

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Visitors through the Palinkanthaya elephant resort, enjoying elephant rides — five miles from NyaungU Township on the NyaungU-Pakokku-Myingyan road along the Ayeyawady River bank.

Myanma Timber Enterprise prepares Palinkanthaya elephant resort for Thingyan Festival

THE Myanma Timber Enterprise has announced plans for holidaymakers to enjoy relaxation and water-throwing activities during the Thingyan (water festival) at the Palinkanthaya elephant resort in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

Situated five miles from NyaungU Township on the NyaungU-Pakokku-Myingyan

road along the Ayeyawady River bank, the Palinkanthaya elephant resort was established by the Myanma Timber Enterprise, operating under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. It serves as a recreational spot where pilgrims visiting the Bagan-NyaungU ancient cultural zone often make a stopover.

An official from the Myanma Timber Enterprise said, “Both domestic and international visitors to Bagan also frequent the Palinkanthaya elephant resort, as both sites are tourist attractions. With an increasing number of tourists visiting Bagan during the Thingyan Festival, we are preparing the elephant resort for visitors to partake in water-throwing ac-

tivities during the festival.” Within the compound of the elephant resort, there is a playground and a small garden for children to enjoy. The elephant museum exhibits African and Asian elephants, as well as details on how the staff of the Myanma Timber Enterprise care for the elephants, their living conditions, and feeding arrangements. — ASH/TMT

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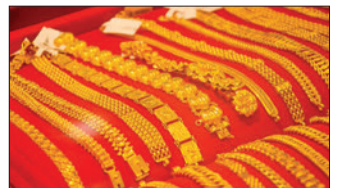
SAC Member MoHA Union Minister receives WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

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YGEA calls for gold transactions below reference rate

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Myanmar, India discuss collaboration in various sectors, trade and investment opportunities

Exports from manufacturing sector surpass US\$8.2B as of 1 March

THE export value from the manufacturing sector amounted to US\$8.28 billion as of 1 March of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics showed.

The export of finished industrial goods was valued at \$10.255 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Therefore, the figures reflected a drop of \$1.975 billion compared to that of the year-ago period.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other goods, while it imports

capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials from CMP garment factories, and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES comprise 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/EM



A glimpse of the CMP garment workplace.

NATIONAL

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Law Amending the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Law
(State Administration Council Law No 17/2024)**

3rd Waxing of Tabaung 1385 ME
12 March 2024

The State Administration Council has enacted this Law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

- This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Law.
- Sub-Sections (k), (w), (z-1) and (z-2) of Section 2 of the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Law shall be substituted as follows: -
 - “(k). Storage means keeping petroleum or petroleum products in a place in accordance with the restrictions. Such wording does not include temporary storage when the Ministry of Energy carries petroleum or petroleum products along the occasionally designated route.
 - (w). The Ministry concerned means any other Union-level Ministry mentioned in this Law except the Ministry of Energy.
 - (z-1). The Ministry means the Ministry of Energy of the Union government.
 - (z-2) The Minister means the Union Minister for Energy of the Union government.

I hereby sign this under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/
Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Law Amending the Petroleum Hand-dug Well Law
(State Administration Council Law No 18/2024)**

3rd Waxing of Tabaung 1385 ME
12 March 2024

The State Administration Council has enacted this Law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

- This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Petroleum Hand-dug Well Law.
- Sub-Section (b) of Section 2 of the Petroleum Hand-Dug Law shall be substituted as follows: -
 - “(b) The Ministry means the Ministry of Energy of the Union government.

I hereby sign this under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/
Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

**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.

**ကမ္ဘာ့ရေနေ့ ၂၀၂၄
WORLD WATER DAY 2024**
၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ် မတ်လ ၂၂ ရက်


ပြင်းချမ်းသာယာဝပြောရေး ရေကဏ္ဍကိုဖြင့်တင်ပေး

အမျိုးသားအဆင့်ရေအရင်းအမြစ်ကော်မတီ

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News and Periodicals
Enterprise



Thai King’s Sayadaw, Thai police general visit Botahtaung Pagoda



SAYADAW Somdet Phra Maharatchamongkhonlamuli Aiensa Ard, the revered monk of the Thai King, along with Police General Chinnapat Sarasin, the deputy chief of the Thai police force, visited the Botahtaung Pagoda in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, on 8 March, according to U Aung Myat, a member of the pagoda’s board of trustees.

During their visit, Sayadaw Somdet Phra Maharatchamongkhonlamuli Aiensa Ard, the Police General, and their entourage paid respects to the holy hair relic of Buddha, as well as to the Nan Oo Pagoda and the statues of Yawheeni Bo Bo Gyi and Sister Mya Nan Nwe. They made cash contributions amounting to K292,000, 38,100 baht, and US\$400 for the application of gold leaf to the pagoda, in addition to offering flowers, water, and candle lights.

As a token of appreciation, the trustees presented the delegation with a certificate of honour and a photo of the sacred relic hair as a souvenir. — ASH/NT

Sayadaw and the delegation visit the Botahtaung Pagoda.

NATIONAL

SAC Member MoHA Union Minister receives WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer



The WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer calls on Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae received the delegation led by Mr Carl Johan Orrenius Skau, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operation Officer of the World Food Programme

(WFP) yesterday in the reception hall of the Union Minister's office.

They cordially discussed the cooperation of the World Food Programme (WFP) in providing humanitarian aid in Myanmar.

The meeting was attend-

ed by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Toe Yi, Permanent Secretary U Khaing Tun Oo, WFP Asia-Pacific Regional Director Mr John Aylieff, and Myanmar Resident Representative Mr Stephen Anderson from the World Food Programme (WFP). — MNA/TS

UEC Chair-led delegation leaves for Russia to study presidential election

AT the invitation of the Chairman of the Central Election Commission from the Russian Federation, the delegation led by the Chairman of the Union Election Commission, U Ko Ko, left Mandalay by air yesterday evening to study the presidential election and the International Scientific and Practical Conference to be held in Moscow.

The Chairman of the Union Election Commission and members were seen off at Mandalay International Airport by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung and regional government ministers, U Than Aung Kyaw, a member of the Union Election

Commission, and officials from the Mandalay Region Election Commission branch office.

As the Union Election Commission, by studying the presidential election and attending the International Scientific and Practical Conference of the Russian Federation, there will be opportunities to share experiences, such as Russia's election methods and election management methods. In addition to the opportunity to learn about the use of technology in the election, international election observers will have the chance to exchange views. — MNA/TS



UEC Chair U Ko Ko (C) is pictured before departing for the Russian Federation yesterday.

Plan underway to provide electricity to 900 villages across nation in 2024

U Maung Win, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Rural Development, announced that steps are now taken to provide electricity to a total of 900 villages nationwide through small-scale home solar systems at a cost of K20 billion in 2024.

The project commenced in the 2016-2017 financial year to bring electricity to villages located more than 10 miles away from the national grid.

"In implementing the project, priority is given to villages that can contribute a specific amount towards the cost. Currently, approxi-



Electricity being generated from the home solar small-scale power system.

mately 10,000 villages (500,000 houses) have been electrified under the World Bank's programme between the

2016-2017 financial year and the 2021-2022 financial year," stated U Maung Win. — ASH/MKKS

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(World Consumer Rights Day 2024)

မျှတအလေးမူ တာဝန်ယူ၊ စားသုံးသူအကျိုးပြု ညက်ရည်တူ
(Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers)

၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ ၁၅ ရက် (သောကြာနေ့)

| COVID-19 report, 11 March 2024 | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| NEW TESTS | 20,760 |
| NEW CASES | 36 |
| CASUALTIES | Nil |

NATIONAL



The WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer calls on Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Carl Johan Orrenius Skau, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of World Food Programme (WFP)

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They discussed matters related to the current cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and WFP, as well as possible areas for further

collaboration.

