

Myeik Archipelago shifts focus from fishing to farming to preserve marine resources



Some saltwater shrimp farming is seen in Myeik Archipelago. Several islands in the Myeik Archipelago, including Katan Island, Masanpa Island, Kyagyiaiw Island, and islands in Palaw and Thahtay, host saltwater shrimp farming businesses that export to the Thai market.

U Tun Naung Oo, the district officer of the Myeik District Fisheries Department (Taninthayi Region), reports a shift towards farming rather than fishing in the Myeik Archipelago. This change comes as saltwater shrimp farming businesses show reasonable success.

Over the past five years, saltwater shrimp farming has flourished in the Myeik Archipelago. However, due to

declining catches in offshore fishing and rising fuel costs, business owners are now promoting farming practices. Shrimps are cultivated in inland lakes, with each lake producing up to 35 tonnes within three to four months of adding baby shrimps.

“In summer, we add over 1.2 million fry shrimps to a lake, while one million is added in the rainy season. On average, this yields between 25 to

30 tonnes. During favourable weather in summer, productivity increases slightly to between 30 and 35 tonnes,” explains U Tun Naung Oo. “It takes 90 to 120 days to produce 30 tonnes of shrimps after adding the fry shrimps. With numerous suitable locations for shrimp farming in our region, the practice is gaining popularity. As more people engage in this business, traditional sea fishing for fish, prawns, shrimps, and crabs

has declined, gradually replacing the income for fishermen.”

Several islands in the Myeik Archipelago, including Katan Island, Masanpa Island, Kyagyiaiw Island, and islands in Palaw and Thahtay, host saltwater shrimp farming businesses that export to the Thai market. With support from relevant departments, the farming industry in the region has significant potential for further growth. — ASH/TMT

THE Coffee Knowledge Centre at PyinOoLwin Coffee Park is now open to educate visitors about the farm-to-cup process. Here, visitors can explore both local and global coffee histories and learn about farming and production procedures.

U Min Lwin Oo, staff officer in charge of Coffee Park, stated: “Our park is open to all, free of charge. We preserve the park’s natural landscape while sharing knowledge. We typically welcome around 100 visitors on weekdays and 200 on weekends and public holidays.”

PyinOoLwin is renowned in Myanmar for its vibrant coffee production. The park boasts recreation halls, bridges over natural waterways, a bridge across the swamp, and a magnificent banyan tree that’s over 100 years old, among other picturesque scenes. Visitors

PyinOoLwin Coffee Park welcomes visitors to explore coffee knowledge centre



The PyinOoLwin Coffee Park.

can also enjoy locally produced coffee and cuisine available for purchase.

Located at the 39th Milepost

along the Mandalay-Lashio highway in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, the park spans 386.3 acres and is situated with-

in the Pwaytaung coffee farm. The Department of Agriculture oversaw the park’s establishment. — ASH/NT

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Yangon Port Thrives: Export figures and shipping methods

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CBM joins hands with three private banks to sell foreign currencies in four cities

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Martial Law Order No 3/2024

9th Waning of Tabodwe 1385 ME
4 March 2024

- In order to effectively provide security, the rule of law and community peace, the State Administration Council has transferred the executive and judicial power (Martial Law) to the Commander of the North-East Command to exercise Martial Law in the following townships of Shan State under the North-East Command in accordance with Section 419 of the Constitution.
 - Mantung Township

- Namhsam Township
 - Namtu Township
- Depending on the changing situation in the region, the commander shall exercise Martial Law by himself or shall transfer the power to the regional military commanders.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Martial Law Order No 4/2024

9th Waning of Tabodwe 1385 ME
4 March 2024

- Under the State Administration Council's Martial Law Order 3/2024 dated 4 March 2024 (9th Waning of Tabodwe 1385 ME), the SAC has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of the North-East Command to exercise Martial Law under Section 419 of the Constitution to enforce security effectively, the rule of law and community peace in Mantung, Namhsam and Namtu townships of Shan State.
- Local administrative bodies at different levels under the Martial Law area shall carry out the tasks concerned with them under the command of the Commander of the North-East Command.
- The Commander of the North-East Command shall designate the military regions in the martial area and shall appoint the commanders of military regions by issuing Martial Law orders with the approval of the Chairman of the State Administration Council.
- The Commander of the North-East Command shall accomplish the following tasks by himself, or military region commanders or an appropriate person or a body to which he transferred the power.

(A) Administration

- security issues
- social issues
- trade issues
- transport issues

(B) Judiciary

- Formation of courts:** The Commander of the North-East Command shall decide criminal cases that occurred during the martial law period at courts formed under the existing law or the Military Tribunal.
- Deciding cases at the Military Tribunal:** Criminal cases can be heard and decided by the Military Tribunal in a summary way.
- Punishment:** The following punishments shall be sentenced by a Military Tribunal under the existing laws for anyone who is found guilty of crimes mentioned in Appendix (A) as follows: -
 - Death Sentence
 - Prison sentence with hard labour for unlimited years
 - The highest punishment designated in accordance with respective crimes
- Approval:** The decisions and sentences handed down by the Military Tribunal shall be final. However, a death sentence shall be approved only with the approval of the State Administration Council Chairman. An unlimited years prison sentence shall be approved with the approval of the relevant military command commander and the commander of the regional control command. Following are the rights for exercising the rights for approval.
 - Abolishing a decision of a case
 - Commuting a sentence
 - Changing a sentence to another lesser one
 - Approving the conviction
- Appealing:** No appeal for decisions or convictions handed down by

the Military Tribunal.

- Applying for reversal of decisions:** If a death sentence is handed down by a Military Tribunal, applying to the State Administration Council Chairman can be made for reversal of the decision within 15 days from the day of conviction. Reversal for other punishments can be applied to the relevant military command commander and the Commander of the North-East Command within 15 days after the convictions. The State Administration Council Chairman or the Commander of the North-East Command shall reverse the decision. Following are the rights for exercising power for reversal of the decision.
 - Abolishing a decision of a case
 - Commuting a sentence
 - Changing a correction to another lesser one
 - Approving the conviction
- The Chairman of the State Administration Council or the Commander of the North-East Command not only can exercise the rights mentioned in the above clause (6) but also can increase the punishment.
- The Commander of the North-East Command shall form an advisory body for Martial Law to get assistance for performing their duties.
- The Commander of the North-East Command shall report to the Chairman of the State Administration Council on the situation of the martial law area.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Appendix (a) Crimes to be heard by Military Tribunal

- High Treason (Section 122 of the Criminal Procedure Code)
- Attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government (Section 124-A of the Penal Code)
- Sabotage or hinder the performance of the Defence Services of the Union or law enforcement organizations (Section 124-C of the Penal Code)
- Disrupts or hinders Defence Services and Government employees (Section 124-D of the Penal Code)
- Section 505 of the Penal Code
- Cause fear, spread false news, agitate directly or indirectly criminal offence against a Government employee (Section 505-A of the Penal Code)
- Cases against the Unlawful Associations Act
- Cases against the Weaponry Act
- Murder cases
- Death cases
- Rape cases
- Robbery cases
- Banditry cases
- Corruption cases
- Cases against the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993)
- Cases against the Protection of Public Properties Act
- Cases against the Protection of Public Property Law (1963)
- Cases against the News and Media Law
- Cases against the Printing and Publishing Law
- Cases against the Myanmar Immigration (provisional) Act (1947)
- Cases against the Electronic Communications Law
- Cases against the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law
- Cases against the Counter-Terrorism Law

NATIONAL

2nd coord meeting of Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants held

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants, attended the 2/2024 coordination meeting of the central body in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Admiral said five out of ten points made in the first meeting were completed. The three points decided are the ones that should be carried out successively. Moreover, the working committee for Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and rules compiling comprising 15 members were organized, and the third draft of the rule was completed after two meetings. The SOPs were also drafted by cooperating with the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

He also talked about the for-



SAC Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Defence Minister Admiral Tin Aung San chairs the coordination meeting of the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants 2/2024 yesterday.

mation of the chairman's office committee of the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants, township, district, self-administered zones and self-administered division com-

mittees for summoning people's military servants, eight working committees regarding People's Military Service Law, IT and record task force and settlement committee for people military

servants in relevant posts.

