

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



A soft-shell crab farming is in operation in Labutta Township.

250-tonne soft-shell crabs from Ayeyawady's Labutta exported annually

Nearly 250 tonnes of soft-shell crabs from farms in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region, are exported to international markets every year, and the number of entrepreneurs involved in soft-shell crab farming has increased in the township, according to a local businessman.

“Currently, there are a growing number of individuals engaging in soft-shell crab farming. Those who have been in this business for some time are now increasing their crab production, as the demands both domestically and internationally are rising. The domestic market for soft-shell crabs is robust,

with significant exports to Thailand and Singapore. The largest cold storage facilities in Labutta Township exports 250 tonnes per annum,” said U Htay Kyaw, an owner who operates soft-shell crab farms in Labutta Township.

In 2023, only 37 individuals were involved in soft-shell crab farming in

Labutta Township but now, the number has increased to 55. Soft-shell crabs produced in Labutta Township are exported through Yangon to Thailand, Singapore, and European countries. Demand is on the rise, according to the farms.

In the Ayeyawady Region, the townships of Pyapon, Dedaye, Labutta, Hainggyikyun, Bogale, and Amar produce soft-shell crabs. Generally, a single businessperson operates about 15 soft-shell crab farms. Each farm requires a minimum of 20 to 30 workers to operate. — ASH/ TMT

Yangon's central lab detects water contamination at 36 parameters

THE Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of the Yangon City Development Committee said that the central lab for water quality management is capable of detecting waste water with 36 parameters of quality level.

Founded in 2014, the lab initially had the capacity to measure only 13 parameters. Annually, it analyzes close to 5,000 samples sourced from the committee's water reservoirs, purification facilities, tube-wells, and other committee outlets.

Starting from 2017, the committee has established six smaller labs at the Yeku water pumping station, Hlawga, Gyobyu and Phugyi reservoirs, Nyaungnnapin water treatment plant, and Lagunbyin water treatment plant. The labs measure eight parameters of water every day.

The lab is located in Thakayta Township and was commissioned into service by the Yangon Region Chief Minister on 7 March this year. — TWA/NT



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Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival for 1385 ME to take place on a grand scale



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DMH warns wildfires and urban fires in El Niño's hotter summer

BUSINESS

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Chilli prices falling in Yangon market while long chilli stays lowest price

NATIONAL

Objectives of 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2024

- (A) To safeguard the State with the sacrifice of life by upholding Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy of Tatmadaw;
- (B) To actively participate in implementing the processes of two national visions of the State: the prosperity of the country and food security by Tatmadaw members together with the government and ethnic people in their respective sectors;
- (C) To steadfastly implement enhancement of three capabilities in accord with the work process of Tatmadaw, such as study, practise and obey in building a modern patriotic Tatmadaw with powerful strength and sharpening prowess;
- (D) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw to ensure peace and stability, solidarity and development, which are actual needs of the State and to emerge a Union based on democratic and federal systems.

Reserve Force Rules announced

THE Ministry of Defence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued the Reserve Force Rules under Notification No 2/2024 dated 10 March 2024. The Rules consists of seven chapters, 27 stanzas and eight appendixes. Chapter I features name and definitions, Chapter II, term of military service for Reserve Force members, Chapter III, formation of the Reserve Force Summoning Bodies at different levels, duties and functions, Chapter IV, registration, medical examination, and summoning reserve force members to serve military service, Chapter V, formation of the medical examination board, duties and functions, Chapter VI, setting and presenting entitlements, and Chapter VII, general provisions. — MNA/TTA

8th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha continues for third-day session

THE 8th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha continued for the third-day session of the 6th meeting at Maha Pasana Cave in Mayangon Township yesterday.

Chairman of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa presented State Vinayadhara certificates to 30 members of the Separate State Vinaya Body and State Sangha Vinicchaya Body as well as Theravada Buddhist Missionary Ovadacariya Committee and Dhammacariya, Pali Pahtamabyan and Nikaya Education Central Committee.

A total of 15 Ovadacariya Sayadaws and representatives from all Buddhist Gana signed the approvals for substitute election, decisions, approvals



The 8th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha continues for the third-day session of the 6th meeting at Maha Pasana Cave in Mayangon Township yesterday.

and records adopted at the meeting.

Members of the Sangha were offered day meals by Sen-

ior General (Retd) Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family, Vice-Senior General (Retd) Maung Aye, wife Daw

Mya Mya San and family, Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein, President (Retd), wife Daw Khin

Khin Win and family, Maha Thray Sithu (General Soe Win) (Retd), wife Daw Than Than Nwe and family, and retired senior military officers and their families.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin paid homage to Chairman Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa and Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa, offered alms and supplicated religious affairs.

In the afternoon, the Union minister inspected running of Kaba Aye Press of the Religious Affairs Department and 39 items of religious books to be slated to print. He also looked into systematic spending of the fund of Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township and inspected Kyaukpadaung Dhammayon in the precinct of the pagoda. — MNA/TTA

Auction set at more than K300 million on passing fees of Nawade Bridge

ACCORDING to the Bago Region Department of Highways, collection of passing fees for Nawade Bridge will be auctioned off for the financial year of 2024-25 at a floor price more than K386.3 million.

Collection fee for the tollgate of the bridge will be auctioned off to Myanmar citizen businesspersons.

Auction application is available at the director

(civil) office of Bago Region Department of Highways at Shin Saw Pu Hall in Hanthawady Ward of Bago starting from 11 March and the applications must be submitted at the same venue by 4 pm on 22 March. The auction supervisory committee announced that interested persons may contact the department for fee rate, insurance fee and auction submission. — TWA/TKO



NATIONAL

Specialists offer medical treatments to residents in Dawei on field trip

THE medical specialist teams including professors and physicians from Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw are offering the medical treatments in the States and Regions. Medical specialist teams from North Okkalapa, Thingangyun and Insein General Hospitals, and University of Medicine 2, Yangon travelled to Dawei in Taninthayi Region from 8 to 10 March and gave the medical treatment to local people.

Over the course of these medical trips, a total of 2,724 patients, including individuals from five townships of Dawei District and surrounding areas, received treatment for a range of medical conditions. These conditions encompassed cardiac diseases, gastrointestinal issues, neurological ailments, orthopaedic and dermatological problems, among others.

The medical check-ups included various procedures such as Echocardiography, Oesophago-Gastro-Duodenoscopy (OGD) Scope, Colonoscopy, CT scans, glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) tests, X-ray examinations, ultrasound scans, and electrocardiograms (ECG). Patients requiring further treatment were referred to hospitals concerned in Yangon.

Chief Minister U Myat Ko, regional ministers of Taninthayi Region Government and officials comforted and provided nutritional support to the patients. They also provided cash assistant for medical service of the specialist teams.

These medical specialist teams conducted field trips every Saturday and Sunday in 2024. These medical trips reached 11th time including this Dawei medical trip. — MNA/KZL



A patient receives medical treatment by a specialist medical team in Dawei in Taninthayi Region.

Farmers receives methods to produce nutritious animal feedstuff



A demonstration on fermentation of animal feed and processing of straw with urea in progress on 9 March at Dairy Cattle Breeding Demonstration and Seed Distribution Farm in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation conducted a demonstration on fermentation of animal feedstuff and processing of straw with urea on 9 March at the Dairy Cattle Breeding Demonstration and Distribution Farm in Nay Pyi Taw in order to provide nutritious animal feedstuff in areas facing grazing difficulties and in the dry season where animal feedstuff is unavailable.

During the demonstration, officials from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department showcased the process of fermenting animal feedstuffs and producing fermented straw with urea.

The essential role of animal feedstuffs in promoting the health, body development, and disease resistance of farm animals was discussed, as well as the impact of animal feed on the quality of meat consumption. — MNA/TKO

Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival for 1385 ME to take place on a grand scale

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) stated that the Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival for 1385 ME will be held on a grand scale with performances and traditional Thingyan dance troupes by the artistes of the film, music, and theatrical industries.

The central Thingyan stage in Yangon will be erected in front of Yangon City Hall as usual, and Thingyan stages for the districts and townships will be set up in their respective locations. Furthermore, artistes will present performances for the public, who will enjoy and participate in the Thingyan festival.

