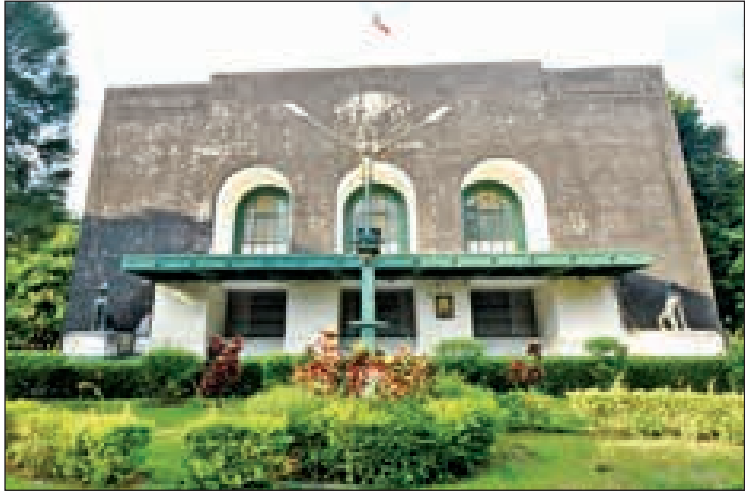


The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Most accommodations in Yangon Region resume operations

New tourism destinations are added in Yangon Region as local and foreign travellers have been visiting destinations in the region throughout the year, and almost 100 per cent of hotels, motels, and guesthouses are back in operation, according to U Nanda Aung, Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Yangon Region).

Between January and February 2024, more than 40,000 international tourists entered Myanmar mainly through flights,

with the majority of them coming from Thailand.

“In Yangon Region, a total of 28 destinations have been designated, including pagodas, parks, and museums that are open to both domestic and foreign tourists. For the upcoming travel season, we have arranged nine additional destinations for exploration,” U Nanda Aung said.

There are a total of 491 hotels, motels, and guesthouses in Yangon Region, offering approximately 25,000 rooms, with

Yangon University (L) and Honourable Lim Chin Tsong’s OBE (order of the British Empire) palace are featured in new tourism destinations of Yangon Region.

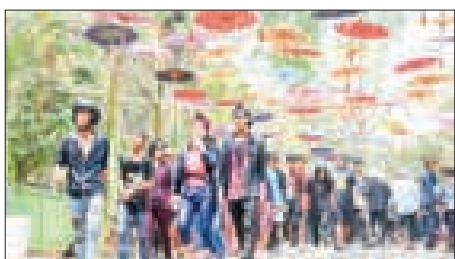
90 per cent of them currently in operation.

Among the new destinations in Yangon Region, in addition to

28 original destinations open to domestic and foreign tourists, are Yangon University, Honourable Lim Chin Tsong’s OBE (order

of the British Empire) palace, Kyaik Pyatthadatanaw Kaungmu Pagoda, and Pilakat Hindu Temple. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL PAGE-6



MoRAC issues guidance for Thingyan Festival conduct

BUSINESS PAGE-7



Surplus chickpea supply drives prices down

400+ new stalls opening at Danyingon Wholesale Market this month



OVER 400 new stalls will reportedly be opened at the Danyingon Wholesale Market this month. The new shops, located in complex 5, will specialize in seven types of groceries.

Situated in Insein Township, the market is developed as a joint venture between Myanmar Agro Exchange Co Ltd (MAEX) and the Market and Commodities Centre Department of the Yangon City Development Committee. It covers an area of 80 acres. — TWA/TRKM

The fruit stalls inside the Danyingon Wholesale Market.

NATIONAL

Public Notice

THE Electronic Registration System Department under the Ministry of Immigration and Population collects and registers the biographic and biometric data of citizens over the age of 10 through an electronic system. Upon registration, a UID (Unique Identity Number) consisting of 10 digits is issued. It is necessary to present the Citizenship Scrutiny Card or any identity certificate issued by the government to register this biographic/biometric data.

Myanmar citizens are permitted to officially enter or exit designated border gates with TBP (Temporary Border Pass) and BP (Border Pass) tickets when travelling to neighbouring countries such as the People's Republic of China, Thailand, and India. At these border gates, entry or exit is only granted with TBP or BP certificates issued alongside the UID certificate. This measure aims to ensure accurate population statistics of border entry and exit and to prevent the use of fake or unused Citizenship Scrutiny Cards.

Therefore, individuals applying for TBP or BP tickets at border entry or exit gates should bring their original Citizenship Scrutiny Card along with the UID. The Ministry is hereby to inform the public that TBP and BP tickets will only be issued and that border crossing will only be allowed with the UID, starting from 1 May 2024.

Ministry of Immigration and Population

300 tourists daily visit Taungthaman Lake, U Bein Bridge



Visitors flock to Taungthaman Lake against the backdrop of U Bein Bridge.

ABOUT 300 local and foreign travellers now visit Taungthaman Lake and U Bein Bridge, a famous destination in Mandalay Region, on a daily basis and about 150 boats run daily for passengers, said U Soe Win, the secretary of the Taungthaman Boat Association.

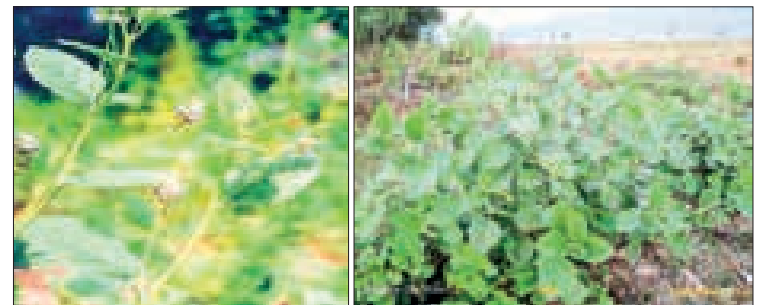
Taungthaman Lake and U Bein Bridge are the most popular destinations in Mandalay

Region for both local and foreign visitors, and the number of tourists has increased since 1 April.

"The number of local and foreign visitors has increased since early April. There were about 150 visitors daily in January. From 1 April, daily arrivals reached 300. Currently, many people have come to enjoy the sunset beauty of Taungthaman Lake. As the number of boat rid-

ers increases, there are about 150 boats daily. We are now making preparations for the coming Taungthaman Lake Thingyan festival," he said. Most of the domestic visitors to Taungthaman Lake and U Bein Bridge are from Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Taunggyi and Yangon, and visitors from Thailand, Viet Nam and Korea are the top foreign tourists. — ASH/ZN

Babchi seeds gain attention amid strong market sales



Babchi plant (locally known as Rozakauk).