He also highlighted the sending of Short Message Service (SMS) about the People's Military Service Law by four Mobile Operators starting from

21 February, the distribution of 100,000 handouts by the Ministry of Information, news releases via MRTV, MWD, Radios, TV Spot, articles, editorial and announcement by the leader of SAC Information Team.

Then, the attendees discussed the work plans of respective working committees and the drafting of SOPs and the People's Military Service Rule (third draft).

Next, the Admiral urged the participants to deliver the work plans and timetable made at the meeting to the committees on summoning people's military servants of respective regions/states, self-administered zones and division, districts and townships as quickly as possible to work the measures as per the approved SOPs and conduct public awareness programmes. — MNA/KTZH

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador



The Bangladeshi ambassador calls on Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordial-

ly exchanged views on further consolidation of bilateral relations between the two countries, expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation in various arenas, including bilateral trade, investment and connectivity, successful implementation of repatriation of verified displaced persons from Rakhine State as well as regional and international matters of common interest. — MNA

SAC Member attends closing ceremony of 62nd Anniversary of Peasants' Day

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, accompanied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and relevant officials, attended the talk shows and closing ceremony of galleries marking the 62nd Peasants' Day in Patheingyi District yesterday.

First, the SAC member and party inspected the model fields of the Department of

Agriculture in Sarphyu village of Kangyidaunt Township of Patheingyi District and attended the roundtable discussion on acquiring the target per-acre yield of major crops in Wahdu Village.

At the closing ceremony, the SAC Member and relevant officials presented the awards to the award-winning districts in agricultural sector.

Next, the region head of the Department of Agriculture clarified outcomes from the roundtable discussion on acquiring the target yield of major crops.

Then, the SAC member appreciated the efforts of the Ayeyawady Region government for implementing the government's policies successfully and delivered a closing speech. — MNA/KTZH



The winding-up event of the 62nd Peasants' Day in progress, remarked by SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung yesterday in Patheingyi.

NATIONAL

MoI donates cash for Garuna Kaba Home for Aged

THE Ministry of Information organized a cash donation ceremony for the senior citizens residing at Garuna Kaba Home for the Aged in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, departmental officials, the elderly and officials of the home.

In his speech, the Union minister highlighted the donation dedicated to the senior citizens who made concerted efforts in serving the State duties, Tatmadaw members who are on the frontlines and also as an assistance to the seniors showing the noble manner of Myanmar people.

Then, he handed over K5.9



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn attends the cash-donation ceremony yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

million for the home, MRTV DTH receivers, and DVB T2 set-top boxes to the person in charge of

the home.

The singers of MRTV, comedian Dein Daung, one female

senior citizen and one war veteran participated in the entertainment programmes.

The Union minister and officials also conducted a lucky draw event for the senior citizens.

The Union minister and party then had lunch together with the elderly.

The Union minister also inspected Sabei Hall and cordially met the elderly people.

The Garuna Kaba Home for the Aged was established for the military members who sacrificed for the country, Tatmadaw family members of fallen military members and those who lost their limbs. Currently, the home houses 200 people, including 126 male senior citizens, 58 female senior citizens, eight family members of fallen military members and seven retired military members. — MNA/KTZH



U Kyaw Soe Min presents Credentials to Acting Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia

U Kyaw Soe Min, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia, presented his Credentials to Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdei Say Chhum, Acting Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on 4 March 2024 at the Senate in Phnom Penh. — MNA

Counter-argument to false information

Misleading reports regarding Tatmadaw actions in Mandalay Region

CERTAIN subversive media outlets have deliberately spread false news alleging that Tatmadaw security forces forcibly expelled residents from Nanwintawpo Village of Natogyi Township and Kanswe Village of Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on 1 March. Additionally, they claim that the security forces seized money and valuables from the villagers.

However, both on-ground

reports and an official responsible for security have confirmed that these allegations are untrue. They assert that the news story was fabricated with the intention of tarnishing the reputation of Tatmadaw security forces.

In reality, Tatmadaw security forces are conducting operations in towns and cities across Mandalay Region to prevent any terrorist activities by PDF insurgents. — MNA/ TMT



Misinformation spread regarding Kawlin incident



Screenshot misinformation spread by the Irrawaddy Burmese Edition.

REPORTS of malicious media outlets circulating misinformation claim that security forces burned and destroyed several villages, including Thakhukkon Village, Ywama Village, Pekon Village, Kyauktan Village, and Ngagyiai Village in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, resulting in the arrest and death of three civilians.

However, according to a security official, the incident occurred after KIA and PDF terrorists retreated from Ka-

wlin. Upon their retreat, they opened fire on security forces who were clearing mines and conducting rehabilitation work in the town. The terrorists then intentionally fired heavy weapons into the villages, resulting in injuries and fatalities.

These malicious media outlets are spreading propaganda on social networks to mislead the public with false information. They aim to blame the security forces and cover up the actions of the terrorists. — MNA/TKO

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NATIONAL

Yangon Port Thrives: Export figures and shipping methods

SINCE the conclusion of the monsoon season in October 2023, Yangon Port has been bustling with cargo vessels, containers, trade activities, and employees. The Ministry of Commerce reports that Myanmar exported nearly US\$2 billion worth of agricultural produce from April 2023 to January 2024. In February alone, the country exported 384,405 tonnes of rice, bringing the total exported rice for the 11 months of the financial year 2023-24 to 1.4 million tonnes.

Traditionally, rice exports have been facilitated via containers. However, due to a shortage of containers in the financial year 2021-22, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, exporters turned to stacking rice in general cargo vessels. This financial year, the volume of rice exported in containers has doubled compared to the stacking method. Europe, Africa, and Asian countries, including Bangladesh and Indonesia, remain primary



Lorries laden with export rice bags seen preparing for loading them onto the overseas-going merchant vessel.

export for the current financial year is 891,038 tonnes. Exporters mainly transport corn by stacking it in the cargo holds of vessels, accounting for 75 per cent of corn exports, while the remaining 25 per cent are shipped in containers. Thailand and the Philippines are the primary buyers of corn.

Small-scale private vessels with capacities of 2,700-3,000 tonnes are also engaged in trading corn to Ranong and Kantang ports in Thailand. The Myanmar Port Authority oversees operations to ensure timely transportation with minimal waste. It collaborates with the Myanmar Rice Federation, beans and pulses merchants, as well as the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association, the Customs Department, the Department of Trade, and other stakeholders to ensure an adequate supply of containers. — MNA/NT

markets for Myanmar rice.

In February, bean exports reached 156,950 tonnes, contributing to a total bean export of

1.2 million tonnes in the current financial year. Exporters primarily use containers to export beans to India and other Asian

countries. Corn exports in February totalled 365,472 tonnes, marking the highest monthly export for corn. The total corn



Merchant vessels seen docking at Sule Jetty for loading and unloading.



Port workers stowing export rice cargoes.



Wilmar Jetty's 1,000-tonne daily rice mill in action.

**COVID-19
report,
4 March 2024**

NEW TESTS

18,409

NEW CASES

31

CASUALTIES

Nil

Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest invites entries

SPUTNIK, a news agency of the Russian Federation, recently stated that the Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest will be open for entries until 15 March 2024.

The contest is an annual competition to discover young talent among photojournalists aged 18 to 33. The entries can be submitted to stenincontest.com.

The contest's anniversary edition comes with updates. A new category, "View From Above", has been added to the existing four — "Top News", "Sports", "My Planet", and "Portrait. A Hero of Our Time". It will encourage contestants to explore a new visual perspective with a focus on unconventional subjects


and settings. The top prize is 700,000 rubles (\$7,588). The first, second and third places in the contest will fetch 125,000 rubles, 100,000 rubles and 75,000 rubles, respectively.

Rossiya Segodnya Segodnya organized the Andrei Stenin International Press Photo Contest under the patronage of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO. It aims to support young photographers and draw public attention to the challenges of photojournalism today. — GNLM

Press Photo Contest specifications detailed on web page.

