

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Qualified law officers prestigiously serve legislative, executive and judicial duties

Everybody cannot be a legal expert, but only when individuals have legal knowledge can they efficiently apply it to enhance their socioeconomic lives.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unveils the signage of the Legal Advocacy Centre of the Ministry of Legal Affairs yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing spotted that disseminating legal knowledge can contribute to forging the rule of law and justice as well as building a country free from corruption.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the opening of the Legal Advocacy Centre (LAC) of the Ministry of Legal Affairs in

Zawana Theikdi Ward of Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Senior General sprinkled scented water on the plaque of the centre and watched a video clip on the new building.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the law is a prescribed provision by which all citizens and people residing in the nation must abide.

He continued that the newly-opened

Legal Advocacy Centre is beneficial for the State in widely disseminating legal knowledge to all.

The Senior General stressed the need to accumulate legal knowledge for initiating the peace and stability of the nation, the rule of law and the socioeconomic development of the people, adding administrative authorities need to be skilful in legal affairs for their management measures and follow the laws.

As such, the Senior General added that all arts and science universities teach law subjects to confer BA (Law) degrees on graduates, and other significant universities give training to the students to get LLB degrees. Hence, he urged all legal experts in Myanmar to try hard to become international legal experts.

He disclosed that thanks to the centre, government service personnel and those in law careers will have chances to

make further study from on-job training.

The Senior General instructed all to adopt better tactics for successfully implementing the legal knowledge dissemination process and ensure the long-term existence of the centre so that State service personnel and those in law careers can continue their studies at the centre.

Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thi Da Oo reported on undertaking legal affairs and conducting the legal knowledge courses.

The Senior General and party visited the centre.

Before the opening ceremony, SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council members General Mya Tun Oo and Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thi Da Oo and Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant cut the ribbon to open the centre. — MNA/TTA

### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General on the opening occasion of the Legal Advocacy Centre (LAC)

- Only when individuals have legal knowledge can they efficiently apply it to enhance their socioeconomic lives.
- Everybody needs to accumulate legal knowledge to initiate the peace and stability of the nation, the rule of law and the socioeconomic development of the people.
- Administrative authorities need to be skilful in legal affairs, take proper management measures, and follow the laws.
- All legal experts in Myanmar to exert themselves to become international legal experts.

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Myanmar delegation returns after PRC working visit

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River water pumping boosts 15,492 acres of summer paddy in 2023-2024, estimated to supply 17,595 acres this year

#### BUSINESS

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Rubber prices show uptick in late April

# NATIONAL

## Attractive Sheinkhaung village in Khaunglanphu, Kachin State draws online visitors



ALTHOUGH many people are interested in visiting Sheinkhaung village in Khaunglanphu, Kachin State, there are difficulties due to road transport problems, said Ko Moe Min Thein, a tour operator developing a new destination.

Being a village in Khaunglanphu of Kachin State, its pic-

Natural beauty around Sheinkhaung village in Kachin State.

ture of full snow-capped mountains attracted much attention from people on Facebook.

“Now, many people are interested. But the transport is still difficult with many transits—first by car, then by motorbike and on foot, and by motorbike and by car. At least there are three transits. So, travel costs are still high. People are interested in Sheinkhaung after seeing its pictures online,” he said.

Sheinkhaung is situated on a hill, and it has become a place of choice for those who cannot

climb the snow-capped mountain or go trekking.

“Sheinkhaung is accessible from November to March. It has beautiful scenes. The visitor has to cross both Maykha and Malikha rivers. On the way, travelers will have to pass by small ice-capped mountains and enjoy unique customs,” he said.

If road transport to Sheinkhaung village is good, it will add to the treasure list of tourist destinations in Kachin State, he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

## Late onset, early departure predicted for monsoon season

IT is forecasted that the monsoon will arrive late and leave early in the coming monsoon season, said U Hla Tun, a spokesperson from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Under current forecasts, the monsoon will be moderate plus late coming, and the beginning of the monsoon is possibly not good.

“If monsoon was late, the beginning of monsoon could not be fine. Under current forecasts, the monsoon will be late. The beginning of the monsoon is set from the time it enters to the end of June, so the later it arrives, the worse it is. According to the current forecast, the monsoon will be weak to just moderate. Rainfall depends on the strength of the monsoon. The strength of the monsoon is predicted to be weak to moderate, so the monsoon rain can't be much better. If the rain level is lower than the average level, the beginning of

the monsoon is not good. This monsoon is forecasted to be lower than average rain or stay at average rain, so the beginning of the monsoon won't be good,” said U Hla Tun.

The monsoon will be just ordinary, even in mid-monsoon, he said.

“The mid-monsoon is from July to August. The strength of the monsoon is predicted to be moderate to strong, and nationwide rainfall is forecasted to be average, so this year's monsoon will be normal,” he said.

Moreover, in the late monsoon period, the monsoon will leave early on 1 September, according to current forecasts.

“We've currently forecasted that the monsoon will leave on 1 September, so it means the monsoon will leave early. And rainfall is forecasted to be moderate in the late monsoon,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Price hike dampens Pathein parasol use



Myanmar traditional handmade Pathein umbrellas and a young girl is painting on a Pathein umbrella.

THE price of Myanmar's traditional handmade Pathein umbrellas has increased, resulting in a decline in buyers who use them for interior decoration.

Some guessed that the price increase was a result of the transport barrier.

“Price gets quite high recently. During Thingyan, some buyers just asked, but they wouldn't buy due to the higher price. An umbrella was previously priced at just K8,000 per one. Now, we even have to buy at above K8,000, so

we have to re-sell it at around K9,000, which is cost-effective for us. The price started going up in the second week of April. Due to the rising price, people are not eager to use Pathein umbrella for decoration,” said an official from Dudu Pathein umbrella trading in Mandalay.

However, Myanmar's traditional handmade Pathein umbrellas gained popularity in the market in February, and the sales were pretty good.

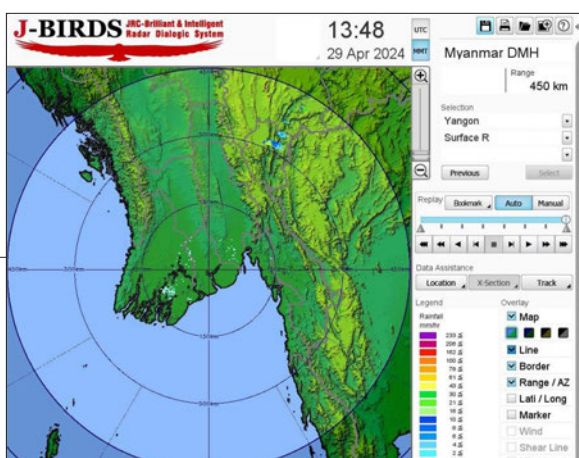
Local products — wood, bamboo umbrella axle,

Tharagu bamboo, persimmon, satin fabric and cloth — are used mainly to make an umbrella originally produced in Pathein. The whole process is made by hand, including dyeing and painting over the entire body.

Pathein umbrellas are made in different forms — monk or nun umbrellas, fancy umbrellas, rain umbrellas, royal umbrellas, table umbrellas, lamp umbrellas, hotel decoration umbrellas and beach umbrellas. — Thit Taw/ZS

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.

The weather forecast image at 2 pm on 29 April 2024.



# NATIONAL

## Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforts Tatmadaw members wounded in serving State defence and security duties, meets departmental officials in Kayin and Mon states

**V**ICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the commander of South-East Command and senior military officers, comforted Tatmadaw members who are wounded in serving the State defence and security duties and they are receiving medical treatments at the local military hospital in Mawlamyine of Mon State yesterday morning.

The Vice-Senior General and party cordially met wounded officers and other ranks in individuals at the local military hospital and asked about medical treatment and progress of health conditions.

After fulfilling the needs of those Tatmadaw members, the Vice-Senior General presented cash awards to the patient Tatmadaw members as well as members of medical services corps serving the hospital.

In the afternoon, the



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win encourages the patients at the local military hospital in Mawlamyine, Mon State, yesterday.

Vice-Senior General met chief ministers of Kayin and Mon States and departmental officials in Mawlamyine.

