

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## 11 factories produce 8 million tonnes of cement annually

ELEVEN cement factories produce over eight million tonnes of cement annually, according to U Than Zaw Htay, Managing Director of No 1 Heavy Industries

Enterprise and No 2 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry.

The private sector operates 16 cement factories, while the State oversees

three. If all factories are operational, they can collectively produce over 16 million tonnes of cement. Annual local consumption stands at approximately 10-11 million

tonnes. U Than Zaw Htay stated, "We can meet two-thirds of the local demand. No 33 Heavy Industry (Kyaukse) currently **SEE PAGE-2**



The photo captures the breathtaking scenery of Khakaborazi National Park against the backdrop of snow-capped mountain ranges in northern Myanmar. **PHOTOS: ZWE MARN**

## Myanmar ranks third in ASEAN for heritage parks

**W**ILDLIFE sanctuaries and national parks control climate change and contribute to the sustainability of biodiversity, human beings, and the natural environment. Myanmar ranks third among the ASEAN countries for possessing many national parks.

Brunei boasts one ASEAN Heritage Park, one in Laos, two in Cambodia, two in Singapore, three in Malaysia, six in Thailand, seven in Indonesia, eight in Myanmar, nine in the Philippines and ten in Viet Nam. The ASEAN Community possesses 49 ASEAN Heritage Parks. **SEE PAGE-10**



Captivating interior views of Lampi Marine National Park, a vital part of the blue economy driving tourism.

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MoH Union Minister addresses boosting health sector readiness for monsoon disasters

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Mon State welcomes over 1.2 mln visitors during last FY

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Black gram, pigeon pea prices remain high post-Myanmar New Year

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Plans to expand monsoon paddy cultivation, support farmers

# NATIONAL

## 49<sup>th</sup> Kamamo Village Pagoda Festival draws crowds with bullock cart competition



Competitor: Adorned bullock cart with village damsels onboard. **PHOTOS: U KYAW KYAW AUNG**

THE 49<sup>th</sup> Pagoda Festival and Adorned Bullock Cart Competition of Kamamo Village in Chaungzon Township, Mon State, took place on a grand scale

on the evening of 22 April.

U Min Myint Myaung Lay, a member of the organizing committee for the Mon traditional adorned bullock cart competi-

tion, stated that the Kamamo decorated bullock cart competition was established in 1975. This year marks its 49<sup>th</sup> edition, aimed at preserving cultural

tradition among the youth. In the past, almost all villages in Chaungzon Township held this cart competition, but nowadays, only Kamamo Village continues the tradition.

Four adorned bullock carts competed in the event, with

scores assigned by five scoring teams based on the condition of bullocks, carts, elegance, costumes, and physical positions. The winner received a worthy award, and the festival attracted visitors from far and wide. — U Kyaw Kyaw Aung (IPRD)/TRKM



Young villagers are depicted worshipping at the pagoda festival.

## 11 factories produce 8 million tonnes of cement annually

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manufactures 5,000 tonnes per day, totalling 1.8 million tonnes in the last financial year 2023-24. Annually, it provides 70,000 tonnes of cement for State infrastructure

projects. Additionally, we're collaborating with the private sector to manage Heavy Industry 31 (Thayet) and Heavy Industry 32 (Kyangin)."

The factories employ the dry process, known for

its superior energy efficiency compared to the wet process. Laboratories are established to assess the quality of both local cements and imports.

— ASH/NT



Heavy Industry 33 (Kyaukse).

## Solo exhibition 'IT's ME' to debut at Artistic Space Art Gallery

A solo art exhibition titled 'IT's ME' will run from 24 to 28 April at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township, Yangon.

An official from the gallery stated that Panda, a multidisciplinary artist, will showcase his creations, including photos, paintings, installations, and performance art. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience Panda's diverse ideas and painting styles across various mediums. The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 5 pm daily during the specified dates.

The exhibition will feature paintings by Panda that are available for viewing and purchase. Additionally, colourful artworks such as watercolours, oil paintings, and acrylic paintings will be on display at the 'IT's ME' Solo Art Exhibition. — ASH/TRKM



Some paintings of PANDA which will be displayed at the exhibition.

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# NATIONAL

## MoH Union Minister addresses boosting health sector readiness for monsoon disasters

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the meeting on strengthening health sector preparations for natural disasters likely to happen in the monsoon season yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said natural disasters, such as floods, storms, wind, and landslides, can occur in the monsoon season, and there might be earthquakes. In addition to these disasters, there might be health problems. However, the ministry made preparations and reduced the health problems. The meetings on preparation and workshop were held in 2023, and the procedures were set as part of preparedness.

He added that all those responsible should learn from



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win addresses the meeting to strengthen health sector precaution against natural disasters yesterday.

previous experiences and lessons to perform better actions. It also needs to speed up the

prevention and control of dengue fever, diarrhoea, and other diseases that usually occur in

the rainy season. There might be different natural disasters in various regions and states,

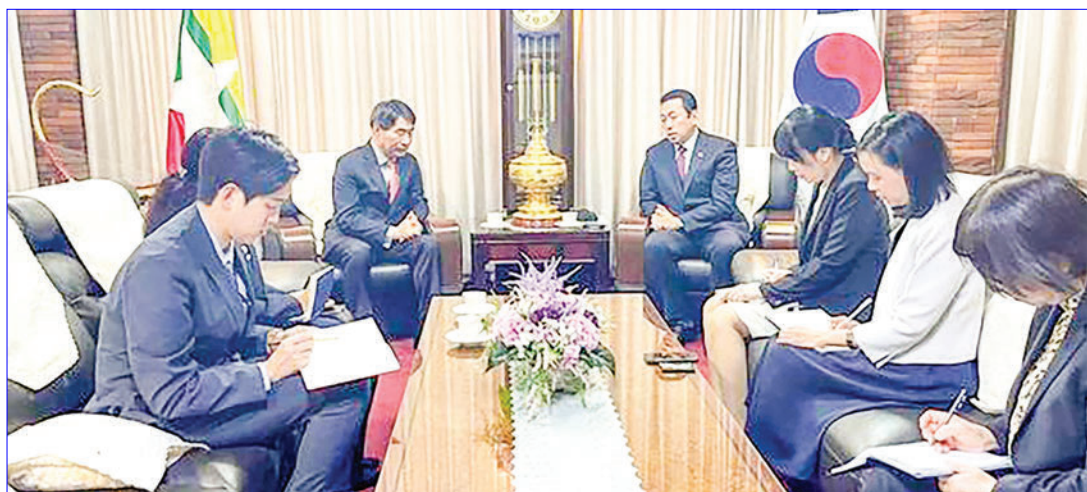
as well as Nay Pyi Taw, so the relevant officials should prepare for potential disasters.

He also instructed attendees to watch the daily weather forecast of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and natural disaster news around the world in order to make preparations in advance. He encouraged them to offer public healthcare services, including healthcare in natural disasters.

The Division on Natural Disaster and Public Health Emergency Response then reported on the activities conducted between 2023 and April 2024 and ongoing work plans.

The Union minister concluded the meeting after hearing the reports presented by the attendees. — MNA/KTZH

## Initiative for ASEAN Integration to collaborate closely with ASEAN-Korea Centre



The AKC secretary-general and the IAI chairman met at the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul on 22 April 2024.

NEW Secretary-General of the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) Ambassador Kim Jae-shin and Myanmar Ambassador U Thant Sin, serving as the chairman of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), met at the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul on 22 April to discuss increasing cooperation between the two organizations, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, Ambassador Kim Jae-shin mentioned the significant milestones of the year: the 35th anniversary of the ASEAN-Korea dialogue and the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Centre, emphasizing his commitment to collaborate with all ASEAN member countries closely.

U Thant Sin discussed

matters pertaining to Korean support for the successful implementation of the priority programmes outlined in IAI Work Plan IV, as well as increasing close cooperation in AKC activities.