COMPETE IN A PRESS PHOTO CONTEST

call for entries: → **22.12.2023-15.03.2024**
at stenincontest.com



The contest is aimed at supporting young photographers in their ambition to become successful professionals.

categories:

- Top News
- Sports
- My Planet
- Portrait. A Hero of Our Time
- Top View

the jury: The jury includes leading representatives of the Russian and international professional community.

winners: Winners receive money prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each category in singles and series. Their works will be part of the contest's international roadshow.

age limit: 18 – 33

THE ANDREI STENIN INTERNATIONAL PRESS PHOTO CONTEST

NATIONAL

Monsoon paddy achieves high yield in Ayeyawady region this year

IN Ayeyawady Region, 5.2 million acres are devoted to paddy cultivation out of a total of 17 million acres across Myanmar. The Agriculture Department reports that of the 15 million acres dedicated to monsoon paddy in Myanmar, 3,756,805 acres are in this region.

Each acre of monsoon paddy typically yields 82.24 baskets. However, in this area, the average yield per acre has increased to around 70 baskets.

Monsoon paddy is grown in eight districts in the Ayeyawady Region, with the Pyapon district being the largest, covering 878,325 acres. Myaungmya district, with three townships, has 521,964 acres of monsoon paddy, while Labutta district, with only two townships, cultivates 589,980 acres.

Previously, there was



The photo shows a monsoon paddy field in Bogale Township of Pyapon District.

only one Myaungmya district, encompassing Labutta and Myaungmya districts. Under the former arrangement, Myaungmya district had the highest paddy output among the five

districts in the Ayeyawady Region.

Under the new structure, the highest yield of monsoon paddy comes from the five townships in the Myaungmya and

Labutta districts. Additionally, about 1.5 million acres are used for summer paddy cultivation, along with various beans and chilli crops.

In 2024, 13,107 acres in Kyai-

klat Township, 111,969 acres in Bogale Township, and 86,754 acres in Pyapon Township of the Pyapon District were dedicated to summer paddy. Due to the prevalence of saltwater in most townships of the Pyapon and Labutta districts, there is less cultivation of summer paddy compared to monsoon paddy.

Given the abundant rice production, Pawsan rice from Myaungmya, Pyapon, Bogale, and Mawgyun is in high demand in the Yangon rice market. Broken rice, mainly from the Myaungmya region, is transported by water to the Pakokku area almost daily.

The prices of rice, mung beans, and green grams are expected to increase between 2023 and 2024, benefiting rice and bean producers in Ayeyawady Region. — TWA/MKKS

Over 200 fires break out nationwide in Jan-Feb 2024

BETWEEN January and February 2024, there were 251 fire outbreaks nationwide, a decrease compared to previous years, as reported by the Fire Services Department (FSD).

The fires were primarily concentrated in regions including Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady, Magway, Sagaing, Taninthayi, and states such as Shan, Kachin, Mon, and Rakhine, according to the FSD.

Additionally, there were approximately 61 incidents caused

by forest fires, branch fires, dry grass fires, and garbage dumps during this period.

In the same two-month period of January and February 2023, over 360 fires were recorded across the country, resulting in a loss value exceeding K8.1 billion.

Comparatively, there were 404 fires in January and February 2022, marking a decrease of 44 incidents this year. However, the total loss cost amounted to K2.7 billion. — TWA/TKO



Firefighters seen putting out fire on the 7th Kawpat compound street in Pyu Township, Bago region.

Yangon Region govt develops construction of production road in Twantay

THE Yangon Region government has announced the construction of a production road in the Shwemayin area of Twantay Township to facilitate the flow of commodities, according to a report. The road will stretch from Mamyosu through Kin Village, Khayangyi, Khayanwa, Yaytwingon, and Kwinpauk in the Shwemayin area.

On 1 March, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and regional ministers inspected the progress of the production road. Currently, the construction of an earthen road measuring 2,400 feet in length and 19 feet in width, with a thickness of six inches, from Kwinpauk Village to the creek has been completed. The chief minister and his team also assessed the construction of a parking lot, which is 300 feet long, 100 feet wide, and seven inches thick, situated at the junction of Shwemayin Creek and Kwinpauk Creek.



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials inspect the upgrading of the Maubin-Twantay road.

This road provides the shortest route for transporting goods from Shwemayin along Kwinpauk Creek, saving time and enabling local products to reach the market promptly. The chief minister emphasized the importance of adhering to standards and meeting deadlines for the projects. Additionally, he urged preparations for water management within Kwinpauk Village to prevent

flooding during the rainy season, clearance of undergrowth along village streets, and promotion of vegetable cultivation.

Upon completion of the production road, various sectors, including agriculture, fish farming, healthcare, economy, education, and social welfare in the Shwemayin area of Twantay Township, are expected to experience development. — TWA/TMT

NATIONAL

Black gram, pigeon pea prices head up after market holidays

THE prices of black grams and pigeon peas bounced back on 4 March after the market holidays.

The prices closed at K2.94 million per tonne of black grams and K3.695 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 1 March. The reopening prices stood at K2.962 million per tonne of black grams and K3.8 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 4 March.

The figures indicated an increase of K22,000 for black grams and K105,000 for pigeon peas within three days.

India's demand and kyat-US dollar exchange rate heavily weigh on the pulse price fluctuation.

The foreign demand pushed up the prices to K3.5 million per tonne of black grams and K4.197 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 5 February.

India also imports the black grams (urad) from Brazil and other countries. Yet, they prefer Myanmar's black grams on account of better quality and higher availability of supply. India extended the free import policy of



Pulses and beans put on display at the commodity depot.

black grams (urad) and pigeon peas (tur) up to March 2025.

Additionally, India's pulse output dropped more than expected due to erratic weather in India, prompting them to import a large quantity from abroad. India was reportedly to bring in

400,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) and 1 million tonnes of black grams (urad) from Myanmar in two months (January-February) 2024, citing reports by foreign news agencies.

Myanmar conveyed over 1.4 million tonnes of various pulses

worth US\$1.182 billion over the past ten months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

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

CBM joins hands with three private banks to sell foreign currencies in four cities

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), in cooperation with three private banks, is selling a small amount of foreign currencies to those going abroad in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi cities under the special scheme, according to its notification released on 4 March.

In order to facilitate the purchase of foreign currencies as petty cash, prevent illegal money exchange and curb forex market manipulation, those studying abroad, working abroad and travelling abroad for medical treatment can buy foreign currencies that are equivalent to US\$300-500 per person at the authorized banks' FX counters and money changers at the Yangon International Airport starting from 31 May 2023, while those going on a pilgrimage and those leaving for the designated countries to attend the meeting as

per the invitations of the foreign governments and institutions, from 18 August 2023.

The notification stated that the money changers of the authorized dealers (private banks) are entitled to transact the foreign currencies denoted in US dollars, euros, Singapore dollars, Thai baht, Malaysia ringgit, Chinese yuan, and Japanese yen.

The foreign currencies as petty cash can be purchased at the respective bank counters of the CB Bank PLC, Myanmar Oriental Bank, KBZ Bank, Innwa Bank, AGD Bank, AYA Bank PLC, UAB Bank, Myanmar Apex Bank, Myanmar Citizens Bank, Global Treasure Bank, Yoma Bank and Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank, according to notifications of those banks on their official websites and Facebook pages.

CBM announced that it pro-

vides a special scheme in cooperation with KBZ, AYA Bank PLC and UAB in the four cities mentioned above to facilitate the

buying of foreign currencies for those who will work abroad, travel abroad for medical treatment, study abroad, go on pilgrimage

and attend the meetings as per the invitation of the foreign governments and associations. — NN/EM



The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), Yangon Branch.

OPINION

Eliminate online gambling and scams as national enemies

EVERYBODY knows online gambling and online scams have terribly shaken Myanmar society, leaving different consequences like the impacts after the shakes of a powerful earthquake. It is an unforgettable lesson for the Myanmar people for their life. They really understand they have to eliminate these criminal cases as well as have to pledge they shall never have to commit such crimes along their vicious circle. It is because they lost their life, limbs and property in online gambling and scams.

In the ongoing effort to combat the detrimental impact of online gambling and scams, a comprehensive plan has been put into action to eliminate the associated criminal networks throughout the nation. Authorities have taken decisive action by apprehending individuals engaged in these online crimes in Tachilek and

Yangon. Online scam gangs, masterminded by foreigners, sought to exploit the process for personal gain, with unsuspecting Myanmar citizens inadvertently participating in these illicit operations. These online gambling and scam syndicates deliberately flout laws through various forms of threats and intimidation against innocent individuals. Furthermore, they engage in the financial exploitation of their own employees and borrowers. Despite being aware of the legal violations committed by the companies they work for, Myanmar employees find themselves unable to extricate themselves from these criminal acts for a variety of reasons. Disguised as online financial companies, these gangs initially entice borrowers with multiple incentives, urging them to download loan applications and subsequently coercing them into repaying loans at exorbitant interest rates. In cases where borrowers are unable to meet these repayment demands, the gangs resort to threatening to expose the borrowers' data on social media platforms.