AS herbaceous Babchi seeds sell well in the market, people tend to take great care of these wild plants, according to the traditional medicine market.

Babchi seeds, locally known as Nehle seeds, are used to formulate Chinese and Myanmar traditional medicines.

"They are used to make traditional Chinese and Myanmar medicines. Different merchants sell them in different measurements. Some sell in visses. Sales are good. The price is rising all the time," said a herbal shop owner from Kyaukse.

Babchi seeds are successfully grown and traded in the villages of Myittha Township, Kyaukse District. They are natural plants that grow among cotton, turmeric, chilli and onion fields and on virgin land in the villages of Ywakainggyi, Lunkyaw, Matthe, Sahmyaung, Petaw and Daweinn.

With good sales, these plants are being taken care of with irrigation for better production, and

the seeds from Kyaukse, Kume, and Myittha are delivered to Mandalay warehouses and China, according to the sellers from Petaw village.

"It grows naturally in Pakokku. If you cut it, it will sprout again. It is locally called "Rozakauk". Many of such plants grow wild," a Pakokku local said.

A viss of Babchi seeds costs K 7,000-K 7,200 this year, and the price was K 8,000- K 8,200 at the time of the early harvest.

Babchi plants are used in Indian Ayurveda, Iamila Siddha medicine and Chinese traditional medicine. Buguzhi in Chinese traditional medicine (TCM) is used to treat kidney diseases, bone fractures, knee pain, impotence, bed wetting, hair loss and vitiligo.

It is known as "Babchi" in India and is predominantly used to treat many skin diseases, including psoriasis, leucoderma and leprosy, according to therapeutic records of the traditional medicine. — Thit Taw/ZS

Myanmar citizen reunited with lost cash, bank cards in Singapore

A Myanmar citizen, Daw Khine Khine Swe, who travelled to Singapore with the "Gandawin" travel agency, reportedly lost US\$3,048 and 789 Singapore dollars, a KBZ card, and two AYA bank cards in 2015.

The lost items were discovered by the Lost and

Found department of the Singapore Police on 29 December 2021 and subsequently transferred to the Myanmar Embassy to Singapore. Despite several attempts, the embassy was unable to contact the owner, Daw Khine Khine Swe. Therefore, the lost cash and items were

secured at the Myanmar Embassy.

After establishing contact with Daw Khine Khine Swe, Charge d'affaires ad interim U Zaw Zaw Soe and officials from the Myanmar Embassy handed over the cash and property to the owner yesterday. — MNA/TRKM

NATIONAL

UNDSS Head calls on MoHA Union Minister

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae received a delegation led by Under-Secretary-General Mr Gilles Michaud, head of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They warmly and frankly discussed the safety and security of UN staff working in Myanmar; travel rights for UN staff, humanitarian aid for Myanmar and cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security.

The meeting was attended



by U Khaing Tun Oo, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Myanmar Police Transnational Crime Division Officializing Head Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Zeya, heads of departments, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar Mr Marcoluigi Corsi, and Security Advisor Mr Marco Smoliner to the UN Department of Safety and Security. — MNA/TS

SAC Member Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae receives Under-Secretary-General Mr Gilles Michaud, head of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) yesterday.

MoC Union Minister receives CITIC officials



Union Construction Minister U Myo Thant holds talks with officials from the China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC) Group Myanmar Co Ltd yesterday.

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant met officials from the China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC) Group Myanmar Co Ltd yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar and China discussed vital infrastructure — roads and bridges in the implementation of the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and the Deep-Sea Port project, the development of the trade and

service sectors, improvement of the socioeconomic life of the local people, and the processes that can be carried out for the development of common interests between Myanmar and China. — MNA/TS

Myanmar co-chairs ASEAN-China Cooperation Committee meeting in Indonesia

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has reported that the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to ASEAN co-chaired the 25th meeting of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Committee held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The meeting took place on 2 April at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia. U Aung Myo Myint, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to ASEAN, co-chaired the meet-

ing alongside Hou Yanqi, Chinese Ambassador to ASEAN.

During the meeting, discussions were held on the progress of relations between ASEAN and China, priority sectors to be implemented this year, progress under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV, projects under implementation with China's cooperation, and developments related to the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. — ASH/TMT



The group documentary photo of the 25th meeting of the ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 2 April 2024.

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NATIONAL

DPM Union MoFA Minister receives UN DSS Under-Secretary-General

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Gilles Michaud, UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Mr Gilles Michaud discussed the security of the UN personnel and the travel access required to operate the respective functions of UN agencies in Myanmar. The Deputy Prime Minister and the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs responded that Myanmar highly prioritizes the safety and security of the UN personnel and facilitates its best travel access

for the UN agencies. Moreover, they exchanged views on matters related to transnational crimes.

Also present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Marcoluigi Corsi, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim and Mr Marco Smoliner, Security Advisor to UN DSS in Myanmar. — MNA

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union MoFA Minister U Than Swe yesterday.



Early April heat triggers fainting, fever, and fatal strokes



The social and rescue association assists a man who suddenly fainted at a bus stop near Yangon Railway Station in Mingala Taungnyunt township on 3 April.

THE temperature has begun mounting in Yangon since early April, resulting in sudden deaths from haemorrhagic strokes, and some people have fainted and had high fevers, according to Lin Latt social and

rescue association.

A man suddenly blacked out at a bus stop near Yangon Railway Station in Mingala Taungnyunt township at around 11 am on 3 April, and the social and rescue association assisted in transporting him to Yangon General Hospital.

Those who have chronic diseases such as cardiac disease, hypertension, diabetes and kidney disease should be aware of the extreme heat and should not go outside in the hot daylight, the association warned.

“As of early April, most of the patients we assisted are those who died from haemorrhagic stroke and who have fainted and high fever. Therefore, if people need to go outside unavoidably, please go in

the early morning or evening, and please reside in shady areas with low temperatures,” it warned.

It urged people to choose cotton wear, not to drink iced water and to reduce coldness before getting out of an air-conditioned car.

Those who need to work under the sunlight, those who have hypertension, those who drink excessively, those who drink iced water and those who take a bath shortly after returning home from hot sunlight may suffer a haemorrhagic stroke. Therefore, people should avoid going outside under the hot sunlight, and if it is necessary, wear long sleeves, an umbrella or hat, drink plenty of water but not iced water and avoid alcohol and tobacco, as warned by health authorities. — MT/ZS

MEXT scholarship 2025 applications open on 23 April

APPLICATION for Research Students Scholarship Programme 2025, which will be provided by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), will be accepted as of 23 April, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) announced.