Ambassador Kim Jae-shin, the sixth Secretary-General of AKC, assumed office on 16 April for the term of 2024–2026. — ASH/TH

## CBM sells 14M baht in online trading platform for exporters/importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold a total of 14 million baht to the export and import businesses via an online trading platform yesterday.

Likewise, the CBM has also sold US\$3 million, 2 million yuan and 40 million baht to the export and import businesses on 3 April.

The statistics show that the CBM injected a total of US\$18 million, 12 million yuan and 312 million baht into the foreign exchange market in March; US\$77.38 million and 850 million baht in February; and US\$68.33 million, 313.5 million baht and 4.2 million yuan in January.

As a matter of fact, the Central Bank relaxed the foreign exchange market and floated on 5 December 2023 without setting the rate. Still, it was determined by the supply and demand in the market, which allows authorized dealers to exchange currencies as per the market rate. In addition, transferring foreign currencies abroad shall abide by the rules and regulations set by the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. At present, the foreign exchange rate set by the CBM is K2,100 for a dollar while it is K3,900 for a dollar, K104 for a baht and K522 for a yuan in the market. — NN/TMT



Thai baht.

# NATIONAL

## Tatmadaw initiates Navy & Air training courses for students

DURING the summer holiday, Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air) commenced basic and advanced training courses at camps located in various townships on 22 April, with the objective of instructing students in naval and aviation techniques.

Tatmadaw (Navy) has conducted training for 818 students across ten centres, while Tatmadaw (Air) has trained 850 students at 17 centres nationwide.

The curriculum for Tatmadaw (Air) encompasses fundamental military parade drills, aviation history, basic



Images showcase basic and advanced maritime and aviation training activities.

flying techniques, airfield procedures, RC/Flight simulator

training, and other relevant subjects.

Officials in charge have met with the trainees and provided

necessary assistance and support. — MNA/NT

### Counter-argument to false information

## Misinformation: Five villages in Myingyan burned down by security forces

MALICIOUS news media outlets are spreading false information on social networking sites that Nyaungto Village, Kyunkai Village, Yantapo Village and Sin Chaung Village were burned down by members of the Joint Security Forces conducting area security operations in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, on 21 April, and more than 300 houses were destroyed due to the fire.

According to a report from a local resident who does not accept terrorist activities, terrorists in Myingyan Township are collecting money and food from these villages and forcibly recruiting and arbitrarily arresting and torturing the local people by attacking with large and small weapons.

Joint security forces are conducting area security in order to prevent PDF terrorists from entering the towns and villages in Mandalay Region and carrying out terrorist acts. But subversive news media intentionally conspire to create fear and misrepresentation of the security forces with false information. — MNA/KZL



The screenshot validates fabricated stories.

## 4 ancient lakes in Bagan to be restored for public use after excavation, conservation



Water collects in a Bagan pagoda after rain.

EXCAVATIONS and research activities are underway at four ancient lakes, and after the conservation work, they will be presented to the public in their original functions, according to U Kyaw Myo Win, director at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (Bagan branch).

Following the discovery of four lakes made of ancient bricks that have been used since the Bagan era, research and excavation work is underway to determine their original width and depth, after which

the department will continue with the conservation work.

“There are four areas that have been identified as having the shape of ancient lakes. Now, we are doing excavations to determine the width, volume, and depth. After these activities, we will gradually start dredging for research. Then, it will be followed by conservation. We are now working on Oak Lake, Ywahaunggyi Lake, Phwasaw Sutaungpyae Lake and Yaytaung Muni Lake. If we can restore these ancient lakes, we will create a public

destination to show them in their original functions,” he said.

It is impossible to predict how long it will take to find out the widths and depths, and an essential factor is to avoid hasty excavations as these are ancient lakes made of Bagan-era bricks, he added.

The department has resumed the excavation of ancient lakes since the end of the Thingyan period, with a focus on the cleanliness of the Bagan zone and the maintenance of pagodas. — MT/ZN

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**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**  
(+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 255597511

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**  
(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 251022355  
marketing@gnlm.com.mm  
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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# NATIONAL

## Selected bus lines allowed to charge K500 for Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Taikkyi, Okkan routes

SOME YBS buses running to Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Taikkyi and Okkan in Yangon Region were granted permission to charge a fare of up to K500, according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

The fixed fare for most buses operating in Yangon City areas is K400, and if paid by YPS card or QR Code, it is only K300, said YRTC Joint Secretary U Lyan Cin Mang.

“K500 fare is specified for buses going to Taikkyi, Kyauktan and Okkan. Most of the rest of the buses are to charge K400, and if paid by card or QR Code, it will be K300,” he said.

The bus fare hike has caused some inconveniences to working-class people, according to a Yangon commuter.



The photo shows some YBS buses running in Yangon's downtown areas.

“We regularly take the YBS from Thanlyin, where we live, to downtown Yangon, where we

work. Since we have to take two bus lines to get to downtown, it costs us K2,000 a day to go to

and from work. So, the monthly travel cost is K50,000 to K60,000. The previous bus fare was just

K200 to K300,” said a YBS commuter in Yangon.

About 3,800 buses on 131 bus lines operated by 21 companies transport about 1.5 million travellers every day.

“I think they are planning to promote a card payment system. They want us to use either a card or QR. Then, people will be saved from fare hikes. It has been found that people use card payments more than QR codes. The number of users has increased a lot. But, one thing that needs to be pointed out is that strict punishments should be given to those who shut down the card readers to disable card payments,” said Ko Thant Zin, a middle-aged company employee and YBS commuter. — MT/ZN

## High-priced grafted durians dominate market

MOST grafted durians, also known as Thai durians, now dominate the domestic durian market, and due to their high prices, only a handful of people can afford them.

“Durian price depends on its production areas. At present, the production has been abundant in some areas, but it has yet to be produced in some areas and has just been harvested in some areas. In the Yangon market, only a particular class can afford durian because the price is still expensive. Normally, durians are abundantly produced in June. Currently, only Thai durians are available in the market. Thai durian is priced at K40,000-K50,000 per one, so it is unaffordable to all classes,” said Ko Htin Kyaw Lin, a durian seller in South Okkalapa township.

Cheaper Myanmar durians will be produced in June, and sales are expected to be higher.

“Durian is grown in Man-



Thai durians, also known as grafted durians, have occupied the market.

dalay Region, and the fruit production will be plentiful in June. We expect the sales to be higher. If there is a lot of production, there will be consumers because most Myanmar people like durian. Nine out of ten women like durian,” he said. Thai grafted durians have moderate sales in the market, but they are expensive compared to Myanmar durians, which is why their sales have been still low.

“Grafted durians are also grown here, but their price is higher than Myanmar durians, and they have been sold though only a particular class can afford them, so their sale is not better,” said Ko Htin Kyaw Lin.

In the Yangon market, the price of Thai durians now ranges from a minimum of K20,000 to a little over K100,000 to the maximum, depending on size. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Data reveals increased entries, fewer departures from Yangon

THE number of passengers who re-entered the Yangon Region has been considerable, while those who departed the region have been few, which is why outbound and inbound travellers have been imbalanced, according to highway ticket counters.

However, it is expected to run regularly again in the next month. Yangon is a hub of internal migrant workers, and this is the time some of them will be coming back from their natives after visiting their towns during Thingyan.

“After Myanmar New Year, the passengers headed from Yangon have been sparse. Numerous people from other towns returned to Yangon. Before Thingyan, passengers who headed from Yangon to their hometowns were large and the number of passengers who headed to Yangon after the new year has been considerable, mostly from Sagaing, Myingyan, Kyaukpadaung, NyaungU and

Pakokku. The highway travel will run regularly in around May,” said an official from a ticket counter at Aung Mingalar Highway Bus Terminal.

During the last Thingyan, the number of passengers mounted, and ticket prices rose, but now prices have become normal again.

“Ticket price rose by nearly K10,000 when Thingyan was drawing near. For example, it was priced at K25,000 from the regular price of K15,000. Now, it has been normal again. Tickets have been sold well. Some book tickets earlier, and some book tickets just on time,” said a person who provides highway bus ticket service.