Additionally, stages for water activities will be set up alongside the Thingyan entertainment stages, as the authorities plan to celebrate the upcoming traditional Thingyan festival on a large scale with various kinds of performances. — ASH/ TRKM

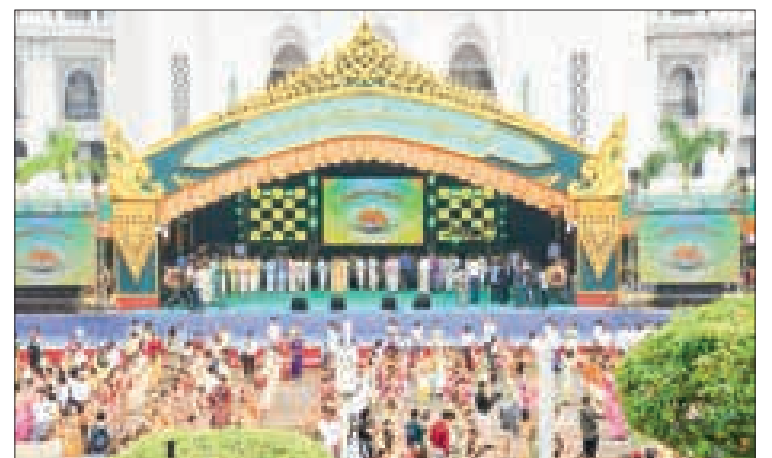


Photo of Thingyan festival stage at Yangon City Hall last year.

NATIONAL

Smuggled intermediate and manufacturing goods, foodstuffs siezed

UNDER supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, the special task force managed by the Customs Department seized 70 Crystal One piece toilets and two commodities including 12,652.2 square metres China-made ceramic tiles (estimated value of K105.505 million) in 17 containers which were not mentioned in ID forms at the Myanmar Industrial Port. At the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, the special task force also seized three kinds of commodities, including 150 pieces of Linglong car tyres and 2,400 bags of Smart fragrance oil that did not have official documents (estimated value of K11.017 million) and two vehicles – Yutong Bus and Dong Feng Tractor Head (estimated value of K90 million) – which carried those commodities. Action is being taken in accord-



Confiscated illegal foodstuffs in Yangon Region.

ance with Customs rules and regulations.

On 8 March, Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 53 kinds of commodities, including four

BM Speakers and 620 packages of beverages (estimated value of K21.021 million) without official documents at the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse.

Again, Mon State Illegal

Trade Eradication Special Task Force nabbed 18 kinds of commodities (estimated value of K222.579 million), including 19,131 kilogrammes of small prawns, without official documents at Thetkaw security outpost, Thanbyuzayet Township, from seven vehicles (estimate value K280 million).

Moreover, Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized three commodities without official documents including 150 bags of Billions brand glue powder; 80 bags of Wonder Cat brand cat feed (estimated value of K4.95 million) at Thanlwin Bridge checkpoint, two kinds of commodities that were different from those mentioned in import declaration forms, including 12,000 pieces of Lactasoy and 2,400 bags of 108 detergents (estimated value of K11.8 million) near Kamawkasin

Village, Hpa-an, and Hino Profia Truck (estimate value K35 million) that carried those items, 16,500 bottles of Lipovitan-D without official documents (estimate value K13.2 million) at a warehouse located in Bo Kya Thoke Street, Ward 6 in Myawady.

In addition, Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized smuggled goods four itmes without official documents, including 16,500 packages of Balloon Candy sweets and 2,740 packages of Thai-made peaches (estimated value of K38.43 million), at a warehouse in Ward 23 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Therefore, on 8 March, a total of 31 cases of smuggled goods (estimated value of more than K833.503 million) were seized, according to the steering committee. — MNA/ TMT

Counter-argument to false information

False media reports of arresting teachers aims to conceal terrorist actions in Rakhine State

IT has come to light that certain malicious media outlets are disseminating misinformation. They claim that the township education officer, responsible for distributing salaries, and around 20 teachers who are to serve as invigilators were apprehended on 7 March at Sittway Myoma Police Station.

However, a security officer from the relevant area has refuted these claims, stating that none of the teachers were detained at the police station.

It is apparent that the media outlets are deliberately spreading misinformation. This serves to conceal the violent actions of AA terrorists, who are disrupting the administrative mechanism by targeting departmental infrastructure with heavy weapons. Additionally, their aim is to create a rift between the public and security forces. — MNA/TRKM



Screenshots validates for misinformation and false news.


False propaganda by malicious media misleads public on military service regulations

IT has been reported that certain malicious media outlets are engaging in propaganda by disseminating false news to intimidate the public.



They claim that young people are attempting to evade military service during door-to-door censuses conducted by government authorities. In reality, these media outlets are misleading the youth of the country with their false information.

Meanwhile, the government is providing updated information regarding the law of People's Military Service through the distribution of pamphlets and by assigning relevant officials to address any queries in detail. Additionally, it has been stated that the public can access factual information at <https://mod.gov.mm/node/74>.

Therefore, it is evident that the reports circulated by these malicious media outlets are mere propaganda, and the relevant officials are actively working to maintain law and order in Yangon. — MNA/TRKM



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NATIONAL

Healthy two-headed baby born in Mandalay

A two-headed baby (Dicephalic Parapagus) was born at Mandalay General Hospital on 7 March. The baby is in good health and is being monitored by the hospital, according to the baby's family.

"At present, the baby's health condition is fine. The baby was born in a rare condition with two heads on one body. It was a Cesarean section. The baby is being given oxygen for ease of breathing," said a family member. Despite being in good health, the baby is required to be kept under observation at the hospital.

The parents are residents of Tamapin village, Lelu village-tract in Mag-



A newborn baby with two heads and one torso.

way Region's Myothit township.

"Although the baby has two heads, for this moment, we have no plan to undergo surgery to remove them," said the family member.

As the parents are from the working class, they need assistance, and currently, the hospital and Parahita groups have been providing help. Donations are welcomed, and the father's phone number is 09 424388572. — MT/ZS

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DMH warns wildfires and urban fires in El Niño's hotter summer



Firefighters are putting out forest fire happened near mile post 223/4 of Yangon-Mandalay highway on 7 March. PHOTO-FSD

DUE to impacts of El Niño, this summer will be hotter than last year; therefore fire hazards, including forest fires, need to be aware of, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

"El Niño is declared, so hot-dry climate will be worse. When the temperature reaches gradually higher, we would issue announcements on how to protect themselves from the heat and the public needs to follow. So does the agricultural sector. The hot-dry climate may drive

fire hazards — forest fires and urban fires, and consequences of the extreme heat, weather conditions such as heavy rain and strong wind are needed to be aware of," said the department's director U Hla Tun.

The temperature is predicted to get higher in all regions and states except highlands in upper Myanmar, due to El Niño, according to the department. Due to the extreme heat, more cumulonimbus clouds, lightning and strong

winds are predicted to happen in the pre-monsoon period.

According to global meteorology department's mathematical modeling forecasts, El Niño will continue in its moderate condition in March 2024. Although El Niño is predicted to happen in the Pacific Ocean, its global consequences in general include extreme weather conditions such as abnormal rain, elevated daytime temperature, abnormal storm and draught. — Thit Taw/ZS

Rising pork price expected to increase further in coming days



A pork retail shop.

ACCORDING to pig breeders, there is a brighter outlook for the currently rising pork prices in the coming days.

The pork price increased between the end of February and the first week of March, and the price of whole pig at the Mandalay wholesale market rose from K8,000 to K9,000 per viss.

"Price per head of pig is rising.

The wholesaler fixed the price per viss after checking the whole pig. Transport is not the reason for price increase. It is because of animal feed which is expensive. If a person conventionally raises a homestead pig, it is not economically viable as it takes time and money to invest. A bag of feed now costs K 40,000. Feed for piglets is more expensive. It was not

very expensive in January, but increased from early February. The wholesale price of a viss of pig has increased by only K 1,000 per viss- from K8,000 to K9,000," said U Win Ko Ko, a pig breeder in Yamethin township. The price of pork will increase in the coming days, pork traders predicted.

"Pork price is rising now. We are maintaining sales by taking only K 100 profit. It can rise more. Chicken price rose more with an increase of K1,500/K1,600 a viss for CP chicken. The previous prices are no longer profitable as transportation costs get higher," said a pork seller from Htantabin township. The current retail price of pork per viss is K 16,000 to K 17,000 and it was only K 15,000 in February.

