2023 is held at Naypyitaw State Academy from 25 to 27 January. — MNA/TTA

### Salient points from the speech of the Senior General at the opening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference

- Universities' research processes can contribute to successfully implementing two national visions.
- Research conferences and paper-reading sessions can contribute much to the education promotion plan.
- The government increases the research funds for universities, provides laboratory equipment for research and extends more research centres yearly.
- Joint research processes between domestic and foreign universities should be done to produce valuable results.

the Defence Services Academy and arts and science universities across the nation, will submit 314 research papers to the conference, adding that universities from the Ministry of Education exhibit some 60 research posters and more than 20 research booths to the showcase the findings from diverse research works to the visitors.

The Senior General underscored that universities need to

## Chinese, Thai Ambassadors call on DPM MoFA Union Minister



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe receives the Chinese ambassador yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

U THAN SWE, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, on 25 January 2024 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to the further consolidation of the existing Pauk-Phaw relations and expansion of cooperation between Myanmar and China, continued implementation of Myanmar-China bilateral projects, maintenance of peace and stability along the border areas between Myanmar and China as well as closer collaboration under the regional and multilateral frameworks.

Moreover, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Mongkol Visittump, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, both sides discussed peace and stability in the border region, including enhancing bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand.

Present at the courtesy call were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and First Secretary Ms Pym Chaiyasan from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand. — MNA

# NATIONAL

## MoBA Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung holds talks with the Chinese Ambassador-led delegation yesterday.

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung met Ambassador Mr Chen Hai of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar at the Minister's Office yesterday afternoon.

They exchanged views on the tasks of the ministry, such as peace, stability and development of the border areas, services for the development of the human resources of the ethnic youth in the border region, issues that will continue to be cooperated according to the agreements for the development

of Myanmar-China border areas, the conditions of preparations for re-examination and scrutiny of displaced persons carried out by the Rakhine State Peace and Stability and Development Coordinating Committee, the status and progress of the implementation of the work of the National Committee on the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons and the Closure of Temporary IDP Camps and the government's efforts for internal peace-making processes. — MNA/TS

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Law Translation Commission Order No 1/2024

Full Moon of Pyatho 1385 ME  
25 January 2024

1. The Law Translation Commission hereby declared the translated version in Myanmar of the following enacted acts in English, approved by the Law Translation Commission under Sub-section (a) of Section 9 of the Law Translation Commission Law, in accord with Sub-section (a) of Section 12 of the aforesaid acts: -

- The Myanmar Laws Act
- The Destruction of Records Act
- The State Grants Act
- The Explosive Substances Act
- The Unlawful Associations Act
- The Bankers' Books Evidence Act

2. The aforesaid translated acts in the Myanmar version shall come into force in line with the original copies of the acts.

(Dr Thi Da Oo)

Chair

Law Translation Commission

### Untimely Rainfall Warning No 1/2024

According to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, due to the western disturbances, convergence of warm air from the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and cold air from the China high pressure system, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions and Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States during today noon to next (48) hrs. — DMH

## Counter-argument to false information

### Misinformation: Security forces set fire to villages in Sagaing, Bago regions

MALICIOUS news media named Khit Thit is spreading false news, stating that security forces burned down Ywama Village in Sagaing Township, Yayleh-maw Village, in Wetlet Township in Sagaing Region, and Natyaydwin Village in Paungde Township, Bago Region, on 24 January. Residents said that PDF terrorists were burning down houses in the villages and spreading false news. The so-called PDF terrorists robbed goods and cash from the grocery store and burned ten houses in

Ywama Village. They also spread news stating that security forces burned down 18 houses in Yayleh-maw Village, Wetlet Township.

Terrorists have been destroying the socio-economic lives of local people through violent means, including setting fire to residential buildings in villages and townships. To cover up their actions and misrepresent the security forces, the malicious news media have been inciting and fabricating false news stories. — MNA/KZL

### Misleading reports: Khit Thit spreads false information on Tatmadaw actions in Loikaw

THE Khit Thit media is deliberately spreading false information on social media platforms, alleging that Tatmadaw is destroying residential houses through arson, heavy weapon attacks, and bombardment in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, causing casualties.

Based on the ground situation in Loikaw Township, terrorists are reportedly using residential houses and buildings as shields, engaging in arson, indiscriminate launcher firing, and

bomb explosions on these houses and the Myoma market while retreating.

As a result, news outlets such as Khit Thit are circulating misinformation and fake news on social media regularly, aiming to conceal the actions of the terrorists and create misunderstanding about Tatmadaw. — MNA/TKO

Screenshot validates misinformation.



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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.

## SAC Chair Office 2 Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office 2, received a delegation led by Mr Chen Hai, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, at the State Administration Council office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on issues related to bilateral economic cooperation and Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone project. — MNA/KZL



Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai calls on Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo yesterday.

## 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting held



Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thi Da Oo (C) delivers the opening remark at the 12<sup>th</sup> ALAWMM meeting online.

THE 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) and the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) hosted by Myanmar were held via videoconference from 23 to 25 January 2024. During those two meetings, Union Minister and Attorney-General of the Union Dr Thi Da Oo acted as the chairperson in the 12<sup>th</sup> ALAWMM and Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htain Linn Oo acted as the chairperson of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASLOM, respectively.

Judicial Law Ministers, Attorneys-General, senior law officials from the ASEAN Member States and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat attended these meetings. Along with them, directors-general, deputy directors-general and

directors from the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, attended the meetings virtually.

Union Minister and Attorney General of the Union Dr Thi Da Oo delivered the opening remark at the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASLOM meeting. In her opening speech, she expressed gratitude to the ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat for allowing Myanmar to hold this meeting. She appreciated the 21<sup>st</sup> ASLOM Chair Mr Brigido J Dulay, Undersecretary of the Department of Justice of the Philippines, for hosting the previous meeting and congratulated him for his outstanding chairmanship. In addition, she acknowledged the development of the ASLOM meeting. She suggested that

ASLOM colleagues consider closer legal cooperation to implement the strategic plan of the ASEAN Political-Security Community. Lastly, she expressed her expectation that as the ASLOM plays an important role in developing the legal environment of ASEAN Member States, the fruitful result will emerge from this meeting.

The 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) was held on 25 January 2024 through videoconferencing. Union Minister and Attorney General of the Union Dr Thi Da Oo conducted as chairperson and delivered opening remarks.

In her speech, she expressed her heartfelt appreciation and was delighted to act as the chairperson of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM) on behalf of Myanmar. She congratulated Malaysia for chairing the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting. She stated that Myanmar fully respects the principles of sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, non-interference, consensus and unity diversity under the ASEAN Charter.

Additionally, Myanmar has worked hand-in-hand with ASEAN Member States to build a thriving ASEAN community and regional integration. She congratulated all the members for successfully holding the 22<sup>nd</sup>

ASLOM in the last two days. In addition, she also explained that the State Administration Council re-constituted the Attorney-General Office into the Ministry of Legal Affairs (MoLA) under Article 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 30 August 2021.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs is the only ministry that interacts with the State's Legislative, Executive and Judicial organs. She said that she is acting as the chairperson of the Law Translation Commission, the Bar Council, the Union Coordination Body for the Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Affairs and the ASEAN Law Association (ALA-Myanmar). She also shared the activity of MoLA, which has been implemented under the 2020-2024 strategic plan with the theme "Legal Services for Justice".