During this year's Thingyan, in addition to those who returned to natives, the number of local travellers was more extensive than last year, especially since most of them visited beaches and famous pagodas. — Thit Taw/ZS

# NATIONAL



The opening ceremony of the pagoda digital directory was held at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

## Digital directories set for 10 pagodas in Yangon Region

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region government, digital directories will be installed at ten famous pagodas in Yangon Region within three months from April, using Chinese technology equipment.

The pagodas set to receive these digital directories include Botahtaung, Sule, Insein Kyauktawgyi, Maelamu, Kyaikkalo, Kyaikkasan, Kaba Aye, Shwebonepwint, Thanlyin Kyaikkhauk, and Twantay Shwesandaw pagodas.

The installation of digital directories will allow pilgrims to explore the historical background and details of each pagoda, potentially increasing the number of foreign visitors.

Yangon Region is home to 30 famous pagodas, and after installing directories at the initial 10, plans are in place to extend this to the remaining pagodas. Additionally, installation of digital directories is now underway at ten renowned pagodas across the country,

including Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay, Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto, Shwezigon Pagoda and Ananda Temple in NyaungU, Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, Myathalun pagoda in Magway, Shwesandaw pagoda in Pyay, Shitthaung pagoda in MraukU, and Shwemawdaw pagoda in Bago.

As of 1 April, digital directories have already been installed on all four sides of the Shwedagon Pagoda. — TWA/MKKS

## Private entrepreneurs invited for housing projects in Kayin State

THE Ministry of Construction has called upon private entrepreneurs to undertake staff housing and public rental housing projects in Kayin State, as announced by the Kayin State Department of Urban and Housing Development.

During the financial year 2024-25, these housing projects will be executed in Hpa-

an township of Kayin State, utilizing the state capital fund for implementation.

The projects consist of constructing a four-unit, five-storey building for staff and a three-unit, five-storey building for public rental housing. Interested private entrepreneurs have been invited to submit tenders for the construction work. — TWA/MKKS



## Mon State welcomes over 1.2 mln visitors during last FY

ACCORDING to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism of Mon State, there were over 1.2 million visitors to Mon State during the previous financial year of 2023-2024.

This marked a 53 per cent increase compared to the 2022-2023 FY. Mon State boasts 63 tourist spots, with the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda being the most visited by tourists. Plans are underway in collaboration with relevant departments to develop new tourist attractions.

The most visited places in Mon State include the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, Kyaikkhami Pagoda, and Setse Beach in Thanbyu-



zayat Township, as well as the Kyaikthanlan Pagoda in Mawlamyine Township, the viewpoint of Mawlamyine, Win Sein Tawya Pagoda in Mudon Township, Zinkyaik Waterfall in Paung Township, and Ywalut Village in Chaungzon Township, renowned for pipe production.

Additionally, Kyaukpachi Beach in Kadethtout Village, Thanbyuzayat Township, has been developed as a new tourist destination for this travel season. — TWA/TRKM

Kyaukpachi Beach situated in Kadethtout village, Thanbyuzayat township in Mon State.

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# Jaggery prices rise post-Thingyan Festival

IN the jaggery market, prices are turning upward, especially in Yangon, with NyaungU white jaggery K5,200 per viss and Yesagy white K6,000 per viss.

The jaggery prices in the Yangon market dropped in early April, whereas the prices were high in late March. However, it returns increasing after the Thingyan Festival.

On 22 April, the prices were NyaungU white K5,200; Mahlaing jaggery K4,600; Pakkoku raw jaggery K4,600; and Yesagy white K6,000. On 26-27 March, the jaggery prices were NyaungU white K5,800 per viss; Mahlaing jaggery

K5,200; Pakkoku jaggery K5,500; and Yesagy white K5,800. The prices turned downward on the days before the Thingyan Festival. On 6 April, NyaungU jaggery fetched K4,500, Mahlaing jaggery K4,000, Pakkoku raw jaggery K4,200 and Yesagy white K5,500.

There are three toddy seasons within a year, known as male palm tree season, female palm tree season and late toddy season. Late April is entering the female palm tree season. Palm toddy production is better in the male and female palm tree seasons than in the late toddy season in Tawthalin month (September).

A jaggery consumer from Yangon's Latha Township reported that jaggery in the retailed market fetches K2,500 per 25 ticals, although the wholesale price for jaggery is priced at K5,000 per viss.

Another jaggery consumer from Yangon's Sangyoung Township also reported that she had to pay K1,000 for ten white NyaungU jaggery.

Toddy palm jaggery is a traditional Myanmar sweet that is served as a dessert after meals for good digestion, while some eat it together with leftover rice. — TWA/ TMT



Baskets of toddy palm jaggery before transporting into markets.

# Black gram, pigeon pea prices remain high post-Myanmar New Year

ACCORDING to the information from the Bayintnaung wholesale market, the prices of black grams and pigeon peas have been opened with high prices after the Myanmar New Year holidays.

Before the Myanmar New Year holidays, on 12 April, the prices were closed at K3,275,000 for a tonne of black grams and K4,147,000 for a tonne of pigeon peas. However, on 22 April, the black gram price slightly dropped to K3,200,000 per tonne, whereas the pigeon pea price slightly surged to K4,150,000 per tonne.

As a matter of fact, pigeon pea price trends in Myanmar depend on India's demands (since India is the primary purchaser of Myanmar's pigeon peas) and the foreign exchange rate in the market.

On 5 February, prices of both black grams and pigeon peas skyrocketed at K3,500,000 and K4,197,000, respectively, thanks to high foreign demands.

Although India buys pigeon peas from Myanmar, Brazil and other countries, it prefers Myanmar's pigeon peas for good quality and sufficient quantity. What is more, the Indian government extended the duty-free import policy on pigeon peas and black grams until March



Bags of black grams are in the market, and the vendor shows the quality of the pulses.

2025.

Myanmar has exported a total of more than 1,700,000 tonnes of varieties of beans and pulses in the 2023-24 Financial Year (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), from which the country has earned over US\$1,484 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams, and pigeon peas, among other beans and pulses. In fact, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily exported to India, while green grams are mostly exported to China and some European countries.

Since India is the largest consumer of pulses in the

world, Myanmar and Indian governments signed an MoU on 18 June 2021 for bilateral collaboration in pulse trade with government-to-government assistance.

According to the above-mentioned MoU, the Indian government purchases black beans 250,000 tonnes and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas from Myanmar annually from the private trade sector for five consecutive FYs (from 2021-22 FY to 2025-26 FY). The said G-to-G programme does not exclude Myanmar pulse exporters from the Indian government's annually announced pulses quota for international beans and pulses traders. — NN/TMT

# Sugar price surges up to K4,600 per viss

ACCORDING to information reported by the Bayintnaung Wholesale market, the sugar price is trending upward these days.

It leaps from K4,470 on 1 April to K4,600 on 23 April in the domestic sugar market. Thus, the price has gotten higher, K130, within three weeks.

Increasing prices resulted from a lack of sugar imports and increased manufacturing costs, according to sugar traders.

However, the report states that the sugar price in the global market is trending downward at US\$550 per tonne.

In Myanmar, there are approximately 450,000 acres of sugarcane cultivations from which around 450,000 tonnes

of sugar are produced. Sugar-canes are primarily cultivated in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. What is more, cane is also planted in western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon and Mandalay on a small scale.

According to the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Association, the sugar surplus exceeding domestic consumption was exported to China and Viet Nam in previous years. However, this year, Myanmar exports sugar only to Viet Nam.

Cane is harvested only once a year since it usually commences cultivation in December and January and is harvested in December, January, and February of next year. — NN/ TMT



Bags of export sugar seen in the warehouse.