"Since the price is rising, we are trying to raise pigs. There are a lot of breeders like us now. You can say it's a good business because pork price is going up. But, we cannot predict. Some said the wholesale price may reach K 10,000 per viss," said Ko Myint Hlaing, a pig breeder from Bago township. — Thit Taw/ZN

NATIONAL

Shwemyinzu Pagoda (Indawgyi) to hold 155th alms donation ceremony

THE 155th alms donation ceremony and rice offering ceremony will be held at the Shwemyinzu mid-water Pagoda (Indawgyi) in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, in the second week of March.

The alms donation ceremony and rice offering cere-

mony will take place starting 17 March (8th waxing of Taboung), but a total of 180 monks and 90 nuns will be offered alms and rice by respective departmental staff, members of the board of trustees, ethnic traditional cultural troupes, residents, and pilgrims from around the

region on 24 March (the full moon day of Taboung).

The Shwemyintzu mid-water Pagoda (Indawgyi) festival takes place from 8th waxing to the full moon day of Taboung annually. This year, there will reduce to minimum ceremony.

— TWA/MKKS



The Shwemyinzu mid-water Pagoda (Indawgyi).



The image of the Nay Pyi Taw's Uppatasanti Pagoda.

First cash donation ceremony set for offering gold plates to Uppatasanti Pagoda

A ceremony to donate cash for offering gold plates to the whole structure of Uppatasanti Pagoda will take place at Dhammayon on the pagoda platform at 1:00 pm on 13 March.

A total of 3,485 gold plates are required to cover the entire area of the pagoda, which measures 3,485.87 square feet. As of the end of February, only

526 gold plates have been donated.

According to the pagoda's board of trustees, each gold plate can be donated at a rate of K2.5 million. The trustees have invited well-wishers wishing to donate cash for the gold plates to attend the ceremony in person and make their contributions. — TWA/KZL

MoI calls out publishers over failure to submit books

THE Ministry of Information has issued a notice to publishers who failed to submit copies of six authors' works to the Copyrights and Registration Branch, urging them to do so promptly.

As outlined in the Printing and Publishing Enterprises Law enacted in 2014, publishers are responsible for submitting five complimentary copies of their books or periodicals to the branch of the Department of Information and Public Relations within 14 days of publication.

Among these, two copies are designated for copyright registration, two more for the National Literary Award Selection Committee, and one more for the Department of National Archives.

The publishers who have

failed to submit copies are Taungzalatni Publication's "Khaung Cawi Ni" by K (Taungtanpyar) in the Chin language, Pyinnyar Yatwun Publication's "What Research Means" (third edition) by Dr Aung Myint Oo, IT Computer Training Centre's "Workplace Accounting" (special edition) by Nyein Chan Aung, Shinmataung Publication's "Mongphone Sayadaw and Peculiar Champak-wood Buddha Statues" by Hsipaw Ko Latt and "A Folded Umbrella and a Collection of Magazine Stories" arranged by Tekkatho Soe San, and Bawa Tekkatho Publication's "I am Lady Journalist—101 Days in Baghdad", translated by Nay Oo Wai from "One Hundred and One Days: A Baghdad Journal". — TWA/NT

Malaysia-only job agencies could be in trouble due to suspension of KSM approvals by Malaysian government in March

AS the government of Malaysia has suspended the approvals of the Human Resources Ministry (KSM Approvals) for factories and enterprises to recruit foreign workers since March, employment agencies sending workers only to Malaysia may stop operating, said an overseas employment agent.

Despite the difficulties for Malaysia-only agents, those working for Malaysia and Thailand or Malaysia and Japan still have an outlet for another destination, he said.

"Agencies sending workers to Malaysia are in trouble. They can't do anything. For example, Malaysian agencies working with Myanmar partners must complete their remaining approvals within this month, or the Malaysian government won't accept them after that. And for al-

ready-permitted approvals, workers must come by 31 May at the latest. Otherwise, they won't be allowed in. That means the Malaysian channel is closed. So, all the agencies that send workers only to Malaysia will have to stop working. Some who work for two countries like Malaysia and Thailand or Malaysia and Japan will still have some relief," he added.

During the 18 months of the term of already-permitted KSM Approvals, Malaysian factories and enterprises wishing to recruit foreign workers have been bringing them into the country after applying for calling visas from the Immigration Department.

Malaysian employers have been informed that they would have to bring in all foreign workers, includ-

ing Myanmar, who have been granted calling visas by the Immigration Department by 31 May, and the deadline for the application of calling visas has been set as on or before 31 March.

"It will become difficult for Myanmar workers to go to Malaysia. 31 March is the last date to apply for KDM. (KDM is the approval for Malaysian agencies to invite foreign workers, including the number of people.) After 31 March, the remaining KDMs will not be accepted. Those who have already-permitted approvals must submit to the Immigration Department before 31 March and all invited workers must enter Malaysia by 31 May. After that date, nothing will be accepted and everything will stop," an overseas employment agent commented. — MT/ZN

Myanmar ships 1.48M tonnes of pulses worth US\$1B+ in 11 months

MYANMAR exported over 1.48 million tonnes of pulses worth over US\$1.256 billion to foreign trade partners in the past 11 months of the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar bagged \$1.131 billion from pulses exports of over 1.338 million tonnes through maritime route, whereas over 143,119,469 tonnes of pulses worth \$124.722 million were sent to the neighbouring countries via land borders between 1 April 2023 and 1 March 2024, totalling \$1.256 billion from exports of 1,481,772.586 tonnes.

The value of Myanmar's pulses exports totalled over US\$1.47 billion from over 1.9 mil-

lion tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams 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 grams 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 also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

The prevailing market prices are K3.065 million per tonne of black grams (urad) and K3.95 million per tonne of pigeon peas (tur), stated the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

On 5 February, the prices hit a record high of K3.5 million per tonne of black grams and K4.197 million per tonne of pigeon peas.

Myanmar's black gram output is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year, whereas pigeon pea production crosses 50,000 tonnes.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds



Pulses and beans seen in the market.

Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly grown only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

Chilli prices falling in Yangon market while long chilli stays lowest price



Shan long chillies from a warehouse were seen at wholesale depot.

THE prices of various chillies in the Yangon market have been continuously trending downward in the last days of the first week of March.

On 8 March, the opening price for Panye and Hmyani long chilli was K6,600 per viss, according to a chilli seller on Seinpan Street from Bayintnaung Brokerage, Ko Hla Han told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

On 9 March, the price fell to K6,000/K6,500, up from K7,500 per viss on 6 March. Although Shan long chilli was priced at K6,300 and Myanaung long chilli, K6,500 per viss respectively, there

were lesser purchasers in the market. On 21 January, Hinthada Hmyani long chilli was K2,700 per viss, Salin Panye chilli K12,300, Myanaung long chilli K11,700, and Shan long chilli K9,900, respectively.

On 24 February, Hinthada and Salin long chillies were priced at K10,000 per viss, Myanaung K8,700 and Shan long chilli K7,000. It was that prices of Panye and Hmyani long chilli prices are falling a half in 45 days.

On 9 March 2023, prices of Panye and Hmyani long chillies were K11,000/K11,500 per viss, according to the statistics of old prices. In mid-June 2023, the prices were K14,500/K15,000 per viss but in early September, it was K10,000/K11,000 and in mid-October, K6,000/K7,000.

According to market information from Meiktila in recent months, the production cost for an acre of chilli was K1.5 million, which amounts to K4,500 per viss for producing dried long chilli. Due to the drastically falling prices of the chilli, local growers have raised concerns of losing profits.

In mid-2022, the price of the long chilli from the Delta region

was K8,000 per viss. It increased to K20,000 per viss in October. The price of chilli these days is K6,000 per viss, and the traders who want to hold the chilli stock are monitoring the market prices to see whether they are heading downward, Ko Hla Han reported in the Global New Light of Myanmar.

If the price of long chilli was continuously falling, it would have a negative impact on the farmers but would have a low investment cost for the traders who held the stocks.

However, it is difficult to forecast the price of long chilli at present since new long chilli from Wakema, Einme and Pantanaw regions have not yet arrived in Yangon market. Other strains of chilli such as Hinthada Moehtuang chilli is K9,200 per viss, Shan Moehtaung K9,000, and Pyawbwe, Yamethin and Moehtuang chillies K8,000 per viss. Sinphyukyun bell pepper is K11,000/K12,000 per viss and bell pepper from Bilin Village of delta region, K21,000 per viss. However, the prices are forecasted to be falling, the sellers reported. — TWA/ TMT

Indonesia leads as top importer of Myanmar rice in 11 months

INDONESIA remains the number one rice importer of Myanmar, recording over 325,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice in the past 11 months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, the Myanmar Rice Federation stated.

