

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with officials from registered political parties yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

## Call for political parties to prioritize national cause alongside party politics

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing highlights that political parties in the multiparty democratic system must have party political movements and implement national causes.

Yesterday afternoon, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met officials from registered political parties at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Senior General explained that the government had issued law amendments for holding the by-election after amending the Political Parties Registration Law to ease the work process of political parties, adding that Tatmadaw has guaranteed to continuously

walk on the path to multiparty democracy and cement the process.

The Senior General noted that political parties must be strengthened by initiating democratic practices in the party affairs.

He pointed out that although political parties may face some difficulties in party movements in some townships due to security conditions, they have to manage their movements in suitable townships to contact the people continuously.

The Senior General continued to say that party politics means organizing the people to accept their party policies and recruit new members while serving

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### Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General at the meeting with political parties

- Tatmadaw has guaranteed to walk on the path of multiparty democracy continuously and cement the process.
- Political parties must be strengthened with the initiation of democratic practices in the party affairs.
- Tatmadaw will not totally accept any demands based on armed struggle in the multiparty democratic system, without using political ways.
- As now is the time to prepare for the forthcoming election, efforts are underway to hold a free, fair and prestigious election.

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# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Government Notification No 1/2024

4<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME  
13 February 2024

### Formation of Central Body for summoning people's military servants

AS every citizen is obliged to safeguard the "Our Three Main National Causes", viz non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty, the People's Military Service Law was enacted for every citizen to undergo military training to serve these duties. The Central Body for summoning people's military servants has been formed with the following persons under Section 6 of the People's Military Service Law.

(a) Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister Ministry of Defence	Chairman	(l) Union Minister Ministry of Ethnic Affairs	Member
(b) Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)	Vice-Chairman	(m) Quartermaster-General Quartermaster-General Office	Member
(c) Union Minister Ministry of Home Affairs	Member	(n) Judge Advocate-General Judge Advocate-General Office	Member
(d) Union Minister Ministry of Border Affairs	Member	(o) Chief of Armed Forces Training Chief of Armed Forces Training Office	Member
(e) Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Ministry of Legal Affairs	Member	(p) Director Directorate of Medical Services	Member
(f) Union Minister Ministry of Information	Member	(q) Adjutant-General Adjutant-General Office	Secretary
(g) Union Minister Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture	Member	(r) Director Directorate of People's Militia and Frontier Forces	Joint Secretary
(h) Union Minister Ministry of Immigration and Population	Member		
(i) Union Minister Ministry of Labour	Member		
(j) Union Minister Ministry of Education	Member		
(k) Union Minister Ministry of Health	Member		

By Order,

**Zaw Than Thin**  
Secretary  
Union Government

## Adapting to change: Reforms needed for Myanmar's traditional pottery business

AS interest in pottery declines among younger generations, reforms are necessary to sustain the traditional pottery business in Myanmar amidst changing times.

Clay pottery is predominantly used in rural areas, with its popularity waning elsewhere. The pottery market has shrunk as fewer newcomers are willing to enter the trade.

"The market is now primarily confined to rural areas, and even there, it's contracting," explained Daw Myintzu Oo, owner of Myintzu pottery business. "Fewer people are interested in pursuing pottery as a profession".

In 2000, with assistance from UNICEF, a project to



(L&R): Photos depict pots produced by Twantay Township and a female pottery artisan dedicatedly passionate about her craft.

manufacture clay pottery filters was initiated. Although successful, the project was eventually phased out. Today, the focus has shifted to pro-

ducing a variety of clay pottery, particularly plant vases and pots for gardening purposes.

Myintzu pottery produces over ten items, including



vases, kettles, water pots, piggy banks, and oil lamps. The production process involves five steps.

The pottery industry in

Twantay Township has been a family trade for generations. However, it faces challenges such as a shortage of skilled workers. — ASH/TMT

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

### Setting date for Reserve Forces Law to come into force Notification No 32/2024

4<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME  
13 February 2024

The Reserve Forces Law enacted as Law No 28/2010 of the State Peace and Development Council in 2010 shall come into force starting from 13 February 2024 under Sub-Section (b) of Section 1 of the aforesaid law.

Sd/  
Min Aung Hlaing  
Senior General  
Chairman  
State Administration Council

## Call for political parties to prioritize national cause ...

### FROM PAGE-1

the national cause. The national cause must be first and party affairs second. In comparing the country and the party, they must prioritize the national cause.

He urged political parties to strive to build a future nation with educated human resources.

In forging peace and stability, the Senior General highlighted that Tatmadaw will not totally accept any demands based on armed struggle in the multiparty democratic system, without using political means.

The Senior General recounted that the government initiated the People's Military Service Law to come into force, aimed at ensuring the security of the State and peace and stability, adding that the government will consider all measures of the law without burdens for the State. He clearly explained that it is necessary to manage serving of appropriate strengths in military service within the designated age limit. He disclosed that an order will be issued for the Reserve Forces Act to come into force today in order to recruit war veterans on their demand for serving the State's defence

duties. Both laws will contribute to increasing the strength of defence capacity.

The Senior General underlined that the successful holding of a general election depends on collaborative efforts of the government, political parties and people.

He disclosed that as now is the time to prepare for the forthcoming election, efforts are underway to hold a free, fair and prestigious election.

He underscored that among the 56 million population mentioned in the 2019 interim census, 84.9 per cent of the population are engaged in agriculture, livestock and forestry sector, handiworks and related businesses, services and trading, and employees.

As such, the Senior General urged all parties to accept the concept that economic development based on agriculture and livestock must be a national cause.

Chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and officials from political parties discussed participation in ensuring peace and stability of the nation, necessary measures for holding an election, and cooperation in social,



The discussions are underway at the yesterday's meeting between the Senior General and representatives from registered political parties in Nay Pyi Taw.

economic, education and other sectors of the country, and their support to the enactment of People's Military Service Law.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko, Union Minister for Legal Affairs Dr Thi Da Oo, Union Minister at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office No 1 U Ko Ko Hlaing and Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Sit Aye discussed measures of political parties, matters related to the

People's Military Service Law and the Reserve Forces Act, foreign policies, and anti-corruption.

In his response, the Senior General pointed out that service personnel can cast votes for their favourite ones, but they must be clear about party politics. He urged all political parties not to infringe on Our Three Main National Causes.

The Senior General underlined that all ethnic people have

to forge the Union spirit and not commit any acts harming the Union spirit.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council members Admiral Tin Aung San and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, officials, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and officials from 42 registered political parties. — MNA/TTA

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# NATIONAL

## DPM MoFA UM engages with diplomatic envoys



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe holds talks with ambassadors and charges d'affaires yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe met the ambassadors and 19 chargés d'affaires who were temporarily brought back to Myanmar to attend the head of state's lecture, along with four ambassadors departing for their respective postings, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office yesterday.

During his remarks, the Union minister emphasized the crucial role of diplomats in representing their country and citizens on the international stage.

The meeting aimed to brief officials on addressing challenges and staying abreast of the country's policies.

He stressed the importance of teamwork, advocating for an impartial foreign policy, and fostering diplomacy to transform adversaries into allies.

He emphasized that ambassadors must remain steadfast in fulfilling their duties and maintaining loyalty to their country despite pressures from powerful nations.

Subsequently, the ambassadors and officials shared their insights on the perspectives of the nations they represented regarding Myanmar, prospects for strengthening bilateral ties, ongoing projects, and the country's interests. The Union minister provided his suggestions and brought the meeting to a close. — MNA/NT

## National Security Adviser receives delegation led by Russian Ambassador



The ambassador of the Russian Federation calls on Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung yesterday.