# OPINION

## Get ready to mitigate impacts of unexpected disasters

**M**ARCH and April have seen a significant rise in daytime temperatures, with expectations of further increases in May not only in Myanmar but across the world as part of the terrible impacts of El Nino. This intense heat can lead to the formation of clouds, potentially sparking climate change processes worldwide, including in Myanmar, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Following the department's warning, various climatic conditions, including cumulonimbus clouds, have been observed across Myanmar in the afternoon and evening. These conditions bring strong winds, thunderclaps, lightning, hailstones, and scattered rainfall.

During this period, some village tracts in certain townships in the Bago and Sagaing regions have been hit by strong winds and rainfall, resulting in damage to houses and lamp posts. As similar

events may continue to occur, people across the nation need to make necessary preparations for heavy rainfall and strong winds.

In the 2023-24 financial year, strong winds affected various parts of the nation over 650 times, destroying more than 21,700 houses. Therefore, relevant organizations must raise public awareness about untimely rainfall and strong winds to mitigate the impacts of climate change and repair damaged homes.

It is essential for people to collaborate with administrative officials and service personnel from relevant ministries to prepare against natural disasters, especially the danger of squalls. Local authorities should organize volunteer youths to make collaborative efforts to lessen the impacts of unexpected natural disasters.

Before the onset of natural disasters, people must prepare their residences and buildings to withstand such events. After a disaster, they should clear debris such as fallen trees and

branches, collapsed buildings, and blocked drains from their communities. Additionally, damaged lamp posts, electric cables, and other infrastructure should be repaired promptly. Necessary healthcare services must be provided to injured persons without delay. Moreover, assistance should be rendered to children, pregnant women, and older persons to minimize the impact of disasters on their lives.

Currently, relevant organizations are warning people to be prepared for various disasters this season. Therefore, people should monitor press releases from relevant organizations and ministries through state-owned media such as TV, radio, newspapers, and online platforms. They should actively participate in all preventive measures against disasters while adhering to health guidelines and other instructions issued by relevant ministries and organizations. This will help mitigate the loss and damage to life and property caused by unexpected disasters.

**A**CCORDING to Oxford, novels are stories long enough to fill a complete book, in which the characters and events are usually imaginary. The word 'long' should herein be highlighted in that many different points of view on novels have arisen compared with short stories. Some writers say that novels and short stories cannot be categorized only depending upon their length, for some novels based on the only subject matter, especially all about a character, may be listed as a short story even though they are a long one. This means that more than one character, event, or plot is widely, intricately, and serially described in many novels, and they cannot be read in one setting as usual. As far as I can see, any story that a person is not able to read only once must be called a short-story-like novel despite the fact that it takes place in only one. Of course, reading a great novel appears, watching a colourful scene in the very movie. There are various types of novels in the world of literature:

# Why Not Read Novels?

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

romance, detective, historical, popular, graphic, classic, literary, modern, autobiographical, and unfinished.

There are many famous novels in Myanmar literature that I have ever read. Out of those novels, Naw Yin Mgwe is my favourite as well. This novel was written by Mya Thanda, a female writer from Myanmar, whose real name is Daw Thanda. She was born to U Mya Thein and Daw Tin San Myint in Yanson on 15 August 1958. She had a BA in Myanmar from a correspondence course at university. She first set foot in the field of literature with the short story 'Ngalonetharma Sagapayawthan' (Words from the Heart) in Ngwetyee magazine and has written not only 79 novels but also over 200 in total of short stories and articles until now, as far as I can

remember.

Sayama Mya Thanda started writing her debut novel Naw Yin Mgwe while moving to serve as a staff of Myanmar Insurance Business in Phew Township in 1982. Having served nine months in Phew and nearly two years in Taunggoo, she wrote the novel based on her work experience by going on a field trip to study farmers and Karin traditions. At her early puberty of about 17, Naw Yin Mgwe, a little Karin girl, grew up childishly in the care of her father and elder sister, Naw Tawharma, not quite comprehending life's sufferings. Meanwhile, she fell in love with a school teacher. But their happy days did not take long. Her life made a U-turn. In the middle of her family of three going to another village for her sister's childbearing, she died in child-

birth on the way there, unfortunately. Just at the same time, her father died from snakebite over there the moment he got down from the bull cart to fetch a child breeder (called 'latthe' in Myanmar) as soon as possible. Naw Tawharma gave birth to a girl named Naw Thae Sue. In order to get a chance to adopt her conditionally, Naw Yin Mgwe unwillingly married her brother-in-law, Ko Soe. Despite this, they were separated very soon on account of his previous marriage, which she had not yet known. Then later, Naw Yin Mgwe worked hard as a nurse only because of her beloved niece, Naw Thae Sue, even though she could join the University of Medicine with her matriculation examination marks. Meanwhile, she had to meet Dr Han Kyi, who was madly

keen on her. What would happen next? Which theme and how did Sayama Mya Thanda endeavour to write the novel so as to arrive at a satisfactory ending? How interesting are these questions?

Naw Yin Mgwe is a romantic novel of mixed love, the way I see it. In the novel, Naw Yin Mgwe is a round character, and the others are flat characters. Since there was no publisher who would like to distribute this novel at first, it was edited in 6 years up to three times, as Sayama Mya Thanda said. Fortunately for her, she achieved first prize in the Sarpay Beikman Novel in 1989 and then the National Literature Award in 1991 for that novel. Again, as the novel was made into a film, Soe Myat Thuza, a female Myanmar actress, obtained her first Academy Award for Woman Character

for the character of Naw Yin Mgwe.

Interestingly enough, Saya U Tha Noe once said that reading a novel is better than studying a book on psychology simply because more human nature can be seen in the novel together with the physical, oral or psychological manner of the character. Most novel readers look for happy endings only after finishing the novel. That should not be so, actually. A novel ought to end in an appropriate finale — to be said better, a satisfactory ending — critically and logically, whether it makes a reader happy, satisfied, or not. Any novel has to come to an end not only for readers but also for authors objectively rather than subjectively. Readers will be able to read some novels worth very little literature value just for pleasure, but some in-depth, which tell many truths about life. In actual fact, reading novels is beyond daydreaming, having fun, relieving boredom, or even taking a liking.

# ARTICLE POEM

## Dignity of Ability

By Chit Ko Pe



Dignity is beyond measure for a small gangway, enabling the linking of the two shores in an array.

Dignity is beyond measure for a tiny lotus, enabling to make the lake more glorious.

Dignity is beyond measure for a short sunset, enabling to soothe the scenery with coolness.

Each is dignified for their abilities, though slight. You, too, are destined for it with your might to render the world a pleasant shade.

### စွမ်းအားဂုဏ်

တံတားသေးလည်း ကမ်းဘေးနှစ်ခြမ်း၊ အရေကပ်လှမ်းဖို့ ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ပေး ဂုဏ်မသေး။  
 ကြာပန်းငယ်လည်း ရေလယ်စိမ့်စိမ်း၊ အမြင်လန်းဖို့ ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ပေး ဂုဏ်မသေး။  
 ဆည်းဆာတိုလည်း နေအိုညချမ်း၊ အေးရိပ်သန်းဖို့ ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ပေး ဂုဏ်မသေး။  
 တစ်ခုချင်းစီ အဆင်းလှနှင့်၊ အယဉ်ဆင့်၏ အသင့်အလှ၊ လုပ်အားပြု၍ လောကရပ်ဝန်း၊ သာယာလန်းဖို့ ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ပေး ဂုဏ်မသေး။  
 ချစ်ကိုဖေ

**W**ITH its cutting-edge technology, novel marketing models and competitive prices, China's electric vehicle (EV) industry is heading for the fast lane at both European and global level.

Brands such as BYD, NIO, Xpeng, Hongqi and Lynk & Co are making a name in Europe at motor shows, in showrooms, and out on the road. According to auto consultancy Inovev, eight per cent of new EVs sold in Europe so far this year were Chinese, up from six per cent in 2022, and four per cent in 2021.

At this year's International Motor Show (IAA) in Munich, Germany, more than 70 Chinese carmakers and suppliers showcased their products and services.