It was followed by China with 226,400 tonnes and Belgium with 156,700 tonnes, over 139,200 tonnes to the Philippines, Poland with over 58,400 tonnes, Viet Nam by over 51,100 tonnes, Spain with 50,700 tonnes, the Netherlands with over 43,600 tonnes, Malaysia with over 38,700 tonnes and Turkiye by 22,000 tonnes.

The federation aims to achieve rice exports of 2.5 million tonnes in the current FY, generating earnings of US\$1 billion.

Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports amounted to US\$712 million from over 1.42 million tonnes in the past 11 months of the current financial year 2023-2024, commencing 1 April, as per the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The export volumes were registered at 87,648 tonnes worth \$36 million in April 2023, 110,706 tonnes worth \$48 million in May, 62,725 tonnes worth \$28 million in June, 58,334 tonnes worth \$26 million in July, 59,971 tonnes worth \$28 million in August, 84,773 tonnes worth \$42 million in September, 119,526 tonnes worth \$63 million in October, 175,990 tonnes worth \$90 million in November, 195,829 tonnes worth \$99 million in December, 213,605 tonnes worth \$111 million in January 2024 and 262,116 tonnes worth \$139 million in February. Therefore, the rice export volume recorded the highest in February, followed by January and December. The figures showed a drop in June, July and August.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of \$853.472 million. Last FY, China was the leading buyer of Myanmar's rice and broken rice with over 775,000 tonnes, followed by Belgium with 323,000 tonnes, Bangladesh with over 239,000 tonnes and the Philippines with over 202,000 tonnes. — NN/EM

OPINION

Embark on the path to cotton success

Cotton cultivation in Myanmar currently spans approximately 500,000 acres, encompassing both short and long-staple varieties. Despite this widespread cultivation, the nation has yet to establish a systematic production of cotton wool. The potential for success lies in the ability to transform raw cotton into quality threads, a shift that could significantly reduce the need for textile imports.

To realize this vision, entrepreneurs must spearhead the establishment of cotton-ginning factories equipped with domestically manufactured machines. The production of high-quality threads by eliminating cotton seeds from the process opens avenues for job creation and the development of ancillary industries. Notably, cotton seeds can be milled to produce oil and feedstuffs, contributing to economic growth.

The entire process – from cultivating cotton plants to manufacturing garments and textiles – hinges on collaborative efforts from farmers and workers. The success of the cotton industry

becomes intertwined with the cultivation of cotton plants, necessitating agricultural water, advanced techniques, and the requisite inputs. Simultaneously, the operation of cotton ginning factories, textile mills, and garment industries becomes pivotal in reducing unemployment rates.

Farmers must actively transform arid zones into thriving cotton plantations with the assistance of departmental officials. Setting an ambitious goal of producing 700 visses per acre on 500,000 acres of cotton sown acreage is essential. This output would contribute to providing 30 yards of textiles to each of the 50 million individuals in the nation, marking a transformative step towards realizing the dream of success in cotton production.

Given Myanmar's unique climate and conditions, cotton textile and garment products are particularly well-suited for local preferences. Consequently, farmers must prioritize the cultivation of quality cotton species to meet targeted sown acreage. Reclaiming croplands for cultivating cotton strains equivalent to those in the 2020-21 financial year is imperative, as the acreage plummeted from over 800,000 acres in 2011-2012 to approximately 389,000 acres in 2020-2021.

Authorities play a crucial role in incentivizing the domestic market for cotton wool by encouraging the manufacturing of cotton ginning machines. Simultaneously, entrepreneurs must focus on producing quality threads and textile products. Only through the use of resilient, high-quality cotton strains can a significant increase in cotton wool production be achieved.

Investments in both cotton cultivation and textile production are paramount to boosting the cotton sector. Initially, meeting domestic demand is the primary objective, followed by the production of cotton products for export to generate income and curtail textile imports. Farmers must actively transform arid zones into thriving cotton plantations with the assistance of departmental officials. Setting an ambitious goal of producing 700 visses per acre on 500,000 acres of cotton sown acreage is essential. This output would contribute to providing 30 yards of textiles to each of the 50 million individuals in the nation, marking a transformative step towards realizing the dream of success in cotton production.

Idiom Explorations Edition 3

Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

Idioms and expressions play a vital role in everyday conversations, offering valuable cultural insights and infusing language with vitality. They serve to paint vivid pictures, rendering conversations memorable and nurturing stronger connections between individuals.

These linguistic tools contribute to the enrichment of language, injecting discussions with liveliness and diversity. Moreover, the use of idioms facilitates the understanding of different cultures and promotes smoother social interaction.

In human communication, words act as threads that weave understanding and unity. Conversations resemble rhythmic dances, bridging gaps between individuals and fostering a harmonious blend of shared experiences. Language serves as a conduit for connection, expression, and exploration of our innermost thoughts, thereby promoting unity and embarking on a collective journey of humanity.

စားရက်ကြိုလို့ မှတ်ဆိတ်ပျားစွဲ /mou hsei pja: swe/ ပျားရည်၊ ပျားသလက်စားရရန် အခွင့်ကြိုသဖြင့် မိမိ၏ ခံတွင်းဝအနီး မှတ်ဆိတ်ပျား ပျားလာ၍ စွဲဘိသကဲ့သို့ ကံကောင်း ကြိုသဖြင့် မိမိလက်အတွင်းသို့ အခွင့်အလမ်းကောင်းကြီးတစ်ခု တိုက်တိုက်ဆိုင်ဆိုင် ရောက်လာသည်။

- stative verb
- Myan-မှတ်ဆိတ် (n) + ပျား (n) + စွဲ (v)
- figurative

အခွင့်ကောင်းကြိုသည်။ “ပစ္စည်းပေါက်တဲ့ ရတနာသိုက်ကို အားမစိုက်ဘဲ တိုးနေမိတာပဲ။ စားရက်ကြိုလို့ မှတ်ဆိတ် ပျားစွဲနေပါကလား။”

MEANING: To make a beehive on the beard

DEFINITION: If bees built a hive on a man's beard, he would be considered very lucky to have honey stored under his chin. This idea represents being lucky or getting a good opportunity.

Here are some similar English idioms, sayings, and expressions with example sentences:

“To hit the jackpot”: When someone wins a big prize or achieves great success. Example: “After years of hard work, John finally hit the jackpot when he landed his dream job.”

“To strike gold”: Finding something valuable or discovering a great opportunity. Example: “Sally struck gold when she stumbled upon a rare antique at the flea market.”

“To be in clover”: To be in a situation of great comfort or prosperity. Example: “Ever since inheriting his uncle's fortune, Robert has been in clover, living a life of luxury.”

“To be on cloud nine”: Feeling extremely happy or elated. Example: “Winning the championship put the entire team on cloud nine.”

“To be in seventh heaven”: Feeling extreme joy or bliss. Example: “When Sarah received the news of her promotion, she was in seventh heaven.”

“To strike it rich”: Becoming wealthy or successful, often suddenly or unexpectedly.

More idioms with similar meaning:

1. Hit the jackpot
2. Hit pay dirt
3. Rake in the dough
4. Make a killing
5. Strike gold
6. Win big
7. Clean up
8. Make a mint

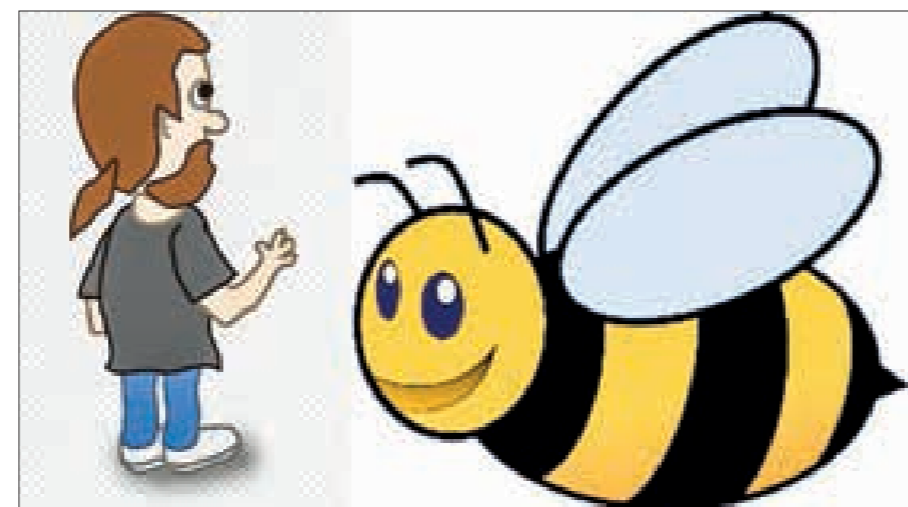
These idioms all convey the idea of achieving great financial success or luck.