Despite the audacity of online gambling and scam gangs operating even in major cities where the rule of law prevails, authorities have successfully eradicated these criminal elements. Citizens are responsible for reporting any suspected instances of online gambling and scams to the relevant authorities. The collective effort to expose and eliminate these criminal networks is crucial for the well-being of Myanmar society, as these gangs are identified as national enemies.

Individuals are urged to exercise caution and refrain from easily placing trust in others. Sharing personal data and profiles with others is strongly discouraged, as unscrupulous individuals may exploit this information for their own gain in various work processes and criminal activities. Vigilance is crucial, particularly on social media platforms, where deceptive practices abound. Additionally, participation in online gambling, which utilizes modern technologies to exploit unsuspecting participants, is strongly discouraged.

Despite the audacity of online gambling and scam gangs operating even in major cities where the rule of law prevails, authorities have successfully eradicated these criminal elements. Citizens are responsible for reporting any suspected instances of online gambling and scams to the relevant authorities. The collective effort to expose and eliminate these criminal networks is crucial for the well-being of Myanmar society, as these gangs are identified as national enemies.

A Brief Scenario of Integrated Ideal Power (IIP)

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

NATIONAL power is of the greatest significance in international relations. A powerful State is frequently in a situation of influencing international relations, and thus, every country tries to strengthen its national power. In that regard, it is essential to know the definition of power. Power carries a variety of definitions, and the clearest definition of power is measuring the capability of an organization to control the behaviour of other organizations.

It is necessary to combine hard and soft power into smart power and just power to ensure a strong national power for a nation. Effective and appropriate strategies and policies need to be formulated in order to implement national power. National power is the capacity of a country to implement its local and foreign policy and also a combination of strengths

value of each and every country for its national characteristics. The concept of "soft power" was developed by Joseph Nye in the late 1980s. For Nye, power is the ability to influence the behaviour of others to get the outcomes you want. According to Nye, the concept of just power holds that state power needs to be employed in accordance with basic principles of justice at all times. This needs to be done not necessarily for moral reasons but because it is the only sustainable way to promote national interests and achieve national security.

A New Concept of Power-Integrated Ideal Power (IIP), which is the combination of four powers, includes soft power, hard power, smart power and just power. The strong points of power are increased efficiency, improved effectiveness, increased readiness, likelihood to show fairness, consistency, eth-



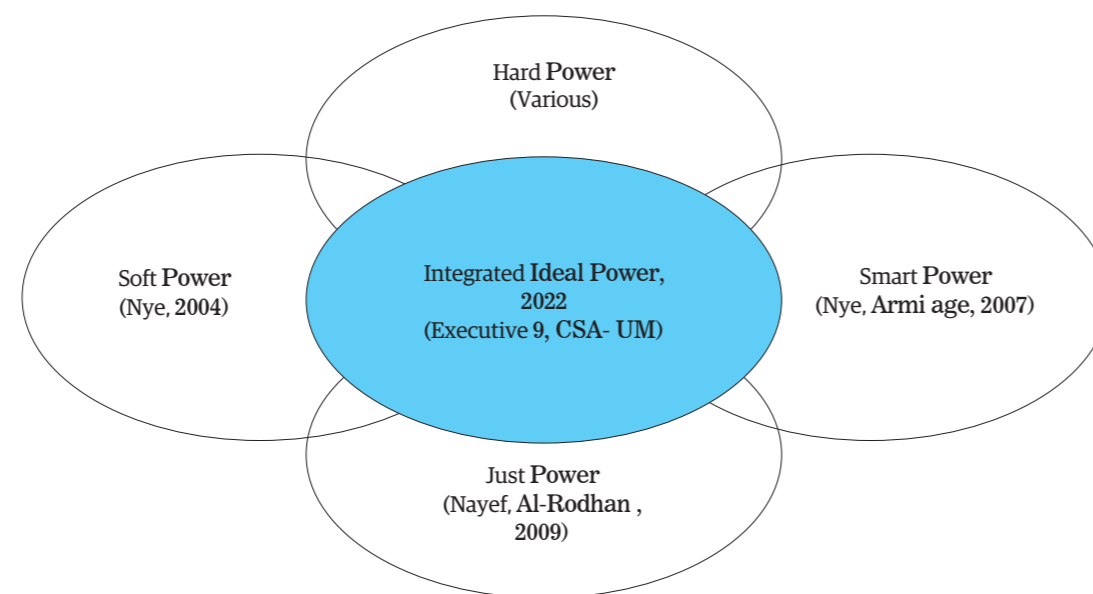
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

the IIP through appropriate retention, attraction and development strategies will result

and only an optimistic man can bring optimism to the country." As a global recognition, he won the reader's poll as TIME's Person of the Year in 2016. In previous years, he had received top ranking as one of the most influential political figures in the world in both TIME and Forbes Magazine. With high favorability ratings among Indian voters, he enjoyed a reputation for actively engaging citizens through social media and encouraging his own administration to stay active on its platforms. In terms of foreign policy, he has taken on a multilateral approach, and he has participated in the BRICS, ASEAN and G20 summits and has aligned himself with the United States, China, Japan and Russia to improve economic and political ties. He launched a "Clean India" campaign, which focused on sanitation and the construction of millions of toilets in rural areas in 2014. A glimpse of Modi's nature is that he has strong collaboration in dealing with issues or challenges, mutual respect, mutual understanding and honouring each other, a spirit of compromise, positive thinking, and mutual agreement on common goals

or objectives. One of Modi's remarkable speeches on World Youth Skills Day mentioned that the skill development of the new generation is a national need, and India's skilled workforce helped in an effective battle against the pandemic. As Henry Ford, an American industrialist who founded the Ford Motor Company, said, coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success. Prime Minister Modi could bring India to work together as a success in the country's development perspective. Generally, Modi is a leader of great integrity, and he is honest and transparent and always acts in the best interests of his country.

Last but not least, the IIP calls for strengthening national power and security to the respective sector on a regular basis to assist with the implementation of national as well as global development. This IIP provides power effectiveness and readiness in India and key points, in general, to be considered in envisioning the IIP strategy for Global Peace and Development in the 21st century.



A Model of Integrated Ideal Power

and weaknesses in strategic military, economic, political and psychological affairs. For the time being, our traditional thinking must move beyond zero-sum games and focus on multi-sum games and symbiotic, realistic interstate relations in line with existing global situations. At the same time, we need to realize the concept of the balance of power and the

ics, and more political stability. The concept of the IIP for national development will concentrate on smart power and just power in the changing context of global politics. Nowadays, India is growing in a critical strategic position, and thus, it needs to consider the IIP concept for the future remaining years of the 21st century. The successful implementation of

in a doable global peace and development that has both the capacity and the capability to meet the needs and aspirations of global citizens.

When we look at India, within ten years, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could play IIP for the peace and development of India. One of the quotes from Modi mentions, "I am a very optimistic man,

Some Admirable Myanmar Customs

By Aung Kyaw Lin

EVERY country has its own customs. Similarly, Myanmar has its own traditions and customs. Some customs are just a few decades old, while some have their roots in the time immemorial. These customs are admirable. In Myanmar culture, there is Myanmar music. "Saing-waing" (a drum circle) is Myanmar people's own music. Myanmar Saing-waing carries various kinds of melodies, and it is a splendid sight to behold. According to Myanmar customs, Myanmar Saing-waing is a must in alms-giving ceremonies and is also the pride of social and religious ceremonies in Myanmar. There are other kinds of Myanmar music, such as "ozi" and "dobat", to entertain guests in celebration of the traditional ceremonies in Myanmar. Our country is always filled with the pleasant sounds of the Myanmar orchestra, ozi, dobat and drums. This Myanmar music is admirable.

Myanmar people are hospitable. The hosts cordially receive the guests who arrive home from far away. They usually unroll a mat, the edges of which are bound with velvet for the guests in the sitting room. They serve their guests tea leaf salad, ginger salad, plain tea, betel quid, and cheroot. Every house has them ready for visitors. It is also a rare Myanmar custom.