The Ministry of Legal Affairs has conducted legal cooperation in the ASEAN Region and internationally. In addition, she expressed that the 12<sup>th</sup> ALAWMM is an opportunity for Law Ministers to interact and exchange views with each other and to strengthen cooperation within the ASEAN region. Thus, the outcomes of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting will contribute to greater understanding among ASEAN Law Ministers to achieve the

common goals under the ASEAN Charter.

Furthermore, she highlighted that there have been increasing online meetings today as this practice saves time and budget. Therefore, she suggested that the ALAWMM, the regional virtual practice, should strengthen among us for further legal cooperation.

During the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASLOM, the matters related to the progress of the ASEAN Extradition Treaty, legal issues of the ASEAN Member States, harmonization of the ASEAN trade law, ASEAN legal information authority, transfer of sentenced persons between ASEAN Member States, crime prevention and justice, judicial cooperation among ASEAN Member States, mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters, liberalization of legal professions, ASEAN Law Association and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters has been deliberated. At the 12<sup>th</sup> ALAWMM, ASEAN Law Ministers from the ASEAN Member States discussed the matters of the adoption of the reports of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> ASLOM, the determination of the time and venue for the 13<sup>th</sup> ALAWMM, discussing the Joint Communique of the meeting, and considering to adopt the report of the 12<sup>th</sup> ALAWMM. — MNA

# NATIONAL

## Elevated natural gas production energizes widespread CNG adoption in transport



UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin stated on 23 January that, with increased natural gas production, measures will be implemented to promote the widespread use of compressed natural gas (CNG) in the transport sector. During a coordination meeting on CNG vehicles, he made these remarks to enhance public transport safety and efficiency.

The Union minister highlighted ongoing efforts to meet the fuel demands and steps taken

Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin inspects Aphyauk Natural Gas Field Nos 50 and 54.

to boost the production of inland natural gas to cater to the needs of CNG-utilizing vehicles. Emphasizing the global use of CNG to reduce environmental pollution, he stressed the reduction of queuing time at CNG stations and prioritized passenger safety in CNG-equipped vehicles. The Union minister called for close collaboration between the Ministry of Energy and other relevant departments and organizations to achieve these objectives.

There are 46 CNG filling stations in Yangon, Mandalay, and Magway. They distribute 20 million cubic feet of inland and offshore natural gas to 28,301 CNG vehicles per day. — TWA/TRKM

## DMA plans to fill 32 junior staff positions

THE Department of Marine Administration (DMA), under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, is inviting applications to recruit 32 junior clerks. Preference will be given to applicants with basic English and computer skills. Graduates should not exceed 30 years, while those holding master's degrees in English or Law should not exceed

32 years.

Applications must be submitted during office hours, and the deadline will be no later than the end of January. Personal interviews and computer skills tests will take place at the Department of Marine Administration's head office, and applicants will be informed about the interview and test schedules. — TWA/MKKS

## Chinese potatoes in high demand at Bayintnaung wholesale market

WITH potato output from Shan State declining, the market share of Chinese potatoes has grown in the domestic market. The wholesale prices of Chinese potatoes stood at K2,350-K2,650 per viss on 25 January, while the potato from the Aungban area, Shan State, fetched K2,500 per viss.

It hit a record high of K4,200 on 15 November 2023. Yangon's Bayintnaung wholesale centre has disclosed the prices of Shan potatoes since mid-July 2023. Ko Pyae, a trader who distributes potatoes to regions outside Yangon, told the Global New Light of Myanmar that only Chinese potato prices are revealed.

Newly harvested potatoes

from the Sinphyukyun area usually flow into the Yangon market from February to April. The market competition of Sinphyukyun potato against imported Chinese potato is bound to happen, traders forecast. This month, approximately 12-wheel truckloads of Chinese potatoes are daily supplied to Mandalay's Thirimarlar vegetable market. These days, Yangon's wholesale market saw an entry of around 40,000 visses of Chinese potatoes.

Owing to capital outflow, agriculturists' support is requisite for selecting and handling seeds to ramp up production, market observers pointed out. — TWA/EM

## Urgent protection needed for endangered red panda in northern Kachin



A rare red panda spotted in its habitat in northern Kachin State.

RARE red pandas in the northernmost part of Kachin State should be protected because their habitat is shrinking, wildlife observers say. An observer said they are hunted for meat, and their habitat has shrunk due to increased extraction of timber and bamboo. Red pandas are found in Hkakaborazi National Park, Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary, Majel Mountain and Imaw Bum area, and their habitat is mainly in the adjoining areas between Myanmar and China and the mountains between Myanmar and India. These areas have suitable

weather, tall temperate trees, pine forests, mountain trees and bamboo for red pandas to live in. Based on camera traps from previous years, they are seemed to be Chinese red pandas because of their tails and facial features, but the genetics of those in Myanmar need to be tested to be sure. "Red pandas' habitat is decreasing due to timber and bamboo extraction in northern Kachin State. And they are hunted for misinformation that they are medicinal. In particular, they are being poached because there is demand from abroad. Most are

caught dead for sale, and only a few are caught alive," he said. The red panda is a solitary animal that prefers to live covertly in densely forested areas. It feeds mainly on bamboo shoots and leaves, usually foraging at dawn and dusk when it is most active. It breeds in early winter. "Red panda is listed as an endangered species. They are quite rare. So, they should be protected. We are deeply touched because these lovely little red pandas are facing life-threatening danger, so I'd like to suggest they should be protected urgently," said another observer. — MT/ZN

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## Pigeon pea price hits 3-week high, tracking global market sentiment

THE price of pigeon peas rebounded to over K3.8 million per tonne on 25 January 2024 after a drop to K3.235 million per tonne on 1 January, reflecting a significant increase of K565,000 per tonne over the past three weeks.

The bullish global market sentiment and high demand raised the price of pigeon peas.

The FOB price rose to US\$1,080-\$1,100 per tonne on 25 January 2024 from \$1,020-\$1,040 on 1 January.

The price hit a new record high of K4.15 million per tonne on 8 September 2023.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets.

Black gram and pigeon peas are mainly delivered to India, while green gram is shipped to China and Europe.