“Lucky strike” is an idiomatic phrase. It refers to a fortunate and unexpected occurrence or success. This expression can also be used to describe a stroke of luck or a fortunate turn of events.

ဆီမီးခွက်တောက် /hsi mi: gwe' taut/

- compound noun
- ဆီ(n)+မီးခွက်(n)+တောက်(v)

1. ဆီမီးထွန်းရန် ပြုလုပ်ထားသော ပက်သောခွက်ငယ်
2. မီးအလျှံထသည်



စားရက်ကြိုလို့ မှတ်ဆိတ်ပျားစွဲ /mou hsei pja: swe/

DEFINITION: “A small oil lamp can emit only a weak light. Compared to the light shed by a big lantern or an electric bulb, its light is much weaker. If an unimportant person tries to compete with mightier persons, he is said to be guttering like a small oil lamp.”

Here are some English idioms and expressions that convey a similar sense or essence to the Myanmar idiom:

1. “A dim light in comparison to a bright light.”
2. “A small candle in a big storm.”
3. “Outshone by a brighter light.”
4. “Trying to compare a firefly to a spotlight.”
5. “A little fish in a big pond.”

These idioms and expressions all convey the idea of being overshadowed or outmatched by something much stronger or brighter.

SYNONYMS:

1. “A dim light in comparison to a bright light.”

Meaning: To be overshadowed or outshone by something much more prominent or powerful.

Example sentence: Despite her talent, she felt like a dim light in comparison to the

bright star of the show. 2. “A small candle in a big storm.”

Meaning: To feel insignificant or weak in the face of a difficult or overwhelming situation.

Example sentence: As a new employee, she often felt like a small candle in a big storm at the busy office.

3. “Outshone by a brighter light.”

Meaning: To be surpassed or outperformed by someone or something more impressive or remarkable.

Example sentence: His achievements were outshone by the brighter light of his colleague's groundbreaking invention.

4. “Trying to compare a firefly to a spotlight.”

Meaning: Attempting to equate something small and modest with something much larger and more powerful.

Example sentence: Comparing our humble efforts to the monumental project is like trying to compare a firefly to a spotlight.

5. “A little fish in a big pond.”

Meaning: Feeling insignificant in a larger or more competitive environment.

Example sentence: Starting at a big university, she felt like a little fish in a big pond

By Augustin

among so many talented students.

Here are some more idioms, sayings, and expressions related to the theme of feeling small or insignificant in comparison to something greater or more powerful:

1. “A drop in the ocean.”

Meaning: A very small or negligible amount in comparison to a much larger whole.

Example sentence: His donation, while generous, felt like a drop in the ocean compared to the massive fundraising goal.

2. “Lost in the shuffle.”

Meaning: To be overlooked or forgotten in a large group or busy environment.

Example sentence: In the bustling city, she often felt lost in the shuffle, struggling to find her place.

3. “A voice in the wilderness.”

Meaning: To be a lone advocate or supporter of an unpopular or unconventional idea.

Example sentence: Speaking out against the new policy, she felt like a voice in the wilderness, with few others sharing her concerns.

4. “A cog in the machine.”

Meaning: A person who is a small, unimportant part of a larger organization or system.

Example sentence: Working at the factory, he felt like just a cog in the machine, with little control over the overall operation.

5. “A small fry.”

Meaning: Someone or something unimportant or insignificant, especially in comparison to others.

Example sentence: In the world of politics, she was considered a small fry, with minimal influence on major decisions.

ဘူးလုံးနားမထွင်း /bu: loun: na: ma: htwin:/

- adverb of degree/ quantity
- ဘူး (n) + လုံး (n) + နား (n) + မထွင်း (v)
- colloquial

ရွင်းလင်းပြတ်သား ရေရာခြင်းမရှိဘဲ။ မင်းဥစ္စာက ဘူးလုံးနားမထွင်းနိုင်လှတယ်။ ကွဲပြားခြားနားလှစမ်းပါ။

DEFINITION: If you seal a dried gourd and put it in water, it won't get wet. Similarly, if someone can't understand something no matter how it's explained, they're like a sealed gourd with no opening.

Here are some English idioms and expressions that convey a similar sense or essence to the Myanmar idiom:

1. “It's like talking to a brick wall.”

2. “It's like trying to get blood from a stone.”

3. “It's like banging your head against a wall.”

4. “It's like water off a duck's back.”

These idioms all convey the idea of trying to communicate with someone who is not receptive or understanding, similar

to the essence of the Myanmar idiom.

USAGES:

1. “It's like talking to a brick wall.”

- Meaning: Attempting to communicate with someone who is unresponsive or indifferent.

Example: “I tried to explain the situation to my boss, but it was like talking to a brick wall.”

2. “It's like trying to get blood from a stone.”

- Meaning: Trying to obtain something from someone who is unwilling or unable to give.

Example: “Asking for help from him is like trying to get blood from a stone.”

3. “It's like banging your head against a wall.”

- Meaning: Trying repeatedly to achieve something without success.

Example: “Trying to convince her to change her mind is like banging your head against a wall.”

4. “It's like water off a duck's back.”

- Meaning: Referring to something that has no effect or impact on someone.

Example: “I can tell him a hundred times, but it's like water off a duck's back.”

SOURCES:

- မြန်မာစာလုံးပေါင်း သတ်ပုံကျမ်း (မြန်မာစာအဖွဲ့၊ ၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)
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ဆီမီးခွက်တောက် /hsi mi: gwe' taut/



ဘူးလုံးနားမထွင်း /bu: loun: na: ma: htwin/

NATIONAL

Gallery to show images of Shwedagon Pagoda in successive eras on 29 March



Photos show images of Shwedagon Pagoda in different eras.

According to U Htay Hlaing, a member of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, a photo exhibition of Shwedagon Pagoda's images in successive eras will be displayed on 29 March at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon Region. The photo exhibition will take place at Chanthaygi prayer hall on the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda from 29 March to 7 April with more than 200 photos.

"About 210 photographs of the Shwedagon Pagoda, from the time that the camera had been innovated to the present day, will be put on display. Through photographs from the early colonial era, Myanmar dressing styles, piety, and reverence to the Buddhism could be studied through photographs. Another thing to see is how the Myanmar had preserved the Shwedagon Pagoda during the colonial days. The photos kept in the archives of the pagoda, the records of successive trustees, and the images of the Buddha presented in the local and foreign press in various eras and on the social network by the people will be displayed," U Htay Hlaing said.

In the photo exhibition of Shwedagon Pagoda in successive eras, from the colonial era since around 1800 AD to the present day, the scenes will show religious buildings of all eras, ancient Myanmar's pious scenes, religious devoutness through photographs. — ASH/TKO

Explosion damages railway bridges in Mandalay Region

AN explosion yesterday morning damaged the iron frame and concrete bridges between mileposts 353/24 and 354/1 along the Yangon-Mandalay railway in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region. The blast destroyed two feet of rail on each bridge and damaged concrete sleepers.

Upon investigation, authorities found an undetonated mine, leading to the temporary shutdown of all transport on the Minzu-Kyaukse railway section. After taking security measures, the mine was deactivated, and the railway was repaired, and authorities and railway staff reopened the railway section in the afternoon.

Although passenger trains were not affected, cargo trains faced disruptions due to the destruction of concrete sleepers and the 75-lb railway track. Terrorist groups are suspected of committing the blast.

Since 1 February 2021, these terrorist groups have been implicating in 130 mining incidents and explosions within

railway areas and stations, 49 blasts on railway bridges, and 12 instances of torching stations and employee housings. Their actions aim to destabilize

rule of law and endanger the safety of travellers, drawing widespread condemnation from the public. — MNA/NT



The explosion places of railway lines between mileposts 353/24 and 354/1 on the Yangon-Mandalay railways destroyed by terrorists.