ADMIRAL Moe Aung, National Security Adviser and Union Minister for the Ministry 4 at the SAC Chairman's Office, met with a delegation led by Mr Iskander Azizov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, at the State Administration Council office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, along with security-related issues, were openly and warmly discussed during the meeting. Officials from the State Administration Council office and the Russian Federation Embassy in Myanmar were present. — MNA/TRKM

## Counter-argument to false information

### Fake news spread that Tatmadaw men set fire, loot precious things owned by people in Kawlin

THE malicious Khit Thit news media fabricated news stories on social media claiming that Tatmadaw set fire to residential areas and forcibly seized valuable items belonging to the people in Kawlin, Sagaing Region.

However, according to the residents, KIA and PDF terrorists invaded Kawlin on 3 November 2023, abducting and killing departmental personnel to disrupt administrative processes. They also destroyed and burned down departmental buildings and residential homes, looting property from

the people. Additionally, the terrorists planted mines and set fire to buildings and homes as they retreated during counter-terrorism operations conducted by security forces.

As a result of the mine explosions and fires set by the terrorists, buildings and homes were destroyed, and people were injured. The security forces then undertook landmine clearance and resettlement efforts in Kawlin.

The malicious Khit Thit media is intentionally spreading misinformation to mislead the public. — MNA/TMT

### False news: Tatmadaw arrested 40 men in Kalay

THE malicious media outlets are spreading false news expressing that Tatmadaw arrested 40 men in Kalay on 12 February, and also, on 2 February, the regional control command commander himself forcefully collected 40 people for people's military service at the Sri Lanka monastery.

According to the security official, Tatmadaw did not go to Bontaw village that day,

and the arrest of 40 men is only false news. On 2 February, the regional control command commander went to the Sri Lanka monastery and met members of the people's militia. He also offered food and gave words of encouragement. It is just false news that the media is spreading intentionally. — MNA/TRKM

### Corrigendum

Please read "...CB Bank ..." instead of "...CT Bank ..." under the heading of "Direct payment in Indian rupees ..." in the second last paragraph of the news report on page 3 of this daily issued on 10 February 2024. — Ed

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# NATIONAL

## NSPNC meets seven NCA-signatory EAOs

A meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and seven NCA-signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) was held yesterday morning at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, who is also Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, and members. Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) member Khun Okka, Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Chairman Saw Mra Raza Linn, KNU/KNLA Peace Council Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo, Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) general secretary Kyar Ya Koke, Saw Kyaw Than Htay, head of the relations department of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), New Mon State Party (NMSP) central committee member Nai Bannyar Mon, representatives from the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) Central Committee member Nan Moe Moe Saw and Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) Deputy Liaison Officer Khun Tila.



The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and seven NCA-signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and KNU/KNLA Peace Council Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo gave a welcoming speech at the meeting.

Then, they discussed the methods that should be used

for the country's stability, peace processes to be carried out in the future, humanitarian aid issues, and organizations' opinions and suggestions regarding regional development issues.

Afterwards, Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) member Khun Okka and Chairman of the

National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung gave closing remarks and presented gifts to each other.

The interests of the ethnic people should be taken into consideration, and the armed conflicts that are currently oc-

curing should be solved at the peace table. The attendees expressed the same opinion that they urged the armed organizations in the conflict to protect civilians needing humanitarian assistance due to the conflict and to provide aid to them as soon as possible. — MNA/TS

## MSME products show & traditional food sale continue 4<sup>th</sup> day

THE fourth day of the MSME products show and traditional food sale occurred yesterday in Tabaung Ground near Up-patasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was thronged with students, youths and those who participated in the Union Day ceremony and locals. The show displayed MSME products, One Region One Product and export products from regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council.

The business people from MSME sectors and those who run manageable MSME businesses also visited the show, and the relevant officials explained the information to develop the MSMEs, the challeng-



Crowds of visitors are seen at the show and food fair yesterday.

es in penetrating local/foreign markets, and so on. The show also included entertainment programmes in the evening. The MSME products and traditional foodstuffs from regions and

states are available in a single place, and visitors can observe the traditions and customs of ethnics from 10 to 14 February. — Than Min Aung/Jaing Law/KTZH

## Tourist rescue service launched in Yangon for safety, convenience

COORDINATION has been made among related departments and associations to provide rescue services for the safety of the tourists in Yangon Region, according to an official from the Myanmar Travel Association (MTA). While the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MOHT) is making necessary arrangements to ensure safe destinations that can attract more tourists for the systematic development of the tourism sector, coordination has been made among related departments and associations to provide rescue services for the safety of tourists in Yangon Region and the ministry has also informed the contact persons and phone numbers for assistance. "This is for the safety of travellers. If something happens, it includes the contacts list with phone numbers. It is an arrangement by the Tourism Services Committee. Most tour companies are based in Yangon Region, while most tourists come through Yangon Airport. So, the information is published for the security of arriving and departing guests," an MTA official said. Currently, tourists from Thailand, Russia and China are the top visitors to Myanmar.

Foreign tourist arrivals in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (up to November) are 0.9 million, over 0.1 million, over 0.2 million and over one million respectively, according to the MOHT. — MT/ZN

# NATIONAL

## Mobile Team to help Myanmar workers holding CIs get passports



The queue seen to wait for passports in the hall.

ON 12 February, the Myanmar embassy in Thailand announced that a Mobile Team would assist Myanmar workers holding Certificates of Identity (CIs) in obtaining passports.

Workers with Certificates of Identity (CIs) can apply for PJ passports with the necessary documents at the Temporary Data Collection Centre (TDCC) office in Mahachai.

The Mobile Team will visit factories where Myanmar citi-

zens holding CI work to collect data, verify information, and issue passports.

For data collection, workers seeking passports must provide a personal profile with full details and photo, the original CI booklet, a copy of the CI visa page, a copy of the work permit, the original and a copy of the national scrutiny card, and a copy of the household registration.

Once workers receive

their passports, they can contact the office of the labour attaché to be listed as MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) workers under their factory's arrangement. If a passport expires, renewal can be applied for.

Additionally, Myanmar factory workers must inform their respective HR managers of these details and cooperate in the advance data collection process. — TWA/TRKM/KNN

## Free 7 sessions of fish breeding, fishing courses offered 23 times

ACCORDING to the Regional Fisheries Department, seven types of basic fish farming and fishing courses will be held 23 times for free in the Ayeyawady Region in the 2024-2025 financial year.

"These courses will be taught for 20 to 50 trainees in each batch to develop the fish production sector," said an official from the Department of Fisheries.

The courses being conducted include the basic business skills training for marine fisheries workers, workplace capacity-building training, basic fish farming and water quality

control, fish disease technical training, good aquaculture practice training, fish resource conservation technical training, fish injection hatching freshwater fish breeding training, and occupational health and safety training for marine fishers.

About 50 per cent of aquatic products produced in Ayeyawady Region are self-sufficient for domestic consumption, and 50 per cent are exported. During the ten months of this financial year, 564.681 million dollars have been received from exporting aquatic products, according to the Ministry of Commerce. — TWA/KZL

## 10<sup>th</sup> Selangor International Expo (F&B) 2024 to be held in Malaysia

THE 10<sup>th</sup> Selangor International Expo (F&B) 2024 is set to take place over four days in Malaysia.