### MORE THAN COMPETITIVE PRICES

EVs made in China are gaining traction in Europe not only due to their highly competitive prices.

"Chinese car companies have become global car companies," said Eric Louwman, president of the Louwman Group of automobile distributors, underlining the quality and advanced technology of Chinese brands.

# Chinese EVs moving into fast lane in Europe

*At events like the International Motor Show (IAA) in Munich, Germany, over 70 Chinese carmakers and suppliers showcased their products, highlighting the industry's growing presence.*

Louwman Group began co-operating with BYD in October 2022, opening a BYD sales store in the Netherlands. As the world's second-largest EV manufacturer, BYD now has over 140 sales stores in Europe.

Along with BYD, Chinese EV brands such as NIO, Chery, Great Wall Motors and Lynk & Co have received five-star safety ratings from the European New Car Assessment Programme, an independent institute which developed a five-star rating system to provide consumers with insight into the safety level of new cars, in recent years.

To win over consumers in Europe, Chinese EV brands also put special emphasis on innovation in battery technology.

In about three minutes, NIO's Power Swap Stations allow ve-



People visit the booth of Chinese carmaker Xpeng during the 2023 International Motor Show, officially known as the IAA MOBILITY 2023, in Munich, Germany, 5 September 2023. PHOTO: REN PENGFEI/XINHUA

hicles to switch to a fresh, fully-charged battery pack. A station can complete 312 swaps per day. NIO has deployed 20 such stations across Europe, and is expanding this network.

NIO's head for European business development Chen Chen told Xinhua that since automatic battery and electric system checks are performed during each swap, this service is "very popular" in Europe, as 98 per cent of NIO users in Europe prefer to rent batteries in order to benefit from the service.

Chinese carmakers are also making the pace in automotive software research and development. This will help Chinese EVs usher in rapid development in the European market, said Ferdinand Dudenhofer, director of Germany's Duisburg-based Center

for Automotive Research (CAR).

For Lynk & Co, fresh marketing models helped it to promote sales. The company has launched a monthly subscription service which allows registered customers to share their vehicles with other members to save costs.

As of July 2023, the service had enrolled nearly 230,000 subscribers in Europe, and over 20 per cent of them have used the car-sharing platform.

The professionalism of Chinese brands impressed visitors at world-class mobility trade fairs such as IAA, said Peter Fintl, vice-president of technology and innovation at Capgemini Engineering.

"Everybody here at the IAA is excited to have so many Chinese brands here," Fintl said.

### MORE POTENTIAL TO BE EXPLORED

Supported by a robust industrial chain and continuous technological innovation, Chinese EV brands have won recognition from European consumers, dealers and industry insiders. However, there's still a long way to go for them.

Compared with emerging markets, Europe boasts the most established auto brands, with

loyal customers. Nevertheless, Japanese and Korean auto-makers have already set up a strong presence here.

Some dealers told Xinhua that Chinese EV companies need to work more on building brand recognition, expanding sales channels and winning consumer confidence in Europe. Exploring a new market also means incurring higher costs, navigating different regulations and addressing cultural disparities.

However, other auto dealers told Xinhua that Chinese EVs have made a good start in Europe by establishing a high-quality brand image, and have the potential to grow and expand.

In 2021, Chinese brand Hongqi introduced its E-HS9 electric sports utility vehicle (SUV) to Norway. A year later, the model became the country's best-selling Chinese EV.

The SUV was praised by consumers and the automotive media for its comfort, luxury accessories and affordable prices, said Knut Aas, CEO of Hongqi's local dealer HBI Norge AS.

Despite challenges, opportunities also lie ahead.

SOURCE: XINHUA



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar ranks third in ASEAN for heritage parks

### FROM PAGE-1

Accelerating biodiversity conservation can support the sustainability of human resources and environmental conservation.

“The global climate change depends on the biodiversity, forests and mountains, especially, it needs the concept to lead the natural resources conservation.

The production sector should follow the law and the rules without fail and conserve and replant systematically. Cooperation plays a key role. All the national parks in Myanmar are essential not only for ASEAN but also for the world. Conserving the protected areas directly benefits the green economy and blue

economy as well as geological features and climate. Travellers are interested in nature-based tourism, such as the maritime, land, and ice-capped mountains. Myanmar is one of the countries that grab the interest of visitors. Myanmar is a country with plenty of natural heritage,” said U Kyi Oo, head of Lampi Marine



The image beautifully depicts migratory birds thriving in the serene sanctuary of Indawgyi Lake.



The photo captures a stunning recreation destination in the Myeik Archipelago, featuring a picturesque beach with a horseshoe-shaped coastline.

National Park.

Myanmar is participating in environmental conservation with ASEAN countries and working with NGOs and locals to develop national parks and ensure the survival of wildlife animals. The government protects science reserve forests, national gardens, marine national parks, protected reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, unusual geological sites and community-protected natural areas. There are 59 natural protected areas covering 6.42 per cent of total land areas.

“The government is laying down the policies and objectives. It targets establishing forests for about 30 per cent of the country’s land areas and 10 per cent to protect reserve forests and pro-

tected land areas. It has already established over six per cent of protected land. Existence of national parks will support tourism, create job opportunities for the locals, and earn revenue for the country. Myanmar ranks third among ASEAN countries for having national parks. Therefore, all should cooperate in conserving the marine, wetland, sanctuary and snow-capped mountains because the national parks in Myanmar are unspoiled and in virgin stage,” he added.

ASEAN Heritage Parks are defined as “protected areas of high conservation importance, preserving in total a complete spectrum of representative ecosystems of the ASEAN region.” — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

## Plans to expand monsoon paddy cultivation, support farmers

IN the 2024-2025 financial year, a goal is set to cultivate over 15 million acres of monsoon paddy. Additionally, agricultural loans are issued, and technologies are imparted to farmers at present, as stated by Daw Pyone Pyone Mon, Deputy Director of the Agriculture Department (Paddy Crop Unit).

Currently, there are plans to cultivate 2.67 million acres of summer paddy nationwide, with more than 2.5 million acres already planted by 15 April. The State Economic Promotion Fund will disburse agricultural loans for summer paddy farmers.

Daw Pyone Pyone Mon explained, “We aim to cultivate

over 15 million acres of monsoon paddy nationwide, with farmers receiving disbursements from the State Economic Promotion Fund (SEPF) and banks according to their plans. Banks will provide loans of K100,000 per acre, while the SEPF will offer K200,000 per acre. Additionally, online courses are available for disseminating technologies to paddy farmers”.

Training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), cultivation methods for increasing yields, and research and technical training for improving target yield will be provided in May, July, and September, respectively. — ASH/TRKM



The photo shows an acre of summer paddy and farmers working on it.

# NATIONAL

## Prices of Mudon mangosteens soar as season begins

AS Mon State is known for its fertile land ideal for agricultural and horticultural crops, as well as rubber; the perennial crop mangosteens are fetching better prices compared to previous years.

According to a farmer from Mudon township, mangosteen trees thrive in hot, humid climates with flat, sandy loam soil. Mangosteen can be grown from seeds or through grafting techniques of reproduction, requiring only about 20 feet of space between each tree, and they are renowned for their pest resistance and longevity, often living up to 50 years. The prices of mangosteen range from K300 to 800 per fruit, and they are being sold in city markets and towns in Mawlamy-

ine, Bago, Yangon, Mandalay and even other townships.

The officials from the agri-

culture department in Mudon Township are focusing on research plantations to develop and

grow high-quality fruits, aiming to boost the fruit industry and facilitate fruit exports through

collaboration with local farmers, sharing techniques with them. — Aung Myo Thu/ TRKM



The images showcase a flourishing mangosteen tree bearing ripe fruits, with some half-peeled mangosteens revealing their enticingly sweet taste, attracting fruit enthusiasts.