Another admirable Myanmar custom is the custom of donning traditional clothing. Traditionally, Myanmar women wear a simple blouse and htami (sarong for females). Myanmar men usually wear taik-pon aingvi (jersey for males) and yaw longyi (sarong for males). Myanmar's traditional outfits are secure and elegant. So, this custom of wearing traditional clothing is also an admirable one.

Myanmar people also express their goodwill towards strangers. It is a cool-water stand, a small shrine-like structure with a roof for seating two or three earthen pots of cool-drinking water. They locate the cool-water stands under a shady tree to



Dance is a prominent and popular form of the performing arts in Myanmar, where dances have traditionally been strict in their adherence form and content. PHOTO: MNA

quench the thirst of all passers-by and the unknown travellers with parched lips and dry throats. Myanmar Buddhists believe that offering water to weary travellers is an act of merit. Besides, they build wayside public houses for tired wayfarers to take a rest on the way before they reach their destination. These two customs of the Myanmar people are the symbols of their goodwill towards strangers. As Buddhists, Myanmar people make different offerings such as the Shinbyu-Nartha Ceremony, Waso Robes Offering Ceremony, building wayside public rest houses and religious edifices, and Catu-disa (traditional charity) feeding. The donors and their relatives, friends, and guests from a distance take part in ceremonies. On such ceremonial occasions, the donors serve them breakfast, lunch, and dinner at a feeding enclosure. The main dishes are pork, chicken, beef and dried fish. After making various offerings, the donors and the participants listen to the sermon

delivered by the Sayadaw, the chief monk of a monastery. Then, the donors pour libation water and share the merits they have gained with all the creatures living on the Thirty-One Planets of existence and say Sadhu or "Well done!" three times. This custom of charity is also admirable. The pleasant sound of the triangular brass gong is the symbol of the act of charity, saying "Ahmya" three times to share the merits with others and saying prayers.

The customs, as mentioned earlier, are rare and admirable ones which can be found only in Myanmar. There are many other Myanmar customs apart from these that are worthy of appreciation. We can't forget our lovely traditions and cultures any time. Customs speak a lot about a country's culture and values. Our customs also show mutual respect, love, care, peace and humanity. So, it is our social duty to preserve our traditions and customs.

NATIONAL



The Sri Lankan ambassador calls on Union Minister U Min Naung yesterday.

MoALI Union Minister receives Sri Lankan Ambassador

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr J M J P Bandara, who had completed his tour of duties in Myanmar, at the

reception hall of the Union Minister's office yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters related to Myanmar-Sri Lankan friendship-based agriculture and livestock trade, invest-

ment and technology cooperation opportunities and offshore fishery industries in waters of both countries in complying with international laws maritime. — MNA/TS

Stable Yangon budget hostel fees for internal migrants amid rent increases

DESPITE the increase in apartment rents in Yangon Region, the rents of budget hostels that most workers rely on are stable, with even some discounts, according to the interviewees.

As the most attractive region for internal migrant workers, Yangon has an abundance of accommodation renters, and factory workers usually stay in budget hostels while some rent small partitioned rooms in flats as well as dormitory-like buildings in some townships.

Yangon's property market is more active in terms of rentals on monthly contracts than sales, and rents are increasing.

"As there are more rentals than purchases of apartments, rental fees are increasing, which are usually based on monthly payments or earnest money.

Rents are rising for both separate buildings and flats," said one apartment rental service provider.

Despite the rising rents, the fees of budget hostels for most factory workers are average, and some even offer a small discount.

"Hostel fees aren't going up here. As many have returned to their hometowns, some owners have even reduced their fees. A 10 feet by 10 feet room costs K50,000 and up to K60,000 or K70,000 if it is wider. Rents for separate buildings start at K150,000," said a local from Hlinethaya township.

A budget hostel room in Shwepyitha township, where plenty of migrant workers stay, costs from K40,000 to over K100,000 depending on the size, and the current rental rates are reportedly just typical. — MT/ZN

Myanmar launches experimental animal units

THE experimental animal units funded by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) special fund 2021 were inaugurated in Insein Township of Yangon Region on 3 March.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi said the systematic livestock can meet the local meat consumption, and the research and technologies related to livestock breeding should be promoted to improve the socioeconomic

status of breeders and rural people in addition to encourage the export sector.

Moreover, researchers, experts, and relevant officials should cooperate to conduct awareness campaigns for the livestock and breeding industry.

Then, the deputy director-general of the Livestock, Breeding and Veterinary Department clarified the project.

The deputy minister inspected the breeding of test animals and vaccine production processes. — MNA/KTZH



The launch of experimental animal units in action on 3 March.

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, foodstuffs and vehicles



Seized illegal commodities and vehicle in Kayin State.

ON 1 March, a total of 2.878 tonnes of illegal timber worth K382,974 was seized in Yekyi Township and Maubin Township. This enforcement action was carried out under the Forest Law.

On 2 March, combined teams supervised by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force impounded two Toyota HiAce vans (approximately worth K40 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady. These vans were carrying four types of goods valued at K4.06 million without official documents at the Kali checkpoint on the outskirts of Bago Township. Additionally, a Nissan Diesel tractor

head with a trailer (estimated value of K75 million), traveling from Thamanya to Yangon, was intercepted. It was carrying 10,800 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk valued at K15 million without official documents at the Shwethanlwin tollgate in Phayagyi. These actions were conducted under Customs procedures.

During inspections on 3 March, the combined team confiscated a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K30 million) carrying 12,000 bottles of Carabao energy drink and 30,000 packages of Nabati wafers valued at K17.5 million without official documents near Kamawkasin village in Hpa-an

Township. This action was taken under Customs procedures.

Additionally, on the same day, the combined teams seized 26,400 bottles of Sponsor energy drinks valued at K22 million without official documents from seven warehouses in Kengtung Township. They also confiscated illegal timber weighing 13 tonnes valued at K7.8 million in Leshi Township. These actions were taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 19 arrests were made over three consecutive days from 1 to 3 March, with an estimated value of K211.742 million. — MNA/MKKS

Singapore says Taylor Swift gig grant not as high as speculated

SINGAPORE said Monday its grant to Taylor Swift for her concerts in the city was nowhere near as high as speculated, following media reports that the superstar was offered millions of dollars per gig.

Around 300,000 people from Singapore and around the region are expected to attend the six sold-out shows that began 2 March — but some neighbours were not happy about being left off The Eras Tour.

Some, including reportedly the Thai prime minister, have said that Swift was paid millions to keep her from performing anywhere else in the region.

"There has been some online speculation as to the size of the grant. I can say that it is not accurate and not anywhere as high as speculated," Singapore's culture minister Edwin Tong told parliament.

"Due to business confidentiality reasons, we cannot reveal the specific size of the grant or the conditions of the grant."

Tong added that the "economic benefits to Singapore are assessed to be significant and outweigh the size of



Fans of US singer Taylor Swift, also known as Swifties, display friendship bracelets as they arrive for the first of the pop star's six sold-out Eras Tour concerts at the National Stadium in Singapore on 2 March 2024. PHOTO: AFP

the grant".

Thailand's Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin had reportedly said, citing a concert promoter, that Singapore offered Swift up to US\$3 million per concert if she did not play anywhere else in South-east Asia.

A lawmaker in the Philippines also criticized Singapore, reportedly saying

this was not "what good neighbours do".

Tong played down the role the grant may have played in convincing Swift to perform only in Singapore.

"Promoters of top artists will do their own calculation and assess where they want to perform and for how long," he said, citing Singapore's location and infrastructure as key factors. — AFP

Pacific islands account for 9 of 10 most obese places in world: WHO

PACIFIC island countries account for nine of the top 10 places in the world with the highest prevalence of obesity among women and men aged 20 and above, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday.

In the Pacific, overweight, obesity, and diet-related non-communicable diseases "have progressively increased" in every age group over recent decades and "have become a major cause of early death and disability," the WHO said in a press release, citing a recent research in the Lancet.

More than one billion people in the world are now living with obesity, the agency said, adding that worldwide, obesity among adults has more than doubled since 1990, and has quadrupled among children and adolescents aged from five to 19.

The data also showed that 43 per cent of adults were overweight in 2022.