The map shows the explosion place of heavy weapons fired by AA terrorists in Sittway.

Deadly attacks by AA terrorists in Sittway leave five dead and nine wounded

AA terrorists launched an attack using heavy weapons on Kathae ward in Sittway Township, Rakhine State, resulting in the deaths of five residents and wounds to nine others.

At around 10:10 pm on 9 March, heavy weapons fired by AA terrorists from the west of Thekon village in Pauktaw Township exploded shells in Kathae ward of Sittway, claiming lives of five civilians, including a 12-year-old child, and causing injuries to nine others, including a 3-year-old child.

The wounded individuals were sent to Sittway General Hospital (500-bed) for medical treatment. Concerning this incident, the actions of the AA terrorists, who are engaged in subversive activities in towns, villages, and wards without justification, inciting conflicts, are completely unacceptable. The public is strongly opposing and condemning their actions. — MNA/TKO

France passes historic amendment, guaranteeing abortion as constitutional right

France becomes the first nation to constitutionally guarantee the right to abortion, with President Macron vowing to extend this protection across Europe.

WITH the official inclusion of the right to abortion in its constitution, France has become the first nation in the world to do so. President Emmanuel Macron has pledged that he “will not rest” until women in Europe are afforded the same protections, according to Al Jazeera.

The constitutional amendment that the French Parliament had approved earlier in the week was sealed on Friday by Macron.

While attending the event, which took place on International Women’s Day, Macron declared that he would work to have the right to an abortion

included in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

“Today is not the end of the story but the start of a fight,” he said, standing in front of the Ministry of Justice.

“We’re going to lead this fight in our continent, in our Europe, where reactionary forces are attacking women’s rights,” he added.

Although abortion has been legal in France since 1975, Macron promised last year to strengthen protections for the operation after the US Supreme Court struck down the 50-year-old right to procedure in 2022,



French Senators attend a debate for a vote on a government plan to enshrine the right to an abortion in the French constitution in Paris on 28 February 2024. **PHOTO: STÉPHANE DE SAKUTIN /AFP**

leaving state-level decisions intact, as per Al Jazeera.

Women celebrated on Mon-

day after a historic vote in both houses of the French Parliament approved the inclusion of abor-

tion as a “guaranteed freedom” under Article 34 of the constitution. — ANI

Japan govt OK’s bill to allow joint custody after divorce

Critics argue that the current system, which typically grants custody to one parent, often the mother, can sever meaningful contact between the child and the other parent.



The proposal for joint custody will now go before parliament for further consideration. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

JAPAN moved closer Friday to allowing joint custody after divorce, with the cabinet approving changes to laws that critics say cut children off from one parent.

For decades, one parent — almost always the mother — has been granted legal custody when a marriage ends, a rule seen by its supporters as a safeguard against domestic violence and

child abuse. But concerns have been raised that it can cause meaningful contact to be cut off between the other parent and their child.

The issue was put in the international spotlight in 2021 when French father Vincent Fichot went on hunger strike for three weeks during the Tokyo Olympics.

He was seeking access to his two children who he said had been abducted by his estranged Japanese former partner.

On Friday, a proposal to provide the option of joint custody after divorce was approved by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s cabinet and will go before parliament in the coming months. Long-simmering frustrations over lack of access to children and societal changes such as fathers becoming more involved in child-rearing have increased pressure for change.

A UN committee in 2019 recommended that Japan “allow for shared custody of children when it is in the child’s best interests, including for foreign parents”.

The new bill proposes that sole custody be maintained if both parents agree it is the best option, or in court-recognised cases of domestic violence or child abuse. — AFP

US, Canada brace for ‘Daylight Saving Time’ that begins from 10 March



Despite the ongoing debate, many countries around the world, particularly those in North America and Europe, continue to observe DST as a way to make better use of daylight during the warmer months of the year. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

DAYLIGHT Saving Time (DST) will begin early on 10 March (Sunday), countries including US and Canada will have an hour less of sleep once the clock returns to daylight time.

To align with daylight saving time, the clocks will be moved forward one hour on 10 March, at 2 am, resulting in more light in the evening for Canadians. It is to be mentioned that most Canadian provinces set their clocks back and forward twice a year.

On 5 November 2023, clocks

were set back an hour at 2 am to increase evening daylight and shorten mornings.

What is daylight saving time?

Daylight saving time is the practice of moving clocks one hour forward during the summer months to extend daylight hours into the evening.

Most of North America and Europe follow the custom, while the majority of other countries, particularly those... to the equator, do not. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Pakistan-China wheat breeding cooperation ensures Pakistan's food security, UN SDGs: experts

Despite producing 50 per cent less wheat per hectare than China, Pakistan has significant potential for improvement with Chinese assistance and expertise.



Chinese and Pakistani researchers inspect an experimental field developed by the China-Pakistan Joint Wheat Molecular Breeding International Lab in Islamabad, Pakistan, 7 March 2024. **PHOTO: TANG BINHUI/XINHUA**

WITH wheat being a staple food crop of Pakistan, dominating all crops in terms of acreage, production and consumption, cooperation between Pakistan and China in enhancing the yield and quality of the major supply has ensured Pakistan's food security and helped in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, experts have said.

Pakistan produces 50 per cent less wheat per hectare than China, but the country has a huge potential for improvement with Chinese assistance and an abundance of experience, said Pakistani and Chinese experts at the 2nd China-Pakistan Joint Wheat Molecular Breeding Conference held here on Wednesday.

Speaking to Xinhua on the sidelines of the conference, Shahid Mansoor, a scientist and a senior advisor to the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, said Pakistan's

per capita wheat consumption is one of the highest in the world and wheat contributes more than 70 per cent of the South Asian country's daily caloric intake.

With the growing population and challenges like climate change and diseases, Mansoor said Pakistan needs to grow better varieties that are weather and disease-resistant and full of nutrients, adding that the transfer of Chinese technology and new agriculture techniques can play a pivotal role in this regard.

"At the moment, our aim is to not only increase wheat production but also use less area for that so that we can cultivate other crops to fulfill our dietary needs. There is a huge burden on our national exchequer as we need to import many edibles, including wheat and grains. We need to work with Chinese scientists to improve wheat breeding to make the country self-sufficient," he said. — Xinhua

India to invest \$1.2 billion in AI infrastructure, startups

New Delhi is to target the cash at developing computing infrastructure and large language models.

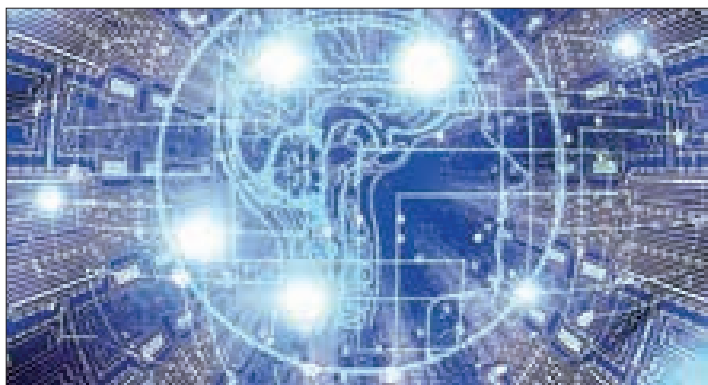
INDIA will invest \$1.2 billion in a wide range of artificial intelligence projects as the world's most populous country stakes a claim to the burgeoning sector.

The funds will be used to set up computing infrastructure and help finance AI startups, a statement from the information technology ministry said late Thursday.

Junior minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the investment "will catalyze India's AI ecosystem and position it as a force shaping the future of AI for India and for the world".

India's nascent AI market will be worth \$17 billion by 2027, according to current forecasts by local IT industry body Nasscom.

That figure represents a tiny slice of the global market for AI software, which US research



India is set to make a significant investment in AI startups. **PHOTO: PIX FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY / PIXABAY**

firm Gartner said could touch \$297 billion by the same year.

India boasts a vast software services industry built from the global outsourcing boom beginning in the 1990s, and AI software represents both an opportunity and a threat. Engineering graduates working in traditional call

centre or coding roles could see their jobs threatened by AI models.

OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman told an audience in New Delhi last year that Indian entrepreneurs and companies would struggle to build AI products without significant financial backing. — AFP

Canadian firm loses UNESCO gold mining case against Romania

A Canadian mining company on Friday lost an arbitration case against Romania after it blocked a gold mining project at a site now recognised by UNESCO, Bucharest announced.

Canadian firm Gabriel Resources had sought up to \$6.7 billion (6.1 billion euros) in damages from the Romanian government for pausing the development near the village of Ro-

sia Montana in the Carpathians, home to 2,000-year-old Roman mining galleries UNESCO added to its World Heritage List in 2021.

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), a World Bank arbitration panel, rejected Gabriel Resources' claims for damages in a ruling published Friday by the Romanian government. — AFP



Romania declared the village of Rosia Montana a site of historical interest in 2016. **PHOTO: DANIEL TARA/WIKIPEDIA**

China-Europe freight train services see solid expansion in first two months

China-Europe freight train services saw significant growth in January and February 2024, with the number of trips reaching 2,928, marking a 9 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

CHINA-EUROPE freight train services recorded solid expansion in January and February this year, data from China's railway operator showed Sunday.

The number of China-Europe freight train trips reached 2,928 in the first two months of 2024, up 9 per cent year on year, according to the China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. (China Railway).

About 317,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) of goods were transported via the freight train services during this



A China-Europe freight train prepares to pull out from the Horgos Port in Horgos, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 16 January 2024. PHOTO: QIU JING/XINHUA

period, up 10 per cent from a year earlier, the railway operator said.

By the end of February, the train services had expanded to cover 219

cities across 25 European countries, according to China Railway. — Xinhua

Kyoto may launch tourist express bus service to beat overcrowding

STRUGGLING under the weight of a post-COVID resurgence in tourism, Kyoto is considering establishing express buses to take visitors to popular sightseeing spots almost directly from its main train station to reduce crowding on city buses and stress on local residents.

The city government said it is looking to introduce in June "a sightseeing express bus" that can travel to major tourism sites such as Kiyomizu temple and the geisha district of Gion with fewer stops from Kyoto Station, a gateway for tourists to



People line up to board a city bus outside JR Kyoto Station in Kyoto on 29 February. PHOTO: KYODO

the ancient capital. The government plans to set fares on the express buses at ¥500 (\$3) for adults and ¥250 for children, about double the price of respective tickets on city buses.

Japan has seen a

spike in tourism since lifting COVID-19 border control steps in April 2023, with the yen's weakness helping drive visitor numbers, and Kyoto is considered by most as a must-see destination.

With a population of

around 1.44 million and more than 40 million domestic and foreign visitors hosted in 2022, Kyoto is emblematic of the "overtourism" issue that is disrupting local communities across Japan.

For tourists, city buses are a convenient way to visit attractions including the famed golden pavilion at the Kinkaku-ji temple and Fushimi Inari Taisha, a shrine boasting thousands of red torii gates, using a single-day all-you-can-ride pass. It is not uncommon for a bus to be so crowded that waiting passengers are unable to board. — Kyodo

Navigation via Bosphorus suspended due to fog, 301 vessels wait in queue

THE vessel transit through Bosphorus was suspended early on Sunday due to the fog in Istanbul, the Turkish

Coast Guard Command said.

The vessel navigation was suspended at 4:15 am local time (01:15

GMT), the command announced.

As of 8:30 am local time, there have been 301 vessels queuing for

transit, a Sputnik correspondent reported.

There is dense fog in a number of districts of Istanbul. — SPUTNIK

Brussels creates food crisis simulation amid farmers' protests

OVER two days in central Brussels last month, about 60 European Union (EU) and government officials, food security experts, industry representatives and journalists met with each other to confront the possibility of a food crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic, Western sanctions against Russia which backfired spectacularly, as well as shipping route disruptions due to geopolitical, and climate related issues have caused prices to skyrocket. Now, unpredictable and destructive climate change caused by humans is exacerbating the issue, prompting Europe to prepare for a full-scale food crisis.

And so at the beginning of February, Project Partners Sciences Po, Prospero & Partners, Chatham House, European Policy Centre and INRA organized a food crisis simulation while distraught farmers protested across Brussels's roads and streets.

During the first part of the simulation, participants took up roles as "Task Force" members who were entrusted



Participants assumed "Task Force" roles to craft policy recommendations for EU lawmakers to tackle the food crisis, as outlined in a recent simulation report. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

with the task of formulating policy recommendations for EU lawmakers, in order to address the food crisis, a recent report on the simulation said. Participants were split up into different groups: crisis response mechanisms, agriculture & food production, and trade & finance. In the same city where the workshop was being held, farmers in convoys of tractors were protesting by throwing firecrackers, eggs, and beer bottles at police while urging political leaders to provide relief from rising prices and other bureaucratic restrictions. — SPUTNIK

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (068N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (068N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-3-2024** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Asif Ali Zardari elected as 14th Pakistan President

Asif Ali Zardari, co-chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has been elected as Pakistan's 14th President, marking his second term in office after previously serving from 2008 to 2013.

ASIF Ali Zardari, co-chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has been elected as Pakistan's 14th President, Geo News reported. Zardari became the head of the State for the second time as he served as the president from 2008 to 2013.

Zardari, the joint candidate of the ruling alliance, secured a remarkable 255 electoral votes in the parliamentary election, beating the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed Sunni Ittehad Council candidate, Mahmood Khan Achakzai. In contrast, Achakzai garnered 119 votes in the com-

bined National Assembly and Senate, with only one vote being rejected in parliament, according to Geo News.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, in his post, announced, "In the presidential elections, his party's candidate and father, Asif Ali Zardari, secured a total of 411 votes against the candidate backed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), Mahmood Khan Achakzai, who only managed to garner 181 votes."

In a post on X, the former foreign minister said Zardari received 255 votes from the Nation-



President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Asif Ali Zardari gestures towards supporters during a campaign rally for the 2024 general elections in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh village, Larkana, 27 December 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

al Assembly and Senate, 151 from the Sindh Assembly, 246 in Punjab, 17 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 47 in the Balochistan Assembly. The results clearly favoured

Zardari, leading to jubilant celebrations by PPP workers outside the Punjab Assembly.

The victory dance to the beat of Dhol marked the party's trium-

phant moment. Zardari, the joint nominee of PPP and PML-N, and Achakzai from the Sunni Ittehad Council, were the contenders for the presidential office. — ANI

US court convicts Honduras ex-president in cocaine trafficking



People react outside the Manhattan federal court after a jury found former Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernandez guilty of drug trafficking, on 8 March 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

A jury in New York on Friday found former Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernandez guilty of trafficking hundreds of tons of cocaine into the United

States, enriching himself while protecting and abetting some of the region's most infamous drug cartels. A 12-member jury in federal district court

returned its unanimous verdict midway through its second day of deliberations.

The 55-year-old Hernandez, who appeared to pray while awaiting the verdict, shook his head in disbelief as the jury foreman delivered guilty findings for each of three counts: conspiracy to import cocaine, illegally using and carrying machine guns, and possessing machine guns as part of a "cocaine-importation conspiracy".

Hernandez, 55, who US federal prosecutors say turned his Central American country into a "narco-state" during his presidency in 2014-2022, faces possible sentences of up to life imprisonment. — AFP

49 gold sculptures worth over US\$ 1.3 million stolen from exhibition in Italy

NEARLY 50 gold pieces of art created by Italian sculptor Umberto Mastroianni were stolen from an exhibition near Lake Garda, Italy, on Wednesday night, CNN

reported, quoting the host of the exhibition, the Vittoriale degli Italiani estate.

According to the report, forty-nine pieces of art worth 1.2 million euros (over US\$

1.3 million) were stolen from the exhibition called "Like a warm, flowing gold", opened at the end of December and scheduled to close on Friday. — ANI

Irish govt fails to replace constitutional references on family, women's role in home

THE Irish government faced defeat on Saturday in its attempt to replace two constitutional references, one stating that the family unit was "founded" on marriage, the other that a woman supports the Irish state through "her life within the home", as reported by CNN.

Ireland went to the polls coinciding with International Women's Day on Friday to replace these two constitutional references. As per to the CNN report, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said on Saturday afternoon that it was clear that the referenda had not passed. "I think it's clear at this stage that the family amendment and the care amendment referendums have been defeated," Varadkar said at a press conference in Dublin.

Official results for both votes were to be announced separately later on Saturday.