### CRIME NEWS

## Drugs seized in Chanmyathazi, Lashio townships

A combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, inspected a suspect named Ma Ei Myat Nanda Htun, also known as Kay Kay, in Chanmyathazi township at 2 pm on 21 April. The team successfully apprehended 0.012 kilogramme of Happy Water and 0.008 kilogramme of ketamine.

Following the interro-

gation of Ma Ei Myat Nanda Htun, the combined team arrested Ma Nanda Hlaing from her residence in Chanmyathazi township at 2:30 pm. She was found in possession of 0.075 kilogramme of Happy Water and 1.364 kilogrammes of ketamine.

Similarly, the police force apprehended Thein Than Oo, also known as Ah Chin, in-

involved in drug trafficking, at his residence at 3 pm in Chanmyathazi township. Another suspect, Myint Oo, also known as Ah Chaing, was arrested at 5 pm in Chanmyathazi township, with 0.015 kilogramme of Happy Water and 0.02 kilogramme of ketamine found in his possession, along with a Ford vehicle. Subsequently, 0.285 Kilogramme of Happy Water and 0.297 kilogramme of ketamine were seized from his residence at 6 pm in Chanmyathazi township.

Additionally, at 7:45 am on the same day, the police searched Yan Lu's and his wife's farmhouse in Lashio township. They seized 0.59 kilogramme of heroin, 30,000 stimulant tablets, three kilogrammes of opium, four handmade guns, and K7.8 million.

All the offenders are facing prosecution under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Offenders, Yan Lu and his wife, seen with seized drugs and handmade guns.

## Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, fuel oil, foodstuffs, consumer goods, motorbikes and vehicles

DURING inspections on 22 April, combined on-duty teams confiscated 17 types of goods valued at K33.724 million. This included 50 cartons of agar from China found without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint. Additionally, an unregistered Toyota Kluger with an estimated value of K4 million was impounded near the detour of Mingaladon township. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Export and Import Law.

At the combined checkpoint, a Nissan Diesel truck worth approximately K25 million, travelling from Lashio to Chinshwehaw, was intercepted. It was carrying two types of goods valued at K11.272 million, including 1,755 kilogrammes of Jianghe detergent powder without official documents. This seizure occurred near the junction of the Lashio-Tangyan road. Furthermore, 8.5 kilogrammes of bird's nests (raw) worth K5 million were discovered in luggage destined for China at the Yangon International Airport Import Desk. The action was also conducted under Customs procedures.

On 22 and 23 April, on-duty

teams overseen by the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force apprehended two motorbikes carrying 40 gallons of illegal fuel oil and 24 gallons of illegal diesel valued at K785,600 in Mindon township. Additionally, two motorbikes transporting 38 gallons of illegal fuel oil were intercepted in Mindon and Minhla townships, with four unregistered motorbikes found in Mindon and Minbu townships. Moreover, illegal teak weighing 1.543 tonnes along with illegal timbers weighing 17.039 tonnes were seized in Magway, Thayet, Aunglan, and Minbu districts. The action was taken under relevant laws.

On 23 April, the combined team seized an unregistered Honda Dream 125 motorbike and an unregistered Honda Insight worth approximately K6.5 million in Kawthoung township. Additionally, illegal timbers weighing 7.437 tonnes valued at K1,115,640 were confiscated in Myeik township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 29 arrests made on 22 and 23 April, with an estimated value of K95.99 million. — MNA/MKKS

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Global tourism revenue to total US\$5.8 tln this year, surpassing pre-pandemic level: report

GLOBAL tourism revenue is estimated to total 5.8 trillion US dollars in 2024, marking an increase of 139.6 per cent over the pre-pandemic level in 2019, according to a report released by an international tourism summit held here.

The Report on World Tourism Economy Trends (2024) predicted that international tourist arrivals would amount to 13.579 billion in number this year, recovering to 103.9 per cent of 2019.

At the same time, the report called for efforts by the global tourism industry to turn challenges from technology advancements and climate change into growth opportunities, proactively incorporating them into reshaping the industry.



Tourists take a ride in a horse-drawn cart alongside the Nile river in Aswan in Upper Egypt on 19 April 2024. PHOTO: AFP

The World Tourism Cities Federation Wellington Fragrant Hills Tourism Summit 2024, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, was jointly sponsored by the World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF) and the Wellington City Council. The WTCF, founded in 2012 on the initiative of Beijing, is the world's first international tourism organization focusing on cities.

This year's summit themed "Promoting Sustainable City Tourism: Innovation and Enhancement", featured keynote speeches, panel discussions, and tourism fairs, among others. Its discussions focused on an innovative development of global tourism industry in the new era. — Xinhua

## APEC forum in Hong Kong highlights global supply chain cooperation

THE APEC China Business Council Hong Kong Forum opened on Monday in Hong Kong with participants discussing the stabilizing and smoothing of global industrial and supply chains and promoting sustainable development.

Around 300 representatives from the political, business and academic circles of APEC economies attended the forum. They pointed out that the cur-

rent geopolitical tensions and rising protectionism will inevitably impact the global economy and industrial development, and there are new adjustments in global supply chains.

More and more enterprises are shifting from offshore outsourcing to nearshore outsourcing in the global industrial and supply chains, showing the development trend of regionalization of supply chains.

Hong Kong has a lot to offer as a "super-connector" between the Chinese mainland and the rest of the world, according to representatives.

Fernando Zavala, chairman of APEC CEO Summit 2024 and former prime minister of Peru, said that it was of great significance the forum being held in Hong Kong, which is an ideal place to discuss and decide how to further connect the Asia-Pacific region because of its strategic location.

Ning Gaoning, chairman of APEC China Business Council, said that Hong Kong's economic vitality and professionalism, including finance, foreign investment, management and its position of being closely connected to the world, enabled it to play a greater role in the sustainability of global supply chains.

Paul Chan, financial secretary of the HKSAR government, said that Hong Kong is an international financial, trade and shipping centre. It is a founding member of the World Trade Organization and a member of APEC. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 22 April 2024 shows a view of the opening ceremony of the APEC China Business Council Hong Kong Forum in Hong Kong, south China. The APEC China Business Council Hong Kong Forum opened on Monday in Hong Kong with participants discussing the stabilizing and smoothing of global industrial and supply chains and promoting sustainable development. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Japan mulling all options, to take appropriate steps as yen falls

JAPAN will take appropriate action to counter excessive volatility in the currency market without ruling out any options, Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki said Tuesday, as the yen weakened further and neared the psychologically important 155 line against the US dollar.

Suzuki said the government is monitoring foreign exchange movements with "a high sense of urgency" while maintaining close communication with the monetary authorities of other nations. Amid caution over direct market intervention by Japanese authorities, the yen has continued to weaken even after the Bank of Japan last month raised interest rates for the first time in 17 years.

The Japanese currency's weakness also comes amid receding expectations that the US Federal Reserve will start cutting interest rates as soon as June following aggressive monetary tightening to fight inflation.

"We are carefully watching market developments based

on our firm stance that we will take appropriate action against excessive fluctuations without excluding any options," Suzuki told reporters.

Last week, the finance chiefs of Japan, South Korea and the United States shared "serious concerns" about the sharp depreciation of the yen and won relative to the dollar.

Separately, the Group of Seven finance ministers and central bank governors reiterated that excessive and disorderly foreign exchange movements negatively affect the economy.

Japanese authorities typically issue a series of verbal warnings before they step into the market. The last time Japan carried out a yen-buying, dollar-selling intervention was in late 2022. During a parliamentary session, Suzuki stressed the need for close communication with monetary authorities in other countries, signalling the government is laying the ground for another market intervention. — Kyodo

### FDI to Viet Nam's garment, textile sector rebounds

THE flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Vietnamese garment and textile sector has rebounded thanks to the country's favourable investment climate and abundant workforce as well as its open economy, the online newspaper Vietnam-Net reported Tuesday, citing industry insiders. The report cited Vu Duc Giang, chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association, as saying that foreign garment and textile producers are expanding their operations in Viet Nam. According to the association, the FDI flow into the textile sector increased sharply in the last quarter of 2023 and the first quarter of 2024. — Xinhua

## Kenya to invest US\$1.9 mln to boost EV adoption in 3 years



Kenya Power Managing Director Joseph Siror (Front) drives a JAC electric vehicle from China in Nairobi, Kenya, on 22 April 2024. Kenya Power, the country's electricity distributor, said on Monday that it will invest 1.93 million US dollars in the next three years to spur the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country **PHOTO: XINHUA**

**KENYA** Power, the country's electricity distributor, said on Monday that it will invest 1.93 million US dollars in the next three years to spur the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the country. Kenya Power Manag-

ing Director Joseph Siror said the investment covers the cost of purchasing electric cars and motorcycles to support business activities as well as the establishment of charging stations at various places across the country.