In his discussions, the Vice-Senior General clarified

progress of international relations of Kayin and Mon States having important border trade posts in border regions, efforts for booming border trade sector, tripartite efforts of the govern-

ment, Tatmadaw and people against current terror attacks, needs to explain public participation in ensuring peace and stability of the region, cooperation with Tatmadaw in raising

security awareness against infiltration of terrorists in towns and villages, peaceful learning of students in Kayin and Mon States, healthcare services to residents, efforts for harmonious balance of politics, defence and economic sectors, and successful operation of MSME businesses.

Chief ministers of Mon and Kayin States reported on border peace and stability and security measures, relief supplies and cash assistance for those in temporary displaced person camps, rehabilitation of towns and villages damaged by terrorists, peaceful learning of students in school opening season, disbursement of loans to MSME businesses, and work plans for boosting production of rubber and rice in the regions.

The Vice-Senior General coordinated the measures reported by officials.

The Vice-Senior General also met commander of military stations and officials at the hall of South-East Command Headquarters and instructed them to take military operations, control of the regions and security measures. — MNA/TTA

## IPRD launches capacity-building training 1/2024

THE opening ceremony for capacity-building training 1/2024 of

the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) under

the Ministry of Information was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the opening event for IPRD capacity-building training 1/2024 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said the trainees should focus on creating an environment to read for those facing difficulties in their daily lives due to the weakness and lack of literary concepts and to expand the role of libraries and library culture as per the instructions of the State Head made at the ceremony to donate books and publications to libraries held from 3 to 10 April.

It also needs to accelerate the reading rate, whereas the State Head emphasizes reading, so the youths, education, and library play a crucial.

He continued that capaci-

ty-building training courses for staff are being organized so that they can perform the duties of the department successfully and develop individual work capacities in line with the visions of the ministry.

The training will include the subjects that are related to work implementations of the department branches and are required to be learnt by studying hard to be able to contribute to the practical fields.

A total of 30 staff officers from IPRD offices from regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw, joined the training, which will be conducted until 11 May. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar delegation returns after PRC working visit

AT the invitation of a Member of the State Council Minister of Public Security of China Mr Wang Xiao Hong, the Myanmar delegation led by State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae left Yangon for the People's Republic of China on a working visit to discuss law enforcement and security cooperation from 24 to 29 April.

They arrived back yesterday, and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, Yangon Region Minister for Security and

Border Affairs Col Win Tint and officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs welcomed them back at Yangon International Airport.

The Myanmar delegation visited the Tibet Autonomous Region on 26 April. Deputy Police Chief Mr Zhu Shouke and officials welcomed them.

The Myanmar delegation then met the delegation led by Mr Zhang Hongbo, the Police Chief of the Tibet Autonomous Region. They discussed friendly relations between the two countries, bilateral cooperation, and the continued implementa-

tion of ministerial-level agreements between the two ministries of the two countries. The Myanmar delegation attended a dinner hosted by Tibet Autonomous Region Police Chief Mr Zhang Hongbo.

On 27 April, the Myanmar delegation visited the Potala Palace, a UNESCO-listed landmark in the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. They proceeded to the Tibet Autonomous Region Police College, where they discussed practical training programmes for trainees. They also visited the Zhaxi police station and viewed

the making of national identification cards, police operations, the Anti-Terrorism Department of Tibet, demining exercises, anti-terrorist crackdown, raided exercise for counter-terrorism and sniper fire drills.

The Myanmar delegation left for Chengdu, Sichuan Province, from Lhasa and arrived at Chengdu, thereby going to Guangzhou on 28 April. They were welcomed by Mr Huang Guohui, Deputy Police Chief of Guangdong, and officials.

Myanmar's delegation met Police Chief Mr Liu Guozhou of Guang-



The Police Chief of Guangdong Province greets Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

dong Province, and officials. They discussed friendly interaction between the two countries, the elimination of online scams, joint combat against transnational crimes, safety and security for residents in border areas, and the continued implementation of minis-

terial-level agreements between the two ministries.

The Myanmar delegation, during their working visit to China, had positive results and obtained cooperation between the two countries and collaboration between the two ministries. — MNA/TS



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae meets the Police Chief of the Tibet Autonomous Region.



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae-led Myanmar's delegation seen being welcomed.

### Counter-argument to false information

#### Malicious media alleges security forces use 50 Thandwe residents as human shields

THERE were severe clashes between AA terrorists and security forces in Thandwe Township of Rakhine State, and the malicious media intentionally circulated false information, claiming that the security forces

detained nearly 50 locals as human shields in Shwehlay and Yaykauk villages on 28 April.

According to a security official, the news regarding the arrest of villagers near the clash areas as human shields is inva-

lid, and AA terrorists attacked the security forces using heavy weapons from the villages using residents as human shields.


AA terrorists launched attacks to threaten locals in Rakhine State using heavy weap-

ons and drones to deteriorate the governance mechanism. They just spread false information to mislead the people over the security members. — MNA/KTZH



The screenshot validates misinformation.

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# NATIONAL

**T**HE Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management (Water Resource) successfully supplied water to 15,492 acres of summer paddy via the river pumping processes in 2023-2024 in Yangon Region, and it is estimated to distribute water to 17,595 acres of summer paddy in 2024-2025.

“Our department distributes water from Hline, Kokkowa rivers and Ngamoeyeik creeks with a river pumping system to the summer paddy fields in Taikkyi, Hmawby, Hlegu and Htantabin townships in Yangon. We supplied water to over 12,000 acres the previous year and to 15,492 acres this year,” said U Tin Maung Than, deputy director of the department.

“We started the river pumping system in early January, and we will suspend it in the first or second week of May. The suspension of water distribution date will be later than that date if there is a delay in spreading seed and if there might be well-matured paddy. The expansion of summer paddy fields is a new step for farmers to increase their socioeconomic growth. We successfully distributed summer paddy without any waste under the guidance of the State Head and close supervision of the regional government,” he added.

He said, “We are now preparing to supply enough water to the expanded summer paddy in the coming year rather than this year. The ability to develop the plantation areas for local consumption and exports while the paddy rice is on the rise brings benefits to the farmers and country.”

In 2023-2024, the Kyontu, Kamakalu and Khayan Chaung



Photos depict general views of the river water pumping at Kankalay (top) and Ngamoeyeik in Hlegu Township (above). **PHOTOS: REGIONAL DIWUM**

monchon and Yemon pumping projects benefited 7,662 acres, and the target for 2024-2025 is 8,245 acres. Meanwhile, a total of 15,492 acres of summer paddy in these districts/townships were successfully distributed water with a river water pumping system in 2023-2024, and it is estimated to supply water to 17,595 acres in 2024-2025.

The Yangon Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (Water Resource) conducts maintenance

## River water pumping boosts 15,492 acres of summer paddy in 2023-2024, estimated to supply 17,595 acres this year

river pumping projects benefited 76 acres of summer paddy in Thanlyin district, and the estimation for 2024-2025 is 350 acres. In Mingaladon district, the Myitkyoe, Kankalay and Myaungtaga water pumping projects, distributed water to 1,320 acres of summer paddy, and it is estimated to be 1,890 acres in 2024-2025. Moreover, the Sangyi and

Balar (1) water pumping projects in Mingaladon township supplied water to 215 acres, and the earmark for 2024-2025 is 280 acres.

A total of 2,818 acres of summer paddy are planted with the use of water from Yaypawthaung, Gwytanshay, Kyogon and Kyunngu water pumping projects in Htantabin township, and it is estimated for 3,030 acres

in 2024-2025.

The Aingkalaung, Alaboke, Thabyaykan, Tawlati, Taungyet Zeegone and Thayetchaung pumping projects benefited 3,401 acres in Taikkyi township, and the estimation for 2024-2025 is 3,800 acres. In Hlegu district, the Balar (2), Malit, Yaykyaw, Sitbin, Siphon, Ngwe Nantthar, Ngamoeyeik, Latpan, Latpan (2) Kin-

yearly to supply water to 24,518 acres from 22 completed electric water pumping projects, 3,300 acres from two electric water pumping projects (in progress) and 5,000 acres from six electric water pumping projects which are under the stage of Feasibility Study. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



The river water pumping at Kinmonchon.