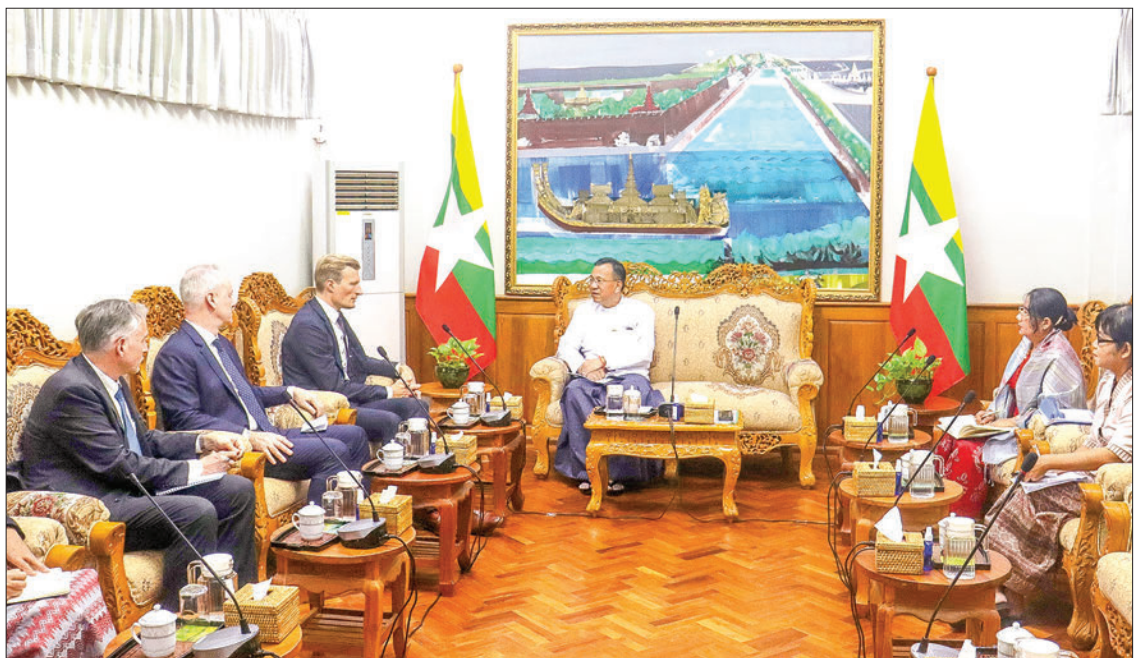
Also present at the meeting were the delegation led by Mr Carl Johan Orrenius Skau and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

MIFER Union Minister receives WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received the delegation led by Mr Carl Johan Orrenius Skau, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer for World Food Programme (WFP), Rome, Italy, at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. They cordially discussed

matters relating to the WFP's ongoing programme and future work to be carried out in Myanmar.

Officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and representatives from WFP Headquarters, Rome, Italy, Asia and the Pacific, and Myanmar office were also present at the meeting. — MIFER



The delegation led by Mr Carl Johan Orrenius Skau, WFP Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, calls on MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw yesterday.

Counter-argument to false information

Tatmadaw falsely reported to have killed 3 Shan girls

THE malicious media outlets spread fake news, claiming that the artillery shells of security forces exploded in Nannei village near Nwanlant village on Myitkyina-Bhamo road, and three young Shan girls died on 11 March.

KIA and PDF terrorists launched attacks on security outposts and security forces using heavy weapons and drones to start terrorist attacks in Kachin State, and they also blocked public transportation and forcibly asked for money from the passengers and civilians. On 11 March, they attacked security bases near Nwanlant village on Myitkyina-Bhamo road with heavy

weapons, and the shells fell into the vicinity areas of the village and exploded, according to a local.

The malicious media intentionally circulate misinformation to cover the destructive actions of terrorists and mislead locals about the security forces. — MNA/KTZH



The screenshot validates misinformation.



Write for us

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

NATIONAL

128,725 students take English on 2nd day of 2024 matric exam

THE 2024 matriculation examination (new curriculum) continued its second day yesterday, and a total of 128,725 students sat for the English subject across the nation, including overseas exam centres.

This year, a total of 841 exam centres, including 11 overseas exam centres and 830 exam centres at home,

are opened for the students. A total of 146,523 students enlisted to join the examination. For the second day, 128,725 students sat for the English subject with 17,798 absentees. The number of students sitting for exams accounted for 87.85 per cent, according to the figures of the Ministry of Education. — MNA/KTZH



Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State



Tanai Township, Kachin State



Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region



Kengtawng Township, Shan State (South)



Kyaikto Township, Mon State



Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region



Manaung Township, Rakhine State



Maungtau Township, Rakhine State



Nawngkhio Township, Shan State (North)



Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region

Students sit for English subject on 2nd day of 2023-2024 matric exam



THE students sat for the English subject peacefully on the second day of the 2023-2024 academic year matriculation examination (Grade 12) yesterday.

The relevant departmental officials under the Ministry of Education visited the exam centres in Nay Pyi Taw and encour-

Educational officials view round the examination centre yesterday.

aged the students to take the test calmly.

Similarly, rectors, principals of Education Degree Colleges and township/state education officers also inspected the exam centres in respective regions and states.

The members of the security forces, Red Cross Society, ward administrators, departmental officials, town elders, and social welfare organizations provided the assistance needed at the respective exam centres. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Potato prices turn downward trend in Yangon's market



The photo shows a potato truck coming to a warehouse.

IN the Yangon market, potato prices are decreasing. On 11 March, Heho potatoes A1 and OK are priced at K1,800, S1 at K1,700, and S2 at K1,350. On 8 March, Pakokku potatoes in the Pakokku market were K2,100 per viss, but on 10 March, they dropped to K1,900.

In the Yangon market, Pakokku potatoes are K200 more expensive per viss than Heho potatoes. Potato trader Ko Kyaw told The Global New Light of Myanmar that Chinese potatoes are scarce in the Yangon market.

On 1 March, Heho potatoes were priced at K2,400 for reasonable size and K1,900 for large size per viss. By 7 March, the prices had decreased to K2,200 for reasonable size and K1,600 for large size. On 11 March 2023, Sinphyukyun potatoes were priced at K1,400-K1,500-K1,600-K1,900-K1,400-K1,400 per viss, while Chinese potatoes were K2,050, according to old price records. Despite potato prices falling in the second week

of March this year, they remain the same as last year's prices.

It is important to be cautious when purchasing potatoes to avoid purchasing spoiled ones, as it would be more costly for purchasers to return them to Yangon if they are spoiled. Onions and potatoes are crucial items in kitchen supplies. They have high turnovers in both the Yangon market and markets in other towns and cities. — TWA/TMT

Lacquerware market dynamic & authentic concerns in Myanmar

ACCORDING to the owner of the Myanma Ahla Souvenir Shop in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, lacquerware manufacturers in Asia, including Myanmar, primarily depend on the souvenir market in the USA and Europe.



Lacquerware for the foreign market.

U Maung Maung Aye, the shop's owner, highlighted that while lacquerware historically served practical purposes in daily life, nowadays, its leading role is decorative. He expressed concern over the lack of authenticity in many "lacquered" decorative items, such as bowls, tiered lunch boxes, and tableware, which are often made from plastic or fibreglass and coloured to imitate true lacquerware. These items are usually purchased for decorative purposes, overlooking their material authenticity.