"In addition to our need to charge our electric vehicles, we intend to use our EV charging stations to collect data that will inform the next steps in our support of the growing electric mobility industry," Siror told journalists in the national capital of Nairobi.

In September 2023, Kenya developed a framework for electric vehicle charging and battery swapping infrastructure to accelerate the adoption of EVs and guarantee the

establishment of safe, reliable, accessible, and affordable charging services. According to the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), EVs accounted for 1.62 per cent of the 165,913 vehicles registered in Kenya in December 2023, with the country aiming to reach five per cent by 2025.

"In addition to the additional charging stations that we intend to install in the current financial year, we intend to install 10 additional facilities annually in 2025 and 2026," Siror said. The EPRA said the country's energy mix is highly conducive to supporting e-mobility, with almost 85 per cent of energy generation sourced from renewable channels. — Xinhua

### Fiji to extend retirement age to address skill shortage

THE Fijian government will extend the retirement age from 60 to 62 for specialized expert positions requiring scarce skills.

Prime Minister and Minister for Civil Service Sitiveni Rabuka said this is a strategic approach to retaining expertise and addressing skill shortages, which is essential to meeting the need of

economic priorities and development objectives in Fiji. According to the government, potential positions to be considered as having scarce skills include specialized physicians and surgeons, nurses, public health experts, cybersecurity experts, software developers and engineers, and data scientists and analysts. — Xinhua

### General Motors lifts 2024 profit forecast after strong Q1

GENERAL Motors reported higher profits Tuesday thanks to continued strength in North America that offset a loss in its China business, enabling the carmaker to lift its forecast.

GM, which has benefited from consistently strong demand from US consumers for pickup

trucks and other larger vehicles, increased its range for 2024 net income by \$300 million to between \$10.1 and \$11.5 billion. "The team is executing well and making progress across the board," GM Chief Executive Mary Barra said in a letter to shareholders. — AFP

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**The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium The Information about 59<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium 2024**

1. The significant **59<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium 2024**, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held from May 3 to 12, 2024 at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl, gems and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.
2. The local gems entrepreneurs who got the permit and the local gems merchants who got the license to operate in the finished gemstone making and dealing under the Myanmar Gem Law, will be allowed to attend and purchase the Lots at **59<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2024** according to the terms and conditions.
3. For further Information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at **59<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2024**, any merchants can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.  
Emporium Central Committee

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (422N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (422N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:  
**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (116N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (116N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:  
**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



Gustavo Caruso, head of an International Atomic Energy Agency task force, attends a meeting with Japanese officials and Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc representatives at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on 23 April 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## IAEA starts 2<sup>nd</sup> review of Fukushima water treatment process

AN International Atomic Energy Agency task force on Tuesday began a review of the process in which treated radioactive water is discharged from the Fukushima nuclear plant, the second review since Japan started releasing the water into the ocean last August.

The task force will inspect the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan on Wednesday while the current release is underway, and hold discussions with the indus-

try ministry, the plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc and the Nuclear Regulation Authority during its mission through Friday.

In the opening session with Japanese officials at the Foreign Ministry, Gustavo Caruso, who heads the IAEA review delegation, said Japan's support for the IAEA review demonstrates its strong commitment to ensuring the project is completed safely and transparently.

"This independent, objective and science-based approach will help build confidence to the people in Japan and beyond," he said, adding the IAEA will communicate the main outcomes later this week and then later issue its second report. The task force currently in Japan includes independent international experts from Argentina, Australia, Britain, Canada, China, France, Russia, South Korea, the United States and Viet Nam. — Kyodo

## Malaysia military helicopters crash, killing 10 crew

TWO Malaysian military helicopters collided and crashed during a training session on Tuesday, killing all 10 crew on-board, the country's rescue agency said.

Footage shared online showed several helicopters flying low in formation over the Lumut naval base, located about 160 kilometres (100 miles) from the capital Kuala Lumpur.

The helicopters were participating in a flypast rehearsal

ahead of Naval Day celebrations in May.

One chopper was seen clipping the rear rotor of another, causing both to go into a tailspin and crash.

"The two helicopters collided during flight training," said Suhaimy Mohamad Suhail, senior operations commander from the fire and rescue department, adding that all 10 crew members on board were confirmed dead by medical officers.

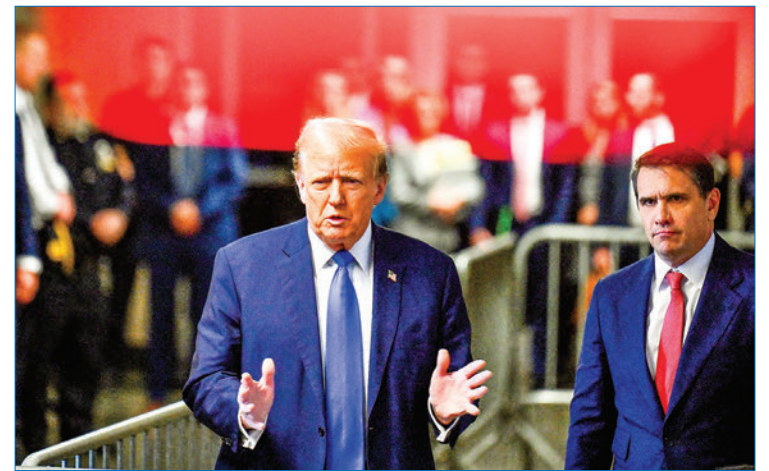
The two aircraft involved were a Eurocopter AS555SN Fennec and an AgustaWestland AW139, the rescue agency said.

Photos showed the Eurocopter model heavily mangled in the wreckage on the naval base stadium track with rescue personnel surrounding it as well as various debris.

The AgustaWestland helicopter crashed at the naval base's swimming pool area. — AFP



This handout picture taken and released on 23 April 2024 by Perak's Fire and Rescue Department shows rescuers inspecting the crash site after two military helicopters collided in Lumut in Malaysia's Perak state. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / PERAK'S FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT / AFP**



Former US president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to the press during his trial for allegedly covering up hush money payments linked to extramarital affairs at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York on 22 April 2024. **PHOTO: ANGELA WEISS / POOL / AFP**

## Trump faces contempt hearing for comments on witnesses

DONALD Trump faces a contempt of court hearing on Tuesday as part of his historic criminal trial, with New York prosecutors insisting the former president repeatedly violated the gag order issued to prevent him from intimidating witnesses.

The hearing comes a day after the jury heard opening arguments in Trump's hush money case, with prosecutors placing him at the centre of a criminal conspiracy while his defence team insisted he was "cloaked in innocence." The case, which centres on allegations of business fraud in the lead-up to Trump's 2016 election victory, is the first-ever criminal trial of a former US president — and

is already imperilling Trump's November White House bid as he's unable to ditch court for the campaign trail. Tuesday's contempt hearing will focus on statements the Republican made about witnesses Michael Cohen — his former personal fixer — and Stormy Daniels, a porn star. The ex-president is accused of falsifying business records with Cohen to buy the silence of Daniels over an alleged 2006 sexual encounter that could have negatively impacted his presidential bid. Trump has been under a partial gag order imposed by Judge Juan Merchan to prevent him from publicly attacking witnesses, prosecutors and relatives of court staff. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Fixtures for ASEAN youth tournaments confirmed

THE dates of the ASEAN U-19 Championship and ASEAN U-16 Championship, in which Myanmar teams will compete, have been confirmed.