Scheduled from 16 to 19 October 2024, the expo will occupy nearly 500 showrooms across five halls at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. Organizers anticipate hosting over 30,000

guests, with the rental cost for a nine-square-metre showroom priced at US\$2,500.

Myanmar businesspersons interested in participating in the expo can reach out via email to [hingching@investselangor.my](mailto:hingching@investselangor.my) for additional information. — TWA/TRKM

## Weekly market update of dry groceries at Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre

FOR a week from 7 to 13 February 2024, the prices of black grams and pigeon peas drastically dropped on 13 February, two days after market closure. The prices of onion and Shan garlic moved up. The wholesale reference price for palm oil was set lower this week.

### Onion

Bayintnaung market saw a supply of 50,000 visses of onion on 10 February, and only some depots opened on Lunar New Year's Day. There was a high influx of 330,000 visses of onions from various regions on 13 February.

The wholesale prices stood at K1,400-K2,900 per viss depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Seikphyu, Myittha and Myingyan) on 13 February.

The highest price in the Pakokku market was K2,050 per viss only with an entry of 17,000 visses of monsoon onions, while the onion fetched K1,950 per viss in maximum in Myingyan market that day, with the supply of 89,760 visses of onion that day.

### Garlic

The garlic prices from Aungban, Shan State, touched a high of K16,000-K17,800 per viss depending on varieties and qualities, whereas Kyukok garlic prices decreased to K8,900-K9,000 per viss on 13 February.

### Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were registered at K9,500-K11,500 per viss for long chilli pepper and Mohtaung va-



A retail dry groceries outlet.

riety on 13 February. The price of bell peppers was K15,800-K16,500 per viss.

### Rice

The prices hit K86,000-90,000 per sack of non-premium monsoon rice and K103,000-K105,000 per sack of Pawkywe variety on 13 February. Meanwhile, the new Pawsan rice of premium quality

was worth K135,000-K166,000 per sack, depending on the producing areas (Pyapon, Myaungmya, Shwebo). The glutinous rice fetched K100,000-K110,000 per sack.

### Palm oil

For a week from 13 to 18 February 2023, the wholesale reference price of Yangon Region was

set lower a bit to K5,140 per viss compared to that of the previous week. The FOB price stood at \$857.5 per tonne on 13 February.

### Pulses

The prices of various pulses dipped at K3,195,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K3,395,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K3,977,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K4,500 per viss of green gram (Shwewah) and K6,375-K6,700 per viss of chickpea in Yangon's wholesale markets on 13 February 2024.

### Potato

Chinese potato price fetched K2,650-K2,750 per viss on 13 February, with 60,000 visses flowing into the market. — TWA/KK

## YGN palm oil wholesale reference price falls at small pace

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set for a second weekly fall to K5,140 per viss from 13 to 18 February, indicating a slight decrease of K135 per viss compared to that (K5,275) of last week ending 12 February, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price was set at K5,380 during the week ending 4 February.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has closely observed the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the weekly wholesale market reference rate for edible oil.

Nevertheless, the market price is way higher than the reference price.



Workers seen organizing jerrycans of cooking oil for distribution and sale.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Com-

merce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call

centre's hotline in late August. The department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high

prices.

The department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to consumers in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association and oil importing companies.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported yearly through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/EM

## Agri export earnings hit US\$2.8 bln in past ten months

MYANMAR'S agricultural exports amounted to US\$2.8 billion in the past ten months of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

The figures dropped from \$3.108 billion recorded in the corresponding period last FY, showing a drop of \$301.79 million.

Myanmar carries out international trade through border and maritime trade channels. It exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods.

Myanmar has implemented the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 to boost exports. The priority sectors of the NES consist of agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/KK

## Black gram, pigeon pea prices fall again



A purchaser is observing the quality of black grams at a beans and pulses outlet.

THE prices of black grams and pigeon peas fell again in the domestic market as the FOB price dropped and foreign demand faltered.

The prices peaked at K3.5 million per tonne of black gram and K4.197 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 5 February. The prices declined to K3.195 million for black grams and

K3.977 million for pigeon peas on 13 February, indicating a sharp drop of K305,000 for black grams and K220,000 for pigeon peas.

Myanmar conveyed over 1.3 million tonnes of various pulses worth over US\$1.123 billion over the past ten months of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April, the Minis-

try of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar bagged over 1.47 billion from 1.9 million tonnes of pulses exports last FY 2022-2023.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported 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 Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

# OPINION

## Seek the best ways to improve electric power sector

**T**HE Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee is actively working towards increasing the contribution of renewable energy in the country's electric power sector to drive Green Growth, Green Energy, and a Green Economy for national development.

The focus lies on meeting the escalating demand for electric power and energy in the country while ensuring that all processes align with the natural environment, minimizing impacts as much as possible. Therefore, there is a concerted effort to boost the use of renewable energy with the least social impact.

The country is currently grappling with a 15 per cent annual increase in electricity demand. To cater to the energy needs across the nation, the electricity generation mix encompasses 47.6 per cent hydropower, 1.7 per cent solar energy and other renewable sources, and 50.7 per cent from a combination of gas, liquefied gas, and coal for the national grid.

Currently, over 66.67 per cent of the nation's electrification ratio is consumed by the populace. Electricity is sourced through diverse methods across the country. Six solar power plants are actively contributing to the national grids, and eleven additional plants are in progress to augment the electricity supply further.

Myanmar is leveraging modern renewable energy technologies, aligning its capacity with competitive electricity prices. To expedite environmental conservation efforts, international organizations are encouraged to provide technological expertise and financial assistance to Myanmar, fostering foreign

investments in renewable energy projects.

However, Myanmar faces challenges and barriers in meeting the conditional targets of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Overcoming these obstacles necessitates financial aid, technological assistance, and the mobilization of human resources to align with the country's policy objectives. Consequently, collaboration between domestic and international scholars and experts in the energy and electric power sectors is crucial to achieving sustainable electricity generation that positively impacts the socioeconomic well-being of the population.

The improvement of living standards for the entire population hinges on qualified human resources actively participating in electricity generation for public consumption and industrial use. Hence, there is a collective call for both the government and the people to explore and implement optimal strategies to advance the electrification process, ultimately enhancing the socioeconomic life of the nation. That is why all the people need to contribute to the working process of the government in generating electricity as much as they can, and both the government and the people have to seek the best ways for the electrification process.

**A**TTITUDE plays a crucial role in shaping our lives and influencing our interactions with the world. Developing a positive and resilient attitude from a young age can pave the way for a successful and fulfilling life. Here, we will explore the importance of building a strong foundation of attitude in childhood and how it can positively impact one's future.

Attitude is more than just a state of mind; it is a driving force that shapes our behaviour, decisions, and reactions to life's challenges. A positive attitude enables individuals to navigate through difficulties with resilience and optimism, fostering personal growth and success. Children are like sponges, absorbing information and experiences from their surroundings. Parents, caregivers, teachers, and peers play significant roles in shaping a child's attitude. Positive role models and a supportive environment contribute to the development of a healthy mindset.

Encouraging children to adopt a positive mindset involves praising their efforts, focusing on strengths, and teaching them to see setbacks as opportunities for growth. Children can learn to approach challenges with a can-do attitude by fostering a sense of optimism. Life is full of ups and downs, and developing resilience is essential for overcoming obstacles. Teaching children to view setbacks as temporary and providing them with problem-solving skills instils a resilient attitude. This resilience becomes a valuable asset in facing the uncertainties of the future.