India has growing consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

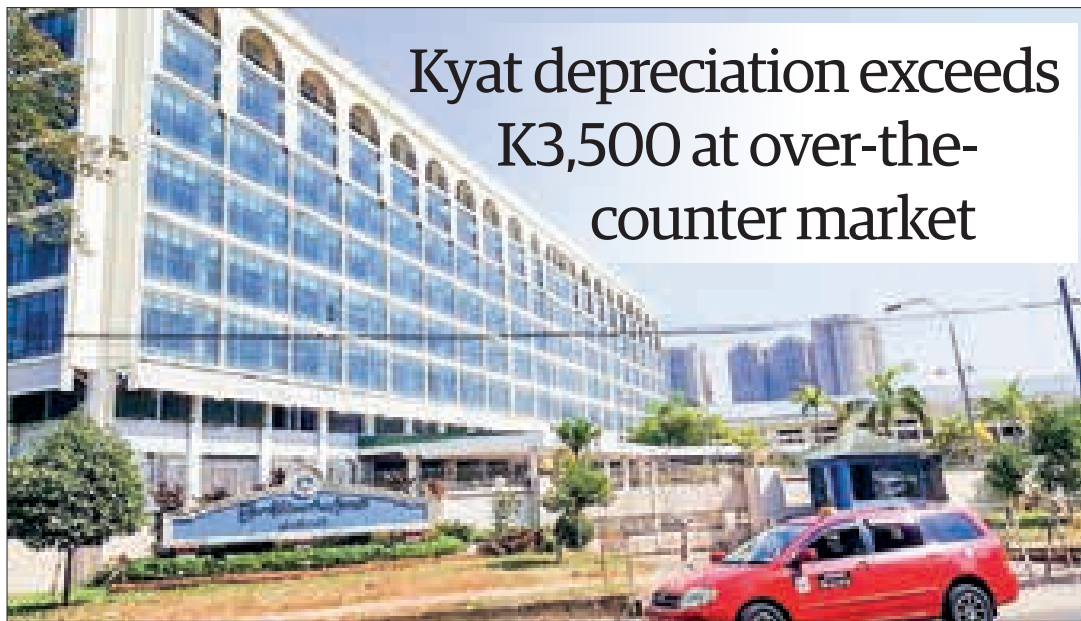


The Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed Myanmar bagged \$1.47 billion from 1.9 million tonnes of pulses exports last FY 2022-2023. The photo showcases a flourishing pigeon pea plant.

Myanmar exported 1.15 million tonnes of various pulses worth US\$978 million in the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

The Ministry of Commerce's

statistics showed Myanmar bagged \$1.47 billion from 1.9 million tonnes of pulses exports last FY 2022-2023. — NN/EM



## Kyat depreciation exceeds K3,500 at over-the-counter market

The general view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Yangon.

KYAT weakened against the surging greenback at over K3,500 on 25 January at the over-the-counter market after easing around K3,450 for the past three weeks.

Meanwhile, the reference exchange rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar is K2,100.

On 5 December 2023, the Central Bank of Myanmar allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate forex exchanges freely as per the market rate determined by supply and demand market forces. Additionally, the CBM notified that outward remittance must comply with the rules and regulations of the Foreign Exchange Management Committee.

The US dollar hit a high of K4,000 in the grey market on 19 August 2023.

Under Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, only those entities holding foreign exchange dealer licences are allowed to

deal in foreign currency and traveller's cheques. Those holding foreign currencies without valid licences and permits will face legal actions under the law, according to the CBM's notification released on 21 August 2023.

Notification 7/2014 dated 30 September 2014 issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar affirming stated that under Paragraph 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, domestic residents can keep US\$10,000 in maximum or equivalent amount of foreign currencies for six months if those foreign currencies that have been unused for over six months have to be exchanged in local currency at the market price through the authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts.

Those illegally holding foreign currencies are to face legal actions under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the CBM warned again. — NN/EM

## Over 230 licences for gem trade set to expire in March 2024

MORE than 230 licences for gem trade are due to expire in March 2024, according to a notification from the Myanmar Gems Enterprise.

Those entities holding gems and jewellery trading licences, manufacturing licences for finished gems and carvings and rough gemstone and finished products trading licences issued by the Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation are required to proceed to the renewal process three months before the expiry date. They must renew them at least one month before the expiry.

Additionally, they can notify the Myanmar Gems Enterprise

of winding down a business with one month's notice before ceasing the operation.

Licence renewal applications can be processed at the Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Nay Pyi Taw), Gems Museum in Yangon and Mandalay Office, mining departments in Mogok, Lonkhin/Phakant, Mongshu and Myitkyina areas, in line with the rules and regulations.

Those businesspeople holding expired licences in 2020 and 2021 were urged to reinstate them with the relevant departments by 31 December 2023. Failure to renew the gem trading licence is bound to face revocation, as notified by the Myanmar Gems Enterprise on 22 September 2023. — NN/EM

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# OPINION

## Apply AI but not violate IP rights for the life of creators

**A**RTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) technology is progressively permeating various sectors, revolutionizing creative activities by offering outcomes at a lower cost compared to human-generated works. However, the creativity exhibited by AI products has certain limitations. While the application of AI can be discerned, the resulting works fall short of matching the boundless and limitless creativity inherent in human endeavours. Human creativity remains unpredictable, and the superiority of AI-generated outputs over human creations cannot be predetermined.

The emergence of AI technology is a welcomed development, presenting solutions to challenges that surpass human capabilities. Scientists and technologists can leverage AI to surmount critical obstacles in their work processes, contributing

Integrating AI technology into various sectors holds immense potential for societal progress. However, it is imperative to approach its application responsibly, avoiding the violation of intellectual property rights and ensuring a judicious balance between the advantages and disadvantages of AI in the creative realm. Users need to give back the deserved honorarium as well as credits to original creators as a social ethic. If not, violations against IP rights will never end in society, bringing tragic losses for all.

It is essential to set a clear objective in the ethical use of AI, ensuring that it does not violate the intellectual property rights of creators. Users should not solely rely on AI outcomes, as this dependency can lead to adverse effects on individuals and society at large. Everybody needs to follow IP rights, which comprise industrial designs and innovation, trademarks, artistic works of literature, music, fine arts, and photographic and television products in line with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) restrictions.

Integrating AI technology into various sectors holds immense potential for societal progress. However, it is imperative to approach its application responsibly, avoiding the violation of intellectual property rights and ensuring a judicious balance between the advantages and disadvantages of AI in the creative realm. Users need to give back the deserved honorarium as well as credits to original creators as a social ethic. If not, violations against IP rights will never end in society, bringing tragic losses for all.

**E**ATING a lemon seemed unbelievable. First, I had a tiny tablet without taste on my tongue. It was made from the powder of a fruit found in West Africa, called the miracle berry from the *Synsepalum dulcificum* shrub. Later, when I bit into a lemon slice, my mouth filled with sweet instead of sour.

In Benin, people have used the miracle berry for a long time to make tart foods sweet. It has a protein in its pulp that makes things taste sweet when there are acids around. Now, it might become famous worldwide as an important part of our search for healthier ways to enjoy sweetness.

Too much sugar is not good for us. It causes problems like obesity and type 2 diabetes. So, instead of sugar, many foods and drinks have substitutes like aspartame, stevia, and sucralose. But now, these substitutes are causing arguments. In May, the World Health Organization said not to use them for losing weight and avoiding type 2 diabetes, which they were once thought to help with.

Now, we're learning more about how these sweeteners affect our health. New plant-based alternatives, like sweeteners from the miracle berry, rare sugar from figs, and a different kind of sugar crystal, want to be the best. Will they be a healthy way to enjoy sweetness, or do we need to change how we feel about sweet things?

People like sweet things because our ancestors needed the energy from sugary foods to survive. But now, we get too much-added sugar from things like table sugar, taken from sugar cane and beets.