To meet market demand, the proprietor explained that they focus on meticulous artwork and traditional patterns to decorate their lacquerware. Bowls, cups featuring owl prints, betel boxes, teapots, and teacups are all highly sought-after in the local market. Foreign visitors, in particular, seek out imaginative designs and high-quality lacquer finishes. — ASH/NT

High influx of onion pushes down prices

WITH 482,000 viss of onion being supplied to the Yangon, Seikphyu, Myingyan and Pakokku areas, the prices dropped on 12 March 2024, figures of Bayintnaung Wholesale Market indicated.

The prices moved in the range between K2,200 and K3,700 per viss depending on sizes and producing areas (Pakokku, Myingyan and Myittha) on that day. The figures reflected a decrease of K200 per viss compared to those in the previous days. The prices stood at K1,050-K1,750 per viss in the corresponding period last year.

The prices recorded in the second week of March this year are two times higher than that of the year-ago period, prompting the growers to start harvesting the onions earlier than before.

Some regions have seen high inflows of summer onions recently. Traders who store the stocks buy high-quality summer onions. The onion growers ex-



A truck carrying onion bags is seen entering a warehouse at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on 12 March 2024.

pect bullish sentiment this year.

Onion traders who kept the stocks in their hands reaped a great gross profit of K2,000 per viss in the fourth quarters of 2015, 2019, 2022 and 2023. The traders received around K10 million per truck loaded with 20,000 visses of onions in early 2024.

The onion cultivation acres are es-

timated at 100,000 per year, with the production of 600 million visses (one million tonnes). As onions are perishable goods, about 25 per cent of them result in waste. The supply to Yangon city is estimated at four million visses of onions per month. Onions are also exported to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency.

— TWA/EM

MCDC plans to replace overhead fibre cables with underground ones in Mandalay

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) has announced plans to replace the overhead fibre cables running along Mandalay's main streets with underground fibre cables.

The project will initially focus on the main streets of Mandalay, including 78th,

73rd, 66th, 62nd, 27th, 30th, and 35th streets. These overhead cables will be replaced with underground ones as part of a pilot project.

The current overhead fibre cables do not meet the city's standards as they are low, disorganized, and visually un-

appealing.

Companies and departmental organizations utilizing fibre cables on the main streets are required to provide details such as cable type, number of fibre cores, installation starting and ending points, and distribution of fibre core usage to the

Road and Bridge Department of MCDC by 26 March.

It has been emphasized that any fibre cables not included in the transition to underground cables will be considered illegal and subject to removal. — TWA/TRKM

YGEA calls for gold transactions below reference rate

YANGON Gold Entrepreneurs Association issued a request on 12 March to make gold transactions below the set reference price and avoid the spread of false news and price manipulation.

Those dealers are manipulating the market, resulting from the spreading of misleading information. The authorities concerned are attempting to deal with market abuse, and inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation are being undertaken.

Moreover, the CBM requested not to be involved in market manipulation to interfere with market stability. The YGEA set reference gold price at K3.7926 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on 12 March.

By tracking the spot gold price rally to US\$2,170 per ounce, the pure gold price rocketed to K4.05 million per tical in the unofficial domestic market.

Therefore, there is a price difference of K250,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the actual market value.

Earlier, the YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's interbank reference exchange rate, with some addition, in spite of the US dollar gain in the unofficial forex market, causing the price gap to widen to K400,000-500,000 per tical.

Following the CBM's liberalization for authorized dealers for online forex trad-



Jewellery ornaments being displayed for sale at the gold outlet in Yangon.

ing on 5 December 2023, the gap between the YGEA's reference price and the actual market value narrowed. The Kyat-US Dollar exchange rate is K3,650 at present.

The US dollar exchange rate, therefore, weighs on the

gap between the domestic gold market value and YGEA's reference gold price.

The soaring dollar exchanging up to K4,000 drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023. — NN/EM

MGMA to offer Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course Batch 235

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will open a Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (Batch 235) from 25 March to 12 April 2024 at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC).

The course will provide practical approaches and technical know-how for sewing machines, different sewing methods, labour laws, and practices.

This training will also help those hunting jobs from regions outside Yangon connect with the garment factories with a view to creating job opportunities.

Those who wish to attend the training can enrol through phone numbers 09 940858350, 09 450723262, 09 9403912570, 09 784085794 and 09 969865024. — NN/EM

Sugar prices soar amid milling operations surge



A retail sugar shop.

THE price rise during the time of sugar mill operations is unparalleled, which is the first ever event in history, Ko Phyo, a trader who sends the goods to other regions, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The sugar prices continued to increase in the second week of March 2024. The wholesale prices were K4,200-K4,300 per viss on 12 March. As demand surpasses the supply in the Mandalay market, traders raise the sugar price.

The opening price of the new sugar at the end of 2023 was K3,900 per viss, and two months later, the price moved up to 4,300 per viss.

When the closing season of the sugar mill approaches, the price will remain on an upward trend. The traders, therefore, forecast price escalation.

Nonetheless, jaggery prices hit K5,000 per viss, which is higher than sugar prices. Only sugar cane candy prices are cheaper than sugar.

The sugar price is the most volatile in 2024. When the sugarcane price increased to three folds in 2024 compared with that of 2019, the sugar price rose to five times higher.

Sugar produced from two mills in Shan State is seen in the market. The sugar output is estimated at 500,000 tonnes per year. The domestic consumption of sugar is around 450,000 visses. The remaining is sent to external markets. Thus, there is a high chance of a rise in the price of sugar in the market, while sugar imports are unlikely to happen. Shan garlic and sugar hit a record high in Yangon's market this year. — TWA/EM

CBM suspends licences of four Forex dealers for non-compliance

THE Central Bank of Myanmar has temporarily revoked the licences of four foreign currency dealers for three months for failing to comply with the provisions under the Foreign Exchange Management Law following a spot check.

These authorized dealers are Thura Nay Tun (Fame Money Changer), Lead Star Money Changer, Steber Group Money Changer and Asia Shwe Thee Money Changer.

The spot check was conducted in Yangon on 6 and 8 March by a joint team led by the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market, including the CBM, Yangon City Development Committee, General Administration Department and law enforcement organizations and these four dealers were found to be non-compliant, CBM stated.

These dealers' licences were revoked for three months



The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Yangon.

pursuant to Section 35 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, and CBM described its activities in developing an online trading market for importers and exporters to create a stable foreign exchange market and to stabilize the exchange rate, and in issuing petty cash to foreign-going nationals at the exchange counters.

Moreover, CBM is conducting on-site inspections of foreign exchange counters to determine whether they comply with the directives under the Foreign Exchange Management Law and will continue to conduct random checks in line with the stipulations under the law. — MT/ZN

OPINION

Efficiently spend summer holidays in student life

IN MYANMAR, the prolonged summer holidays are a result of prevailing climatic conditions that blanket most of the country in intense heat, disrupting the daily routines of its inhabitants. To accommodate this, successive governments have implemented extended summer breaks for students at the basic education level.

Unfortunately, while students enjoy this lengthy respite, their teachers, burdened with correcting answer papers and attending training courses, find themselves with limited time off, diminishing the perceived length of the holidays for both parties. They have to seek the best techniques for efficiently spending the long summer holidays.