The agency warned that being overweight or obese increases the risk of developing non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. — Xinhua

France set to make abortion constitutional right

FRENCH lawmakers are expected on Monday to anchor the right to abortion in the country's constitution, a world first that has garnered overwhelming public support.

A congress of both houses of parliament in Versailles, starting at 3:30 pm (1430 GMT), should find the three-fifths majority needed for the change after it overcame initial resistance in the right-leaning Senate.

If the congress approves the move, France will become the only country in the world to clearly protect the right to terminate a pregnancy in its basic law.

President Emmanuel Macron pledged last year to enshrine abortion — legal in France since 1975 — in the constitution after the United States Supreme Court in 2022 overturned the half-century-old right to the procedure, allowing individual American states to ban or curtail it. — AFP

Apple hit with 1.8-bln-euro EU fine for music streaming restrictions

THE EU on Monday hit Apple with a 1.8 billion-euro-fine (\$1.9 billion) for violating the bloc's laws by preventing music streaming services from informing users about subscription options outside of its App Store.

The iPhone maker immediately vowed to appeal the first ever antitrust fine slapped on Apple by Brussels, the culmination of a case triggered by a complaint by Swedish music streaming giant Spotify.

The European Commission said it "found that Apple applied restrictions on app developers preventing them from informing iOS users about alternative and cheaper music subscription services available outside of the app".

"This is illegal under EU antitrust rules," the EU's powerful antitrust regulator said.

"Apple's conduct, which lasted for almost ten years, may have led many iOS users to pay significantly higher prices for music streaming subscriptions because of the high commission



(FILES) This picture taken on 27 April 2023 in Toulouse, southwestern France, shows a screen displaying the Apple logo and the European flag. The EU on 4 March 2024 hit Apple with a 1.8-billion-euro fine (\$1.9 billion) for violating the bloc's laws by preventing music streaming services from informing users about subscription options outside of its App Store. PHOTO: AFP

fee imposed by Apple on developers and passed on to consumers," it added.

Spotify's complaint in 2019 triggered a broad commission investigation into the iPhone maker in 2021, but Brussels

narrowed its probe last year to focus on Apple's actions to prevent apps from giving users information about rival music subscription options.

"For a decade, Apple abused its dominant position in the market for the distribution of music streaming apps through the App Store," commission vice-president Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

"We have ordered Apple to remove the necessary provisions and to refrain from similar practices in the future," Vestager told reporters.

Apple slammed the commission's decision and said it would appeal.

"The decision was reached despite the Commission's failure to uncover any credible evidence of consumer harm, and ignores the realities of a market that is thriving, competitive, and growing fast," Apple said in a statement.

"While we respect the European Commission, the facts simply don't support this decision. And as a result, Apple will appeal," the company added. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Chinese market vital for US companies seeking global competitiveness, US business leaders say

US business officials and senior executives remain upbeat about the Chinese market, emphasizing its crucial role for US companies striving for global competitiveness.

“Companies continue to tell us that China is important for multinational companies who want to be globally competitive,” Michael Hart, president of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in China, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Thanks to a growing economy and frequent visits by senior US officials and CEOs to China, US businesses in China are increasingly optimistic about China’s business environment and bilateral relations, Hart said.

In the annual China Business Climate Survey released by AmCham China in February, half of the 343 members surveyed placed China as their



This photo taken on 8 November 2023 shows a booth of GE HealthCare at the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China’s Shanghai. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

first choice or within their top three investment destinations globally, a five-per-cent increase year on year.

China is “an important source of talent and innovation that helps American companies boost their global competitive-

ness”, said the survey conducted late last year.

The report also found that though challenges remain,

most members are maintaining their manufacturing or sourcing in China and expatriates have become more willing to relocate to China over the last year.

Noting China’s 24 pro-foreign investment measures put forward by the State Council in August last year, Hart said that companies like the sound of that and are looking for “what’s the actual action related to those policies”.

Regarding US-China relations, Hart said he is happy to see “both governments trending now in an upward direction”, which means that companies will be “a little bit more excited”.

The companies surveyed also reported an improved financial performance for 2023, particularly in the consumer and services sectors, as well as an improved outlook. — Xinhua

Thailand’s employment growth up in Q4

THAILAND’S employment growth accelerated in the final quarter of last year due to expansion in the vital tourism industry, the country’s economic planning agency said on Monday.

The Southeast Asian country’s labour force amounted to 40.3 million individuals in the fourth quarter of 2023, representing a 1.7-per-cent year-on-year

increase, up from a 1.3-per-cent increase in the previous quarter, according to the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC). The growth was mainly attributed to an expansion of employment in the non-agricultural sectors, which rose 2.0 per cent year on year to 27.9 million jobs, the NESDC said in a statement. — Xinhua



Visitor poses for a photograph next to a Coca-Cola drinks cart installation at the Srinakarin train night market in Bangkok on 3 March 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Viet Nam’s shrimp exports to hit over US\$4 bln in 2024

VIET Nam’s shrimp exports are forecast to increase 10-15 per cent in 2024 with an expected turnover of 4-4.3 billion US dollars, Vietnam News Agency reported Monday, citing the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers.

The United States and China will continue to be the two largest markets for Vietnamese shrimp exports this

year, accounting for about 40-45 per cent of shrimp export value, according to the association.

The demand for protein from aquatic products is increasing. Therefore, in the future, seafood production will have more chances to develop, especially shrimp, the report said.

The association predicted

that China will likely attract more businesses to import shrimp from Viet Nam this year, with its close geographical location.

Viet Nam’s shrimp exports in 2023 hit about 3.38 billion dollars, a decrease of 21.7 per cent year on year due to declining global market demand and competition from Ecuador and India, it said. — Xinhua

OPEC+ members extend oil output cuts to Q2

SEVERAL OPEC+ members announced Sunday extensions of oil output cuts into the second quarter to support the “stability and balance of oil markets”.

OPEC+ is an oil-producer group comprising member countries of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Coun-

tries (OPEC) and their allies.

OPEC stated on Sunday night that its Secretariat “noted the announcements” of several OPEC+ countries extending additional voluntary cuts totaling 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) for the second quarter of 2024.

The reductions are taken from the quotas adopted at the OPEC+ ministerial meeting in June 2023. They are in addition to the voluntary output cuts announced by OPEC+ countries in April last year and later extended until the end of 2024, OPEC said. — Xinhua

Toyota fully resumes domestic production in wake of data scandal

TOYOTA Motor Corp fully resumed domestic production Monday for the first time since a partial halt in late January following a data-rigging scandal at an affiliate that supplies engines.

The company restarted the remaining two production lines at two plants in central Japan, which make popular models such as the HiAce and Alphard, making all of its 14 assembly factories in the country fully operational for the first time in about a month.

The resumption at the plants in Mie and Gifu prefectures came as Japan's transport ministry lifted a shipment ban on three diesel engines that affiliate Toyota Industries Corp. makes for the automaker, saying inspections confirmed the engines comply with requirements.

Toyota Industries said on 29 January that it had fabricated data for a wide range of engines, leading to the halt of shipments of



File photo taken in March 2017 shows a Toyota Auto Body Co plant in Inabe, Mie Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

10 models that Toyota sells globally and a stoppage of six production lines at four Toyota factories in central Japan at one point.

The data rigging, coupled with a quality issue at its small-car unit Daihatsu Motor Co, forced Toyota to lower its full-year sales forecast to 11.23 million vehicles from 11.38 million.

The scandals prompt-

ed a rare appearance before the media by Toyota Chairman Akio Toyoda, who apologized and vowed to strengthen the group's compliance.

The world's biggest automaker group has been hit by a series of quality scandals in recent years.

Daihatsu in December admitted to data rigging during safety testing

for most of its models, resulting in the temporary stoppage of all shipments at home and abroad, including small cars it makes for Toyota.

Toyota's truck subsidiary Hino Motors Ltd. also admitted in March 2022 to submitting fraudulent emissions and fuel economy data to transport authorities. — Kyodo

S Korea's industrial output rises for 3rd month in January

SOUTH Korea's industrial output rose for the third consecutive month due to a surge in construction production, statistical office data showed Monday.

The seasonally-adjusted production index in all industries, which exclude the agriculture, livestock and fishery sector, grew 0.4 per cent in January from a month earlier after gaining 0.3 per cent in November and 0.4 per cent in December last year, according to Statistics Korea.