This isn't good for our health, and the World Health Organization says we should have less than 25 grammes (equal to six teaspoons) of added sugar each day. This can be hard because sugar is almost everywhere in our diets. In the US, for example, people have around 17 teaspoons of added sugar on average every day. Nenad Naumovski at the University of Canberra in Australia says finding a better alternative to sugar is essential.

To fix this, food companies use sweeteners that taste sweet but have few or no calories. The first artificial sweetener, saccharin, was accidentally found in the 1870s. A chemist, Constantin



Now, new alternatives are emerging, such as sweeteners from the miracle berry, rare sugar from figs, and a different type of sugar crystal. The question arises: Will these plant-based alternatives be a healthy way to enjoy sweetness, or should our perception of sweet things change?

# Exploring Sweetness

By Min Zan

Fahlberg, didn't wash his hands after studying coal tar and realized his dinner was strangely sweet. Saccharin is 300 to 450 times sweeter than sugar.

Many different sweeteners have been discovered over time. Some, like aspartame in 1965 and sucralose in 1976, are artificial. Others, like extracts from the stevia plant, have been used by people in South America for a long time and were first sold in the 1970s. Most sweeteners have no calories, but a few, like aspartame, have a little. They are usually much sweeter than apples or oranges, at least 100 times. Some sweeteners come from sugar alcohols, like sorbitol and xylitol. These are as sweet as table sugar but have fewer calories. The sugar substitutes market globally is worth about \$20 billion each year, and they have

to pass strict safety tests before they can be sold.

"They all have different properties, like aftertaste, sweetness, and what they are made of," says Cherie Russell at Deakin University in Melbourne. "You can mix them to be good for almost any food." Russell's research found sweeteners in many products, not just diet soda and gum, but also yoghurt, cereal, ice cream, flavoured milk, and kombucha. They are also in toothpaste and mouthwash to avoid causing cavities. A study found that even people who said they didn't eat low-calorie sweeteners had some in their urine. Babies can get sweeteners from breast milk.

In a 2022 survey, Russell and her colleagues found that many countries use sweeteners more in drinks and packaged foods. It's more common in places that have

rules to reduce sugar. But replacing sugar with these sweeteners is not easy. Sugar gives food its taste and texture. It stops cookies from falling apart and makes some sorbets creamy. "Taking out just 10 per cent of the sugar and replacing it with something else causes all sorts of havoc with a biscuit," says Naumovski. "It also doesn't colour up, and the texture doesn't seem quite right." Some sweeteners don't work well in heat, some lose sweetness, and others have a bitter taste. So, even though they are sweet, they are often only used in certain things, like diet drinks or gum, and not to replace all the sugar in food.

Health is also a complicated issue. Sweeteners should be good because they help us eat less sugar. But not everyone agrees on this.

People have been worried for

a long time about using certain sweeteners. In July, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that aspartame, a kind of sweetener, might be "possibly carcinogenic to humans". This means it might be related to causing liver cancer, but not everyone agrees. Other health experts at the WHO said that the amount of aspartame people usually eat is okay.

Some studies with many people over a long time have found links between sweeteners and cancer. In 2022, a study in France looked at records from over 100,000 adults and found that those who ate more aspartame and another sweetener called acesulfame-K had more cancer. Mathilde Touvier, who led the study, says this and similar studies "suggest signals regarding sweeteners and increased cancer risk in humans".

Some studies say using sweeteners for a long time might make people gain weight, have heart problems, or get type 2 diabetes. One idea is that sweeteners confuse the body because they taste sweet but don't have calories. The brain still thinks it's getting sugar and makes too much insulin, which can lead to problems. However, some people believe these studies might

be wrong because they only look at people who are already overweight or have health issues.

On the other hand, some studies with animals show that sweeteners make them feel hungry, so they eat more. A study in the US found that kids and teens who drank drinks with sweeteners ate more sugar. Another study in 2020 found that sweeteners only affected the body's sugar response when people drank them with carbohydrates, like fries.

The tiny living things in our gut, called microbes, might also play a role. A study in 2021 looked at 120 people and found that different sweeteners changed the types of bacteria in the gut and mouth. Some sweeteners, like sucralose and saccharin, increase blood sugar. When they put these changed microbes into mice, the mice gained weight and had trouble with sugar, just like people. Researchers are still trying to understand precisely how these changes in the gut affect our health.

The sweeteners we use might be affecting our health in different ways, and we haven't found one that's as good as sugar but without its problems yet. The search for a better option is ongoing in the food industry. One hopeful place to look is among rare sugars from certain plants, like allulose, found in small amounts in figs and raisins. Allulose tastes similar to table sugar but has only 10 per cent of the calories and doesn't make blood sugar go up. The US Food and Drug Administration approved it for "no added sugar" products in 2019. It's used in some energy bars and condiments but is still costly to make. A recent study showed that a modified strain of bacteria can produce allulose cheaply and in large amounts.

Another alternative is monk fruit extract, a powder made from drying the juice of berries from a Chinese vine. Used in Chinese medicine for a long time, it's more than 200 times sweeter than sugar but has no calories. Growing it in large quantities has been a challenge, but a company in North Carolina has found a way to grow it in watermelons.

A new product called Supplant, made by using leftover parts of crops like wheat straw, is also emerging. Enzymes turn carbohydrates into a mix of sugars and fibres, creating a high-fibre product that tastes like cane

sugar but with half the calories and a lower blood sugar response.

Maybe one day, we can get rid of sugar and its low-calorie substitutes and still enjoy sweetness. Some sweet proteins found in the berries of West African shrubs, like brazzein, monellin, and miraculin, offer this promise. Miraculin is well-known and comes from the berry that makes a lemon taste sweet.

The miracle berry, where miraculin comes from, disappeared from Benin's national cuisine. Dedeou Tchokponhoue at the University of Abomey-Calavi in the country explained that it's a slow-growing plant, taking five years to produce fruit. However, in 2019, he and his colleagues found a way to reduce the time to just 18 months, aiming to use the crop to help with the rising rates of type 2 diabetes in Benin.

Food manufacturers are interested in using miraculin or other sweet proteins in healthy but sour-tasting foods, like plain Greek yoghurt, to create a sweet taste. However, there are challenges to overcome, such as the short shelf-life of miraculin.

One way to solve the sweetness problem is through genetic engineering. In Japan, scientists at the University of Tsukuba put miraculin plant genes into tomatoes. Other researchers are trying to make sweet proteins like miraculin and brazzein without growing berries. They put their genes into microbes, and the microbes make these compounds.

In Italy, Delia Picone is studying the sweet protein monellin at the University of Naples. It comes

from a shrub in West Africa. Picone thinks monellin might be better for businesses than miraculin. She says, "It's very sweet, so you only need a little as a sugar substitute." The problem with monellin is that it breaks down when it's hot. But in 2021, Picone and her colleagues found a way to change its chemical structure to stay the same when cooking.

Even though these new sweeteners are considered safe by experts, we still need to learn more about their long-term effects on health. Researchers are also trying to change regular sugar to make it dissolve faster on the tongue. This way, we can have sweet-tasting foods with fewer calories.

But the real issue is that we eat too much sweet stuff in modern countries with a lot of money. According to Suez, a scientist, "We're eating more sweetness than our bodies can handle, whether it's sugary or not." He thinks the most important thing is for people to realize they should eat less sweet things.