While numerous training opportunities aim to enhance the image and mental resilience of youth students, those who abstain from any organized activities during the extended holidays risk falling behind their peers. Consequently, it becomes essential for all students to actively participate in social movements that contribute to the development of their skills and talents.

one's mindset to avoid wrongdoing but also encompass teachings on public ethics, the advice of Lord Buddha, and insights from senior citizens sharing the benefits of virtuous deeds and the pitfalls of malpractices. Such courses guide trainees in analyzing incidents and stress the importance of cultivating respectful relations with others. These experiences play a pivotal role in shaping the mindset of young students, empowering them to successfully navigate societal challenges without resorting to blame.

While numerous training opportunities aim to enhance the image and mental resilience of youth students, those who abstain from any organized activities during the extended holidays risk falling behind their peers. Consequently, it becomes essential for all students to actively participate in social movements that contribute to the development of their skills and talents.

By doing so, they not only bridge the gap in their personal growth but also foster a sense of community and shared progress among their peers. In this way, the extended summer break becomes a platform for holistic development and empowerment, ensuring that students are well-prepared to face the challenges of the society they will eventually contribute to.

■

Efficiently utilizing the extended school break during the summer becomes imperative. Parents and educators must allow students the autonomy to choose how they spend their holidays. While some may opt for sports training courses to enhance their skills, others may lean towards language courses, artistic pursuits such as painting and handicraft-making, or vocational and technological courses aspiring to become mechanics or electricians. Some students prefer the solitude of libraries to broaden their knowledge, while others engage in tailoring and knitting courses or pursue additional grade-level texts.

In an effort to cultivate a disciplined mindset, some students choose to participate in Buddhist culture courses. These courses not only provide techniques for controlling

MINISTRY of Health (MOH), Myanmar, laid down two objectives: to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases. To do that, MOH is enhancing the conduct of CME at each and every medical corner. Continuing Medical Education (CME) is crucial in healthcare development as it ensures that healthcare professionals stay updated with the latest advancements, technologies, and best practices, as well as innovation, and promotes professional growth and development. This ongoing learning process enhances patient care, improves clinical outcomes, fosters innovation, and promotes professional growth and development.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) plays a vital role in the ongoing development and advancement of healthcare systems worldwide. The following are essential in several ways:

❖ **Improving Patient Care:** Updated knowledge and skills acquired through CME help healthcare professionals provide better care to their patients. They can apply the latest evidence-based practices, which may lead to improved diagnosis, treatment, and overall patient outcomes.

❖ **Staying Current with advances:** Medicine is an ever-evolving field with new discoveries, treatments, and technol-

LEADERSHIP can be defined as a socially influenced process by which the leader seeks the voluntary participation of subordinates in an effort to reach organizational goals. Often, leadership is regarded as the single most important factor in the success or failure of institutions. Hence, community leadership will be defined as helping communities to identify and deal with problems in the most effective way, bringing in help from officers and partners, acting as the voice for the community to the council, partners and others, communicating the work of the council and partners to the community, and leading the community and others in developing a vision for the area and the steps to achieve it. A simple way to understand community leadership may be seen as leadership in, for

The Importance of Continuing Medical Education (CME) in Healthcare Development Perspectives

gies emerging regularly. CME ensures that healthcare professionals are up-to-date with these advancements, allowing them to incorporate new techniques and therapies into their practice.

❖ **Enhancing Clinical Skills:** Continuing learning through CME helps healthcare professionals refine their clinical skills, including diagnostic accuracy, surgical techniques, and patient management. This ongoing skill development contributes to overall proficiency and competence in delivering healthcare services.

❖ **Adopting Best Practices:** CME provides opportunities for healthcare professionals to learn about and adopt best practices in patient care, safety, and quality improvement. This fosters a culture of continuous improvement within healthcare organizations, ultimately benefiting both patients and providers.

❖ **Addressing Emerging Health Challenges:** CME programs often cover topics related to emerging health issues, such as new infectious diseases, chronic conditions, or public health cri-

and by the community. Together with community leadership, knowledge, skills, volunteering, networks, and partnerships are the five key indicators for stronger communities and civil society. Effective community leadership is also an important contributor to local social development.

Community leadership is a designated person who is perceived to represent a community of common interest, purpose, or practice. The role of a community leader usually involves 1) stimulating local organizations and individuals to take up opportunities to express their views, 2) representing local-level concerns and perspectives, 3) maintaining a link between users and providers of services, 4) encouraging the community to organize for themselves, 5) working with other community leaders in the voluntary,



CME PROGRAMME AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL

ses. By staying informed through CME, healthcare professionals can better prepare to address these challenges effectively.

❖ **Promoting Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Many CME activities encourage interdisciplinary collaboration by bringing together professionals

from different specialities and disciplines. This collaboration fosters the exchange of ideas and experiences, leading to innovative approaches to patient care and healthcare delivery.

❖ **Maintaining Professional Standards:** CME requirements are often mandated

What in the World a Community Leader is

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

community and business sectors, 6) offering vision and direction to local groups and building support for that vision, 7) brokering agreements between different interests and partners, and 8) contributing as an effective partner in neighbourhood arrangements, including those that deliver delegated functions.

As usual, there are at least eight characteristics of effective community leaders. They include listening to and involving local communities, building vision and direction, working effectively in partnerships, making things happen, standing up for communities, empowering local communities, being accountable to communi-

ties, and using community resources effectively. Community leaders need to be in touch with all parts of their community, such as parishes and communities of interest groups like the youth. They have to work with the whole gamut of local organizations and interests in shaping a long-term vision for the areas where they

❖ **Adapt to Change:** CME

helps healthcare professionals adapt to changes in healthcare policies, regulations and guidelines, ensuring compliance and promoting patient safety.

❖ **Reducing Medical Errors and Adverse Events:** Updated knowledge and skills acquired through CME can help

reduce medical errors and adverse events, ultimately improving patient safety and quality of care. Healthcare professionals who participate in CME are better equipped to identify and mitigate risks in clinical practice.

❖ **Address Knowledge Gaps:** CME allows healthcare providers to address knowledge gaps in specific areas of practice.

❖ **Integration with Practice:** Aligning CME activities with needs and priorities of health care practice, emphasizing practical relevance and applicability to real-world scenarios.

❖ **Improve patient outcomes:** CME can lead to better patient outcomes, including reduced morbidity and mortality rates.

❖ **Peer Learning:** Facilitating peer-to-peer learning through opportunities for networking, mentorship and knowledge sharing among healthcare professionals, fostering a culture of collaboration and continuing learning.

❖ **Research and Innovation:** CME enhances patient outcomes by keeping healthcare

professionals up-to-date on the latest research, technologies, and innovative ways of thinking. ❖ **Supporting Lifelong Learning:** Healthcare is a lifelong learning journey, and CME provides structured opportunities for professionals to continue learning and growing throughout their careers. This commitment to lifelong learning is essential for maintaining relevance and adaptability in a rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

❖ **Ethical Considerations:** CME can support ethical principles, including transparency, objectivity and integrity.

❖ **Global Perspective:** With advances in technology and globalization, CME can provide healthcare professionals with access to international perspectives, best practices and collaborations, enriching their knowledge and skills.

Moreover, CME helps healthcare providers adapt to changes in healthcare policies, regulations and guidelines, ultimately leading to better healthcare delivery and overall system improvement.

In addition, CME is crucial for the ongoing development and improvement of healthcare systems worldwide. By investing in CME, healthcare professionals can enhance patient care, stay current with advances in medicine, maintain high standards of practice, and contribute to the overall advancement of healthcare delivery.