A strong foundation of attitude includes the development

of empathy and emotional intelligence. Teaching children to understand and manage their emotions, as well as empathize with others, contributes to the formation of positive and meaningful relationships. Instilling a sense of purpose and goal-setting in children helps them develop a proactive attitude toward life. Children learn the value of hard work and perseverance by setting achievable goals and celebrating small victories.

Schools play a crucial part in shaping a child's attitude. A positive and inclusive learning environment, along with effective character education programmes, can reinforce the values of respect, responsibility, and cooperation. The attitude developed in childhood doesn't just affect a person's early years; it lays the groundwork

## The Crucial Role of Attitude in Shaping Life's Journey

By Yin Nwe Ko

for their entire life. Individuals with a positive attitude are more likely to embrace opportunities, overcome challenges, and build strong interpersonal connections.

In addition, building a strong foundation of attitude from a young age is instrumental in shaping a child's future. Parents, educators, and society at large are responsible for providing the necessary guidance and support to foster positive attitudes in the



younger generation. By doing so, we contribute to creating a brighter and more resilient future for our children.

As soon as a baby is born, it cannot walk. First, it stays on its back in bed. Later, it lies prone and stays in a sitting position. At last, it tries to stand and practice to walk. Before, it could not walk well, and it often fell down. Unless it continues trying to walk due to the pain and fear encour-

tered in every walk, it will never be able to walk forever. Everyone has already tried to walk when young. Likewise, everyone should endeavour to stabilize his or her existence in the world with peace.

No matter the way in which one was born, either from a wealthy family or a low-income family, the chance of trying is consistent.

Certainly, life is not the thing

that should not be resigned. Although one was born into a rich family, he or she will surely be in trouble one day if he or she goes on living without trying and preparing for life. Similarly, one is born into a poor family, and if he or she is depressed with life and stays with laziness, he or she will surely continue meeting the varieties of trouble and never feel the sweetness of life. Therefore, one's

life, whether rich or poor, should go on a journey of life by making careful endeavours. Even if one meets failure, one should preserve life so as not to be toppled down.

Everyone does not like the failures. But some failures are caused by one's incompetents. Only qualified people who have a steadfast attitude can withstand failure. Everyone cannot be deprived of trouble. If one does not want to try again and again when he or she meets the trouble, he or she will be devoured by the trouble. In fact, life is composed of images of endeavour.

In a story I have read, a one-armed beggar had come to a monastery and asked the residing monk for the remains of food. Then, the monk made the beggar move the heap of brick towards the back of the monastery. The beggar was angry with the monk, saying how to move the bricks with his one arm. The monk said to him that such work could be done with one arm and showed the beggar how to carry the brick with just one arm. The beggar was so hungry that he did it, and soon the work was completed. When the job finished, the monk gave the beggar food and some money for his wages for the day. The beggar was amazed, but he happened to notice the ability that he could manage.

After a few days, a beggar with two hands, which were originally good, got to the monastery and asked the monk for the food remains. The monk again made him move the heap of brick from the back of the monastery towards the front of it. Then the beggar got angry with the monk, saying he could not do it, and left the monastery. At that time, the novices from the monastery addressed the

monk where he wanted the heap of brick to be set stable. The monk said that the place of the heap of bricks was not important, but he wanted to know whether the beggar had the attitude to do the work or not.

After a few years, a one-armed man came to the monastery to make his donation. He was once the beggar who had got to the monastery and asked the monk for food. But he realized his ability to do the work that the monk taught him and abandoned his beggar life. Since then, he tried to do work, and now his condition has gotten better and better to implement such a donation. Therefore, as everyone has an opportunity to try to do work, no matter what difficulties are encountered, one should try to overcome as much as they can by trying hard. What is more, everyone should try to build a strong foundation of attitude since they are young.

Life offers everyone the chance to try, regardless of whether they are born into a rich or poor family. Indeed, life cannot be taken for granted. Both the rich and the poor face challenges, and without effort and preparation, one cannot navigate through the complexities of life. Whether born with advantages or facing difficulties, everyone must make careful endeavours to navigate their life journey and not be toppled by failures.

Failures are a part of life, and not everyone likes them. However, some failures are a result of our own shortcomings. Only those with a steadfast attitude can withstand failures and continue to try. Life is composed of the images of endeavour, and one's ability to overcome challenges depends on one's attitude toward life.

An inspiring story about a one-armed beggar at a monastery teaches us the importance of attitude. The monk asked the beggar to move a heap of bricks with only one arm. Despite initial doubts, the beggar succeeded, realizing his ability. In contrast, a beggar with two hands refused the same task, lacking the right attitude. The monk emphasized that the attitude to work is more important than the work itself.

The story highlights that no matter the circumstances, everyone has the opportunity to try and overcome difficulties. Just as the one-armed beggar transformed his life through effort, everyone should strive to build a strong foundation of attitude from a young age. It is through perseverance and the right mindset that we can navigate the ups and downs of life, just like the determined baby learning to walk.

In brief, the journey of life requires effort, perseverance, and a positive attitude. Building a strong foundation of attitude from a young age is crucial for facing challenges, overcoming failures, and leading a fulfilling life. Parents, educators, and society share the responsibility of providing guidance and support to nurture positive attitudes in the younger generation. By doing so, we contribute to creating a brighter and more resilient future for our children. Life is a journey that everyone can navigate successfully with the right mindset and determination.

*(To my beloved son and other children who play internet games every day)*



Recent studies, such as one analyzing blood proteins of over 110 long Covid patients, are providing valuable clues to understand the mechanisms behind this condition and why it persists in some individuals. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP**

## Researchers start to find clues on the trail of long Covid

*Long Covid encompasses various persistent symptoms experienced by individuals weeks or months after contracting the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including fatigue, shortness of breath, muscle pain, and brain fog.*

**T**ENS of millions of people across the world are thought to suffer from long Covid, but four years after the pandemic was declared this elusive condition still cannot be tested for – let alone treated.

However research could be finally starting to find early clues on the trail of long Covid, raising hopes of future breakthroughs that may also illuminate other stubbornly ambiguous chronic syndromes. Long Covid is the name

given to a wide variety of symptoms still being suffered by people weeks and months after they first contracted the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The most common are fatigue, shortness of breath, muscle pain and brain fog.

Science study, told AFP he believes this is a "central puzzle piece" in what keeps Covid raging for so long in the bodies of some people. Part of the body's immune system called the complement system, which normally fights off infection by killing infected cells, remains active in people with long Covid, continuing to attack healthy targets and causing tissue damage, the researchers said.

One notable study released last month showed there were significant differences in the proteins of the blood of more than 110 long Covid patients.

Onur Boyman, a Swiss researcher and senior author of the

study, told AFP he believes this is a "central puzzle piece" in what keeps Covid raging for so long in the bodies of some people.

Part of the body's immune system called the complement system, which normally fights off infection by killing infected cells, remains active in people with long Covid, continuing to attack healthy targets and causing tissue damage, the researchers said.

Boyman said that when people recovered from long Covid,

their complement system also improved, suggesting a strong link between the two.

"It shows that long Covid is a disease and you can actually measure it," Boyman said, adding the team hopes this could lead to a future test. Researchers not involved in the study cautioned that this complement system "dysregulation" could not explain all the different ways that long Covid seems to attack patients.