Russell, another expert, agrees. She says having a very sweet taste makes us not want to eat healthy foods like whole grains and vegetables. This is a big problem globally, especially for kids. She adds, "You start expecting everything to taste super sweet."

So, even though we're trying to find sweet things without sugar, there's still work to do before we find the perfect solution.

**Reference:** *New Scientist* Nov 2023

# ARTICLE

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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# NATIONAL

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts & Science Research Conference kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw



The 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe.

THE Ministry of Education organized the 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference at Naypy-

itaw State Academy yesterday. The relevant resource persons read their respective arts

and science papers at the designated places. Union Minister for Educa-

tion Dr Nyunt Pe, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Dr Zaw Myint and Dr Moe Zaw Tun,

the permanent secretary, directors-general, rectors and officials concerned, attended the research paper reading sessions.

During the conference, 314 research papers will be read out by resource persons from the Arts and Science Universities across Myanmar and six other ministries.

Moreover, the best arts and science awards and best subject paper awards will be presented, and the qualified research papers will be published in research journals. In addition, some 61 research posters from the Ministry of Education and 18 research exhibitions will be displayed.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Arts and Science Research Conference will take place from 25 to 27 January. — MNA/KTZH

## 2024 Myanmar-China Media Tea Party held in Yangon



The photo shows the convening of the 2024 Myanmar-China Media Tea Party on 24 January 2024.

THE 2024 Myanmar-China Media Tea Party took place at the Governor's Residence in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, on 24 January 2024. The event was attended by Mr Zheng Zhihong, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, along with the economic and commercial and cultural counsellors, embassy staff, and representatives from both Chinese and Myanmar media outlets. Mr Zheng Zhihong delivered the opening speech.

Following Mr Zheng Zhihong's address, the economic and commercial and cultural counsellors elaborated on the ongoing projects and collab-

orations between Myanmar and China in religious, cultural affairs, and economic development.

Media outlets such as the Northern Star Media, Pauk-Phaw, One News Myanmar, and The Global New Light of Myanmar raised questions related to armed conflicts in the north-eastern part of Myanmar, China's assistance for border stability, the reopening of trade channels between the two countries, and the dissemination of accurate information to counter misinformation and fake news.

In response to the queries, Minister Counsellor Mr Zheng Zhihong emphasized that My-

anmar is a crucial and friendly nation to China. He conveyed that both the Chinese Government and its people are keen to witness Myanmar's rapid development after restoring national stability. Mr Zheng Zhihong stated that China is collaborating with the Myanmar government to ensure stability in border areas, resume bilateral border trade as soon as possible, and continue providing necessary assistance for Myanmar's development.

Representatives from media outlets in both countries engaged in constructive discussions and exchanged opinions during the event. — ASH/TMT

## Ranong-Kawthoung Friendship Tourism Festival to be held in full swing

IN addition to local foods and aquatic products, food and consumer goods from Thailand will be sold at the festival.

The Taninthayi Region government office announced that the Ranong-Kawthoung Friendship Tourism Festival will come to life at the 3<sup>rd</sup>-mile People's Square in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region. In an effort to boost tourism between Myanmar and Thailand, the Ranong-Kawthoung Friendship Tourism Festival is scheduled to take place from 4 to 8 February for five days at the 3<sup>rd</sup>-mile People's Square in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region. The event will feature performances by renowned artistes, as per the regional government office.

U Kyaw Lin, Assistant Director from the Taninthayi Region government office, stated, "The Ranong-Kawthoung Friendship Tourism Festival will showcase renowned local delicacies from the picturesque islands in Kawthoung Township. Additionally, various aquatic products, food, and consumer goods from Ranong, Thailand, will be available. Galleries will also highlight the attractions of the beautiful islands in Kawthoung Township,



An advertising board for the Ranong-Kawthoung Friendship Tourism Festival that will be held in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-mile People's Square in Kawthoung Township.

Myanmar."

Furthermore, the festival will host stalls featuring the products of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the Taninthayi Region, along with special exhibitions focusing on Myanmar-Thailand friendship. Renowned artistes, including singers Jenny, Yone Lay, D Phyo, and Ki Ki, will entertain the audience with their performances. — ASH/TKO

## AI audience row at Sundance sparks walkout, highlights division

AN audience member was ejected from a Sundance festival event Tuesday in a spat over artificial intelligence, triggering a walkout that illustrates the divisions the technology has rapidly wrought in the film industry.

AI — a key driver of the recent and devastating Hollywood strikes — has been debated extensively at this year's indie movie festival in Utah. Filmmakers have experimented with using the technology as a creative tool, while also cautioning about its potential to erase jobs and stifle human expression and connection.

At a Tuesday screening of

“Being (The Digital Griot)”, in which audience members were encouraged to approach the screen and discuss issues like racism and the patriarchy with an AI bot, an audience member appeared to shout “fuck this AI”.

“I’m not here to be cursed out and I’m not going to have my AI child be cursed out either,” responded the film’s creator, artist Rashaad Newsome, refusing to participate in a post-screening Q&A until action was taken.

Festival staff forced the woman who had apparently yelled to leave the auditorium, prompting jeers. — AFP



Being (the Digital Griot) lead artist Rashaad Newsome refused to participate in a post-screening Q&A until action was taken against a heckler. **PHOTO: AFP**

## China strives to promote local tourism with quality service and cultural riches

China's northeastern city of Harbin is emerging as a leading winter destination, prompting tourism bureaus nationwide to actively promote local attractions using innovative strategies to attract visitors.



Tourists pose for photos in Harbin, Heilongjiang province on 7 January 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

WITH China's northeastern city of Harbin gaining prominence as a top winter destination, tourism bureaus nationwide are actively promoting local attractions and employing innovative strategies to entice visitors.

Featuring unique local

traditions such as distinctive dressing-up, traditional dances and delectable cuisine, these efforts aim to captivate tourists in the lead-up to the week-long Spring Festival holiday.

Liu Hong, head of the culture and tourism bureau of the Garze Tibetan Autono-

mous Prefecture in southwest China's Sichuan Province, has recently become a social media “celebrity” after a video of him strolling with a horse in a Tibetan robe and dressed as a swordsman while on a raft went viral on social media. — Xinhua

## Sri Lanka's Parliament passes bill to regulate online content

Under the Online Safety Bill, content creators deemed to be posting “illegal” material by a five-member commission will be punished with jail sentences.

SRI Lanka's Parliament has passed a bill to regulate online content, Al Jazeera reported.

This has sparked criticism from rights groups and opposition politicians that the Sri Lankan government is trying to crack down on dissent and stifle freedom of speech ahead of parliamentary and presidential elections this year.

The measure was passed on Wednesday by a 108-62 vote, the Speaker announced.

Under the Online Safety Bill, content creators deemed

to be posting “illegal” material by a five-member commission will be punished with jail sentences. It also holds compa-

nies such as Google, Facebook and X accountable for content posted on their platforms, as per Al Jazeera. — ANI



The country logged 8,000 cybercrimes last year, said Public Security Minister Tiran Alles. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ UNSPLASH**

## Study reveals unintentional weight loss is a signal to see a doctor

ACCORDING to a Dana-Farber Cancer Institute study, unintentional weight loss increases the probability of receiving a cancer diagnosis within the coming year.