ARTICLE

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

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Also, it is found the ten most important qualities of great community leaders given their roles

SEE PAGE-11

NATIONAL

Myanmar-Thailand hybrid freshwater prawns gain local market traction, sales surge



Mono-sex freshwater prawns of Myanmar-Thai hybrid species.

ALL-MALE mono-sex freshwater prawns of Myanmar-Thai hybrid species are attracting attention in the local market with good sales, according to

the traders.

These prawns are genetically modified freshwater prawns that have been bred to include a percentage of males.

“What we farm is a cross between Myanmar and Thai prawns. They are modified to have a higher percentage of males. Male prawns are bigger and have a higher growth rate than females. As they are good, they produce all-male mono-sex shrimps by using their technology. Our nationals buy and farm these mono-sex prawns. They are also being farmed in Thailand. People are interested. Because of its high yield, it sells well in the local market,” said U Salai, an official from Columbus Land and Agricultural Co, which trades in freshwater mono-sex (male-only) juvenile and mature prawns.

It has become a preferred prawn among local consumers. While the wholesale price per viss of Myanmar freshwater prawn is K50,000, that of freshwater mono-sex prawn is just K26,000 to K30,000.

It takes eight months to farm all-male mono-sex freshwater prawns of Myanmar-Thai hybrid species, which can grow up to about five ticals per prawn. — Thit Taw/ZN

Bean & pulse sales stabilize; India forecasts black gram demand surge in May

BEAN and pulse sales have been regular again in the market, and it is expected that black gram demand from India will increase in May, according to beans wholesalers.

Recently, prices of some kinds of beans have declined by about some thousands of kyats, but there has been no significant decline.

“Today’s black gram price drops a little compared to the price a couple of days ago. The price of some beans declines by just thousands of kyats, so it is a regular price. The trading of all kinds of beans has been operating every day,” said a bean trader.

Black grams are mainly bought from India, and currently, the demand is still low, though there is a likelihood of rising demand from India in May. China has also bought red beans (Adzuki beans).

“Beans price has been normal. Despite a slight decline, the price has stayed at a regular level without plunging down. There are some demands from China as well as from India. We have predicted that India’s demand will rise in May. Because

India’s demand is usually on the rise in May,” he said.

According to the market price for 20 visses on 11 March, black grams were K97,000, red beans cost K68,000, and green mung beans were K67,000, said the Beans and Sesame Traders Association from Hinthada township.

For speculation, some traders have

stocked all kinds of beans, therefore, warnings were made and if such acts are found, the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association will find out and take action, the Ministry of Commerce issued an instruction on 8 March along with announcement dated 28 February 2024.

— MT/ZS



Beans and pulses seen being neatly arranged for sale at the market.

Bangladesh imports onions from Myanmar, primarily via sea routes

BANGLADESH purchased onions grown in Myanmar, and the majority of export is made by sea.

“Especially, Bangladesh directly buys from Myanmar because they have prepared to stock for the Ramadan. The majority of purchases are made by sea,” said an owner of an onion wholesale centre.

In October 2023, the price of onion per viss was around K2,600 in the local market and surged by K500 per viss in three days due to Bangladesh’s demand.

At present, onions are produced abundantly in all areas. Therefore, prices have declined in the local market, according to onion traders.

“It’s true that the onion price has dropped. Right now, the price has declined. But we can’t say exactly how much it decreases for today. We don’t know the price yet for the onions which were transported yesterday. The price has declined for some reasons, including the fact that this is harvest season in all regions and states, so the production has been abundant,” said an official from Ko Hla Myo onion trading centre in Mandalay.

According to the price per viss of onions released by Bayintnaung commodity wholesale centre on 11 March, Seikphyu onions were K2,800, K2,700, K2,600 and K2,200, and Myingyan onions were K2,900, and between K2,700 and K2,200. — Thit Taw/ZS



Seikphyu onions being traded on 11 March 2024.

NATIONAL ARTICLE

Shwethaungyan Beach welcomes 29,954 domestic, overseas visitors in February

SHWETHAUNGYAN Beach in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region, saw a total of 29,954 visitors, both domestic and international, in February 2024, according to Daw Cherry Myint, an Executive Officer of the Myanmar Tourism Federation (Shwethaungyan Beach).

The beach has a total of 20 hotels and guest houses offering service to visitors year-round.

Shwethaungyan Beach received 28,555 domestic and overseas visitors in January 2024. In February, 29,954 domestic and foreign tourists visited the beach, indicating an increase in the number of visitors. Most of them made day trips. Since the school holiday period starts in February and more tourist arrivals are expect-



Beachgoers seen enjoying the beauty of Shwethaungyan Beach during the holiday season.

ed in April and May, the number of visitors is anticipated to rise

further," Daw Cherry Myint said. Currently, measures are

being taken at every hotel in Shwethaungyan Beach be-

fore the peak season to ensure cleanliness along the beach in front of the hotel, beautify the landscapes and roads within the hotel compound, and maintain overall cleanliness in public areas. Additionally, preparations are underway to offer local cuisine to guests staying at the hotels.

In addition, various seafood, local products, and souvenirs are sold along the beach, while bicycles, motor boats, horse carts, and horse rental services are also provided.

Shwethaungyan Beach, naturally adorned with clean and clear seawater, is situated approximately eight miles from Chaungtha Beach and spans nearly four miles in length. — ASH/TH

What in the World a Community Leader is

FROM PAGE-9

They involve themselves in general community services, which creates their own members' respect for them and legitimizes their role in the community. Being able to negotiate, mediate, listen to others, articulate arguments and work with members external to the community is very important for leaders. By thinking forward, a leader must be able to think about the future and set sustainable goals, develop his own critical thinking skills, and take account of the younger generation. A competent leader's intelligence is beyond getting smart for high levels of both emotional and social intelligence. Lastly, any great leader never forgets to motivate others to engage in his thought process and courses of action.

What any leader does, first of all, is inspire trust. This trust is born of two dimensions: character and competence. Character covers one's integrity, motive, and intent with people, while competence contains one's capabilities, skills, results, and track records. Part of building trust is understanding and clarifying what the organization wants and why it is offered by whom. Thirteen be-

haviours of high-trust leaders are talking straight, demonstrating respect, creating transparency, righting a wrong, showing loyalty, delivering results, getting better,

work unit objectives and make contingency plans for potential problems. He coordinates the work of subordinates, emphasizes the importance of coordination

performance, shows appreciation for their special efforts and contributions, and makes sure that they get credit for their helpful ideas and suggestions. He rewards effective subordinate performance with tangible benefits, too. He obtains any necessary supplies, equipment, support services, or other resources for subordinates, eliminates problems in the working environment, and removes other obstacles that interfere with the work. Finally, a leader establishes contacts with different groups and important persons in the organization, persuades them to appreciate and support his work unit and uses his influence with supervisors and outsiders to promote and defend the interests of the work unit.

If good community leadership can be realized, a leader is believed to have the behaviours of 1) good communications – shifting from contacts to conversations through adaptable style, facilitation and feedback, 2) openness – getting approachable and open-minded, 3) empathetic – being receptive and responsive, 4) negotiating – holding the space over conflict resolution, reconciliation and mediation, 5) motivating – stimulating confidence, 6)

managing expectations – setting and meeting realistic expectations, and 7) sharing – learning to let go, work with different employment agencies and organizations.

Finally, what leadership effectiveness is will herein be described. Leadership effectiveness is termed as having a more objective dimension – the accomplishment of organizational goals, and two subjective dimensions – perceptual evaluations of significant reference groups and overall job satisfaction of subordinates. This effectiveness depends partly on the proper match between the leader's personality and the degree to which the situation provides him with control and influence. Leaders' styles encompass how they relate to others within and outside the organization, how they view themselves and their position, and even, to a large extent, whether they are successful as leaders. All of these rely on leadership styles, namely directive or autocratic style, supportive style, participative or democratic style, and delegating style. Above all, leaders are necessary within communities so as to maintain community structure and perform collective action.