# NATIONAL

## Solar system powers 24-hour electricity at Kaunghmudaw Pagoda

ACCORDING to the board of trustees, the installation of a solar system costs over K200 million to provide 24-hour electricity at Kaunghmudaw Pagoda in Sagaing Township.

The installation began on 6 April, completed on 12 April, and has been operational since 13 April 2024. Ninety-six solar panels capable of producing 56,160 watts have been installed in the southeast corner of the pagoda. Additionally, there are 32 sets of 450-watt searchlights, eight sets

of 240-watt searchlights, electric lights on the pagoda slopes, lighting for the pagoda square, purified water for pilgrims, water coolers, and three water dispensers for drinking water in the pagoda's buildings and shops, all available for 24-hour use.

The project received K100 million from the Sagaing Region government and K107 million from donors to ensure continuous power supply and energy conservation. Any surplus solar power will be utilized to operate

two water fountains in the pagoda round the clock. — TWA/TKO



Solar system installation at Kaunghmudaw Pagoda.



Officials seen explaining the situation of Thukha Dagon market's construction to the Yangon Region chief minister.

## Thukha Dagon market to be built at Thukha Dagon public rental housing complex

ON 28 April, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, along with ministers, inspected the site designated for the construction of the Thukha Dagon market, which will comprise 392 stalls, at the Thukha Dagon public rental housing complex in Dagon Myothit (South) Township of Yangon.

The market will encompass seven sheds, an open-air market area, a management office, pub-

lic toilets, and a car parking lot. Following officials' explanation of the construction progress, the chief minister provided the necessary instructions.

Additionally, the chief minister and his team inspected the entrance gate of the Thukha Dagon public rental housing complex, constructed by the Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction. — TWA/TRKM

## Thilawa Port frontage road completion boosts transport efficiency

ACCORDING to information from the Ministry of Transport and Communications, construction of the frontage road at Thilawa Port, including a traffic island, has been completed. The opening ceremony for the new road took place on 28 April.

The new road, measuring five miles and two furlongs in length, was constructed at a total cost of K28.35 billion, funded by the Myanma Port Authority and port business-

es. The expansion of the levee for the four-lane road was financed by the supplementary Capital Budget of the Yangon Region government, enabling swift renovation.

Previously a two-lane road, the frontage road has now been expanded and upgraded to four lanes, alleviating previous traffic congestion issues. Presently, there have been no reports of traffic congestion with lorries and tank trucks at Thilawa Port, result-

ing in safe and efficient transportation.

The newly constructed four-lane road is expected to enhance the role of Thilawa Port as a hub for combined transport (multimodal transport) and improve connectivity with inland circulation systems (hinterland connectivity). Additionally, traffic congestion is anticipated to decrease with the implementation of technology and innovation.

The construction of the new frontage road at Thilawa Port relied on collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Transport and Communications, supervision by the Yangon Region government, the Ministry of Construction, Yangon City Development Committee, Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation, contributions from Thilawa Port entrepreneurs, and oversight by the Myanma Port Authority. — TWA/TMT



The opening ceremony of the Thilawa Port's four-lane frontage road.

## MGMA to open Basic Motorized Sewing Machine Operator Training Course Batch 237

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will offer a Basic Motorized Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (Batch 237) from 13 to 31 May 2024 at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC).

The course will provide practical and technical approaches to sewing machines, different sewing methods,

labour laws and practices.

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

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



Female workers seen in a garment factory. PHOTO: MGMA FACEBOOK PAGE.

# Rubber prices show uptick in late April

THE price of rubber bounced back on 29 April after a drop in early April, according to figures of the Mon State's rubber market.

The prices hit K1,780 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 and K1,760 for sun-dried rubber in early April. The prices stood at only K1,810 per pound for sundried rubber and K1,830 for RSS Local 3 on 29 April.

The figures indicated a slight increase of K50 per pound in the past four weeks.

Myanmar's rubber prices are influenced by global demand for rubber and rubber production in Southeast Asian nations, as well as the market supply.

The rubber price in Mon State, a significant rubber production state in Myanmar, is closely tied to those factors as



Diligent workers processing export rubber production.

well, the traders elaborated.

Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rub-

ber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea,

India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar shipped 114,855 tonnes of rubber with an estimated value of over US\$144 million

as of 29 December in the last financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April.

The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes, and more than 200,000 tonnes of rubber were shipped to foreign trade partners.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

Myanmar generated more than US\$449.102 million in revenue in rubber exports in the 2020-2021 FY. — NN/EM

## YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate dips this week ending 5 May



A vendor arranging edible oil for sale in the market.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market declined to K5,220 per viss for the week from 29 April to 5 May 2024, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The figures decreased from K5,340 per viss last week ending 28 April.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the

Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Nonetheless, the market price is higher than the reference price.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the

Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The Department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

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

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

## 8,000 companies failing AR submission banned

ACCORDING to reports, more than 8,000 companies that failed to submit annual returns in the 2023-24 financial year have been removed from the register.

The Department of Investment and Company Administration said that companies were struck off from the registration list according to the Myanmar Companies Law.

Companies that failed to submit annual returns were expunged from the company registry under Section 97 of the Myanmar Companies Law, which is published regularly every month.

According to the published decrees, in the financial year 2023-24, 200 companies in April, 550 in May, 750 in June, 600 in July, 750 in August, 450 in Sep-

tember, 750 in October, and 600 in November, 450 in December, 750 in January, 600 in February and 1,650 in March 2024 failed to submit the report.

As a result, a total of 8,100 companies were withdrawn from the company registration.

In addition, more than 1,000 companies were also removed from the company registration in April 2024.

A total of 3,400 companies in the 2021-22 financial year and 5,100 companies in the 2022-23 financial year were also deregistered.

Therefore, according to the published list, 17,600 companies have been removed from the company registry as of April 2024. — TPT



# OPINION

# ARTICLE Weather report

## Mark World Immunization Week 2024: Improving health standards

**W**ORLD Immunization Week 2024, observed from 24 to 30 April, carries the theme “Humanly Possible: Saving lives through immunization.” This year’s focus is on reducing the fatality rate of preventable diseases through immunization, ultimately ensuring a brighter future for our children.

The World Health Organization emphasizes that this year’s World Immunization Week celebrates 50 years of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). It acknowledges our collective efforts to save and improve countless lives from vaccine-preventable diseases. The WHO calls on countries to increase investments in immunization programs to protect future generations.

Between 2010 and 2018, measles vaccinations alone prevented 23 million deaths worldwide. Regular vaccination has prevented more than 20 life-threatening diseases and spared 24 million people from falling into poverty due to health expenses. Every dollar spent on measles vaccination yields a return on investment of \$76.5.

During the immunization week held in Nay Pyi Taw and regions/states between 24 and 30 April, there was a double increase in vaccine coverage compared to 2021. Cooperation with relevant officials in primary healthcare services, including vaccination processes, was emphasized. Thanks to immunization projects, the World Health Organization recognized Myanmar as tetanus-free in 2010 and polio-free in 2014.

Recently, the Union Health Minister and party observed Special Immunization Activities for children, including Buddhist novices and nuns under 15, at Shwethaephyu Monastery in Dekkhinathiri Township. Immunization processes with a catch-up method for children under five were also conducted at Zeyathiri Township, urging all people to join hands in the immunization process together with authorities for the health conditions of their children.

Myanmar must improve its immunization coverage to prevent outbreaks of diseases such as COVID-19. Departmental officials need to enhance cooperation with local authorities to improve primary healthcare services. Moreover, the government procures vaccines annually to immunize people of all ages across the nation according to schedules. This ensures that people are protected from the impacts of pandemics triggered by communicable diseases. Therefore, local authorities must organize residents to ensure that children receive vaccinations and immunizations on time.

It is the time for all Myanmar citizens to benefit from proper healthcare services, including necessary immunization projects implemented by the Public Health Department, Medical Services Department, Traditional Medicine Department, and other healthcare institutions managed by the government and private sectors. Consequently, everyone, including authorities, must create an environment conducive to nurturing healthy and fit children, free from infectious diseases and pandemic outbreaks.