MAJA said it would continue to announce the application acceptance date for the undergraduate student programme, college of technology student programme and specialized training college student programme when it receives notification from MEXT.

Detailed information, including an application form and requirements, can be downloaded at <https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/smap-stopj-applications-research.html> and according to MEXT's guidelines, those only living in Myanmar at present are eligible to apply.

Google form registration will be accepted from 2 April to 23 April before 4 pm, and document submission is scheduled to be received before 4 pm from 23 April to 30 April.

For Google Form registration on the research student programme, applicants have to fill in data on <https://forms.gle/EJ3Xy-WtGxJIHoBic7> within the specified date and time and submission of documents have to be addressed to the MAJA office at No 2B (4), Snow Garden Housing, Thumingala Street, Thingangyun township in Yangon, in person or via a represented person or by post or by express mail, before 4 pm by 30 April.

The list of candidates who are eligible to sit for the test will be released on 6 May 2024, and the written test is set to be held on 11 May. The Japanese Embassy to Myanmar will have a test for shortlisted candidates, and detailed information will be sent by email on 6-7 May.

For more information, enquiries can be made to the MAJA office through phone numbers 01 7571015 (extension 2), 09 262602121 and 09 428612151 during office hours. — MT/ZS

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NATIONAL

Security forces thwart terror attack in Nay Pyi Taw, no casualties

TERRORISTS had planned to attack important buildings and locations in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Zeyathiri Town-

ship, and Ela. They intended to cause panic among the people by launching fixed-wing aircraft from near Zeyathiri

Township and Ela at around 10:30 am yesterday. They had begun preparing for these terrorist bombings.

The air defence forces, responsible for air security duties in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, detected the planned attack using air defence systems. They successfully intercepted all the fixed-wing aircraft. As a result of this prevention, two of the aircraft exploded in the air before reaching their targets, and the remaining fixed-wing planes were shot down. Thirteen of the aircraft that crashed to the ground after being intercepted were seized. Among them, four were found



Debris of the downed fixed-wing planes.



The photo shows the seizure of the fixed-wing aircraft terrorists used in the attack.

to have explosive devices and had to be safely detonated in a controlled manner. The security forces are currently investigating the other fixed-wing aircraft that crashed on the ground.

Fortunately, there were no casualties or damage to people or buildings in this incident. The security forces remain vigilant and are prepared to respond immediately to any emergencies. — MNA/TKO

Counter-argument to false information

Khit Thit's false report misinterprets attacks in Homalin Township

THE subversive media outlet Khit Thit is intentionally spreading false news, claiming that five people died and nine others were wounded by air bombardment on 1 April in Manawtha Village, Homalin Township, Sagaing Region, despite lack of any clashes.

The reality is that since 1 April, KIA and PDF terrorists have been shelling and firing heavy weapons, targeting villages in Homalin Township. As a result, villagers from Manawtha Village and surrounding areas were killed and wounded, according to a security officer from Homalin Township. KIA and PDF terrorists are also targeting locals, accusing them of being informants, and burning down villages in Sagaing Region.

These malicious news outlets are intentionally circulating false information to tarnish the reputation of Tatmadaw (Myanmar armed forces) and deceive the public. — MNA/TMT



The screenshot validates misinformation.

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



Seized illegal goods from Kayin State.

ON 2 April, combined teams supervised by the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force intercepted a Toyota Probox travelling from Myawady to Yangon at the Thanlwin Bridge (Tayokhla side) combined checkpoint. The vehicle was found carrying two types of goods valued at K6.29 million, including 59 sets of used laptop computers, without official documents. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

Also, on the same day, another combined team apprehended a Hyundai tractor head with a trailer travelling from Thamanya to Yangon at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. The vehicle was transporting three types of goods valued at K30 million, including 50

sets of high-pressure washer machines from China, which were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Additionally, illegal timber weighing 21.664 tonnes and valued at K1,730,310 was seized in Kyonpyaw, Myanaung, and Pathein districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

During inspections on 2 and 3 April, combined teams seized two vehicles travelling from Myawady to Yangon and from Thaton to Yangon at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. These vehicles were carrying ten types of goods valued at K8.855 million, including 10 kilogrammes of mangoes and 900 bags of Wai Wai instant rice

vermicelli from China, without official documents. Additionally, an unregistered Nissan AD van was seized in DaikU township, and illegal timber weighing 0.849 tonne, valued at K115,546, was confiscated in Toungoo district. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On 3 April, a total of 1,920 cans of DQWX branded beer from China, valued at K1.6 million and without official documents, were confiscated from a warehouse in Lashio township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 17 arrests were made on 2 and 3 April, with an estimated value of K182 million. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Shwedagon Pagoda introduces digital directory stations, expansion planned for other pagodas



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin attended the ceremony of launching Shwedagon Pagoda Digital Directory held at the victory ground (at North-West corner) on the platform of the Shwedagon pagoda at 7 am on 1 April.

ACCORDING to the Pagoda's Trustees Board, the Shwedagon Pagoda Digital Directory Stations were opened on the four sides of the pagoda platform starting from 1 April.

The Department of Archae-

ology and National Museum is collaborating with universities of computer studies in Magway, Pyay, Toungoo, and Thaton to establish digital directory stations at other renowned pagodas across the country. — TWA/TKO



Yangon's Thingyan Festival to feature 200+ pavilions, performances



The second coordination meeting for the successful celebration of the Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival in progress.

THE second coordination meeting on the successful celebration of Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival announced that Yangon's Thingyan Festival will feature over 200 pavilions and two walking programmes.

At the central pavilion in front of the Yangon City Hall, choreographed dance troupes representing governmental departments, as well as artistes from film, music, and theatrical industries, will perform in rotation every day. — TWA/TKO

Most CNG stations to remain open during Thingyan

DURING the Thingyan Festival period, most CNG stations across the country will remain open daily, according to U Kyaw Thura Win, General Manager of the CNG Department under the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE).

There is a total of 41 CNG filling stations in Yangon Region, two in Mandalay Region, and three in Magway Region. Of these, 34 CNG filling stations in Yangon Region, one in Paleik in Mandalay Region, and one each in Yenangyoung township and Chauk township in Magway Region will be open daily as usual.