Community leadership is essentially leadership within, for, and by the community. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK**

confronting reality, clarifying expectations, practising accountability, listening first, keeping commitments, and extending trust.

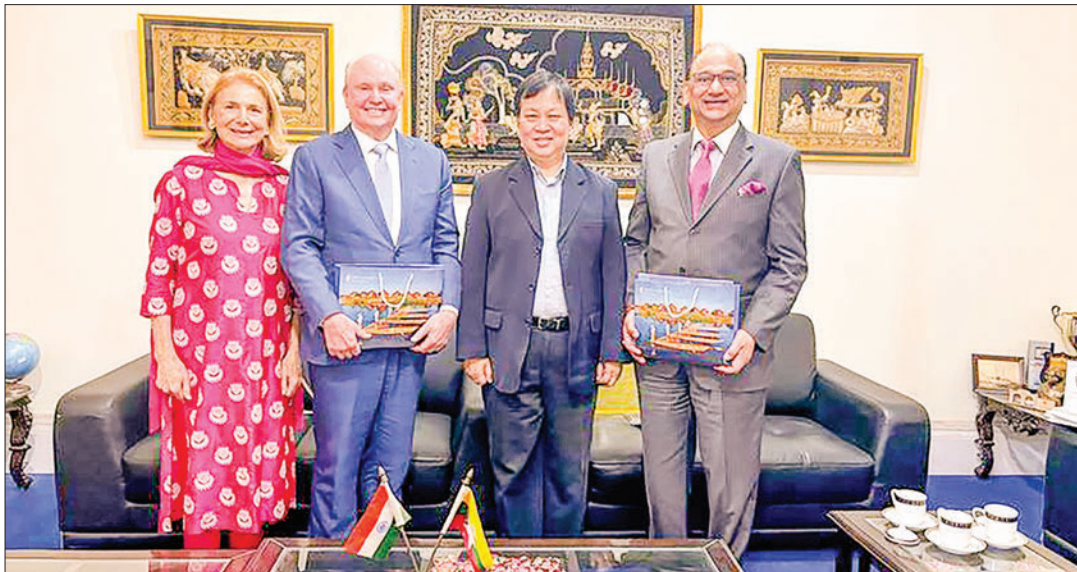
Furthermore, it is appropriate to consider what leaders do next. Obviously, a leader plans how to efficiently organize and schedule the work ahead, attain

and encourages the subordinates to harmonize their activities. He is to take the initiative in proposing solutions to serious work-related problems and act decisively to deal with such problems when a prompt solution is needed. In addition, a leader praises and recognizes subordinates for effective



NATIONAL

Myanmar, India discuss collaboration in various sectors, trade and investment opportunities



A photo record of Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung (2R), alongside Mr Tribhuvan Darbari and Mr Michael R Busch on 7 March 2024.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) reported that Myanmar and India held discussions to enhance collaboration in various sectors, including trade and investment opportunities, on 7 March at the Myanmar embassy in New Delhi, India.

The discussions took place between Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung, Chairman of India's SCO Business Council Secretariat Mr Tribhuvan Darbari, and International Relations Officer Mr Michael R Busch of the Global Union of Scientists for Peace.

During the talks, U Moe Kyaw Aung presented opportunities for trade and investment in Myanmar, as well as avenues for Myanmar-India people-to-people communication, collaboration, and exchange in education and culture. — ASH/TMT

Mandalay experiences 35 fires in two-month period

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Fire Service Department, there have been 35 fires in Mandalay over the past two months.

From January to 7 March of this year, there were 35 fires in Mandalay, resulting in five deaths and injuries, according to statistics.

On 2 March at around 05:10 am, a fire broke out in a room of a house in Kanthaya Ward

in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region. The fire was caused by a phone that was being charged and exploded, igniting the fire. It was extinguished by ten fire engines and five water tenders, and it was completely put out by 5:37 am.

The fire destroyed three houses, and a 14-year-old girl died due to smoke inhalation. — TWA/TKO



A fire occurred on 59 street in Kanthaya ward, Chanmyathazi Township.

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs and vehicles

THE combined teams nabbed 8,000 kilogrammes of dried rubber sheets worth K29.9 million without official documents near the Industrial Zone on Mawlamyine-Hpa-an road on 7 March and illegal timbers weighing 1.206 tonnes valued at K84,420 near Laytaing village in Thaton township on 11 March. This enforcement was carried out under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law.

During inspections on 10 and 11 March, the joint team impounded a Kinglong bus (approximate value of K40 million), heading to Yangon from Mandalay, carrying four kinds of goods worth K6.864 million, including 450 bottles of Damage

Care hair shampoo near Htonebo tollgate on the outskirts of Mandalay, a Yutong bus (approximate value of K65 million) carrying 1,755 kilogrammes of industrial raw materials (used) worth K4.875 million without official documents on the outskirts of Mandalay and a Mitsubishi Canter vehicle (approximate value of K22 million) carrying 6,000 bottles of Diablo beer worth K7.5 million without official documents in Meiktila township. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

On 11 and 12 March, the combined teams captured illegal teak weighing 1.012 tonnes, 5.920 tonnes of illegal hardwood worth K3.628 million in Toungoo,

Nyaunglebin and Nattalin districts and a Yutong bus (estimated value of K35 million), travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon, carrying 8,750 bottles of LipoVitan-D energy drink worth K7 million without official documents near Shwethanlwin tollgate in Phayagyi. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 0.762 tonne of illegal teak worth K251,460 was seized in Pyay district on 12 March. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 12 arrests were made on 7,10,11 and 12 March, with an estimated value of K222.103 million. — MNA/MKKS

K7.5 billion worth of stimulant tablets seized in Madaya

THE Myanmar Police Force reported the seizure of a total of five million stimulant tablets, valued at K7.5 billion, in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising members of the Anti-Drug Police Force apprehended Yaza Moe, Ma La Min Nwe, Thein Zaw (aka) Chit Hmwe, Phyu Phyu Htwe, and Ma Yaminthu (aka) Min Min, who were transporting stimulant tablets in two motorboats, in Madaya Township at 6 pm on 6 March. The police discovered 5 million stimulant tablets concealed within charcoal bags.

Following interrogation, the police

arrested Sai Min Thu and Htun Than, who had the drugs carried, in Madaya Township at 7 am on 7 March.

The culprits confessed that the seized drugs were transported by motorboat along the water route from Nawngkhio Township

in Shan State (North) to Madaya Township in Mandalay Region.

Legal action has been initiated against offenders, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend other individuals involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



Offenders seen alongside confiscated drugs.

China's auto sales up 11.1% in first 2 months

CHINA'S auto sales rose 11.1 per cent year on year to nearly 4.03 million units in the first two months of this year, data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers showed Monday.

The country's auto output during the January-February period increased by 8.1 per cent year on year to 3.92 million units, according to the associa-

tion. Specifically, passenger car output and sales stood at 3.36 million units and 3.45 million units, up 7.9 per cent and 10.6 per cent year on year, respectively, the data showed. Commercial vehicle output rose by nine per cent year on year to 560,000 units, while commercial vehicle sales increased by 14.1 per cent year on year to 575,000 units.