## Three Myanmar Language and Literature Scholars of Foreign Origin: An Appreciation

By Dr Myint Zan

**Anna Allott (Daw Khin Khin Chaw)**

Sayama Anna Allott (Daw Khin Khin Chaw) (1930-2024) passed away on 14 April 2024 in the United Kingdom at the age of 93. Notwithstanding her venerable age to those who value her contributions to Myanmar language and literature, her demise is indeed a great loss. She has studied, conducted research and written about Burmese language and literature for close to 70 years. Just before I learned of her passing through social media, by chance, I saw photocopies of articles written about Myanmar literati, including Thein Pe Myint and Pi Moe Hnin, by other Myanmar literati such as the late Maung Tha Noe and the late Ludu Sein Win (whose contributions Anna edited). The brief analysis and commentary of those writers were compiled by Sayama (Daw) Anna and published either as books or chapters about 20 years ago.

In a post that I read on social media, I noted that Anna did not like the ‘mixing’ of her name with Myanmar and English terms like ‘Aunty Khin Khin Chaw’ or ‘Aunty Chaw’. She prefers to be called ‘Ma Ma Chaw’ or ‘Daw (Daw) Khin Khin Chaw’. Henceforth, I will use either ‘Anna’ or ‘Daw Khin Khin Chaw’.

A local child or, indeed, adult foreigners learning Burmese had to study the language first and then (perhaps) literature. Starting in the mid-1950s, Anna learnt the Burmese language. Later, she focussed more on literature, translating and commenting on various Myanmar novellas, short stories and poems.

As this is a personalised tribute, I should state that Anna initially (anonymously?) referred to two articles that I sent to *Westerly*. A literary journal published by the English Department of The University of Western Australia.

The first article I sent to *Westerly* was my tribute to the late Sayagyi Minthuwn, and it was published with the title ‘Minthuwn: A Tribute to a gentle Burmese Poet’ in the 2005 issue of *Westerly Journal*. I know it was

sent to Anna since there is an addendum at the end of my article. Anna initially translated one of Minthuwn’s poems, which was apparently written anonymously, and Anna mentioned a few of my comments in my tribute.

The second article of mine published in *Westerly* in 2010 was titled ‘Shortened Cigars Stained with Nostalgic Tears’. The article is my translation and commentary of a poem by the now United States-based writer Maung Swan Yi after the death of his friend poet, Tin Moe. In his poem, Maung Swan Yi ‘harked back’ to the year 1959 when he, Tin Moe and another late poet, Kyi Aung, were ‘mates in poetry’, so to speak, while studying at the University of Mandalay. Maung Swan Yi recalled the occasion when Tin Moe impromptu composed the three-line short poem of one of his most well-known poems, ‘Ei Thei Gyi ဧည့်သည်ကြီး’ (‘The Great Guest’). I know my article was sent to Anna to referee it since the Editor of *Westerly* mentioned to me that Anna complimented my article and recommended its publication.

I have a brief discussion by email of the mixed style of Myanmar writing used by quite a few Myanmar writers where the formal (အရေးစကားပြေ Ayae Zagar Pyae) and colloquial (အပြောစကားပြေ / စကားပြောသလိုရေး A Pwaw Zagar Pyae/Zagar Pwaw the Lo Yae) are mixed some time in the same paragraph indeed even in the same sentence. I would eschew the mixed use of colloquial and formal written styles. If one writes in a formal style like, say, the late U Aye Maung (Sarpay Beikman) or the late Paragu, then write them in that style in its entirety. If one prefers the colloquial or spoken style like, say, the late Ludu Daw Amar (in post-1966 of her writings) or the late Maung Tha Noe (in post-1965 of his writings), do write in that style, not ‘mixed’ ones. Anna wrote to me to the effect that writing styles do change, and she did not think that those who wrote in the mixed style(s) should be critiqued. Still, as far as Myanmar writing styles



Anna Allott (Daw Khin Khin Chaw)

are concerned, I am a ‘purist’. In the late 1990s, I enquired from her what the phrase Hnyi Khoan ညွှန် meant. She kindly replied to me in Myanmar language that it is like ညီအောင်ညီ Nyi Aung Hnyi. From our correspondence, I gather that it means ‘arbitral tribunal’ in existence in the days of the Myanmar kings.

On 29 November 2003, on Kyee Kyee (‘great aunt’), the late Ludu Daw Amar’s 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, my article honouring the then-living literary lady doyen in Myanmar was published in the *Jordan Times*. Internet access was unavailable in the country at that time. Anna kindly brought a printout of my article to Mandalay during one of her visits and showed it to Daw Amar. Kyee Kyee mentioned to me with a smile that I have provided lots of information about her (မင်းမော့တကာ စုံလွှဲမိန့် Minn Yae Dar Ga Soan Loat Pae) in my article. I am grateful to Anna for bringing forth my article about Ludu Daw Amar to show to her.

Anna Allot had written at least three obituaries about three Burmese literary figures and published them in newspapers in Britain. The writer and translator Mya Thant Tint’s obituary written by Anna Allott was published in the

*Times of London*, but as was the style and practice of the *Times*, Anna’s name was not mentioned. Anna also wrote an obituary for another female doyen writer, Daw Khin Myo Chit, and I think it may have been published in *The Independent* or *The Guardian* in Britain. I do recall that she contacted me by email, perhaps to enquire or verify a few details about Daw Khin Myo Chit and also to ask for her photo when I said that she could try to write or phone the late family Anna replied somewhat tartly (as she occasionally did) that ‘she did not want to bother the family’.

On the night before I learned of Anna’s passing, I was thinking of her comment that she tried to send her obituary tribute to Ludu Daw Amar to *The Times of London* (in April 2008), but at that time, Anna said many important figures in the UK and abroad were dying so there was no ‘space’ in the obituary pages of *The Times*. Hence, Anna’s tribute to Ludu Daw Amar was published in *The Guardian* (UK) sometime in April 2008, sixteen years to the month, almost to the day before Anna herself passed away. The writer is unaware of whether or not tributes of Mrs Anna J. Allot

(alias) Daw Khin Khin Chaw appear in newspapers in the United Kingdom and elsewhere and, if so, who wrote them. This note is a personalised appreciation of her contributions to Myanmar language and literature.

**Saya John Okell (U Hla Thein)**

Saya John Okell (1934-3 August 2020) was a slightly younger contemporary of Anna Allott. Saya Okell’s achievements in the Burma/Myanmar studies, especially in the field of linguistics, are of great significance. Among many others, he was the creator of Avalaser Burmese computer font. Yours truly is so technically unsophisticated that he does not know how to effectively use any of the Myanmar fonts, whether Avalaser, ဇော်ဂျီ Zawgyi or ပြည်ထောင်စု Pyidaung Su (Unicode). Saya Okell learned Burmese with the late Sayagyi Dr Hla Pe and his slightly older contemporary Anna Allott. The various books on Burmese linguistics, grammar, and colloquial usages that Saya Okell has produced since 1969 are significant contributions to this genre. Indeed, in 2002, Anna Allott and Saya John Okell jointly authored the *Burmese/Myanmar Dictionary of Grammatical Forms*.

It is stated that Anna Allott’s main (not exclusive) focus or speciality was in the literature field. It can be argued that Saya John Okell’s main (not exclusive) focus was in the field of linguistics and grammar. Still, Professor Okell also had an interest in Burmese literature and songs. As early as 1963, Sayagyi Dr Hla Pe (Professor of Burmese at the School of Oriental and African Studies), Anna Allott and John Okell published an article ‘Three “Immortal” Burmese Songs’ in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*.

When Saya Okell’s own Sayagyi, Dr Hla Pe, passed away, he wrote an obituary of Dr Hla Pe in the *Bulletin of Burma Research Volume 5 No 1 & 2*. I do not know whether or not Sayama Daw Khin Khin Chaw published an obituary of Saya John Okell, who passed away in August 2020 and who predeceased her by 3½ years. This humble (in one sense for Saya Okell, a much belated) and brief tribute to two leading Myanmar scholars from the United Kingdom can barely touch the contributions they have made.