CNG stations will operate from 5 am to 7 pm during the Maha Thingyan period. Stations that

are closed during this period will reopen on 18 April. — ASH/MKKS



Some vehicles seen being refuelled at a CNG station.

MoRAC issues guidance for Thingyan Festival conduct

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has outlined the points to be mindful of during the Thingyan Festival.

These points advise against actions and behaviours that are contrary to Myanmar's traditional culture and customs, using rude language that is not in line with religious teachings, engaging in rough dousing that may

cause harm or injury to others, speaking directly or indirectly to tarnish the image of individuals or organizations, dressing indecently, and similar actions.

Additionally, it is advised to avoid excessive alcohol consumption and behaviours that may lead foreigners to have a negative view of Myanmar's Thingyan traditions. — TWA/TRKM



The photo depicts the Thingyan festival in Meiktila on Thingyan Eve Day of 2023.

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.

CBM warns of illegal microfinance impersonation with its logo

THE Central Bank of Myanmar notified on 3 April that action would be taken against those fraudulent microfinance firms that misuse CBM's logo under existing laws.

CBM issues banking licences, non-banking financial institution licences, mobile wallet service licences and foreign currency exchange licences to banks and non-bank financial institutions in accord-

ance with the stipulations of the Central Bank of Financial Institutions Law and the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

The list of licensed institutions can be checked through <https://www.cbm.gov.mm/>.

A Quick Loan application that can be found on Google Play Store was found to be misusing the logo of the CBM without having any valid licence and advertising

its microfinance service. They are attempting to spoof people with apps and deceive the victims into collecting profiles and essential information.

Therefore, CBM warned of the scammers and similar fraudulent firms. CBM is teaming up with law enforcement agencies to take legal action against those scammers under the existing laws. — NN/EM



The general view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Surplus chickpea supply drives prices down

A high influx of fresh chickpeas in the market resulted in a price decline, according to Mandalay wholesale depot figures.

At present, chickpeas produced from Thetaw, Wundwin, Kume, Sagaing and Monywa areas flow into the Mandalay market. Subsequently, the prices continued declining. Moreover, the demand for domestic millers also influenced the market.

The prices peaked at K287,000-K315,000 per viss on 12 January as the demand by oil millers and growers who store the seeds for planting in the following season outstripped supply in the market. Then, the prices dipped to K225,000-K248,000 per viss on 4 April.

Chickpeas are commonly cultivated in October-November and harvested in January-April. They are primarily grown in Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agro-products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres.



Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 4,200 kilogrammes worth US\$4.159 million were exported to foreign trade partners in the financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April.

Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans, including peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans, are also grown in the country.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy, and it contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 4,200 kilogrammes worth US\$4.159 million were exported to foreign trade partners in the financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics.

Myanmar exported over 18,000 kilogrammes worth \$13.139 million in the FY 2022-2023. — NN/EM

Domestic gold prices rise after record high for spot gold



The pure gold price hit an all-time high of K4.535 million per tical on 30 March 2024.

THE domestic gold price moved up to K4.51 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) again on 4 April after the spot gold price ploughed to a record high of over US\$2,300 per ounce on 3 April.

At present, kyat depreciated at K3,850 against the US dollar. Despite the gold price rally in the domestic market, the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the reference price at K3.99 million per tical, showing a large gap of over K500,000 per tical with the actual market value.

The pure gold price hit an all-time high of K4.535 million per tical on 30 March 2024.

The YGEA notified on 30 March that inspections are undertaken against those allegedly manipulating the market through a verbal deal.

Seven big gold shops in Yangon issue daily market prices three times a day. Nonetheless, those price speculators are attempting to raise the price by misleading price information that is not an actual transaction rate in the market. The YGEA condemned those unscrupulous traders and their dishonest acts. The YGEA asked its members to inform law enforcement agencies of the news regarding those manipulators.

The authorities are inspecting those alleged price speculators with the verbal deal in the market.

The YGEA also requested on 16 March that their members follow the YGEA's reference price and warned them not to be involved in those verbal deals of the brokers.

The spot gold price rally and kyat depreciation to K4,000 against a US dollar in the foreign currency exchange market pushed up the gold price to a record high of K4 million per tical. — NN/EM

OPINION

Unitedly overcoming high temperature challenges in summer

SUMMER in Myanmar brings dry and sweltering conditions, particularly during the period from March to May, which stands out as the hottest among the three seasons: monsoon, winter, and summer. However, this year's summer presents unique challenges due to the potential for unusually high temperatures triggered by El Nino.

The moderate El Nino process anticipated this year could lead to progressively higher temperatures. In response, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has issued a warning regarding the El Nino phenomenon. Daytime temperatures are expected to soar 1.5°C above the normal April averages in regions such as Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Taninthayi, as well as in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, and Mon States. In contrast, Ayeyawady Region and Kachin and Chin States are projected to experience temperatures closer to the April average.

While the summer heat may present formidable challenges, unity and adherence to health guidelines can help mitigate the risks associated with El Nino-induced high temperatures. By working together and staying informed, we can ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals during this challenging period. In fact, the period of possibly high temperatures may not easily end this summer. However, meteorologists have not yet forecasted the coming second ten days of April. Even though people face higher temperatures than the first ten days, if they apply and follow dos and don'ts, they can safely overcome challenges.

clots, and even death, especially for those transitioning from hot to cold environments abruptly.

To address these challenges, relevant organizations, particularly the Ministry of Health, must issue comprehensive guidelines on coping with the severe impacts of El Nino this summer. It is essential for individuals to adhere to these guidelines to protect themselves and their communities. Furthermore, raising awareness and disseminating knowledge on how to navigate the heatwave period are crucial aspects of preparation and prevention.

While the summer heat may present formidable challenges, unity and adherence to health guidelines can help mitigate the risks associated with El Nino-induced high temperatures. By working together and staying informed, we can ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals during this challenging period. In fact, the period of possibly high temperatures may not easily end this summer. However, meteorologists have not yet forecasted the coming second ten days of April. Even though people face higher temperatures than the first ten days, if they apply and follow dos and don'ts, they can safely overcome challenges.

ON 27 March 2024, during the 219th meeting held in Paris, France, UNESCO's Executive Board endorsed the addition of 18 sites to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. This brings the total number of global geoparks to 213 in 48 countries.