The new energy vehi-

cles (NEVs) sector maintained fast growth momentum during the first two months. The country's NEVs output reached 1.25 million units, climbing 28.2 per cent compared with a year earlier. Sales of NEVs rose 29.4 per cent year on year to 1.21 million units.

Total auto exports amounted to 822,000 units during the period, an increase of 30.5 per cent year



This photo taken on 11 October 2023 shows the NIO Second Advanced Manufacturing Base in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

on year, the data revealed. Auto sales reached about 1.58 million units in February alone, down 19.9 per cent from the same period a year ago. — Xinhua

Apple to unveil new Shanghai store amid declining iPhone sales in China: Bloomberg

APPLE Inc gears up to unveil its eighth store in Shanghai this month, augmenting its expansive network, second only to the United States against the backdrop of decelerating iPhone sales in the Chinese market, the Bloomberg reported on Monday.

Set to launch on 21 March, the store, named Apple Jingan, will be among a total of 47 outlets scattered throughout the nation with a population of 1.4 billion.

As the newest addition to Apple's retail domain, Apple Jingan is situated in the heart of the

city, which already boasts the highest concentration of Apple stores across the Chinese mainland, the report said.

The iPhone, originating from Cupertino, California-based Apple, has experienced a decline in sales in China following the release of its latest model in September. Despite this, the nation continues to be a crucial market, boasting the world's largest base of smartphone consumers and offering significant potential for increased sales of ecosystem accessories, according to the report. — Xinhua



An Apple Store employee prepares for the opening of business in Beijing on 6 December 2023 PHOTO: AFP

Viet Nam's commerce chamber proposes zero VAT for exported services

THE Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) has proposed a zero value-added tax (VAT) rate be maintained for exported services, over worries that tax hikes would undermine the competitiveness of Vietnamese providers against foreign

rivals, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Tuesday.

The recommendation was made in response to the Ministry of Finance's draft proposal on imposing VAT on most exported services, instead of the zero rate as currently.

According to the ministry, only international transportation and vehicle rental outside Viet Nam and some related services are proposed to be maintained at zero tax rates, while others will be subject to VAT rate, commonly at 10 per cent.

VCCI said that zero VAT on exported services played a significant role while the imposition of 10 per cent VAT rate when exporting will make it difficult for Vietnamese services providers to compete with foreign rivals. — Xinhua

Malaysia's palm oil stocks fall in February amid lower production

MALAYSIA, the world's second-largest palm oil producer, saw its palm oil stocks drop in February amid lower crude palm oil (CPO) production, official data showed Monday.

The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) data showed that the country's palm oil inventories slipped five per cent to 1.92 million tonnes in February from January.

Malaysia's CPO production also fell 10.18 per cent month on month to 1.26 million tonnes. Meanwhile, Malaysia's palm oil exports declined by 24.75 per cent

month on month to 1.02 million tonnes. The country's palm oil imports, on the other hand, increased by 10.38 per cent month on month to 32,556 tonnes. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CNC VENUS VOY.NO. (0UVUAW1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CNC VENUS VOY.NO. (0UVUAW1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V LUDWIG SCHULTE VOY.NO. (408W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LUDWIG SCHULTE VOY.NO. (408W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Poo bags and trackers: Nepal orders new Everest rules

NEPAL has ordered Everest mountaineers to carry mandatory trackers after one of the deadliest seasons last year – and remove their excrement using compostable bags similar to those used for dog waste.

Eighteen climbers were killed last year, including at least five bodies unrecovered on the highest mountain in the world, where authorities are keen to improve safety as well as clean up a sacred peak where tonnes of trash have been dumped.

GPS trackers are already used by many professional climbers, helping people monitor their progress on the peak, which is important for both security and the sponsors following the climb.

For the spring climbing season, which begins this month and runs to May, Nepal is expected to require less powerful but smaller passive trackers, which can be easily sewn into a jacket



In this picture taken on 31 May 2021 shows the Himalayan range as seen from the summit of Mount Everest (8,848.86-metre), in Nepal. **PHOTO: AFP**

and require no power to function. They can be tracked by a handheld detector around 20 metres

(66 feet) through packed snow, and several times that in the air. Enforcing their use will help

locate people in case of an accident, officials said.

“The trackers are manda-

tory for climbers this year, so that if there is an accident their location can be accurately identified,” Rakesh Gurung, director of mountaineering at Nepal’s Tourism Department, told AFP on Tuesday.

The rapid growth of the climbing industry has created fierce competition among companies for business, and also raised fears that some are cutting corners on safety.

With around 600 climbers and guides reaching the top in 2023, the local rural municipality of Everest has also introduced a slew of new regulations, including mandatory poo bags to be used above base camp.

Tonnes of rubbish — including empty cans, bottles and gas canisters, discarded climbing gear, and plastic and human waste — litter the mountain, which has been dubbed the “highest dumpster in the world”. — AFP

Boeing failed 37% of audits by US regulators, report reveals

ON 5 January, Alaska Airlines Flight 1282, carrying 171 passengers and six crew members, was forced to make an emergency landing in Portland, Oregon shortly after takeoff because a door plug detached midair.

Boeing has failed 33 of 89 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspections, following a January incident in which part of the fuselage of an Alaska Airlines 737 MAX was lost, the New York Times reports, citing FAA data.

According to the New York Times, auditors examined “many parts of the 737 MAX” as well as employees’ understanding of product quality control principles.

The inspections lasted six weeks and involved both Boeing and the supplier, Spirit AeroSystems, which makes the fuselage for the Boeing 737 MAX. The newspaper notes that Boeing passed 56 of the 89 audits. — Sputnik



This handout picture provided by the NTSB on 8 January 2024 shows the investigation involving Alaska Airlines Flight 1282 on a Boeing 737-9 MAX in Portland, Oregon on 7 January 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Houthis demand “end to war in Gaza” for 17 Filipino hostages’ release: diplomat

A Philippine diplomat said Tuesday that negotiations continue for the release of 17 Filipino sailors taken hostage by the Yemen’s Houthi rebels last year, and the rebels insist “an end to the war in Gaza” as a precondition for their release.

“The Houthis are consistent in their statement that it would need an end to the war in Gaza before they release the ship or the seafarers,” Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Eduardo de Vega told a press conference at the presi-

dential palace.

De Vega said the seafarers are safe and can communicate with their families, although not in the best condition.

“At the very least, one thing we’re always in touch with the Houthis about is to ensure that they are treated well and that they are able to contact their families,” de Vega said.

The Philippines is among the biggest suppliers of maritime labour in the world, providing almost one-fifth of seafarers worldwide, accord-

ing to the International Labour Organization.

The 17 Filipino seafarers were among the crew members of a cargo vessel taken hostage by the Houthis in the Red Sea in November last year.

At the same news conference, de Vega said that 11 of the 13 sailors, who survived another attack against a cargo vessel by the Houthis, will return to Manila on Tuesday night while the remaining two will come home via an air ambulance in the next few days. — Xinhua

Global conference opens in Kenya to promote food safety

A five-day global conference to promote food safety around the world opened on Monday in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

The 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene brought together more than 200 participants, including representatives of the World

Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as senior government officials, to review ways to eliminate foodborne disease hazards. In his opening remarks, Mithika Linturi, Kenya’s cabinet secretary for the Minis-

try of Agriculture and Livestock Development, said food safety is key to achieving several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including zero hunger; health and well-being, clean water and sanitation, and responsible production. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Team Myanmar sails hard for World Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR national football team has been training since 11 March for the 2026 World Cup Asia Zone Second Stage Qualifiers to compete this month.