Throughout the day, there was a low turnout reported, with some areas seeing less than 30 per cent of registered voters,

CNN reported citing PA Media.

If the votes had passed, the constitution would have stated that the family is based "on marriage or on other durable relationships".

Religious and socially conservative groups that campaigned for a "No" vote took issue with the concept of a "durable relationship" and argued in support of the constitution's original wording.

In a charged RTE debate days before the vote, conservative campaigner Maria Steen clashed with the Irish deputy prime minister, Micheal Martin, insisting that "the reality is that the majority of women do the majority of work in the home."

Ireland's constitution, published in 1937, was strongly influenced by Catholic social teachings, according to legal scholars. In recent decades, Catholic influence has slowly decreased, and the country's church has been rocked by a series of abuse scandals involving the clergy, as reported by CNN. — ANI

SPORTS

Yadanabon, Thitsar Arman claim victory in MNL Cup tourney

TEAM Yadanabon and Thitsar Arman FC secured wins during the third day match of the Myanmar National League Cup in Yangon yesterday.

Yadanabon beat Myawady FC 2-0 at the University Stadium in Yangon. The Yadanabon team, which was rebuilt with new players, was able to win two games in a row and not concede any goals. As for the Myawady FC, they have lost two matches in a row and will have to struggle to advance to

the next level. Both teams used core players in the line-up.

Team Yadanabon, which is in good form, was able to control the game, and Soe Min Oo scored the lead in the 26th minute, and Khin Kyaw Win made the second goal to ensure the win in the 63rd minute.

Similarly, Thitsar Arman took on Rakkhapura United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, and Team Thitsar beat the rivals 2-1. Team Thitsar managed to get their first win after

losing two consecutive games.

The winning goals for Thitsar Arman were scored by Aung Tun Tun at the 42nd minute and Shine Wunna Aung at the 77th minute. The single and consolation goal for Rakkhapura United was scored by Condi at the 51st minute.

Due to the March International Week, the MNL Cup will be suspended and will resume on 31 March, as stated by the Myanmar National League Committee. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Yadanabon FC players vie for the ball with Myawady FC players during their Myanmar National League match at the University Stadium in Yangon on 10 March 2024. PHOTO:MNL



Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane scores his second goal in the 3-0 win over Lazio in the Champions League last 16. PHOTO: KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV / AFP / FILE

German Schnitzel makes Harry Kane head for new national league records

ONE of Harry Kane's favorite dishes might not be the ideal nutrition for a professional sportsman.

But it seems not surprising that the 30-year-old Three Lions captain is regularly enjoying what he likes best, some breaded escallops, better known as the German traditional dish Schnitzel in a roll.

To explain his goal performance with his consumption of Schnitzels comes near a bold theory, but his 36 goals aside from 10 assists in 34 games of all competitions seem to indicate the player's food habits don't do

any harm.

Schnitzel-king Kane became the first player in the German Bundesliga to score his fourth hattrick in his debut season after his latest three goals when Bayern crushed Mainz 8-1.

The England international gained an additional record spot by scoring at least two goals against eight different teams in his first German league season.

Only once a player scored 30 goals in his debut season in the league's history. German striker icon Uwe Seeler did that feat in the 1963/64 campaign. — Xinhua

African culture display characterizes 13th African Games

The event showcases not only sports but also the rich and diverse African culture.

THE ongoing 13th African Games is not only an arena for fierce sports competitions but a platform to display the diverse African culture.

During the opening ceremony of the 13th African Games in the Ghanaian capital of Accra late Friday, an array of authentic African cultural performances including traditional dancing, live music, and artistic parade, were put on show, which have left the spectators spellbound with excitement.

According to the organ-

izers, one of the Games' main purposes is to celebrate African cultural values and heritage.

Abdul Safana, a working staff with the Nigerian delegation, told Xinhua, "I am overwhelmed by what I've seen at the opening event. With that, I believe the objectives of the African Games have been achieved".

Li Wei, a Chinese sports fan, told Xinhua he was fairly impressed by the participating teams' determination to showcase their cultures at the open-



The 13th African Games being hosted in Ghana, represents a landmark occasion as it marks the first time a West African country is hosting the esteemed continental sports event. PHOTO: AFRICAN UNION

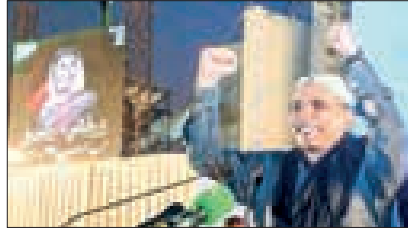
ing ceremony.

"Some teams were wearing their traditional clothes, some were showing their traditional dances where parading at the

stadium, which also enables foreigners like me to better understand their cultures," he said.

The 13th African Games being hosted in Ghana, repre-

sents a landmark occasion as it marks the first time a West African country is hosting the esteemed continental sports event. — Xinhua



The agreement, signed on Sunday, marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relationship between India and EFTA countries, including Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WTO**

India signs the Free Trade Agreement with the four-nation EFTA bloc

In a letter, PM Modi highlighted 10 March 2024, as a significant milestone in India's bilateral relationship with EFTA countries including Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, marking a new chapter in their ties.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated the negotiators and signatories on the signing of the Trade and Economic Participation Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), saying that despite structural diversities in many aspects, "our economies possess comple-

mentarities that promise to be a win-win situation for all nations".

India signed the Free Trade Agreement with the four-nation EFTA bloc on Sunday.

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal co-chaired the meeting on the India-EFTA trade agreement in the national

capital on Sunday.

PM Modi, in a letter, said 10 March 2024, marks a new turn and a watershed moment in the bilateral relationship between India and the EFTA countries of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

"Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the negotiators and signatories involved in the signing of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Participation Agreement (TEPA)," he wrote. PM Modi also commended the culmination of efforts to finalise an innovative, well-balanced trade deal that reflects our respective developmental aspirations. — ANI

EAGLE HUNTERS DISPLAY SKILLS

Golden Eagle Festival kicks off in Mongolia to promote tourism

THE Golden Eagle Festival opened near Mongolia's capital on Saturday to promote winter tourism and ethnic Kazakh culture.

The 18th edition of the festival is co-organized by the country's Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Mongolian Eagle Hunters' Association and the Governor's Office of the western province of Bayan-Ulgii and others.

Twenty-one eagle hunters aged 21-68 from the province of Bayan-Ulgii, home to the people of the Kazakh ethnic group, are competing in the two-day festival to catch stuffed animals with their specially trained golden eagles, showing off the skills of both the birds and their trainers.

In addition, more activities include concerts of Kazakh folk music and dance as well as a fair of traditional handicrafts, clothing, and food of Kazakhs.

Mongolia is home to the thousand-year-old tradition of hunting with trained golden eagles, which has been passed down through generations among Kazakh nomads.

The Golden Eagle Festival is held twice a year in Mongolia — one in spring and another in autumn.

The country has declared 2023-2025 "Years to Visit Mongolia" to boost tourism, and the eagle festival is one of the more than 90 events planned for this year. — Xinhua

First launch from Japan's private spaceport postponed over security issues

The Kairos-1 rocket launch from Spaceport Kii has been postponed.

THE first launch of the Japanese Kairos-1 rocket, owned by the Space One company and placed at a private space station, Spaceport Kii, in the Japanese Wakayama prefecture, has been postponed, the officials said during the launch broadcast on Saturday.

Initially, the rocket launch was scheduled for 11:01 local time (02:01 GMT), however, following the countdown, the

rocket did not move and the launch was delayed for 16 minutes, until 11:17. The next attempt did not succeed either, and the officials said that the launch would be rescheduled.

The launch has been postponed due to the vessel which entered a water area, considered a high-risk zone regarding the launch, Wakayama Governor Shuhei Kishimoto told Japanese media reporters.

The Kairos-1 rocket, which is a medium-size solid fuel spacecraft of 18 metres in length and 23 tonnes in weight, was carrying a small satellite, which should have been placed into orbit and become the country's first satellite launched exclusively by the efforts of private business.

The satellite is capable of partially replacing those satellites, which are currently collecting data on the North Korean military objects as well as of examining their systems in case of breakdown, Japanese news agency Kyodo reported, citing space authorities. — SPUTNIK



Photo taken 9 March 2024, from a Kyodo News helicopter shows Space One Co.'s Kairos rocket at Space Port Kii in Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**