**Professor Ohno Turu**

Another Myanmar scholar of Japanese origin is Professor Turu Ohno (alternative spelling and designation Ono, Turu) (1935-7 October 2022). Ohno Turu taught in the field of linguistics, are of great significance. Among many others, he was the creator of Avalaser Burmese computer font. Yours truly is so technically unsophisticated that he does not know how to effectively use any of the Myanmar fonts, whether Avalaser, ဇော်ဂျီ Zawgyi or ပြည်ထောင်စု Pyidaung Su (Unicode). Saya Okell learned Burmese with the late Sayagyi Dr Hla Pe and his slightly older contemporary Anna Allott. The various books on Burmese linguistics, grammar, and colloquial usages that Saya Okell has produced since 1969 are significant contributions to this genre. Indeed, in 2002, Anna Allott and Saya John Okell jointly authored the *Burmese/Myanmar Dictionary of Grammatical Forms*.

I never had the chance to meet Saya John Okell. I am unsure whether I have personally met Saya Ohno Turu. Perhaps not.

I met a Japanese scholar at the Burma Studies Conference held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in September 2002. He is probably Professor Ryuji Okudaira (U Thitsar), who is now about 84 years old. U Thitsar’s speciality is in pre-colonial Burmese history, and I have read a few of his articles written in English on that genre.

Incidentally, one of the highlights of the 2002 Gothenburg conference which I attended was that during the reception, a Russian scholar on Myanmar conversed initially in English with a Japanese scholar (probably Professor Okudaira), and then the Japanese scholar switched to Burmese, saying ကျွန်တော် မြန်မာလိုပဲ ပြောပါမယ် ခင်ဗျာ Kyundaw Myanmar Lo Pae Pwaw Bar Mei Khin Bya (‘I will now speak in Burmese’). Yours

truly joined the conversation, and we all spoke the Myanmar Language. And this is the only time I have witnessed two foreign Myanmar scholars – a Russian and a Japanese- conversing in the Myanmar language!

(Daw) Yuri Takahashi, who teaches Burmese at The Australian National University, recently informed me that Saya U Thitsar is doing well. One wishes for his continued good health and to also make scholarly contributions.

The three scholars, Anna Allott, John Okell and Ohno Turu, passed away at an advanced age in their eighties and nineties. Verily, their contributions to the enhancement of the Myanmar language and literature are very significant. ■



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 29 April 2024)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea, South Bay and Westcentral Bay and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 30 APRIL 2024:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin and Chin States and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions and Shan and Kayin states. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi regions and Southern Shan State. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Chin states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 APRIL 2024:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 APRIL 2024:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 APRIL 2024:** Partly cloudy.

**EARTHQUAKE NEWS:** A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.5) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar about 1 mile east of Kamain), latitude 25.52°N, longitude 96.72°E, depth 19 kilometres, about 43 miles west-northwest of Myitkyina seismological observatory was recorded at 3 hr 15 min 40 sec MST on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



# NATIONAL

## All museums to be open for free on International Museum Day



Outstanding students from regions and states came to study at the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

ALL museums nationwide under Department of Archaeology and National Museum will be open for free on 18 May (International Museum Day), according to U Aung Aung Kyaw, director of Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

Additionally, the International Museum Day ceremony will be held for the 9<sup>th</sup> time in Myanmar on 18 May at the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

“Myanmar participates in the

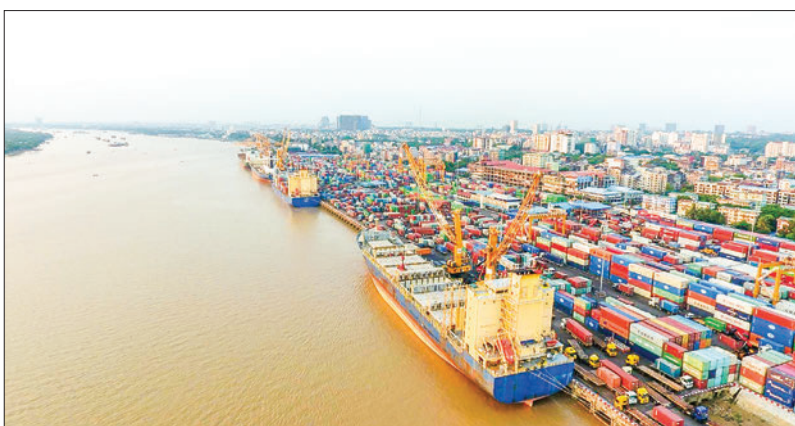
International Museum Day celebration to educate the youth about the value of museums as centres for imparting knowledge about cultural heritage and to foster the growth of mental culture concurrently with the rise in the number of museum visitors and the expansion of physical culture,” stated U Aung Aung Kyaw.

There are a total of 22 museums under the Department of Archaeology and National Museums

across the country and the National Museum is opened in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

Since these displays are priceless national treasures that connect Myanmar’s past and present, the country’s museums are home to a plethora of unique collections that reflect both Myanmar’s and other histories. Similarly, Myanmar’s museums bear witness to the inventiveness and prosperity of Myanmar nationals. — ASH/MKKS

## MoC, UMFCCI collaborate to boost export of agricultural produce



An aerial panoramic view of Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

THE Ministry of Commerce (MoC) and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) are working together to enhance the country’s exports for economic development. On 29 April, a total of 9,200 tonnes of maize were exported from the Yangon International Gateway Ter-

terminal (YIGT), and 2,700 tonnes of maize were exported from Min Htet Min Port.

Additionally, various other products, including aquatic products, rice, and pulses, were transported from the Asia World Port Terminal (AWPT 3). Furthermore, three vessels departed from AWPT

3 and Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa, carrying a range of commodities such as aquatic products, rice, pulses, garments, forestry products, sugar, sesame, empty container, corn, and rubber.

On 30 April, a total of 12,700 tonnes of maize from Ahlon International Port Terminal 3, 5,400 tonnes of maize from Min Htet Min Port, 44,400 tonnes of maize, and 7,500 tonnes of rice from Sule Port will be transported. Additionally, on 1 May, 6,050 tonnes of maize will be transported from The Myanmar Terminal – TMT 3, followed by 27,500 tonnes of maize from TMT 2 (Bo Aung Kyaw jetty) and 9,400 tonnes of maize from YIGT on 3 May. Moreover, on 5 May, a total of 27,500 tonnes of maize from Sule Port and 27,500 tonnes of maize from AIPT 1 will be transported. — MNA/TMT

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

ON 26 April, combined enforcement teams confiscated a Hino Profia truck (valued at approximately K30 million) parked near Milepost 385/2 on the Mandalay highway. The truck was found to be carrying illegal teak logs weighing 13.195 tonnes, valued at K24.4 million. The action was conducted under the Forest Law.

On the same day, the on-duty teams intercepted an unregistered Nissan X-Trail truck (valued at approximately K20 million) and a Higer bus (estimated at K35 million) travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon. The vehicles were found to be transporting four sets of Felicity solar lithium iron phosphate batteries valued at K28 million at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. Additionally, at the Myanmar Industrial Zone, goods from three containers, including 3,446.26 square metres of clear float glass from China, with a total value of K41.975 million, were seized as they were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 27 April, combined teams confiscated four vehicles (with an estimated value of K95 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady. The cars were carrying seven kinds of goods valued at K29.66 million, including 885 kilogrammes of plastic tubes from Thailand without official documents, near the Hpa-an township detour. The seizure was conducted under Customs procedures.

Also, on 27 April, combined on-duty teams seized a Mitsubishi Fuso bus (approximately valued at K30 million) heading to Yangon from Myeik. The bus was found to be carrying three kinds of goods (estimated value of K5.26 million), including 360 bottles of Cook and Lobster fish sause from Thailand, without official documents. Additionally, illegal timber (charcoal) weighing 12.64 tonnes, valued at K189,600, was discovered at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 20 arrests made on 26 and 27 April, with an estimated value of K339.49 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal goods.

## China-developed text-to-video large AI model unveiled in Beijing

*Developed jointly by Tsinghua University and Chinese AI firm ShengShu Technology, Vidu stands out as China's pioneering video AI model, capable of effortlessly generating 16-second, high-definition videos in 1,080p resolution with a single click.*

VIDU, a text-to-video large AI model capable of creating a 16-second, high-definition video in 1,080p resolution with a single click, was unveiled on Saturday at the 2024 Zhongguancun Forum in Beijing.