About UNESCO

With 194 Member States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contributes to peace and security by leading multilateral cooperation on education, science, culture, communication and information. Headquartered in Paris, UNESCO has offices in 54 countries and employs over 2,300 people. UNESCO oversees more than 2,000 World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, and Global Geoparks; networks of Creative, Learning, Inclusive, and Sustainable Cities; and over 13,000 associated schools, university chairs, training, and research institutions. Its Director-General is Audrey Azoulay. "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed" – UNESCO Constitution, 1945.

About UNESCO Global Geoparks

The UNESCO Global Geopark designation was created in 2015. UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development. By raising awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks gives local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthens their identification with the area. The

creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs, and high-quality training courses is stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism. UNESCO Global Geoparks are given this designation for a period of four years, after which the functioning and quality of each UNESCO Global Geopark is thoroughly re-examined during a revalidation process.

The new geoparks are situated in Brazil, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, and Spain. There is an additional new transboundary geopark spanning Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The UNESCO Global Geopark designation was created in 2015. It recognizes geological heritage of international significance. Geoparks serve local communities by combining the conservation of their significant geological heritage with public outreach and a sustainable approach to development.

UNESCO continues to promote the geopark concept in regions where geoparks are less common, notably in Africa, the Arab States, and Small Island Developing States. UNESCO does this by facilitating expert missions, tailored training sessions, and individual consultations on both a national and local scale to guide the preparation of applications for UNESCO Global Geopark status. The newly designated UNESCO Global Geoparks are:

Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands

1. Schelde Delta UNESCO Global Geopark

Schelde Delta UNESCO Global Geopark holds a unique geological position between the sinking North Sea Basin and the rising Brabant Massif.



Bingling Cave Temple in Linxia UNESCO Global Geopark, China
© Linxia UNESCO Global Geopark, China



Schelde Delta UNESCO Global Geopark, Belgium and Kingdom of the Netherlands
© Walter Jonkers

UNESCO names 18 new Geoparks

BY THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

Brazil

2. Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark

Located within South America's second largest biome, in southeast Brazil, lies the Uberaba UNESCO Global Geopark.

China

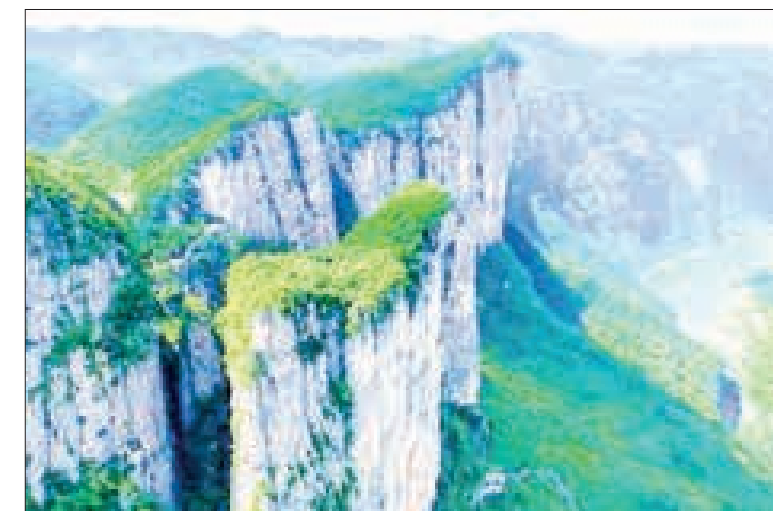
3. Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark

Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark lies southwest of Hubei

Province. The geopark is home to world-famous erosion and dissolution landscapes and the rich cultural heritage of the Tujia, Miao, and Dong ethnic minority groups.

4. Linxia UNESCO Global Geopark

Linxia UNESCO Global Geopark is located in the Gansu Province. It features a landscape characterized by mid-high mountains, hills, and basins. The area played a significant role in China's early historical and cultural



Daloumen Karst stone pillars, Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China

development.

5. Longyan UNESCO Global Geopark

Longyan UNESCO Global Geopark offers a geological record of tectonic evolution in southeast China covering a period of approximately 300 million years.

6. Mount Changbaishan UNESCO Global Geopark

Located in the southeast Jilin Province, Mount Changbaishan UNESCO Global Geopark is like an open-air classroom for volcanism, with dramatic landforms and diverse rock types that document significant multiphase eruptions.

7. Wugongshan UNESCO Global Geopark

Wugongshan UNESCO Global Geopark is located at the junction of three cities, Pingxiang, Yichun, and Ji'an, in the west of Jiangxi Province.

8. Xingyi UNESCO Global Geopark

Located in Guizhou Province, Xingyi UNESCO Global Geopark is a geological treasure trove with imposing natural scenery, such as the Malinghe River Gorge, bursting with over 100 cascading water-

falls during periods of heavy rain.

Croatia

9. Biokovo-Imotski Lakes UNESCO Global Geopark

The Biokovo-Imotski Lakes UNESCO Global Geopark is situated in central Dalmatia. It sits at a unique intersection of Mediterranean and Central European landscapes and cultures.

Denmark

10. The South Fyn Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark

The South Fyn Archipelago UNESCO Global Geopark in the central and southern parts of the country encompasses both terrestrial and marine zones that transcribe approximately 800,000 years of geological history.

Finland

11. Impact Crater Lake – Lappajärvi UNESCO Global Geopark

Impact Crater Lake - Lappajärvi UNESCO Global Geopark is located in South Ostrobothnia, which is west of the country.

France

12. Armorique UNESCO Global Geopark

From the vertical cliffs of the

Crozon Peninsula to the Arrée Mountains, the Armorique UNESCO Global Geopark offers a journey through more than 500 million years of geological history.

13. Normandie-Maine UNESCO Global Geopark

Normandie-Maine UNESCO Global Geopark lies within a peaceful pastoral region that is rich in hamlets, villages and meadows and reaches into the departments of both Normandy and the Pays de la Loire.

Greece

14. Meteora Pyli UNESCO Global Geopark

Nestled within the picturesque Thessaly region at the centre of mainland Greece, the Meteora Pyli UNESCO Global Geopark is famed for the towering Meteora sandstone columns that reach heights of up to 300 metres.

Hungary

15. Bükk Region UNESCO Global Geopark

The Bükk Region UNESCO Global Geopark in northern Hungary lies in one of the country's most complex geological environments. It comprises a near-continuous sedimentary sequence

spanning more than 300 million years, punctuated by periods of volcanic activity.