“If you are losing weight and you aren't trying to lose weight by making changes in your exercise routine or diet, people should see their doctor to consider possible causes,” says lead investigator Brian Wolpin, MD, MPH, Director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Centre at Dana-Farber and Director of the Hale Family Centre for Pancreatic Cancer Research.

“There are many conditions that can result in unexpected

weight loss. Your doctor can determine if there is something that needs evaluation.”

The findings were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association on 23 January 2024. Compared with participants who did not lose weight, recent weight loss was associated with significantly increased risk for several types of cancer, including upper gastrointestinal tract (including esophageal, stomach, liver, biliary tract, and pancreatic cancer), hematological (including non-Hodgkin lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and leukemia), colorectal, and lung cancers. — ANI

# ECONOMY WORLD

## China's cross-border capital flow to be further stabilized in 2024: central bank

*The country's 2023 current account surplus is estimated at around \$280 billion, and the trade in goods surplus is expected to exceed \$600 billion.*

CROSS-BORDER capital flow in China is expected to be further stabilized this year, said a central bank official on Wednesday.

The country's current account surplus will remain at a reasonable level and foreign capital inflow activities will increase in 2024, said Zhu Hexin, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China, at a press conference.

Zhu, also the head of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said that cross-border capital flow in China has



Aerial photo taken on 28 December 2021 shows the new Tiexi Plant of BMW Brilliance Automotive (BBA) under construction in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province. **PHOTO: YANG QING/XINHUA**

been more stable recently, as the current account continues to see a relatively large net inflow.

The country's current account surplus in 2023 is expected to reach around 280 billion US dollars and the trade in goods surplus will exceed 600 billion dollars, said Zhu.

Moreover, recent foreign investment in China has also shown a positive trend, said Zhu.

It is widely estimated that the Federal Reserve will make some changes in its monetary

policy in 2024, and if so, China will see smaller spillover impact from the Fed policy and improved external financial conditions, Zhu said.

China is expected to see a rebound in foreign investment this year, said Zhu.

He added that China is confident that the RMB market's value will become increasingly prominent in diversified investment as the country has complete industrial chains and a super-large market. — Xinhua

## Thailand to seek public support, foreign investors for landbridge project: official

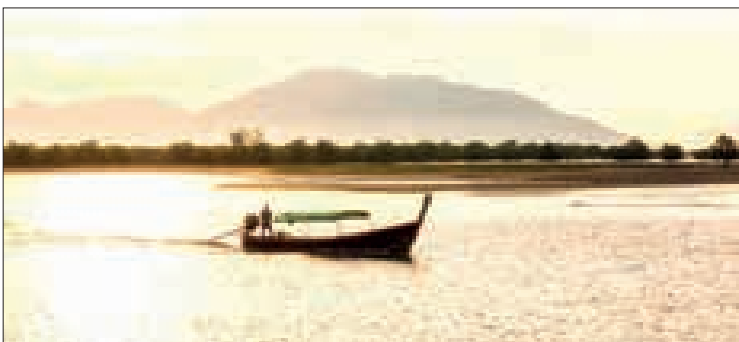
*The Thai government plans to persist in garnering foreign investors and public support for a landbridge project connecting the Pacific and Indian Ocean, as stated by government spokesperson Chai Wacharonke.*

THE Thai government will continue to seek foreign investors and public support for a landbridge project linking the Pacific and Indian Ocean, a government spokesperson said on Tuesday.

"After thoroughly researching pertinent data, we are currently working on ensuring understanding for both potential investors and the involved public, inviting investors to participate in and manage the project," government spokesperson Chai Wacharonke told a press briefing

after a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin in the southern Ranong province.

The landbridge project, which was approved by Srettha's government in principle last year, will encompass the building of deep-sea ports at Ranong province on Thailand's Andaman coast and at Chumphon province on the Gulf of Thailand, in an effort to enhance connectivity and provide an economic boost for the country. — Xinhua



Gazing at the sunrise from a longtail boat off the coast of Ranong Province, Thailand is a breathtaking experience. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK**

## Western Australia eyeing India to diversify economy through investment in tourism, critical minerals

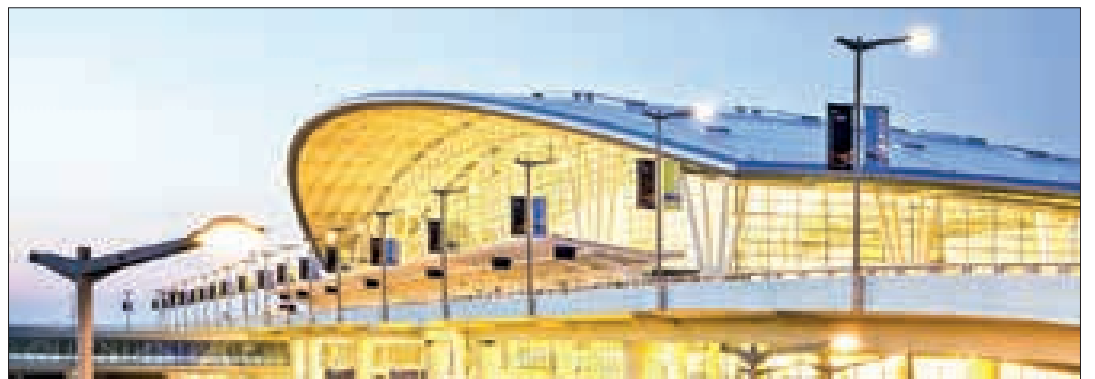
*To strengthen ties, Western Australia is exploring the possibility of a direct aviation link, potentially in southern India.*

WESTERN Australia is looking at India to diversify its economy through investment in tourism and critical minerals, with the state government saying there is a "huge opportunity" for Indian businesses in several sec-

tors in Australia's largest state.

To strengthen ties, the Western Australian government is exploring a direct aviation link, possibly in southern India. Notably, there has been no direct flight from India to

Western Australia. Western Australia's Deputy Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Transport and Tourism, Rita Saffioti, has successfully concluded a delegation-led mission in Delhi. — ANI



Western Australia is exploring the possibility of a direct aviation link, potentially in southern India. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ CHENNAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MAA)**

## Facilitation of African Union into G20 demonstrates India's leadership in world arena

LAUDING India for the facilitation of membership of the African Union into the intergovernmental G20 forum, visiting President of the United Nations General As-

sembly Dennis Francis said that it depicts New Delhi's leadership in the international arena.

He said that it also demonstrates India's

long-standing commitment to assist and facilitate development in the Global South, adding that Africa is a region whose potential is yet to be fully realized. — ANI

## China's Gansu reports robust foreign trade growth with ASEAN in 2023

As part of the Belt and Road Initiative, Gansu actively expanded its trade cooperation with ASEAN members throughout 2023, encompassing diverse sectors such as energy, mineral products, grain, seeds, and fruits and vegetables.



Gansu's first international freight train that runs via the China-Laos Railway prepares to depart from Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province, 21 April 2022.