Indonesia will host both of these tournaments, and the ASEAN U-16 Championship will be held from 21 June to 4 July. The ASEAN U-19 Championship will be held from 17 to 31 July, the ASEAN Football Federation confirmed.

The two competitions

were scheduled to be held earlier than the current date but were postponed. The ASEAN Football Federation will soon have the group draw for these two tournaments.

U Aung Naing is handling the Myanmar U-19 team as the head coach, and more than 30 preliminary players are training in the camp. The Myanmar U-19 team has been preparing for international competitions since the begin-

ning of this year and played warm-up matches against local clubs in March.

As for the Myanmar U-16 national team, the head coach is Mitami Chiyu from Japan, and the preliminary roster will be confirmed soon. Both the Myanmar U-16 and U-19 national teams will also compete in the Asian Cup qualifiers this year in addition to the ASEAN tournament. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The Myanmar U-16 national team in trial competition with the preliminary national women's team as preparation for the tournament. PHOTO: MFF



Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic reacts during a press conference at the 2024 Laureus World Sports Awards in Madrid, Spain, 22 April 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Djokovic skips Madrid Open but is aiming for Rome

WORLD number one and record 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic will not play at the Madrid Open this week but is hoping to appear in Rome.

Media reports said the 36-year-old Serbian star had pulled out of the tournament in the Spanish capital and he was not included in the draw on Monday.

Djokovic is yet to win a title this season and has only played in four tournaments this year, having decided to lighten his schedule.

After being named World Sportsman of the Year for the fifth time at the Laureus Awards in Madrid later Monday, Djokovic said he was aiming for the Italian Open before defending his French Open title from 26 May.

"Unfortunately, I won't be able to play in Madrid this year... I've planned to play in Rome, so I hope I'll be able to do that, if I prepare well," Djokovic told reporters.

"This year has been a bit different for me, I haven't yet found my best level of tennis and I hope I will at Roland Garros". — AFP

## World Snooker Championship venue 'smells', says Iran's Vafaei

IRAN'S Hossein Vafaei has lashed out at conditions at the venue for the World Snooker Championship, saying it "smells really bad" after being beaten by former winner Judd Trump.

Vafaei, 29, said practice facilities at the famous Crucible Theatre in the northern English city of Sheffield were "like playing in a garage" and questioned the treatment of players during the mar-

athon 17-day event.

"Everything's so bad — if you ask me if I want to come back here, I would tell you 'no way'," said Vafaei after Sunday's 10-5 defeat in the first round.

"Forget the history, you want to go somewhere really nice as a player. You walk around the Crucible and it smells really bad. You go to other countries, and everything is shiny. But here it's

completely different. "The practice room — do you see anything special? I feel like I'm practising in a garage."

The Crucible, which has a capacity of 980 seats, has staged the tournament since 1977. Speculation over its future has grown since world number one Ronnie O'Sullivan suggested it should be moved to Saudi Arabia or China when the existing deal expires in 2027. — AFP

## Inter Milan seal Scudetto in derby thriller with AC Milan



Inter Milan players and team members celebrate winning the 2024 Scudetto championship title on 22 April 2024, following the Italian Serie A football match between AC Milan and Inter Milan at the San Siro Stadium in Milan. PHOTO: AFP

INTER Milan sealed the Serie A title on Monday after beating AC Milan 2-1 and creating an unassailable lead at the top of the league with their sixth straight

derby victory.

Goals from Francesco Acerbi and Marcus Thuram gave Inter a 17-point advantage over closest challengers

Milan and secured their 20<sup>th</sup> league crown with five matches of the season remaining. Inter last won Serie A in 2021, followed by AC Milan in 2022 and Napoli last year.

For Simone Inzaghi it was the first league title as a manager and on a cold, soaking wet evening at the San Siro he strode proudly in front of a clutch of Inter's "away" fans in the 75,000 crowd as they roared in delight and fired fireworks from the stands at the final whistle.

Milan made a fight of it in the final moments after Fikayo Tomori pulled one back with 10 minutes remaining but Inter held out to kick off a title party after a stormy ending to the match which featured three red cards.

"I feel like crying because we worked so hard, we deserve this joy," said tearful captain Lautaro Martinez.

"It's been wonderful but we have to keep going because we've already won a lot of trophies and we want to win many more". — AFP



**A**SIA was the world's most disaster-hit region from climate and weather hazards in 2023, the United Nations said Tuesday, with floods and storms the chief cause of casualties and economic losses.

Global temperatures hit record highs last year, and the UN's weather and climate agency said Asia was warming at a particularly rapid pace.

The World Meteorological Organization said the impact of heatwaves in Asia was becoming more severe, with melting glaciers threatening the region's future water security.

The WMO said Asia was warming faster than the global average, with temperatures last year nearly two degrees Celsius above the 1961 to 1990 average.

"The report's conclusions are sobering," WMO chief Celeste Saulo said in a statement.

"Many countries in the region experienced their hottest year on record in 2023, along with a barrage of extreme conditions, from droughts and heatwaves to floods and storms.

"Climate change exacerbated the frequency and severity of such events, profoundly impacting societies, economies, and, most importantly, human lives and the environment that we live in."

The State of the Climate in Asia 2023 report highlighted the accelerating rate of key climate change indicators such as surface temperature, glacier retreat and sea level rise, saying they would have serious repercussions for societies, economies and ecosystems in the region.

"Asia remained the world's most dis-



A car is stranded on a flooded street in Dubai on 19 April 2024. PHOTO: AFP

## Asia hit hardest by climate, weather disasters in 2023: UN

aster-hit region from weather, climate and water-related hazards in 2023," the WMO said.

### Heat, melting and floods

The annual mean near-surface temperature over Asia in 2023 was the second

highest on record, at 0.91 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average, and 1.87 C above the 1961-1990 average.

Particularly high average temperatures were recorded from western Siberia to central Asia, and from eastern China to

Japan, the report said, with Japan having its hottest summer on record.

As for precipitation, it was below normal in the Himalayas and in the Hindu Kush mountain range in Pakistan and Afghanistan. — AFP

## DPRK top leader guides simulated nuclear counterattack drill

KIM Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) oversaw a simulated nuclear counterattack drill on Monday, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)



This picture taken on 22 April 2024 and released from North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) via KNS on 23 April 2024 shows North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (C) observing a virtual nuclear counterattack training exercise with a large "rocket artillery" unit, at an undisclosed location in North Korea. PHOTO: KCNA VIA KNS / AFP

reported Tuesday.

"The artillerymen of super-large multiple rocket launchers fired in salvo," with the projectiles tipped with simulated nuclear warheads accurately hitting the island target within 352 kilometres range, according to the report.

The drill was specifically designed to "demonstrate the reliability, superiority, might and diverse means of the DPRK's nuclear force and to strengthen the nuclear force both in quality and quantity," it said.

It also served as a clear warning on the latest round of military confrontation by the United States and South Korea, said the report. — Xinhua

## UN chief calls for urgent restoration of harmony with nature

IN a stern warning on International Mother Earth Day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized on Monday the urgent need for global cooperation to restore environmental harmony.

"Humanity is acting like Mother Earth's delinquent child," the secretary-general said, outlining the extensive harm caused by human activities such as pollution, biodiversity loss, and unchecked greenhouse gas emissions, which jeopardize essential natural resources and destabilize the climate.

"These actions harm nature, and they harm humanity,"

Guterres said, highlighting the threats to food production, ocean and air quality, and overall environmental stability. He added that achieving sustainable development hinges on restoring balance with nature and adopting sustainable production and consumption practices.

The top UN official called for decisive actions to halt biodiversity loss, end pollution, and significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. He emphasized the importance of supporting communities most affected by environmental crises, including indigenous peoples and local communities. — Xinhua