Poland

16. Land of Extinct Volcanoes UNESCO Global Geopark

Situated in the scenic southwest, the Land of Extinct Volcanoes UNESCO Global Geopark encompasses the Kaczawskie Mountains and surrounding foothills.

Portugal

17. Oeste UNESCO Global Geopark

The Oeste UNESCO Global Geopark, located along Portugal's central west coast, encompasses over 72 kilometres of Atlantic coastline, with more than 15 kilometres of sandy beaches.

Spain

18. Calatrava Volcanoes. Ciudad Real UNESCO Global Geopark

Calatrava Volcanoes. Ciudad Real UNESCO Global Geopark is situated southwest of the autonomous community of Castilla-La Mancha in central Spain.

Reference: UNESCO Press release, March 2024.

NATIONAL

TIGERS are listed as an endangered species. There are currently six types of tigers that still remain, whereas two of them are found in Myanmar. The existence of these two types of beasts promotes the concerted efforts of wildlife conservation activities in the country.

The tiger is one of the most beautiful beasts in the world; they have orange and black stripes and lovely white coats with black stripes. There are nine different types of tigers around the world: Caspian tiger, Javan tiger and Bali tiger which were extinct, while the remaining six species living in 13 countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Cambodia, Russia, China, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam.

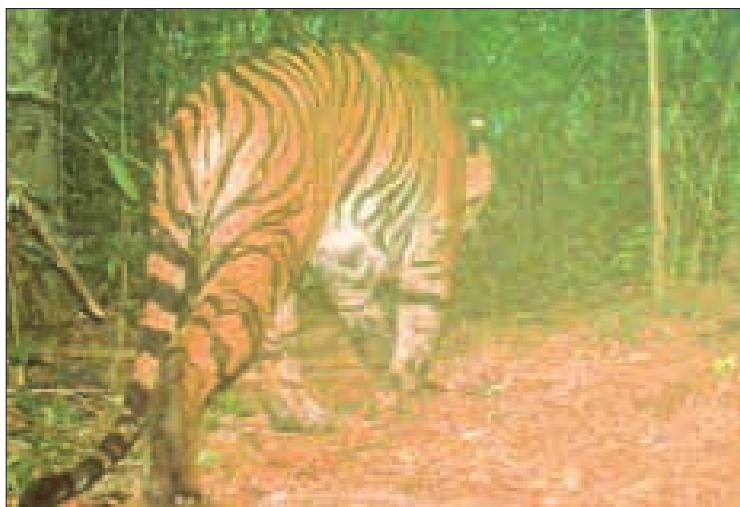
The Bengal tigers currently reside in Myanmar's largest tiger conservation areas: Hukong Valley Tiger Reserve and Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary. The Sumatran tigers are seen in the Taninthayi Region, the lower part of Myanmar.

The Siberian tiger is considered to be the most giant tiger living in eastern Russia's birch forests. The Siberian tiger weighs between over 600 pounds and 700 pounds. The second largest tigers are discovered in India, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, and they weigh between 400 lb and 600 lb. The third largest one is the Indo-China tiger species, weighing between over 300 lb and 400 lb. South China tigers live in the middle and east of the country, and they are over 280 lb and 300 lb. The Sumatran tigers are found on the island of Sumatra, and they are over 260 lb. Malayan tigers are spotted in the tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests of the southern tip of Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia. They are between 104 lb and 285 lb.

About 100,000 tigers were in the world about 100 years ago. Over 1,000 tigers were killed, and there were only 3,600 tigers in



Myanmar home to two of six endangered tiger species



2010. The tiger population might keep falling in 2023, according to the survey. Russian President Vladimir Putin and World Bank President Mr Robert Zoellick organized the International Tiger

Conservation Forum in Russia.

According to a survey by the Natural Environment and Wildlife Conservation Society, six types of tigers live in 13 countries in Asia. There are 355-500 tigers

in Bangladesh, 70-80 tigers in Bhutan, 10-50 tigers in Cambodia, 85-96 tigers in China, 368-556 tigers in India, 7-23 tigers in Laos, 500 tigers in Malaysia, 35-70 tigers in Myanmar, 121 tigers in Nepal, 300 tigers in Russia, 200-250 tigers in Thailand and 50-150 tigers in Viet Nam.

The cameras are installed in the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary to survey the world's rarest species of Bengal tigers yearly.

U Win Hlaing, a sanctuary warden, said, "Myanmar boasts Bengal tiger in upper part and Indo-China tiger in lower part out of six tiger species. The camera traps capture about 20 tigers in

Htamathi. They might be in Hukong Valley and on Naga Hills. There are certain areas in which we cannot conduct the survey. We should all cooperate to conserve them as a national task as the tiger population declines. If the experts and locals watch them together, we can know the existence of two tiger species in Myanmar".

Over 100 big cats are killed in the world every year, and over half of the global population of tigers is found in India. Myanmar is home to two tiger species, the Bengal tiger and the Indo-China tiger, out of six species. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH/ Photo: Kanu

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

Emperor Qinshihuang's museum launches online ticket platform for overseas tourists

Situated in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, the museum, famous for its Terracotta Warriors, welcomed over 11.2 million visitors last year, marking a record high in annual attendance.

A service platform of the Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum was officially launched on Wednesday, allowing overseas tourists to buy tickets online.

The platform provides services in 24 languages and tourists from 39 countries and regions can use 29 currencies to make reservations for visits.

Since its trial run on 20 March, the platform has already facilitated reservations for over

2,000 foreign tourists. Located in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, the Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, home to the world-renowned iconic Terracotta Warriors, recorded more than 11.2 million visits last year, hitting an annual high.

Discovered in 1974, the army of Terracotta Warriors was built by Emperor Qinshihuang of the Qin Dynasty (221 BC-207 BC), who unified China for the first time. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 26 April 2023 shows terracotta warriors at the pit No 1 of the Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

Japan football manga "Captain Tsubasa" ends after 43-yr run

THE smash-hit Japanese football manga series "Captain Tsubasa" came to an end Thursday after a 43-year run with its creator Yoichi Takahashi saying he would retire as a manga artist but continue "creative activities".

Takahashi, 63, said he will still produce stories on Tsubasa, the football prodigy who is the main character of the series, but switch to a rough storyboard format that he expects to be able to produce more quickly, delivering it to fans on a dedicated website.

"I still like drawing illustrations and thinking up stories," he said in a post on the X social media platform Wednesday.