Developed by Tsinghua University and Chinese AI firm

ShengShu Technology, Vidu is China's first video large AI model with "extended duration, exceptional consistency and dynamic capabilities."

As a large AI model developed in China, Vidu is able to understand and generate Chinese content such as the panda

and the loong, or the Chinese dragon, according to Zhu Jun, deputy director of the Tsinghua Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

The company said that Vidu's core architecture was proposed as early as in 2022. — Xinhua



A woman walks past an art installation at the Zhongguancun International Innovation Centre, venue for the 2024 Zhongguancun Forum (ZGC Forum) Annual Conference, in Beijing, capital of China, 25 April 2024. **PHOTO: REN CHAO/XINHUA**

### NEWS SUMMARIES

#### New research shows Deep-sea black carbon comes from hydrothermal vents

THE ocean is one of the largest dynamic carbon sinks in the world, and is prone to increased carbon emissions from human activities. There are even proposals to use the ocean to sequester carbon in an effort to reduce the carbon emissions.

Associate Professor Youhei Yamashita and grad student Yutaro Mori at Hokkaido University, along with Professor Hiroshi Ogawa at AORI, The University of Tokyo, have revealed conclusive evidence that hydrothermal vents are a previously unknown source of dissolved black carbon in the deep ocean. Their discoveries were published in the journal *Science Advances*.

"One of the largest carbon pools on the Earth's surface is the dissolved organic carbon in the ocean," explains Ogawa. "We were interested in a portion of this pool, known as dissolved black carbon (DBC), which cannot be utilized by organisms. The source of DBC in the deep sea was unknown, although hydrothermal vents were suspected to be involved." — ANI

#### Dozens of tornadoes plow central US, at least 5 killed

AN exceptional number of tornadoes have ravaged parts of Oklahoma and nearby Great Plains states, leaving at least five dead, authorities and local media said Sunday.

After 78 tornadoes were reported Friday, mostly in Nebraska and Iowa, a separate weather system Saturday brought 35 tornado reports from northern Texas and Oklahoma to Missouri, the National Weather Service (NWS) said.

The storms dumped up to seven inches (18 centimetres) of rain in some places within hours, and meteorologists warned of a continuing danger of extreme weather Sunday, including flash flooding, hail and more tornadoes.

Sulphur, in south-central Oklahoma, was particularly hard hit late Saturday, with videos and images posted on social media showing scores of buildings ripped apart.

A postal truck sat precariously atop wreckage of a building and trees, one video showed, with cinderblocks and wood beams strewn everywhere. Rescue crews went house to house and vehicle to vehicle in search of victims or survivors. — AFP

## ADB operations reach US\$23.6 bln in 2023, achieve record climate finance of US\$9.8 bln

*ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa emphasized the bank's pivotal role in climate finance, noting that the record-high financing for climate action primarily targeted resilient agriculture, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation projects.*



At Anse Kerlan beach in Seychelles, measures for adapting to climate change include coastal protection initiatives. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed US\$23.6 billion from its own resources in 2023, including \$9.8 billion for climate action, to help Asia and the Pacific progress on sustainable development.

These figures are among the financial and operational results published in ADB's Annual Report 2023. The report summarizes how ADB supported its developing member countries (DMCs) to address

the worsening climate crisis as well as the impacts of conflicts, food insecurity, and increased debt burdens, among other challenges.

"ADB continued to step up as the climate bank for Asia and the Pacific, reaching our highest-ever annual financing for climate action," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. "Our investments in adaptation and mitigation had a strong focus on climate-resilient agriculture, renewa-

ble energy, and low-carbon transport."

The \$23.6 billion comprised loans, grants, equity investments, guarantees, and technical assistance provided to governments and the private sector. Supplementing its own resources, ADB mobilized an additional \$16.4 billion in cofinancing through its strong partnerships.

ADB invested heavily in building high-quality energy, transport, and other infrastructure essential for sustainable development. It further strengthened the region's human capital through increased support for education and health.

Addressing gender inequality continued to be a cornerstone of the bank's work, with almost all its 2023 operations contributing to reduce remaining imbalances, including support to mitigate the disproportionate gender impacts of climate change. — ANI

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Key insights from 1<sup>st</sup> day of WEF special meeting in Saudi capital

A special meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) themed around global collaboration, growth and energy for development ended its first leg of a two-day discussion on Sunday in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

Leaders of the global economy and senior political leaders discussed hot topics, including inclusive growth, human capital, smart economy, and regional geopolitical stresses.

At the “Opening Plenary: A New Vision for Global Development,” Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva said following the spring meeting, the IMF concluded that the world has built stronger fundamentals for growth rate in recent years, showing

resilience to economic shocks.

However, she said, the world still faces two “very serious problems”, referring to the 3.2 per cent forecasted growth for 2024, which is weak by historical standards, and “significant divergence across the world,” with some countries doing well and others falling behind.

She stressed three economic priorities on inflation, fiscal buffers and geopolitical fragmentation and encouraged the diversification of supply chains, noting that good industrial policies do not come with the sacrifice of trade.

Following the opening plenary, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas reiterated his call for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. —Xinhua



The opening of the special meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 28 April 2024. A special meeting of the WEF themed around global collaboration, growth and energy for development ended its first leg of a two-day discussion on Sunday in the Saudi capital of Riyadh. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## EU says Apple iPad operating system to face stricter rules

THE EU on Monday said Apple’s operating system for iPads must comply with tougher new rules that Brussels is imposing to rein in the world’s biggest digital companies.

The European Commission designated Apple’s iPadOS system as a “core” service under the landmark Digital Markets Act (DMA), which forces companies to modify their business ways to encourage competition between online platforms.

It joins other Apple products that were already in the DMA net since September: iOS for iPhones, the App Store, and the Safari browser.

Under the DMA, digital firms designated as “gatekeepers” have to abide by a list of rules including allowing interoperability with rivals’ communication services and limiting how data is shared between products put out by the same parent company.

Apple is on the gatekeepers list, alongside the likes of Google parent Alphabet, Amazon, TikTok owner ByteDance, Meta and Microsoft.



This picture taken on 27 April 2023 in Toulouse, southwestern France, shows a screen displaying the Apple logo and the European flag. **PHOTO: AFP**

### EU-Apple tussle

The inclusion of iPadOS as a core service adds to a long tussle between the European Union and Apple over the bloc’s new digital laws.

Apple has been one of the DMA’s most vocal public critics. It claims the law ushers in privacy and security threats for users.

The commission, the EU’s powerful competition regulator, said it named the iPadOS system because it locked users into the iPad operating system.

“Apple leverages its large ecosystem to disincentivise end users from switching to other operating systems for tablets,” it said.

The operating system also “locked-in” Apple’s business users, it said, “because of its large and commercially attractive user base, and its importance for certain use cases, such as gaming apps”.

Apple has six months to comply with the DMA gatekeeper rules, the commission said in a statement. —AFP

### NEWS DIGEST: ECON

## Indonesia’s investment realization reaches over US\$24 bln in Q1

INVESTMENT realization in Indonesia reached 401.5 trillion rupiah (around US\$24.7 billion) in the first quarter this year, growing 9.8 per cent quarterly and 22.1 per cent annually, Investment Minister/Head of the Investment Coordinating Board Bahlil Lahadalia announced on Monday.

“From our target of 1,650 trillion rupiah (around \$101.45 billion) this year, now it has reached 24.3 per cent,” Lahadalia stated at a press conference.

Collaboration between regional governments and the Board, which is proactive in approaching potential investors, has contributed significantly to this achievement, amidst global uncertainty and domestic political challenges, added Lahadalia. — Xinhua

## S Korea’s mortgage-backed securities issuance falls in Q1

SOUTH Korea’s issuance of mortgage-backed securities (MBS) fell in double digits in the first quarter due to lower demand for government-backed mortgage loans, financial watchdog data showed Monday.