Production in the construction industry advanced 12.4 per cent in January, marking the first rebound in four months on the back of solid construction of apartments and factories.

Output in the service industry added 0.1 per cent, but production in the public administration sector fell 0.7 per cent.

Production among manufacturers declined 1.4 per cent in January on a monthly basis after retreating 0.6 per cent in the previous month.

Semiconductor output shrank 8.6 per cent, turning downward in three months, while production in automobiles and machinery equipment dimin-

ished 3.2 per cent and 11.2 per cent each.

Production in communication devices and broadcasting equipment surged 46.8 per cent due to robust smartphone demand, with those for primary metal products, medicine and medical supplies climbing in single digits.

The ratio of inventory to shipment in the manufacturing industry went up 6.5 percentage points over the month to 110.8 per cent in January.

Manufacturers recorded an average capacity ratio of 72.0 per cent in January, up 0.1 percentage point from a month earlier.

The seasonally-adjusted retail sale index, which reflects private consumption, increased 0.8 per cent in January after expanding 0.6 per cent in the previous month.

Facility investment dwindled 5.6 per cent in the cited month, but completed construction soared 12.4 per cent.

The cyclical variation factor for leading economic indicators, which gauges the outlook for future economic situations, stood unchanged at 100.3 in January compared to the previous month. — Xinhua

Chinese brands top Israel's electric car sales in Jan-Feb



Customers look at a BYD's Atto 3 car at a shop in Tel Aviv, Israel on 17 July 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINESE manufacturer BYD Auto topped electric car sales in Israel in the first two months of 2024, according to data released by the Israel

Vehicle Importers Association on Sunday.

The data indicates that BYD, offering five electric models in Israel, sold 5,290 units in Janu-

ary-February. Last year, BYD topped electric car sales in the country with 15,145 units sold.

BYD also secured the third position on the list of Israel's total car sales in the first two months, which includes both electric and gasoline-powered cars.

Geely Auto, another Chinese electric car manufacturer, stood at the second spot in Israel's electric car sales for the first two months of 2024 by selling 1,626 units of the Geometry C compact crossover.

Third on the list is the Chinese-owned Brit-

ain-based automaker MG Motor, which sold a total of 1,376 units of five models in January-February.

Chinese brands made up 77.1 per cent of Israel's electric car sales in January-February, with 11,784 units sold in total, as indicated by the figures.

Chinese brands also dominated Israel's imported passenger car sales, encompassing both gasoline and electric vehicles, with 14,255 units sold. South Korea and Japan were the second and third-largest suppliers of imported cars in the two months, respectively. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHUN MING VOY.NO. (2402S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHUN MING VOY.NO. (2402S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-3-2024** 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korea, US kick off joint military exercise increasing regional tension

SOUTH Korea and the United States on Monday kicked off a joint military exercise amid concerns from neighbour countries.

The annual springtime war game, Freedom Shield (FS), will continue for 11 days through March, South Korea's defence ministry said.

A variety of combined field training exercises will be staged in sea, land and air to bolster the interoperability and enhance the combined operation capabilities. — Xinhua

36 killed, 41 injured due to heavy rains in Pakistan

AT least 36 people were killed and 41 others injured in different rain and snowfall that triggered incidents in Pakistan as heavy rains swept across the country from 27 February till 3 March, Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said.

The deceased included 21 children, nine males and six females, the NDMA mentioned in a situation report released on Sunday night.

The northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was the worst-hit region, where 27 people were killed, followed by the southwestern Balochistan province with five deaths, while four deaths were reported in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, it added. — Xinhua

Harsh weather kills 3 mln head of livestock in Mongolia

THE extreme wintry weather, known as "dzud", has killed over three million head of livestock so far this winter in Mongolia, the country's State Emergency Commission (SEC) said Monday.

"At least 3,089,420 head of livestock have so far perished across Mongolia due to the dzud," the SEC said in a statement.

"Dzud" is a Mongolian term for a severely cold winter when a large number of livestock die because the ground is frozen or covered by snow.

Mongolia has seen much more snow than usual this winter, and over 80 per cent of its territory has so far been covered with snow up to 100 centimetres thick, said its weather monitoring agency. — Xinhua

Super Tuesday, America's multi-state voting bonanza

AMERICANS from 15 states and one territory vote simultaneously on "Super Tuesday", a campaign calendar milestone expected to leave Donald Trump a hair's breadth from securing the Republican Party's presidential nomination.

Typically, the event — the biggest single day of voting in the country's drawn out, state-by-state primary season — has been a make-or-break moment for candidates as the race narrows.

On the Republican side, more than a third of the delegates who will be assigned to the party's national nominating convention in July are up for grabs on 5 March.

But Trump, despite his legal woes, has swept all early state primaries and Super Tuesday is seen as the last real chance for challenger Nikki Haley to upend the former president's march towards becoming the party's flagbearer once again.

There is even less high-stakes drama on the Democratic front, as incumbent President Joe Biden is widely expected to be renominated for the job by his party — and



A supporter holds up a placard as US Republican presidential hopeful and former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley speaks during a campaign rally in Portland, Maine, on 3 March 2024. PHOTO: AFP

likely setting up a rematch with Trump.

Here are key elements to watch for on Super Tuesday: **Millions casting ballots**

Tens of millions of Americans are eligible to vote in primaries and caucuses Tuesday, with contests to be held from Maine in the northeast to California on the West Coast, as well as the remote Pacific territory of American Samoa.

Primaries or caucuses are also scheduled in Al-

abama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Virginia.

Alaska's vote will only cover the Republican primary, with the state's Democrats voting in April.

Republicans already held their contest in Iowa earlier this year, but on Tuesday Democrats will announce the winner of their mail-in vote in that state. — AFP

German unions call fresh strikes in rail, air travel

GERMAN travellers braced for fresh upheaval after unions on Monday called for renewed walkouts at Lufthansa and rail operator Deutsche Bahn, the latest escalation in a series of rows over inflation-busting pay rises.

Lufthansa ground staff will stage a two-day strike from Thursday, the Verdi union announced, accusing management at the airline group of showing "no willingness" to come up with an improved offer.

The stoppage would impact passenger services from 0300 GMT on Thursday until 0610 GMT on Saturday, Verdi said.

The call comes less than a week after the last strike, when



(FILES) Train passengers are seen on a platform at the main railway station in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, as German train drivers stage a strike, on 28 January 2024. PHOTO: AFP

ground staff at Lufthansa's technical support and aviation

training units downed tools. That walkout however did not

affect passenger travel.

Verdi's chief negotiator Marvin Reschinsky said it was "regrettable" that passengers would again see their travel plans disrupted.

"By ignoring our request to negotiate, Lufthansa is telling us that it will only move when the pressure increases further," he said.

Verdi is seeking pay rises of 12.5 per cent for the workers it represents, or a minimum of 500 euros (\$542) more a month.

Lufthansa has offered pay increases over an extended period but not enough to meet Verdi's demands, the union has said.

The next round of negotia-

tions will take place on 13 and 14 March.

A one-day strike by Lufthansa ground staff in Germany last month affected some 100,000 passengers, with between 80 and 90 per cent of the airline's commercial flights grounded.

Germany, Europe's largest economy, has been hit by a spate of strikes across varying sectors in recent months, including transport, the civil service and supermarkets.

Pinched by inflation over the last years and in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, workers are demanding higher wages to cope with shrinking purchasing power. — AFP

SPORTS

Drawing-lots event for AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup to be held on 21 March

THE drawing-lots event of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup Championship, the most advanced competition in the ASEAN region, will be held on 21 May in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

The ASEAN Football Federation will hold the tournament from 23 November to 21 December, and the final stage will be held with a total of 10 teams. Since there are 11 Southeast Asian countries, the two lowest-ranked teams will play in the qualifiers, and only one team that wins will be allowed to compete in the finals. The tournament will be held in the same format as the last 2022 tournament, with five teams divided into two groups.

The host country will not select the tournament, and each participating team will have to play two home and two away games out of the four group games. The Myanmar team had the opportunity to compete in the final stage of



Myanmar's Hein Htet Aung (red) attempts to pass the Malaysian team player during the previous 2022 AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup Championship. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

the competition every time, but without achieving great success, they only reached the semifinals twice. The Myanmar team also left the group stage in the last 2022 tournament.