**SOURCE: AFP**



# NATIONAL

## Nearly 400 witness Dolphin-assisted net fishing in mid-February

U Maung Maung Lay, Chairman of the Irrawaddy Dolphin Conservation Group of the Department of Fisheries (Mandalay Region), reported that approximately 400 domestic and foreign visitors came to witness the local net-fishing tradition aided by dolphins in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung area, part of the Dolphin Conservation Area of Mandalay Region, during the second week of February.

It is noted that many visitors are attracted to observe the net-fishing practices of fishermen collaborating with dolphins in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung area, particularly during the low water period of the Ayeyawady River,



The artisan net fishing of fishermen being assisted by Irrawaddy dolphins.

which facilitates easier viewing of the net-fishing custom.

“Due to the current low water levels, the Irrawaddy dolphins

have plentiful food resources. Consequently, now presents the

prime opportunity to witness the largest gathering of Irrawaddy dolphins in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung region. Travellers flock to Ayekyun and Indown villages to witness the dolphins in groups during this season. In the second week of February, an estimated 400 people visit daily, while in the first week, around 300 people visit each day,” stated U Maung Maung Lay.

Likewise, travellers are reportedly attracted to Ayekyun village in Madaya Township of Mandalay Region, where community-based tourism (CBT) initiatives are underway, to observe the Irrawaddy River dolphins grazing daily. — ASH/MKKS

## Confiscated illegal items: Timbers, foodstuffs, medications, animals and vehicles

DURING inspections conducted on 9 and 10 February, combined on-duty teams from the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated a total of 0.586 tonnes of illegal teak valued at K42,500 in Ingapu Township, 5.375 tonnes of other illegal timbers worth K317,356 in Patheingyi Township, and 0.697 tonne of other illegal timbers valued at K348,600 in Patheingyi Township. Additionally, 6.010 tonnes of other illegal timbers were seized, valued at K420,728, in Nyaungdon Township. These enforcement actions were carried out under the Forest Law.

On 10 February, the joint task force intercepted a Mitsubishi Fuso truck, estimated at K27 million, travelling from Myawady to Yangon at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. The truck was found to be carrying 1,560

bottles of Queen-branded orange juice and 1,496 kilograms of Chaokoh Coconut cream without official documents. These actions were conducted under Customs procedures.

Further confiscations occurred on 12 February at the 16th-mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint, resulting in the seizure of 250 small tortoises valued at K537,500. The tortoises were found without official documents in a Toyota Crown Estate car, approximately valued at K23 million, travelling from Nam Kan to Mandalay. This enforcement effort was also carried out under Customs procedures.

During inspections on 11, 12, and 13 February, the joint teams intercepted a Sunlong bus, approximately valued at K35 million, travelling from Kawthoung to Yangon, carrying four kinds of goods valued at

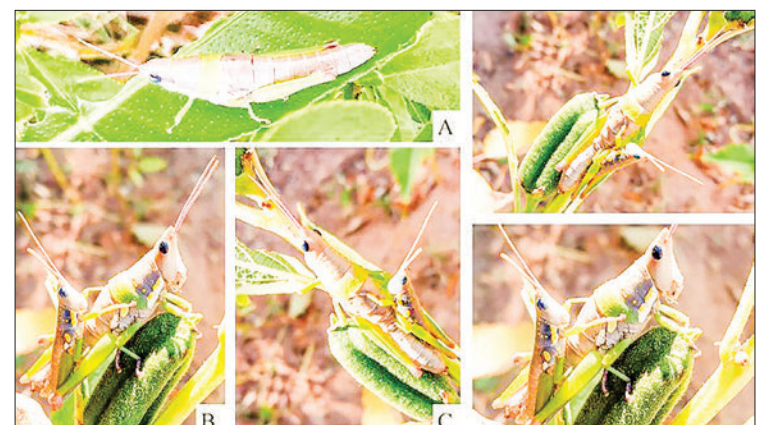
K9.977 million. These goods included 4,680 bags of Violet milk wafers without official documents. Similarly, a Higer bus, valued at approximately K40 million, heading to Yangon from Hpa-an, was found to be carrying four kinds of goods valued at K11.72 million, including 3,600 bags of Yum Yum instant noodles without official documents, at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. Additionally, 0.398 tonne of illegal teak and 19.850 tonnes of other illegal timbers, valued at K1,652,576, were seized in Bago and Toungoo districts. These actions were taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

According to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, 15 arrests were made over five consecutive days from 9 to 13 February with an estimated value of K157.253 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal commodities and vehicles.

## NSCI rediscovers rare Myanmar grasshopper species after 85 years



*Burmorthacris subaptera* Kevan endemic to Myanmar.

RESEARCHERS rediscovered a rare Myanmar endemic grasshopper species for the first time since 1937, according to the Native Species Conservation and Identification (NSCI).

The species *Burmorthacris subaptera* Kevan had been absent from scientific records for 85 years. Initially classified as critically endangered, it resurfaced when a team of researchers from Myanmar rediscovered it. Their findings were published in *Magnolia Press* on 8 February.

This grasshopper species is found in Myanmar's hot and arid central regions. It features yellow dots on its neck and a green ring around its back, distinguishing it from other grasshopper species.

NSCI researcher Ma Zon Wutt Hmone, who played a key

role in the grasshopper discovery, commented, “The species was initially identified by foreign researchers in 1937 during their visit, but no subsequent records were made. In 2022, a Yenangyoung Township resident and a NyaungU visitor rediscovered and documented the species. Following this, we collaborated with a Thai researcher to document these new findings further.”

The other two members of their team are Ma Mala Kyaw and Ma Cho Thandar.

NSCI is a team of local and foreign researchers working to conserve biodiversity, share knowledge, and debunk popular myths concerning flora and fauna through in-depth articles. — ASH/NT/KNN

## Sapporo Snow Festival crowds recover to pre-pandemic level in 2024



The photo taken on 11 February 2024 shows large snow sculpture of characters from popular anime series Golden Kamuy. (Copyright Satoru Noda/Shueisha, Golden Kamuy Project) **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Sapporo Snow Festival drew 2.39 million visitors through Sunday, with an organizer saying attendance has recovered to pre-pandemic levels after the removal of coronavirus measures.

It is the first time in four years the annual festival, one of the country's biggest winter events, was held at full scale, us-

ing three locations in the capital of Hokkaido in northern Japan.

The recovery of visitor numbers has been helped by inbound travellers to Japan, according to the festival's executive committee. The event regularly attracted over two million people annually before the coronavirus pandemic, but the global health emergency

forced organizers to hold the festival virtually in 2021 and 2022.

It was held on a reduced scale last year, drawing 1.75 million visitors, according to the festival's website. This year it ran for eight days starting 4 February with about 190 snow and ice sculptures on display. — Kyodo

## Chinese craftsmen enchant US visitors with immersive cultural experience in Philadelphia

THE Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) hosted a day-long immersive Lunar New Year Festival full of hands-on activities exploring Chinese culture

on Sunday.

Artisans from Zhejiang Province of China took over the Great Stair Hall of the museum with a variety of demonstra-

tions, including tea-whisking, sugar painting, rice sculptures, poetry couplets, and puppetry.

Guests also got an opportunity to create their own woodblock prints, learn about the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac, and received a lucky red envelope.

It was estimated that at least 1,000 parents and their kids had joined the five-hour celebration on Sunday, according to Hiromi Kinoshita, curator of Chinese Art at the PMA.