The Myanmar national team has selected 35 preliminary players. Still, among those who are playing in foreign clubs, those who are playing in the Thai, Indonesian and Cambodian leagues have not been able to come and join because they have club matches and may join later.

Goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Phyo, de-

fenders Nanda Kyaw, David Htan, Nyein Chan and Hein Phyo Win, midfielders Nay Moe Naing, Maung Maung Lwin, Lwin Moe Aung, and Myat Kaung Khant, and strikers Kyaw Ko Ko, Aung Thu, Than Paing, Aung Kaung Marn and Win Naing Tun will be in the line-up list of team Myanmar, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

As World Cup qualifiers, team Myanmar will take on Syria on 21 March for a home match and on 26 March for an away match. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar team players are seen in their training session in preparation for the world cup qualifiers. PHOTO: MFF

Atletico Madrid facing uphill struggle to remain in Europe



Atletico Madrid's Spanish forward (19) Alvaro Morata (C) and teammates attend a training session on the eve of their UEFA Champions League last 16 second leg football match against Inter Milan at the club's training ground in Majadahonda, near Madrid, on 12 March 2024. PHOTO: AFP

ATLETICO Madrid looks to their impressive home form to help them overcome a 1-0 first-leg deficit when they entertain Inter Milan in their Champions League last-16 return leg on Wednesday night.

Although Atletico's results away from home are a huge problem for Diego Simeone's side, with their last away win against Granada on 22 January, the Metropolitan Stadium has been a fortress for them with only one defeat in the last 14 months.

That loss was against Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey semifinal at the start of February, but since then, Atletico has again been unbeatable in front of their fans, with league

wins against Las Palmas and Real Betis.

The good news is that Antoine Griezmann will return to the starting 11 on Wednesday night, three weeks after having twisted his ankle in the first leg. That injury saw the French international miss Atletico's Copa del Rey defeat to Athletic Bilbao, and Simeone preferred not to risk him in Saturday's dreadful defeat to Cadiz.

Griezmann should add goals, creativity and effort to Atletico's starting 11, with either Alvaro Morata or Memphis Depay dropping to the bench.

Simeone has to decide whether to return the out-of-sorts Nahuel Molina to play at right wing-back, or keep Ma-

nuel Llorente, who adds drive to Atletico's flank.

Inter Milan travels to Madrid in excellent form, with four wins from four games since the first leg, and the Nerazzurri have a 16-point lead at the top of Serie A.

Simone Inzaghi's side has only conceded five goals in a record-equalling 13 games in all competitions, which continued with a 1-0 win in Bologna on Saturday.

Atletico will look to a packed Metropolitan and some magic from Griezmann to end that run, but they will have to be at their best to have a chance of overturning last season's beaten finalists. — Xinhua

Ulsan edge Jeonbuk to reach Asian Champions League semis

SOUTH Korea's Ulsan moved into the Asian Champions League semi-finals with a 1-0 second-leg win over Jeonbuk Motors on Tuesday to squeeze past their countrymen 2-1 on aggregate.

The result also sent Ulsan a step closer to clinching a place at next year's expanded Club World Cup, which will be played between 32 teams in the United States.

Ulsan will face either Japan's Yokohama F-Marinots or China's Shandong Taishan next

month for a place in the Champions League final.

Seol Young-woo's volley in first-half injury time was enough to settle a tense quarter-final second leg between two teams who have shared the last seven K-League titles between them.

Ulsan, South Korean champions for the past two seasons, made a slow start to the first leg but they looked much more threatening at home in the return fixture.

The first real chance of the game fell to Jeonbuk however, when a lightning-fast counter-attack ended with Ulsan goalkeeper Jo Hyeon-woo turning away Tiago Orobo's goal-bound flick.

Ulsan coach Hong Myung-bo was forced into an early change when midfielder Ko Seung-beom limped off around the half-hour mark.

The two teams looked to be heading into the break deadlocked until Seol put Ulsan ahead in the second minute of first-half added time.

Gustav Ludwigson floated a cross to the back post, where the unmarked Seol volleyed the ball past goalkeeper Kim Jeong-hoon and into the net.

Jeonbuk struggled to get back into the game after the break and coach Dan Petrescu was booked as frustration set in on the sidelines. — AFP



Ulsan Hyundai FC's Ataru Esaka (L) fights for the ball with Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC's Song Min-Kyu (C) during the AFC Champions League quarter-final second leg football match between Ulsan Hyundai FC and Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC in Ulsan on 12 March 2024. PHOTO: AFP



UN chief calls for action as women's rights face backsliding, violence



This photo taken on 11 March 2024 shows the opening of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN headquarters in New York. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

He highlighted the dire circumstances in Gaza, where reportedly more than two-thirds of casualties and injuries during Israel's military actions involve women and girls, and pointed out alarming reports of sexual violence against Palestinian women during detentions, house raids, and checkpoints in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Guterres also voiced concern over the situation faced by women in other countries, including Afghanistan and Sudan.

The secretary-general stressed that despite evidence that women's full participation makes peacebuilding much more effective, the number of women in decision-making roles is falling.

"The facts are clear: Women lead to peace," he said, calling for more funding and new policies to boost women's participation and investment in women peacebuilders. The UN chief also emphasized a growing digital gender divide, noting the dominance of men in digital technologies, particularly in artificial intelligence.

He cautioned that algorithms controlled by men might embed disparities across multiple life facets, observing that the design of systems by male leaders and technologists frequently neglects women's needs, bodies, and essential rights. — Xinhua

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday underscored the critical urgency of protecting women's rights, now endangered by regressing achievements, escalating violence, and a widening digital

gender divide.

Addressing the opening of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the pivotal forum dedicated to promoting and safeguarding the rights of women and girls worldwide, the UN chief stressed

the disproportionate impact of wars on women.

"In conflict zones around the globe, women and girls are suffering most from wars waged by men," he said, urging immediate ceasefires and humanitarian aid.

Iran says nuclear talks can be concluded if other party shows necessary will

IRAN said on Monday the negotiations on the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal and removal of the sanctions on the country could soon be concluded if the other party in the talks had the necessary will.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the remarks at a weekly press conference in Tehran while commenting on the latest developments in the "sanctions removal talks" between Tehran and world powers.

Kanaani stressed that Iran was committed to the negotiating table and maintained that "if the other party has the necessary political will, the conducted negotiations can be concluded in the shortest time possible, so that all sides, especially those that had unilaterally refrained from fulfilling their obligations, return to their commitments within the deal's framework."

Reacting to recent remarks by the United States about Iran's nuclear programme, he stressed that Tehran was cooperating completely with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and collaborations between the two sides were continuing to answer a number of questions and resolve certain ambiguities about the country's nuclear programme. — Xinhua

Qatar says Israel, Hamas 'not near a deal' on Gaza truce

ISRAEL and Hamas are not close to a deal to halt the fighting in Gaza and free hostages, mediator Qatar said on Tuesday, warning that the situation remained "very complicated".

Despite weeks of talks involving US, Qatari and Egyptian mediators, the Muslim holy month of Ramadan began on Monday without the start of a truce and hostage exchange they had aimed for.

"We are not near a deal, meaning that we are not seeing both sides converging on language that can resolve the current disagreement over the implementation of a deal," said foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari.

All parties were "continuing to work in the negotiations to reach a deal hopefully with-

in the confines of Ramadan", Ansari told a news conference. — AFP



In this picture taken from Israel's southern border with the Gaza Strip shows a military aircraft dropping humanitarian aid over the Palestinian territory on 12 March 2024 amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the militant group Hamas **PHOTO: AFP**