PHOTO: CHEN BIN/XINHUA

NORTHWEST China's Gansu Province saw robust growth in its foreign trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2023, with total import and export value expanding 55 per cent year on year to 8.94 billion yuan (about 1.26 billion US dollars), according to local customs.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative, Gansu continued to expand trade cooperation with ASEAN members in 2023,

covering a wide range of fields including energy and mineral products, grain, seeds, fruits and vegetables.

In recent years, Gansu has developed a batch of high-quality agricultural products by improving its industrial chain and optimizing its industrial structure. These products are favoured by consumers in ASEAN countries.

"Gansu should continue to improve opera-

tion levels and services provided by Gansu freight trains on the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor," said Wang Yuecheng, chairman of Gansu Logistics Group, at the annual session of the Gansu Provincial People's Congress.

In 2023, Gansu handled 598 international freight trains, an increase of 38 per cent year on year, and opened three new international freight routes. — Xinhua

## Memory chip giant SK Hynix returns to profit on strong AI demand

THE world's second-largest memory chip maker, South Korea's SK Hynix, said on Thursday it had returned to profit after four consecutive quarters of losses driven by demand for chips used in artificial intelligence.

SK Hynix posted an operating profit of 346 billion won (\$259.4 million) for the October-December period, compared with a loss of 1.9 trillion won in the same period a year earlier, with strong sales of its flagship products DDR5 and HBM3. — AFP



South Korea's SK Hynix, the world's second-largest memory chip maker, announced a return to profit in the October-December period after four consecutive quarters of losses, primarily driven by increased demand for chips used in artificial intelligence. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO UNDERTAKE A SHARE CAPITAL REDUCTION

In accordance with section 116(e) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, **Volka 919 Co., Ltd**, a company incorporated in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with Company Registration Number: 123366255, (**Volka**) hereby gives notice of its intention to call a meeting of shareholders to consider and, if thought fit, approve a reduction in Volka's share capital. The draft Notice of Meeting and Explanatory Statement regarding the proposed capital reduction have been submitted to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration for review and these documents will be sent to Volka's shareholders when this process has completed in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Further details concerning the capital reduction will be published if approved by shareholders.

For **Volka**  
May Mon Min Thein (Advocate- No.17348)  
**SCM Legal Limited**  
email: [office@scm-legal.com](mailto:office@scm-legal.com)

### Transfer of Distributorship of Registered Pesticides

Distributor of the following pesticides, registered by Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd will be transferred from Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd. Located at Junction City Tower, #03-13, No.3/A, Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar to OMO Family Co., Ltd, R-6 Road, No.(1/3) Yangon Industrial Zone, Mingalardon, Yangon, Myanmar 11021 Any objection regarding to this transfer can be filed with the Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Permit	Registration Number
1	Zorvec® Encantia® 330 SE	Famoxadone 28.8% + Oxathiapiprolin 2.88% w/w SE	Full	F2023-3337

Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd  
Ph: 01-9253390

## CCI gives nod to merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank, AU Small Finance Bank

THE Competition Commission of India (CCI) has granted its approval for the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited (Fincare) and AU Small Finance Bank Limited (AU).

According to CCI, this significant move is poised to reshape the landscape of the small finance banking sector. The Proposed Combination outlines the

merger of Fincare and AU, with AU emerging as the surviving entity, post the merger. Under this arrangement, the shareholders of Fincare will be issued shares in the merged entity after the completion of the merger process. AU Small Finance Bank, a prominent banking entity, offers an array of personal and commercial banking services. — ANI

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2320S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2320S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-1-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB402A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB402A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-1-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**

## ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

### US, Iraq governments expected to soon begin talks on troops withdrawal

The upcoming talks will primarily focus on the next phase of the US-led anti-ISIS coalition, given the significant reduction of the terror group's influence.



An Iraqi soldier stands guard in front US military air carrier at the Qayyarah air base, Iraq. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE US and Iraq are expected to soon begin talks on the American military presence in the country following calls from the Iraq government for the US to withdraw its troops, as reported by CNN, citing sources.

Last summer, the US and Iraq agreed to form a higher military commission, according to the Pentagon, as a vehicle for the talks.

The discussions between both countries will focus on the next phase of the US-led anti-ISIS coalition, with the

terror group now reduced to a shadow of its former self. According to officials, US military officials and diplomats will be involved in the discussions.

The talks about the future of the US military presence in Iraq have sparked a greater urgency as regional instability rises, according to CNN.

Calls by the Iraq government for the US have come in response to the US launching airstrikes inside Iraq targeting Iran-backed militants who have been attacking US personnel there. — ANI



A worker cleans a statue of Britain's Queen Victoria that was defaced in Melbourne on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

### Statue toppled as Australians reckon with bloody past

Statues of British colonial figures Captain James Cook and Queen Victoria were damaged in Melbourne on Australia Day, amid ongoing division and protests.

STATUES of British colonial figures Captain James Cook and Queen Victoria were damaged in Melbourne on Thursday, as annual Australia Day celebrations were again marked by division and protest.

On the eve of the country's national holiday, a now-traditional row over Australia's often brutal past re-erupted.

In the southern city of Mel-

bourne, a statue of the British explorer was felled — apparently cut off at the shins — and its plinth sprayed with the words “The colony will fall”.

Meanwhile, a nearby likeness of British monarch Queen Victoria was daubed with red paint.

“This sort of vandalism has no place in our community,” said Victoria state premier Jacinta

Allan.

Australia Day is held every year on 26 January.

For most Australians, it is synonymous with a day off work, a barbecue, a trip to the beach and the end of the summer holidays. But the choice of date — celebrating the arrival of European settlers at Sydney Harbour in 1788 — has become increasingly contentious. — AFP

### Ahead of polls in South Korea, ‘Dior bag scandal’ threatens prospects of ruling party

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol and his party has been caught in a controversy after the surfacing of hidden camera



The incident, involving the alleged acceptance of the luxury handbag by First Lady Kim Keon-hee, comes ahead of April's Parliamentary elections. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

footage which appears to show the country's first lady accepting a handbag worth USD2,250 by luxury brand Dior, reported The Strait Times.

Yoon won the election in 2022 but his conservative People Power Party PPP, is a minority in the country's parliament, where rival Democratic Party currently holds the majority of seats.

The development comes ahead of Parliamentary elections in the country in April and the incident is seen as dampening the prospects of the ruling People's Power Party (PPP). — ANI

### Houthis fire three anti-ship ballistic missiles at US Ship Maersk Detroit

IRAN-BACKED Houthis on Wednesday fired three anti-ship ballistic missiles at the US Ship Maersk Detroit transiting the Gulf of Aden.