The ASEAN Football Federation has held this competition since 1996. Previously, it was held under the names of the Tiger Cup, ASEAN Championship and the ASEAN Suzuki Cup. Since 2022, the

sponsor has changed, and Mitsubishi Electric is sponsoring it, so it has been renamed the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup.

The tournament has been held 14 times, and the Thai team is the most successful, having won seven times, while Singapore has won four times, Viet Nam twice, and Malaysia once. The current champion is Thailand, which has won four of the last five times. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Alcaraz outlasts Nadal in made-for-Netflix exhibition

CARLOS Alcaraz and Rafael Nadal warmed up for the ATP Indian Wells Masters on Sunday with a lively exhibition in Las Vegas won by Alcaraz 3-6, 6-4, 14-12.

The contest at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, carried live by streaming service Netflix, was a chance for both Spanish stars to test their fitness.

Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam champion, missed most of last year with a hip injury sustained at the Australian Open.

He made his comeback at the Brisbane International in January before a small muscle tear forced the 37-year-old to pull out of this season's first Grand Slam in Melbourne.

He shelved plans to return to action at the Qatar Open in February, saying he was "not ready to compete."

He told interviewer Mary Joe Fernandez he felt "much better than expected" after pocketing the first set against Alcaraz.

And he had enough in the

tank to save five match points in the match tiebreak before Alcaraz finally finished it out.

It was an encouraging performance before Indian Wells, where Nadal is a three-time champion. In his most recent Indian Wells appearance, Nadal finished runner-up to American Taylor Fritz in 2022.

The Spanish veteran will play his first-round match at Indian Wells on Thursday. Alcaraz, who will be seeded in the California desert, will have a first-round bye.

Alcaraz, ranked second in the world, will be trying to become the first man to successfully defend his Indian Wells title since Novak Djokovic's threepeat from 2014-2016.

But the 20-year-old Spaniard has had his own injury concerns of late, retiring from his first-round match at the Rio Open less than two weeks ago after he rolled his right ankle on just the second point of the match against Thiago Monteiro. — AFP

Bayern's Lazio clash offers outgoing Tuchel lifeline

BAYERN Munich's home clash with Lazio in the Champions League on Tuesday offers coach Thomas Tuchel a chance to help salvage his reputation as he makes his way out of the club.

Mired in mid-table in Serie A, Lazio — who had three players sent off in Friday's loss to Milan — are also under pressure, but take a 1-0 first-leg lead in the last 16 tie to the Allianz Arena.

Hired two-thirds of the way through last season after Bayern surprisingly fired Julian Nagelsmann, Tuchel is on his way out, having struggled to keep Bayern on track for the Bundesliga title with Leverkusen comfortably in pole position.

Two early German Cup exits, and elimination at the hands of eventual champions Manchester City in Europe last season, means that Tuchel's only trophy was last year's Bundesliga, some-



Bayern Munich's German head coach Thomas Tuchel leaves after a press conference on the eve of the Last 16 Second Leg UEFA Champions League football match between FC Bayern Munich and Lazio in Munich on 4 March 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

what gifted on goal difference by Borussia Dortmund's final-day collapse.

Nagelsmann lost just 10 of 84 games in charge of Bayern.

With largely the same squad, plus England captain Harry Kane and South Korea defender Kim Min-jae, Tuchel has already lost 11 of his 45 matches. — AFP

Pedri, De Jong injuries affect Barca at worst possible time

FC Barcelona suffered two important injuries in its 0-0 draw away to Athletic Bilbao on Sunday night.

Frenkie de Jong had to be carried off the pitch in the first half after landing badly and twisting his right ankle, while Pedri left the pitch in tears just before halftime after suffering a muscle injury in his right thigh.

It is the third muscle injury that Pedri has suffered this season and means he will also be unavailable for Spain for the next international break.

"We will see how they are between today Sunday and tomorrow Monday," said a downbeat Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez after the game. "I imagine they will miss several games." De Jong and Pedri are key players for Barcelona and their presence in midfield is one



Both teams' players check on Barcelona's Dutch midfielder (21) Frenkie De Jong after resulting injured during the Spanish league football match between Athletic Club Bilbao and FC Barcelona at the San Mames stadium in Bilbao on 3 March 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

of the main factors in making Xavi's side tick.

It is no surprise that their return to the side a month ago after their previous injuries co-

incided with an upturn in Barca's form, after the struggles that led Xavi to announce he would step down at the end of the season. — Xinhua



Malaysia mulls resuming search of missing MH370 as 10th anniversary nears

THE Malaysian government said Sunday it is open to resuming the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 that went missing en route to Beijing nearly 10 years ago, citing a potential collaboration with a US ocean exploration company.

Speaking at a ceremony organized by family members of the crash victims ahead of the anniversary of the Boeing 777's disappearance, Transport Minister Loke Siew Fook said he will try to persuade the Cabinet to approve the search.

"This is the biggest aviation mystery in the whole world. We must solve this mystery," he said.

The search is expected to be conducted on a "no-find, no-fee" basis, the minister said, noting that he has instructed the transport ministry to invite Ocean Infinity to Malaysia to be briefed on the matter.

Flight MH370 vanished from radar less than 40 minutes after taking off from Kuala Lumpur International Airport just after midnight on 8 March 2014, with 239 passengers and crew on board.

Based on radar and satellite communications, it was calculated that the



Malaysian Transport Minister Loke Siew Fook speaks to reporters in Kuala Lumpur on 3 March 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

plane diverted from its flight path and plunged into the southern Indian Ocean, sparking a massive international hunt led by Australia.

The Australian-led search spent

nearly three years and \$200 million scouring 120,000 square kilometres of one of the world's largest oceans before the hunt was declared over in January 2017, with no significant piece of wreckage ever

being found.

In January 2018, Ocean Infinity took over the operation under a "no cure, no fee" agreement and combed a further 112,000 square km that also yielded nothing by the time its contract expired in May.

An independent international investigation team led by Malaysia concluded in its report released in 2018 that there was no way to determine what caused the plane's disappearance because there was no major wreckage or flight data information for the team to examine.

At the commemoration ceremony, next-of-kin paid tribute to their loved one with poem recitations, song and dance and the lighting of 239 candles, one for each life lost on Flight MH370.

"We don't want more speculation. We want evidence and truth. Therefore, we urge the Malaysian government and relevant agencies not to cease the search but to continue seeking the truth," said Bai Shuan Fu, a Chinese man whose wife was a passenger on the ill-fated flight. — Kyodo

Hungary seeks to strengthen ties with Russia in areas unaffected by sanctions - Orban

HUNGARY does not want to give up economic cooperation with Russia, but would prefer to deepen it in areas not affected by sanctions, since economic life will continue after the end of the conflict in Ukraine, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Monday.

"We also do not want to give up economic cooperation with Russia. We refuse to cooperate with it only where European sanctions prohibit it. Where they are not prohibited, our goal is rather for economic growth to increase, because there will also be life after the end of the war. There will be trade, there will be economics, and for us this will be an important relationship and an important market opportunity," Orban said at the opening of the year at the Hungarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. — Sputnik

Mediators seek Gaza truce as US calls for 'immediate ceasefire'

MEDIATORS in Cairo pushed on Monday with efforts towards a Gaza truce after Israel's top ally the United States stepped up pressure for a halt in fighting and more aid to enter the besieged Palestinian territory.

Bombardment and combat claimed 124 more lives within 24 hours, said the health ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory which has been devastated and gripped by dire food shortages in the war sparked by Hamas's 7 October attacks.

Qatari and Egyptian mediators met with US and Hamas envoys — but no Israeli delegates so far — in Cairo for a second day of talks aiming for a halt in fighting before the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan starts on 10 or 11 March.

An Egyptian TV channel linked to the intelligence service reported "significant progress" towards a truce deal without giving any more details, while a Hamas official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the talks were continuing.

The plan on the table aims for a six-week truce, the exchange of scores



A Palestinian man transports sacks of humanitarian aid at the distribution centre of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 3 March 2024 amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Hamas movement. PHOTO: AFP

of remaining hostages for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and for more aid to enter Gaza — but sticking points remain.

Hamas wants Israel to withdraw all forces, while Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu has insisted the army will finish its campaign to destroy Hamas, including in far-southern Rafah where about 1.5 million Palestinians are sheltering. — AFP