"I think having the craftsmen to come all the way from China and perform things that you don't usually get to see is very attractive. And the event was very popular," she said. — Xinhua



A Chinese artisan demonstrates porcelain making at the Philadelphia Museum of Art Lunar New Year Festival in Philadelphia, the United States, on 11 February 2024. The Philadelphia Museum of Art hosted a day-long immersive Lunar New Year Festival full of hands-on activities exploring Chinese culture on Sunday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Zodiac lanterns infused with Spring Festival memory of Chinese-Australian artist

AS part of a 16-day "welcoming party" underway in Australia's Sydney for the Year of Dragon, a collection of 12 Chinese Zodiac lanterns featuring 12 animals were lighting the way from Sydney's Town Hall down to Chinatown in Haymarket precinct.

With vibrant colours adding vibe and lovely designs igniting innocence, the Zodiac lanterns blend contemporary character with traditional culture, remind-

sense of belonging to a community or family, and to feel accepted," said the designer, speaking of her own experience.

"With this in mind, I designed the animal characters to resemble family members, endowing them with smiles and an optimistic demeanor."

When Zhu started to design the lanterns, inspiration stemmed from a broad spectrum of sources.



This combination photo taken on 10 February 2024 shows a collection of 12 Chinese Zodiac lanterns designed by Chinese-Australian artist Erika Zhu on the way from Town Hall to Chinatown in Sydney, Australia. As part of a 16-day "welcoming party" underway in Australia's Sydney for the Year of Dragon, a collection of 12 Chinese Zodiac lanterns featuring 12 animals were lighting the way from Sydney's Town Hall down to Chinatown in Haymarket precinct. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ing a Chinese-Australian artist who creates the lanterns of sweet memory for the special occasion. "The characters serve as a tribute to the times when I felt loved and included. They are not meant to intimidate but to welcome, reflecting their positive nature," Erika Zhu, a Sydney-based 3D artist in her 20s, told Xinhua.

Instead of taking a realistic approach, Zhu opted to create figures that are "inviting, warm, and friendly", and the decision was driven by her desire to emphasize the "importance of community and inclusion".

"Every Chinese New Year was an opportunity to both give and receive love, to experience a

Scarlet red, a symbol of good luck, and emerald green, a nod to Jade, were handpicked to feature the lanterns and their supporting plinths. With a keen eye for detail, Zhu was inspired by intricate motifs of Chinese tapestries and embroidery for the floral patterns.

"My background in traditional Chinese painting was also a major source of inspiration. I had the opportunity to learn about 'The Four Gentlemen' of Chinese art calligraphy, which include plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo, and chrysanthemums. I was deeply engrossed in the learning process, where each visual element carried a wealth of meaning," said Zhu. — Xinhua

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Nikkei briefly surges above 38,000 in new 34-year high

JAPAN'S Nikkei index surged Tuesday, gaining over 1,000 points to briefly trade above 38,000 for the first time in 34 years in a buying spree after a major technology firm revised its profit projections upward.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 1,066.55 points, or 2.89 per cent, from Friday at 37,963.97, its highest close since January 1990. The single-day point rise was also the Nikkei's highest since 25 March 2020.

The broader Topix index finished 54.15 points, or 2.12 per cent, higher at 2,612.03, its high-

est close since February 1990.

Tokyo markets were closed on Monday for a public holiday.

On the top-tier Prime Market, gainers were led by insurance, electric appliance and service issues.

The US dollar traded narrowly in the mid-149 yen range, as traders awaited the release of January US consumer price data to assess the Federal Reserve's success in taming inflation and when interest rate cuts in the United States could begin.

Tokyo stocks were up throughout the day, with the Nik-

kei briefly above 38,000 for the first time since January 1990. The benchmark index rose for a third straight day, bringing it closer to its all-time high of 38,915.87 on 29 December 1989, when Japan was experiencing an asset price bubble.

Analysts said the market was lifted by participants returning to Tokyo markets after an extended weekend in which domestic firms' favourable quarterly earnings reports lifted optimism, while the US Dow Jones index hit a new all-time high and European shares gained. — Kyodo



A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the Nikkei Stock Average briefly trading above the 38,000 line on 13 February 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Thailand's consumer confidence improves in January

THAILAND'S consumer confidence index (CCI) continued to increase in January, reaching a 47-month high due to government steps to boost the economy and lower living costs, a survey showed on Tuesday.

According to the Univer-

sity of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) survey of 2,246 respondents across the Southeast Asian country, the CCI rose to 62.9 last month from 62.0 in December 2023 as components of the index improved for the sixth month.

The January figure was attributed to the government's stimulus measures, notably the income tax deduction and energy and gasoline price cuts, along with rebounding foreign tourist arrivals, the UTCC said in a statement. — Xinhua



People take escalators and walk inside Terminal 21 shopping mall in Bangkok on 21 January 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Malaysia's construction sector up 6.8% in Q4 2023

MALAYSIA'S construction work done value reached 34.1 billion ringgit (7.15 billion US dollars) in the fourth quarter of 2023, registering an increase of 6.8 per cent over a year ago, official data showed Tuesday.

Growth in this quarter was reinforced by stronger expansion in the civil engineering sub-sector, which surged by 18 per cent, while residential buildings and special trade activities expanded at a slower

pace of 2.3 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively, the statistics department said in a statement. In contrast, the non-residential buildings sub-sector experienced a decline of 1.9 per cent. — Xinhua

## Chinese brand featuring peony showcases collection at New York Fashion Week

CHINESE brand JUZUI on Sunday staged its runway show at the New York Fashion Week by drawing inspiration from blossoming peony, a flower rooted in the East.

Taoray Wang, the creative director of JUZUI, also borrowed colour which was popular in China's Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) in developing her designs.

The presentation resonated loudly on the stage of the New York Fashion Week 2024 which runs from 9 to 14 February.

It's exciting to combine peony with every design in the collection, said Wang.

Wang added that China has a bounty of beautiful stuff that could move international audiences besides dragon and phoenix. People should be traveling backwards and forwards between the United States and China way more than they are at the moment, said Maye Musk, a model who closed the show.

"I think Americans travelling to China will be very impressed," said Musk.

"It's always better to be person-to-person. Otherwise, you don't get the right picture, unless you can meet the people and explore with them and become friends," Musk added. — Xinhua



A model presents a creation of JUZUI during the New York Fashion Week 2024 in New York, the United States, on 11 February 2024. Chinese brand JUZUI on Sunday staged its runway show at the New York Fashion Week by drawing inspiration from blossoming peony, a flower rooted in the East. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Apple's iMessage, Microsoft's Bing escape EU rules

APPLE'S iMessage and Microsoft's Bing search engine got a reprieve from tougher EU rules curbing how tech titans do business, the European Commission said on Tuesday. From next month, the world's biggest digital firms, identified as "gatekeepers" by the EU, must comply with strict do's and don'ts under a landmark law.

The commission announced in September that 22 "core" services provided by the designated gatekeepers — Google's Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, TikTok parent ByteDance, Facebook owner Meta and Microsoft — met the thresholds for mandatory compliance.

The European Com-

mission at the same time launched probes to consider whether Apple's messaging service iMessage, Microsoft's Bing, and Microsoft's browser Edge and advertising service should also be included. "Yesterday (Monday), the Commission has adopted decisions closing four market investigations... finding that Apple and Microsoft should not be designated as gatekeepers" for the four services, the EU's executive arm said in a statement.

The commission in September also said it would investigate Apple's iPad system. That probe is to be completed within 12 months from the announcement. — AFP

## Big trade deals likely elusive at WTO meet in Abu Dhabi

THE world's trade ministers could put the final touches to a historic fisheries deal when they meet in Abu Dhabi later this month, but other landmark agreements will likely prove more elusive.