"Captain Tsubasa" is a wildly popular Japanese manga series that revolves around the world of football (soccer). Created by Yoichi Takahashi, the series made its debut in 1981 and quickly gained immense popularity both in Japan and internationally. PHOTO: YOICHI TAKAHASHI / CAPTAIN TSUBASA WIKI

The last chapter in the manga format, "Captain Tsubasa Rising Sun", depicts Tsubasa participating in an Olympics as captain of the under-23 Japanese football team.

The story will continue in the new format on the "Captain Tsubasa World" website from this summer, with weekly releases. As the format does not require inking and adding screen tones, Takahashi said, he will be able to "deliver future stories at a faster pace".

He also expects to have "more freedom of expression" as he will no longer face the need to meet deadlines or requirements for number of pages or format size. — Kyodo

Northern Lao province holds cultural festival as part of Visit Laos Year 2024

NORTHERN Laos' Bokeo province is hosting the Phakhuan Festival, a cultural festival to draw more tourists during Visit Laos Year 2024.

The festival, taking place from Tuesday to Wednesday, features a street market, an exhibition of agricultural products, and displays of the special craftsmanship of local ethnic groups, reflecting their customs and traditional way of life. There will also be an almsgiving

ceremony and other activities, Lao News Agency reported on Wednesday.

Phakhuan is the decorative ceremonial centerpiece of a Baci blessing ceremony.

Bokeo has 77 officially designated tourist sites, including 53 nature-based attractions, 14 cultural sites and 10 places of historical interest, enabling visitors to discover the real Laos and enjoy a laid-back lifestyle. — Xinhua



Children participate in the celebration of the Songkran Festival or the Lao New Year, in Luang Prabang, Laos, 16 April 2023. PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA

WhatsApp services restored following global outage

WHATSAPP and Instagram, both owned by Meta, have been restored after experiencing a worldwide outage.

WhatsApp and Instagram experienced a widespread outage on Wednesday around 11:45 pm, affecting numerous users worldwide.

Those attempting to access the app or its web version were met with an error message indicating the service was unavailable.

"We know some people are experiencing issues right now, we're working on getting things back to 100 per cent for everyone as quickly as possible," said WhatsApp in a post on X.

Downdetector, a website monitoring service, recorded a surge in reports of WhatsApp and Instagram having problems during this time.

This is for the second time in 2024 that the Meta-owned platforms have faced an outage. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

China rejects US accusation of “non-market” trade policies, practices

CHINA on Tuesday firmly rejected the United States’ accusation of implementing “non-market” trade policies and practices, as well as setting barriers in areas such as agricultural products and data policies.

A spokesperson with China’s Ministry of Commerce made the remarks when responding to a media inquiry about the United States’ “2024 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers”, which was released Friday.

China believes that whether a country’s trade policies create barriers should be determined under the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, while the US report has failed to provide any evidence that China’s relevant policies and practices have violated such rules, the spokesperson said.

As the largest developing member of the WTO, China has always firmly supported the multilateral trading system and continued to expand high-standard opening-up. On the other

China emphasized that the determination of trade policy barriers should be made in accordance with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, and the US report failed to provide evidence of any violation of these rules by China.



Workers dock a container vessel at Qingdao Port, east China’s Shandong Province on 11 February 2024.
PHOTO: LI ZIHENG/XINHUA

hand, the United States has disregarded the multilateral trade rules and set up numerous trade barriers to impede fair competition, the spokesperson said. — Xinhua

Ministry supports UAE’s electric vehicle engineers of future

THE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure has announced its collaboration with Dubai-based motorsports and automotive events agency Pole Position to become the strategic partner of the UAE Greenpower STEM Education Programme in which teams of students build an electric car and race against other schools to determine who can build the most energy efficient electric vehicle.

On 20 March, students and teachers from GEMS Winchester School, who are participating in the programme, had the opportunity to visit the Ministry and talk about their experience of Greenpower with Sharif Salim Al Olama, Undersecretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs.

The students described the benefits of working on the Greenpower Programme, how it has helped raise their awareness of sustainability issues and their excitement for the upcoming Race Finals in May 2024. — ANI

Greece tightens requirements for Golden Visa Programme

GREECE’S parliament approved a draft bill on Tuesday introducing stricter regulations for the Golden Visa programme, which grants five-year residence permits to non-European Union (EU) nationals investing in real estate. The government aims to reduce property prices to make housing more affordable for local low-income earners.

The revised framework

adopts a three-tier approach to investment requirements based on geographic location and property characteristics. The minimum investment threshold ranges from 250,000 euros (269,131 US dollars) for less popular areas to 800,000 euros for properties in high-demand locations like central Athens or Mykonos Island (up from 500,000 euros previously).

— Xinhua



Photo taken on 13 June 2020 shows tourists walking down an alley at the town of Fira on Santorini island, Greece. **PHOTO: LEFTERIS PARTSALIS/XINHUA**

World Bank projects Nepal’s economic growth to be 3.3% in 2024

THE World Bank (WB) has said that Nepal’s economy is expected to grow by 3.3 per cent in 2024, driven by revived tourism and a pickup in hydropower exports. On the demand side, private consumption will drive growth, supported by a substantial increase in remittance inflows, according to the World Bank’s twice-a-year country development update.

In its latest Nepal Development Update, the WB stated that the country’s economy is on a recovery path, but private investment remains low while projecting a further rebound in growth of 4.6 per cent in 2025.

However, the forecast is subject to multiple risks, including a growth slowdown in partner countries, notably India, Gulf countries, and Malaysia which could lead to a drop in remittances and tourism.



An exhibitor demonstrates a robotic handler at a stall of the Computer Association of Nepal (CAN) Info-tech 2020 at Bhrikutimandap exhibition hall in Kathmandu, Nepal, 14 February 2020. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/SUNIL SHARMA/XINHUA**

Further, business environment reforms aimed at attracting more private investment will be needed to support medium-term growth.

“Strengthening the implementation of capital expenditure, boosting business

confidence, and strengthening Nepal’s international competitiveness is key to stimulating economic growth and reducing poverty,” Faris Hadad-Zervos, World Bank Country Director for the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka said. — ANI

Green Hydrogen, green ammonia to bring US\$125 bln investment in India



Massive research and development investments are being done to find commercial viability of hydrogen fuel in transport, power, aviation and other industrial usages. **PHOTO: ANI**

GREEN Hydrogen (GH2) and green ammonia are future fuels of the world. According to a report by Avendus Capital, Green Hydrogen and green ammonia will bring in investments of US\$125 billion (about Rs10.43 lakh crore) in India by 2023.