The sale of the MBS, issued by the state-run Korea Housing Finance Corp to securitize mortgage loans, amounted to 5.9 trillion won (US\$4.3 billion) in the January-March quarter, down 16.3 per cent compared with the same quarter of last year, according to the Financial Supervisory Service. The double-digit decrease came from weaker demand for government-backed mortgage loans, affected by the faltering housing market and the high interest rates.

The central bank had left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 3.50 per cent since January last year, after raising it by 3.0 percentage points for the past one and a half years. — Xinhua

## Chinese firms eager to showcase new products at Spain seafood fair

CHINESE exhibitors at the Seafood Expo Global in Spain this week are eager to showcase their newest delights to European seafood enthusiasts.

“We make frozen oyster products, and we want to sell the product to the whole of Europe,” Wang Lingling, director of the Chinese Light-house Jellyfish company, told Xinhua at the fair held in the northeastern



Visitors look at seafood at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Madrid Fusion in Madrid, Spain, on 30 January 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

city of Barcelona, on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

“Most people don’t even know that in China we have these types of products, that’s why we come here: we want to show the product to all the Europeans,” Wang said, placing her hope on the event, which brought together 2,244 companies and attracted 35,000 buyers and distributors from around the world.

Along with Wang’s company, nearly 300 Chinese firms participated in the event, with many voicing their eagerness to tap the European market.

This is the first time for Wang’s company, based in the eastern Chinese province of Shandong, to participate in the fair, through which it hopes to publicize their products and expand their market. — Xinhua

## China-Ecuador free trade agreement to take effect on 1 May

THE free trade agreement (FTA) between China and Ecuador will go into effect on 1 May as both countries have completed respective domestic approval processes, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOC) announced Monday. The implementa-

tion of the FTA will unleash the potential of trade and investment between the two countries, promote comprehensive upgrading of bilateral economic and trade cooperation, and bring benefits to enterprises and people in both countries, the MOC said.

According to the deal signed in May 2023, approximately 90 per cent of the products traded between China and Ecuador will be exempted from tariffs, while about 60 per cent of them will enjoy zero tariffs immediately. — Xinhua

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Shanghai Yuelian Chemical Industry Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Myanmar Byter Agro Tech Co.,Ltd** to **Myanmar Gold Medal Crop Science Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Kingship	Fluazinam 50% SC	Provisional	P2022-4831
2	Lucky 7	Spirotetramat 22.4% SC	Provisional	P2022-4734
3	Fighting King	Azoxystrobin 20% + Flutriafol 20% SC	Provisional	P2022-4816
4	Fighter-Famid 20 SC	Cyazofamid 20% SC	Provisional	P2022-5849

Myanmar Gold Medal Crop Science Co.,Ltd  
Tel: 09-784772103

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

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No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Better One	Etozazole 30% SC	Provisional	P2022-4636

Myanmar Gold Medal Crop Science Co.,Ltd  
Tel: 09-784772103

### MYANMA Port Authority “NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.01 feet to 20.14 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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09255597511  
09251022355

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (904N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (904N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (816N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (816N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-4-2024** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0320-769N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0320-769N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-4-2024** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## US, Egypt 'hopeful' of Gaza truce as envoys meet in Cairo

US top diplomat Antony Blinken said Monday he was "hopeful" Hamas would accept the latest proposal for a long-sought Gaza truce and hostage release deal as negotiators from the Palestinian group were due in Egypt.

Egypt, Qatar and the United States have been trying to mediate an agreement between Israel and Hamas for months, and a recent flurry of diplomacy appeared to suggest a new push towards halting the fighting.

Talks "are taking place in Cairo today", said Al-Qahera News, which is linked to Egyptian intelligence services.

It was not clear whether the Hamas delegation had already arrived, but Qatari mediators were also in Cairo according to a source with knowledge of the talks.

A senior Hamas official said Sunday the Palestinian militant group had no "major issues" with the most recent truce plan.

Blinken — on his seventh visit to the region since the 7



People search a building following Israeli bombardment in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip on 29 April 2024 amid the ongoing conflict in the Palestinian territory between Israel and the militant group Hamas. **PHOTO: AFP**

October Hamas attack that sparked the war — told a World Economic Forum meeting in Saudi Arabia he was "hopeful" Hamas would accept a truce.

"Hamas has before it a proposal that is extraordinarily, extraordinarily generous on the part of Israel," Blinken said, urging the group to "de-

side quickly".

"I'm hopeful that they will make the right decision."

Speaking at the same meeting, Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said "the proposal has taken into account the positions of both sides."

While there was no "final

decision" yet, Shoukry said: "We are hopeful... I hope that all will rise to the occasion."

The war has brought the besieged Gaza Strip to the brink of famine, UN and humanitarian aid groups say, reduced much of the territory to rubble and raised fears of a wider regional conflict. — AFP

## Lao govt orders action to solve problems affecting people's livelihood

THE Lao government has instructed central and local authorities to work together to resolve the ongoing problems that are hindering the country's development and affecting people's livelihoods.

At the government's monthly meeting for April, the cabinet called for bold action to enforce solutions to address high inflation and regulate the price of goods while ensuring sufficient supplies of petrol, Lao national TV reported on Monday.

Strong measures must also be taken to bolster production in order to reduce imports and boost exports and foreign currency reserves while ensuring that investment capital enters the Lao banking system.

The cabinet emphasized the need to monitor large-scale hydropower and expressway construction projects as well as special economic zones to ensure they progress according to the set plans. — Xinhua

### THE WORLD IN BRIEF

#### Sri Lanka expresses hope to join BRICS+

SRI Lanka hopes to join BRICS+ in the near future, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Russia Janitha Abeywickrema Liyanage said recently while addressing the media.

He made the remarks following Sri Lanka's participation in a recent international meeting of high representatives responsible for security issues in St Petersburg, Russia.

Liyanage said Sri Lanka could gain many benefits in transport and food security by joining BRICS+.

BRICS is the acronym for an emerging-market cooperative mechanism that initially includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. On 1 January, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Ethiopia joined BRICS, doubling its members from five to 10. — Xinhua

#### At least 40 killed as dam bursts in Kenya amid heavy downpour

AT least 40 people have been confirmed dead, with several others still missing, after a dam burst in a town north of the Kenyan capital Nairobi, following heavy rains across the country, local police said Monday. Naivasha Police Commander Stephen Kirui said that they had recovered 40 bodies from the debris on Monday, with a major search and rescue operation ongoing in the Mai Mahiu area, about 60 kilometres north of Nairobi, after a nearby river overflowed due to flash floods. — Xinhua

## Six convicted amid fury over wildfires that killed 104 at Greek resort



(Files) This photo taken on 24 July 2018 show cars burnt following a wildfire at the village of Mati, near Athens, on 24 July 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEARLY six years after wildfires killed more than 100 people at a Greek resort, an Athens court on Monday convicted six people of involuntary manslaughter and criminal negligence.

None of the politicians among the 21 people prosecuted were convicted, however, sparking fury among relatives of the

victims present in court, media reports said. Six people — including the then head of the fire service — received suspended jail sentences of up to 111 years each for their role in the response to the inferno that tore through Mati on 23 July 2018.

They were permitted by the court to reduce their sentences with a payment of up to 40,000

euros (\$43,000) each.

The governor of the region of Attica and the mayors of districts in and around the seaside community of Mati, northeast of the capital, were all let off.

Reacting in court, relatives of the dead shouted: "Your court is an insult to the dead, the living and the truth", "There is no justice" and "You have no shame", state TV broadcaster ERT reported. Others wept.

"The reaction is reasonable," minister of state Makis Voridis told Skai TV.

"This kind of a sentence is not commensurate with this kind of tragedy," he said.

Wildfires that broke out around Mati spread so fiercely that people burned to death in their cars because traffic jams prevented them fleeing. — AFP

# SPORTS

## MFF pledges to implement five-year plan to develop all football clubs

MFF President U Zaw Zaw urged all to systematically arrange year-wise competitions, visions and preparations for each national football team at the meeting 2/2024 of the Myanmar Football Federation at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

He stressed the need to form scouting teams, hold U10 and U12 events and football festivals at regional and state levels, organize U15 and U17 leagues, set aims for U17 and U20 championships and Olympic Games via regional youth tournaments, systematically verify athletes for correctness of age-wise tournaments, and develop women's league and futsal arena.