Several issues remain stuck in the weeds ahead of the World Trade Organization's biennial ministerial meeting, as anxiety swells over the impact that geopolitical tensions and the looming US elections could have on global trade.

Two years ago at its Geneva headquarters, the WTO's last major gathering struck deals on fisheries, on Covid vaccine patents, and on the need to reform the global trade body itself.

But ahead of the WTO's 13<sup>th</sup> ministerial conference (MC13), set



A picture taken in Geneva on 5 February 2024 shows the logo of the intergovernmental World Trade Organization (WTO) at its headquarters. The world's trade ministers could put the final touches to a historic fisheries deal when they meet in Abu Dhabi later this month, but other landmark agreements will likely prove more elusive. **PHOTO: AFP**

for 26-29 February, trade diplomats admit they are unlikely to break out the champagne.

"It's going to be a bit of

a battle," said one Western diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

Rashid Kaukab, a professor at the International

Institute in Geneva (IIG) business school, said he was "cautiously optimistic" that some deals could be accomplished. — AFP

## EU clears Korean Air's Asiana bid

THE EU approved on Tuesday the takeover by South Korean flag-carrier Korean Air of smaller troubled rival airline Asiana, conditional on the firm fulfilling commitments to allay competition concerns.

Korean Air in late 2020 said it would purchase Asiana for \$1.6 billion as the coronavirus pandemic grounded planes worldwide.

The European Commission, the bloc's powerful antitrust authority, last year expressed concerns the takeover could restrict competition on routes between Europe and South Korea.

The commission also had concerns on the merger's impact on cargo transport services between all of Europe and South Korea. — AFP



A Boeing 747 passenger aircraft of Korean Air airlines prepares to take off to Seoul at JFK International Airport in New York as the Manhattan skyline looms in the background on 7 February 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3404S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3404S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-2-2024** 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 PLPL SHIPPING LINE**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (169N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (169N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**

### Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – **Myanma Awab Group Co.,Ltd.** to **Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd.** has been changed for the following pesticide manufactured by UPL Limited, India.

**Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd.** invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

No.	Brand Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Ustaad	Cypermethrin 10% EC	F 2015 – 137

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# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## Scientists breed 1<sup>st</sup> pigs for human organ transplants in Japan

A Japanese venture-led team has successfully bred three genetically modified pigs for use in human organ and cell transplants for the first time in Japan, which is struggling with donor shortages, the company said Tuesday.

But the safety of such cross-species transplantation will be investigated with further animal testing for the time being, said the venture called PorMedTec Co that was launched based on the research of the Meiji University International Institute for Bio-Resource Research.

The team including members from US biotechnology



The photo taken on 11 February 2024 at an undisclosed location shows genetically modified piglets bred for human organ and cell transplants by a team led by Japanese venture PorMedTec Co (Photo courtesy of PorMedTec Co founder and chief scientist Hiroshi Nagashima)

**PHOTO: KYODO**

company eGenesis bred the pigs, born Sunday, using cells supplied by the US company in September that had 10 different genes modified to resist rejection by the human body, PorMedTec said in a release.

Fertilized eggs, produced in October using somatic cell cloning technology to create genetically identical individuals, were transplanted into the uterus of a surrogate mother pig. The three piglets were born by Caesarean section.

Once it has been confirmed that they are growing, the pigs will be donated to scientific institutes in Japan for use in research on organ transplants to

other animals such as monkeys.

“I hope to use this as an opportunity to consider the challenges of human organ transplants,” said PorMedTec founder and Chief Scientist Hiroshi Nagashima in the release.

It is hoped that animal-to-human cell and organ transplants, known as xenotransplantation, will provide a solution for the shortage of organ donors.

Japan currently has around 16,000 people registered as waiting for organ donations, although only about three per cent receive them each year, according to the Japan Organ Transplant Network. — Kyodo

## Iran's IRGC fires long-range ballistic missile from cruiser: commander

A top Iranian military commander said the country's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) had successfully fired a long-range ballistic missile from one of its cruisers, the semi-official Fars news agency reported on Monday.

IRGC's Chief Commander Hossein Salami made the remarks in a televised interview while commenting on the new achievements of the force's navy, the report said.

He said the ballistic missile was launched as part of

the joint cooperation between the IRGC's Aerospace Division and Navy.

“The new achievement has increased the range of our naval influence and power to any given desired point. Our ocean cruisers can be present in any part of the oceans and naturally, when we can fire missiles from them, there remains no safe spot for any power that would seek to cause us insecurity,” said Salami.

The chief commander

said with the arrival of a large number of drones, cruise missiles and even ballistic missiles with pinpoint accuracy and capable of targeting warships at sea, the IRGC's naval defence and offensive power featured a “very complex and interconnected combination of up-to-date, advanced and modern capabilities.”

He warned that the IRGC and Iranian armed forces would give “fitting and heavy” responses to any conspiracy and hostile action. — Xinhua

## Philippine landslide death toll rises to 71, search for 47 continues

THE death toll from the 6 February landslide that hit a mining town in Davao de Oro province in the southern Philippines has risen to 71, a government official said Tuesday. Leah Anora of the Department of the Interior and Local Government told a press conference at Maco, the municipality where the tragedy occurred, that rescuers are still looking for 47 missing people.

Thirty-two people were injured but survived the tragedy, she added. The dead include workers of a mining company

trapped inside two buses buried by rocks, mud, and trees that rampaged from the mountain side.

The buses were ferrying workers to and from the mining site. Soldiers and volunteers are continuing the search and retrieval operations. Edward Macapili, executive assistant on Davao de Oro province's information and communications, said Monday that the retrieval continued despite some “challenges” on the ground, including earthquakes. — Xinhua

## Rescue work at Swedish amusement park hampered by risk of collapse

SWEDISH rescue services said Tuesday that a major amusement park fire was under control a day later but efforts to douse it were hampered by the risk of a building collapse.

One person was still missing after the blaze erupted Monday at the Oceana water park still under construction at Sweden's largest amusement park Liseberg in the western town of Gothenburg.

“We have searched the

spaces we can access, which we consider safe ... (and) we have not been able to find anyone,” Per Nyqvist of the Gothenburg rescue services told a press conference. Rescue services said that work to extinguish the fire was still ongoing, and while it was under control the risk of collapse meant firefighters needed to create safe areas to move around the building.

Liseberg said the fire likely began in one of the water attrac-

tions outside the main building and then spread “throughout the building”. Images from Monday showed exploding fireballs, as flames and several blasts tore up a water slide and a pall of black smoke rose over the city. “There is no smoke development now that affects the surroundings, but there are still flames and smouldering fires in parts of the building structure,” rescue services said in a statement Tuesday. — AFP



This handout photo taken and released on 9 February 2024 by the Philippine Red Cross shows rescuers provide medical attention to a child at the Doctors Community Hospital in Mawab, Davao de Oro, following her rescue nearly 60 hours after a landslide hit a gold-mining village in the southern Philippines. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / PHILIPPINE RED CROSS - DAVAO DE ORO CHAPTER / AFP**

# SPORTS

## Chelsea late show deepens Crystal Palace crisis

CONOR Gallagher struck twice to condemn his former club Crystal Palace to a damaging 3-1 defeat on Monday and keep Chelsea in the hunt for European football next season.

The injury-ravaged Eagles were on course for a huge win in their battle to remain in the Premier League when Jefferson Lerma's long-range strike opened the scoring.