“On 24 January at approximately 2 pm (Sanaa time), Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists fired three anti-ship ballistic missiles from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen towards the US-flagged, owned, and operated container ship M/V Maersk Detroit, transiting the Gulf of Aden,” US Central Command (CENTCOM) posted on X. “One missile impacted in

the sea. The two other missiles were successfully engaged and shot down by the USS Gravely (DDG 107). There were no reported injuries or damage to the ship,” the CENTOM further said. Meanwhile, the US and UK recently carried out additional strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen, CNN reported, citing a joint statement. In the latest development, the countries attacked the rebels' infrastructure on Monday and struck eight sites, as per a joint statement from the US and UK. — ANI

# SPORTS

## AFC Asian Cup: Viet Nam ends with three defeats, Japan outplays Indonesia



Aymen Hussein of Iraq shoots during the Group D match against Viet Nam at AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar, 24 January 2024. PHOTO: SUN FANYUE/XINHUA

*Iraq eased into the knockout stage of the AFC Asian Cup with three straight wins, while Japan also advanced from Group D.*

VIET Nam was eliminated from the AFC Asian Cup with a dismal third straight defeat, a 3-2 loss to Iraq in Group D on Wednesday.

Aymen Hussein came off the bench to score twice as Iraq advanced to the knockout stage with a perfect nine points.

Bui Hoang Viet Anh volleyed home Khuat Van Khang's free-kick to break the deadlock for Viet Nam in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute,

but Khuat's second yellow card before halftime put his teammates at a disadvantage.

With Ali Jasim and Hussein brought on from the bench in the second half, Iraq showed its ambition to win the game.

Iraq leveled the score only two minutes into the second half as Jasim's corner kick released a Rebin Solaka header into the Vietnamese goal.

Hussein headed the ball past Vietnamese goalkeeper Filip Nguyen in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute but saw his spot-kick denied by the woodwork ten minutes later.

Hussein finally scored the winner in the last minute of the game through a penalty after Ngyuen Quang Hai restored parity for Viet Nam in the first minute of stoppage time. — Xinhua

## Dutch footballer faces 9 years in prison for cocaine smuggling

THE Dutch public prosecutor on Wednesday demanded nine years imprisonment against the Dutch professional soccer player Quincy Promes for involvement in large-scale smuggling of cocaine through the port of Antwerp.

The 32-year-old former Ajax and Sevilla player, who currently plays for Spartak Moscow in Russia, was not present at the trial in the court in Amsterdam. The

public prosecution service tried to get him to the Netherlands, but he refused, probably out of fear of being arrested.

According to the public prosecutor, Promes had a "directing role" in the smuggling of two shipments of cocaine that entered the port of Antwerp, Belgium, in 2020. This concerned a total of 1,360 kilogramme of cocaine that was transported from Brazil. — Xinhua

## Real Madrid take top spot in football's 'Money League'

REAL Madrid have climbed to the top of football's 'Money League' as the Spanish side surpassed Manchester City to become the highest revenue-generating club in 2022-23.

For the first time since 2017-18, Real are in pole position in Deloitte's financial rankings with a reported record revenue of 831 million euros (\$905 million), an increase of 118 million euros over the previous year.

Although they failed to win La Liga last season -- finishing 10 points behind champions Barcelona -- and lost in the Champions League semi-finals to

Manchester City, Real's growth is largely attributable to strong retail performance, higher stadium attendance and recovery of sponsorship income following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

Manchester City, who won the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup last season, fall to second place in the 2024 rankings. The club reported its highest ever revenue for a season, 826 million euros, and bolstered both broadcast and commercial revenues by 50 million euros and 26 million euros respectively. — AFP

## China dominates short track speed skating, adds free ski silver at Gangwon 2024

*Chinese teenagers dominated short track speed skating as the sport concluded on Wednesday, while Han Linshan claimed silver in the women's freeski slopestyle at the 2024 Gangwon Winter Youth Olympic Games.*

CHINA dominated short track speed skating with another mixed relay gold medal, and added a freestyle skiing silver at the 2024 Gangwon Winter Youth Olympic Games here on Wednesday.

Li Jinzi, Yang Jingru, Zhang Bohao and Zhang Xinzhe comfortably finished first in the mixed-gender team relay final that wrapped up the short track speed skating competition.

The Chinese

team showed dominance in the individual events, claiming three of the six golds on offer in the sport.

The 16-year-old Zhang Xinzhe picked up two golds and two silvers in total, demonstrating his promising future as a prodigy.

The United States won the mixed team relay silver,

and Japan secured bronze.

Chinese freestyle skier Han Linshan claimed silver in the women's slopestyle event, raising expectations for another medal in the upcoming big air event on Sunday.

Flora Tabanelli of Italy won the women's slopestyle gold, and Muriel Mohr of Germany snatched bronze. — Xinhua



Zhang Xinzhe (2L) and Li Jinzi (3L) of team China compete during the short track speed skating mixed team relay final A at the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangneung, South Korea, 24 January 2024. PHOTO: YAO QILIN/XINHUA



# Royal Cambodian Army marks 25<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary

*Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, adorned in full military regalia, presided over the celebration held at the RCA's headquarters on the western outskirts of Phnom Penh. The commemorative event featured a military parade showcasing battle tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery, rocket launchers, and various weapons, along with military trucks.*



Military vehicles parade in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Royal Cambodian Army in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 24 January 2024. **PHOTO: SOVANNARA/XINHUA**

**C**AMBODIA on Wednesday celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Royal Cambodian Army (RCA), an arm of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF).

Dressed in full military regalia, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet presided over the ceremony, which

was held at the RCA's headquarters on the western outskirts of the capital Phnom Penh.

Upon his arrival, the prime minister rode in an open camouflaged Jeep to inspect the troops before proceeding to the stage.

At the event, a military parade was

staged, demonstrating battle tanks, armored vehicles, artillery, rocket launchers, and other weapons as well as military trucks.

Speaking to thousands of troops at the ceremony, Hun Manet expressed his sincere gratitude to the armed forces for their great sacrifices to defend

the country's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the people.

He said the RCA has also made tremendous contributions to maintaining the kingdom's hard-won peace, which is the foremost prerequisite for national development. — Xinhua

# South Africa's Cape Town ranks as world's second best city

CAPE Town, the legislative capital of South Africa, has secured second place in the latest global ranking of the world's best cities to live in for the year.

In a list of the "50 Best Cities for 2024" released on Tuesday by Time Out, a leading global media and hospitality company, Cape Town clocked in at a remarkable No 2, beaten only by New York, the United States.

That placed it well ahead of other landmark European destinations such as Berlin (No 3), London (No 4) and Madrid (No 5).

According to a statement on

Time Out's website, its annual ranking of the most remarkable cities on earth is based on

a survey of thousands of urban dwellers around the world in their hometowns. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 13 August 2023 shows colorful houses in Bo-Kaap area of Cape Town, South Africa. **PHOTO: DONG JIANGHUI/XINHUA**

## 328,000 LANDINGS AND TAKE-OFFS

### Passenger traffic at Changi Airport in 2023 rebounds to 86% of pre-pandemic level

SINGAPORE'S Changi Airport handled 58.9 million passenger movements in 2023, representing 86 per cent of the traffic volume in 2019, according to the annual report released by the airport Wednesday.

The airport recorded 328,000 landing and taking-off last year, compared to 382,000 in 2019.

Changi Airport's top five passenger markets in 2023 were Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, Thailand and India. The Chinese mainland held the sixth among Changi's top 10 markets with nearly four million passenger movements.

Despite the recovery in passenger movements, airfreight throughput of the airport dropped six per cent year-on-year against a volatile global economic environment, standing at 1.74 million tonnes for 2023. — Xinhua