He also discussed the implementation of the five-year plan to



MFF executive committee meeting 2/2024 in progress in Yangon on 29 April. PHOTO: MFF

develop all football clubs, media and marketing processes, projects in connection with FIFA and AFC, transparency of spending

the budget, and development of stadiums and infrastructures.

Acting General Secretary U Aung Myo Saw reported on

the standing committees led by executives of MFF and sought approval for the committees.

Executive committee mem-

bers discussed the emergence of qualified and talented players from all regions in youth football tournaments, turning out nationally selected players, catching the attention of football spectators over MNL1 and MNL2, league cups, Futsal league 1 and 2, Futsal knockout tournament, women's league, cooperation of stakeholders for strengthening of football clubs and players.

In conclusion, the federation president urged all to implement the overall development of the sports in cooperation with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Education in accord with the directives and disciplines of FIFA and AFC for the development of the Myanmar football arena. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

## Alcaraz passes 'test of fire', Sabalenka survives in Madrid Open

CARLOS Alcaraz passed a "test of fire" to breeze into the Madrid Open last 16 with a straight sets victory over Thiago Seyboth Wild on Sunday, while Aryna Sabalenka staved off teenager Robin Montgomery to progress in three sets.

Double defending champion Alcaraz came through 6-3, 6-3 and will face last year's runner-up Jan-Lennard Struff in the next round after another impressive showing before adoring fans on home soil.

World number three Alcaraz, 20, missed a month prior to Madrid with a forearm issue but returned to crush Alexander Shevchenko in the second round and looks in fine shape ahead of the French Open, the second Grand Slam event of the season.

Still wearing a protective sleeve on his right arm, he had far too much for Seyboth Wild, who had ousted 28<sup>th</sup> seed Lorenzo Musetti.

"Maybe today I was a bit nervous about how it would be, Thiago hits the ball so hard, I didn't know how the forearm

would hold up," said Alcaraz on court.

"Today was the test of fire, no discomfort, feeling spectacular... from here, we'll be getting better."

After taking two breaks in a solid first set, Alcaraz stepped up a gear in the second, breaking in the second and fourth games as he raced into a 5-0 lead. — AFP



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns to Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild during the third round of the 2024 ATP Tour Madrid Open tournament tennis match at Caja Magica in Madrid on 28 April 2024. PHOTO: AFP

## Bayern ready for 'extraordinary' Bellingham, says Tuchel

BAYERN Munich manager Thomas Tuchel said Monday his side were ready for the threat posed by "extraordinary" Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham in their Champions League semi-final first leg.

Tuesday's clash at the Allianz Arena between 14-time winners Real and Bayern, with six Champions League titles, is the most played semi-final in the competition's history.

England midfielder Bellingham, still just 20, joined Real Madrid before the start of the season from Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund.

Bellingham has since become one of Real's most important players and is already considered among the world's best.

He is their top goalscorer in La Liga this season with 17 goals and has also netted four times in the Champions League.

Tuchel said Bellingham was "a key player in a very offensive position" for the Spanish giants.

"Jude is extraordinary. He was fantastic here in the Bunde-



Bayern Munich's German head coach Thomas Tuchel gives a press conference on 29 April 2024 in Munich, southern Germany, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League semi-final first leg football match between Bayern Munich and Real Madrid. PHOTO: AFP

sliga, how he progressed shows the level of personality he has, it's only possible with a huge personality," he said.

"Everyone who plays for Madrid plays with the pressure of the shirt. He plays with the pressure to play with this club and all the expectations.

"He handles it like he's never done anything else. But we are well aware of it and will try and find solutions tomorrow (Tuesday)."

Tuchel said Bayern would host not only the Spanish champions elect, but "an aura, a leg-

end that surrounds them".

The coach, who won the Champions League with Chelsea in 2021 having taken Paris Saint-Germain to the final the previous season, said Real were not the only team with experience in the competition.

"Not only me but the team has experience. Right now we have a good mix between anticipation and tension."

Eight members of Bayern's current squad were on the opposite side to Tuchel's PSG when Bayern won the 2020 Champions League final. — AFP



## G7 urged to be 'bold' in climate hotspot Italy



Italy's Environment and Energy Security Minister Gilberto Pichetto Fratin (C), Canada's Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault (5<sup>th</sup>L), France's Minister for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion Christophe Béchu (4<sup>th</sup>L), Germany's Environment minister Steffi Lemke (3<sup>rd</sup>R), Japan's Environment Minister Shintaro Ito (4<sup>th</sup>R), British Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Barclay (2<sup>nd</sup>R) and deputy administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Janet Garvin McCabe (L) pose for a family picture during the G7 Climate, energy and environment at Venaria Reale, near Turin, on 29 April 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

**G7** environment ministers gathered in Turin on Monday for two days of talks, as the UN warned "excuses" for failing to take bold actions on climate change were "not acceptable".

The Group of Seven meeting in the northern Italian city is the first big political session since the world pledged

at the UN's COP28 climate summit in December to transition away from coal, oil and gas.

UN climate chief Simon Stiell kicked off the talks by urging the highly industrialized countries to use their political clout, wealth and technologies to end fossil fuel use.

"I often hear in forums like this one

that, 'we cannot possibly move too far forward, lest we predetermine the outcome of negotiations'" at the UN level, Stiell told the ministers.

"It is utter nonsense to claim the G7 cannot — or should not — lead the way on bolder climate actions," said Stiell, who leads the United Nations climate change organisation. — AFP

## Iraqi officials borrow wisdom in China's smart agriculture

DURING her first visit to China, Noor Mahdi Naqee, senior chief physicist of the Ministry of Water Resources of Iraq, was excited to find a smart system solution that can be implemented in Iraq.

At an agricultural industrial park in Minning Township, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Naqee had her attention fully absorbed in a smart system which intelligently controls the growth as well as the use of water and fertilizers.

Iraq is also afflicted by problems such as water shortages and desertification, she noted. "Here in Ningxia, we see the best management of lands and the best way to save water. We are really in need of smart irrigation," Naqee said, adding that China's experience in poverty reduction and rural revitalization, which she learned in Minning, also offers very valuable lessons worth learning from.

Naqee was among a delegation of 34 officials from Iraq's 16 departments, coming to attend a seminar on climate change and sustainable agricultural development for Iraq.

The seminar, which concluded on Sunday in Yinchuan, the regional capital, provided an opportunity for Iraqi officials to gain an in-depth understanding of the policies, measures, models and technologies of China's agricultural development through lectures, visits, discussions and exchanges. — Xinhua



This photograph taken on 2 December 2021, shows a sign of the World Health Organization (WHO) next to their headquarters, in Geneva. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Last chance for global pandemic agreement talks

COUNTRIES returned to the negotiating table Monday for one last push to conclude an international agreement on how to handle future pandemics, with the most likely outcome being a slimmed-down accord that shelves some of the thorniest issues.

The 194 countries in the World Health Organization have come to its Geneva headquarters for a do-or-die round of negotiations after a two-year effort to seal a landmark accord on prevention, preparedness and response hit a deadline last month with no concrete wording agreed.

The goal of the talks, which run until 10 May, is to get an agreement ready for

adoption at the WHO's annual assembly of member states, which starts 27 May.

In December 2021, the raw sting of Covid-19 — which shredded economies, crippled health systems and killed millions — motivated countries to seek a binding framework of commitments aimed at preventing another such disaster.

But big gaps remain between countries on how to go about it.

### Streamlined new draft

What was meant to be the ninth and final round of talks last month saw a 29-page draft swell to more than 100 as countries added proposed amendments.

The Intergovernmental Negotiat-

ing Body (INB) bureau conducting the talks issued a streamlined, 23-page new version on 22 April and wants to bar countries from proposing edits.

"The bureau is of the opinion that the text as presented in the proposal for a WHO Pandemic Agreement is consensus-ready. It was drafted on the basis of our many rounds of negotiations," it insisted.

The INB will present all 37 articles of the draft agreement, and if any countries object, they will be asked to explain their reasons.

If no quick fix can be found in the room, member states will dash off for informal talks to find a solution. — AFP