But Palace have won just three times in 19 games and were undone late on after Gallagher equalized within two minutes of the second half.

Gallagher fired home his second of the night and Enzo Fernandez added the third in stoppage time to lift Chelsea

up to 10<sup>th</sup> and within two points of seventh.

Defeat leaves Palace still just five points above the relegation zone in 15<sup>th</sup>.

"It was extremely cruel but the game is about goals and unfortunately we made mistakes which led to goals," said under fire Palace boss Roy Hodgson.

The home side were decimated by key injuries with all three of their star players Eberechi Eze, Michael Olise and Marc Guehi ruled out. Hodgson and the club's board are under attack from the fans and banners held up before kick-off took aim at a "weak club culture" and "weak transfer policy". — AFP



Chelsea's Senegalese striker (15) Nicolas Jackson (L) fails to get this header on target under pressure from Crystal Palace's Danish defender (16) Joachim Andersen (R) during the English Premier League football match between Crystal Palace and Chelsea at Selhurst Park in south London on 12 February 2024. PHOTO: AFP



Hein Htut of Myanmar competes against Obayashi Takuma of Japan during the men's team group stage between Japan and Myanmar at the Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024 in Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia, 13 February 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

## PSG, Paris mayor see red in stadium dispute

THE chairman of Qatar-owned PSG and the mayor of Paris have fallen out publicly over the club's stadium, the Parc des Princes, raising doubts about the future home of the capital's only first division team.

Nasser Al-Khelaifi and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo were once seen regularly together in the VIP seats of the stadium, but are no longer on speaking terms.

At the heart of the quarrel is Khelaifi's desire to buy the 48,000-seater stadium from the

city, which Hidalgo's leftwing administration has blocked over the last year, including in a vote by the municipal council on 6 February.

"We've wasted years wanting to buy the Parc," Khelaifi said angrily last week on the sidelines of a UEFA meeting. "It's over now. We want to move from the Parc."

In other acidic comments, he said last month he wanted "respect" from the mayor's office, adding: "We haven't had it."

The stakes are high for PSG which wants to follow the model of other major European football clubs by developing hospitality facilities at the stadium and increasing its capacity to 60,000 seats.

It signed a new 30-year lease for the Parc in 2013, however — two years after the Qatari state-backed takeover of the club — meaning they are committed in theory to 2043 unless there are clauses allowing them to break the contract. — AFP

## Pressures increase for struggling Bayern ahead of Lazio duel

DISMANTLED by league rival Leverkusen, the coach and officials of Bayern Munich were busy getting bits and pieces together over the past few days.

Ahead of the UEFA Champions League encounter against Lazio in the last-16 round, cause analysis ended up detecting a leader problem in the Bavarians' squad.

Intending to trigger leadership power Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel is most likely changing his line-up relying on the experience of silverback Thomas Muller.

So far, the 34-year-old hasn't been his first choice,

having only been appointed in eight of 21 league games. When it comes to the Champions League the 2014 World Champion enjoyed only one starting eleven nomination.

Following his failed tactics implementing a back row of three against Xabi Alonso's side, the Bayern manager is expected to return to a row of four aside from calling for Muller and Joshua Kimmich.

Unrest has taken hold of the entire club while the 2024 German national title has come out of sight due to a five-point setback. A disappointing performance in the Champions

League is said to increase the pressure on the Bavarians coach while other reports speak of significant squad changes in the upcoming summer.

While Tuchel is facing criticism from former stars such as Stefan Effenberg and Lothar Matthaeus, mainly Munich's active personnel are being pilloried.

Effenberg spoke about a quality problem regarding leaders and regulars.

Muller's harsh analysis delivered only minutes after the final whistle in Leverkusen is regarded as a desperate wake-up call. — Xinhua



Bayern Munich's German midfielder (6) Joshua Kimmich (L), Bayern Munich's Spanish forward (17) Bryan Zaragoza (3L), Bayern Munich's French forward (39) Mathys Tel (3R), Bayern Munich's Cameroonian forward (13) Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting (2<sup>nd</sup>R) and other players attend a training session of German club FC Bayern Munich in Munich, southern Germany on 13 February 2024, one day ahead of the UEFA Champions League round of 16 first leg football match between SS Lazio and Bayern Munich to be played in Rome. PHOTO: AFP



PAST and future UN climate talk hosts the United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan and Brazil said Tuesday they are forming a “troika” aimed at keeping alive the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The UAE hosted last year’s COP28 conference in Dubai, while Azerbaijan will host this year’s summit followed by Brazil in 2025.

The three countries were mandated by 198 signatories to the Dubai agreement to work together on a roadmap to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a key climate goal that has been seriously threatened by global greenhouse gas emissions.

“The Troika helps ensure we have the collaboration and continuity required to keep the North Star of 1.5C in sight – from Baku to Belem and beyond,” COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber said in a statement.

Taking into account current climate pledges, the world is still on track to warm between 2.5 and 2.9 degrees Celsius over this century, according to UN estimates.

The 1.5-degree Celsius limit will probably be reached between 2030 and 2035, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

According to the final agreement reached at COP28, the troika partnership should “significantly enhance international cooperation and the international enabling environment to stimulate ambition in the next round of nationally determined contributions”. This is “with a view to scaling up action and implementation during this critical decade and keeping the 1.5C limit within reach”, according to the agreement.

## COP hosts UAE, Azerbaijan, Brazil announce climate ‘troika’



Participants attend a COP28 plenary session at the United Nations climate summit in Dubai on 13 December 2023. PHOTO: AFP

### Climate financing

At COP28, the world agreed to “transition away” from fossil fuels, but there was no progress on unblocking financial flows to developing countries, a major sticking point in negotiations.

This issue is set to be a central theme of COP29 in Baku, where a new target is expected to be set for the financial support provided by developed countries for climate change.

According to the Organization for

Economic Co-operation and Development, wealthy nations likely met their goal of providing \$100 billion in annual climate finance to poorer nations in 2022 — two years later than promised. — AFP

## Munich Security Report voices worries over “lose-lose dynamics”



The Munich Security Report 2024 is released in Berlin on 12 February 2024. The Munich Security Report 2024 published ahead of this year’s Munich Security Conference expressed worries over the “lose-lose dynamics” amid growing geopolitical tensions and rising economic uncertainty. PHOTO: XINHUA

AN annual report published ahead of this year’s Munich Security Conference expressed worries over the “lose-lose dynamics” amid growing geopolitical tensions and rising economic uncertainty.

The Munich Security Report 2024, released on Monday in Berlin, said many governments are no longer focusing on the absolute benefits of global cooperation, but are increasingly concerned that they are gaining less than others.

Prioritizing relative payoffs may spur lose-lose dynamics while jeopardizing cooperation and undermining the international order, the report said.

The report expressed fears that as zero-sum mindsets are on the rise, there might be a greater risk of geopolitical tensions and distrust. — Xinhua

## CIA, Mossad chiefs, Qatar PM meet Egyptians on Gaza truce: Egypt media

CIA director William Burns, Mossad chief David Barnea and Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani met Egyptian officials in Cairo Tuesday “to discuss a truce in Gaza”, Egyptian media reported.

Al-Qahera News, which has links to Egyptian intelligence, reported the “quartet meeting” as international pressure grows for a truce between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip, where health officials say more than 28,000 people have been killed.

Qatar and Egypt have been mediating between the warring parties with US support.

A proposal thrashed out with Israeli negotiators in Paris late last month has gone back and forth between the two sides. — AFP