The report titled “Green Hydrogen, the next frontier in energy transition” said the growth of green fuels will be driven by an increased focus on sustainability, commercial viability and government push towards ever expanding use of green fuels with

strong regulations.

GH2 is made by using power from renewable energy sources through electrolysis of water. It does not emit any green-house gases. Globally research is being done to make green hydrogen as fuel to help countries attain net-zero emission targets.

GH2 is being touted as the fuel of the future. Massive research and development investments are being done to find commercial viability of hydrogen fuel in transport, power, aviation and other industrial usages. — ANI

Foreign investors continue expansion in western China

Over 100 exhibitors participated, including companies like Metro, Samsung Electronics, and Medtronic.

A China International Import Expo (CIIE) serial event was held in southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality from Monday to Wednesday, highlighting foreign investors’ confidence in the Chinese market.

The event, with the theme of “To Boost Dual Circulation by Introducing More Foreign Investment”, attracted over 100 exhibitors from the CIIE’s previous and coming editions, including renowned companies such as Metro, Samsung Electronics, and Medtronic, along with representatives from multinationals and investment promotion agencies.

Embracing the im-



This photo taken on 30 October 2023 shows the city view of southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality. **PHOTO: WANG QUANCHAO/XINHUA**

mense opportunities brought by 5G and terminal-side artificial intelligence, Qualcomm aims

to further strengthen its collaboration with Chongqing in the domains of intelligent terminals and

networked vehicles, Qian Kun, senior vice-president of Qualcomm, said during the event. — Xinhua

Japan-backed bullet train in India may be operational by 2026: envoy

HE project, utilizing Japan’s shinkansen bullet train technology, will cover a distance of approximately 500 kilometres between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, reducing travel time from six to two hours.

A high-speed railway project in India backed by Japan, featuring its shinkansen bullet train technology, could see start commercial operations begin by 2026, the South Asian country’s envoy said Thursday.

The project’s inauguration “could be 2026, or it could even be early”, although the two nations are still “in consultation on the exact timeframe”, Indian Ambassador to Japan Sibi George told Kyodo News in an interview in Tokyo.

“What I can say is that there is considerable progress in the project,” George said. The original schedule for the start was sometime in 2023. — Kyodo



The first shinkansen project in India links Mumbai and Ahmedabad. It spans about 500 kilometres. Travel time will reduce from six to two hours. Construction started in 2017. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2404S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2404S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-4-2024** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

Notice for Change of Distributor

We, **Shandong Qiaochang Modern Agriculture Co., Ltd.** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Myanmar Max Agro Science Co., Ltd.** to **Seinn Lae Thwin Co., Ltd.** If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plan Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1	Qiaochang Haloxypop-P-methyl	Haloxypop-P-methyl 108g/ EC	Provisional	P2020-5034

Address: **Seinn Lae Thwin CO.,Ltd.,** No. (525), First Floor, Corner Of Merchant Street & 38th Street, Ward No. (6), Kyauktada T/S, Yangon. Tel 09-455188188

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Railway services resume in east China after 7.3-magnitude quake in Chinese Taipei

The earthquake, which struck near Hualien County, prompted tremors felt across several Chinese mainland provinces, resulting in temporary disruptions and stranded passengers in cities like Quanzhou and Xiamen.



This aerial photo taken on 13 September 2023 shows a Fuxing bullet train running on the Wulong River bridge along the Fuzhou-Xiamen-Zhangzhou high-speed railway in east China's Fujian Province. **PHOTO: WEI PEIQIAN/XINHUA**

RAILWAY services in east China's Fujian and Jiangxi provinces have all resumed operations after widespread train delays and cancellations due to the 7.3-magnitude earthquake that hit Chinese Taipei, said local railway authorities on Thursday.

On Thursday, China Railway Nanchang Group Co Ltd in Jiangxi added 97 passenger trains to meet the growing travel demand during the Qingming Festival holiday. Thursday is Qingming Festival, also known as Tomb-Sweeping Day.

A 7.3-magnitude earthquake jolted the sea area near Hualien County in Chinese Taipei at 7:58 am Wednesday (Beijing Time), followed by many aftershocks, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre. — Xinhua

Cyprus appeals to EU for assistance with migrant crisis

CYPRUS called on the European Union (EU) on Wednesday to provide "practical assistance" as the eastern Mediterranean island is grappling with an influx of Syrian migrants.

Interior Minister Constantinos Ioannou has said that Cyprus has intercepted 13 boats with a total of 739 migrants on board off its southeastern coast over the last three days.

All the boats departed from the coasts of Lebanon, less than 200 kilometres southeast of Cyprus, with nearly all passengers being Syrian nationals, Ioannou added. — Xinhua



All the boats departed from the coasts of Lebanon, less than 200 kilometres southeast of Cyprus, with nearly all passengers being Syrian nationals, Ioannou added. **PHOTO: CONSILIUM.EUROPA.EU**



File photo taken on 13 February 2024 shows South African National Assembly Speaker Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula at a parliament meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. Mapisa-Nqakula resigned on 3 April amid investigations into corruption allegations against her. **PHOTO: XABISO MKHABELA/XINHUA**

South African parliament speaker resigns amid corruption investigation

In a statement, she announced her immediate resignation to dedicate her time and focus to addressing the allegations levelled against her by law enforcement agencies.

SOUTH African National Assembly Speaker Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula resigned Wednesday amid investigations into corruption allegations against her.

"Today, the 3rd of April, I have submitted to the Acting Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Lechesa Tsenoli, my letter of resignation as both the Speaker of National Assembly and a Member of Parliament of the Republic of South Africa," Mapisa-Nqakula said in a statement. "The resignation is effective immediately."

"I have made this conscious decision in order to dedicate my time and focus to deal with the recently announced investigation against me by our country's law enforcement agencies," she said.

Mapisa-Nqakula, a 67-year-old veteran of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party, has been facing corruption allegations that she solicited a cash bribe of about 2.3 million rands (about 120,000 US dollars) from a former military contractor while she was defence minister between 2016 and 2019. — Xinhua

Israel offers new guide for protecting oneself from digital surveillance

ISRAEL'S National Cyber Directorate and the Michal Sela Forum published a "first-of-its-kind" guide for preventing digital surveillance and control called "Firewall".

"Firewall" offers a series of recommendations to reduce digital surveillance and control. The guide contains simple tools to implement to secure the smartphone, the applications and the computer and is intended for spouses who fear that their spouse is trying to track or invade their privacy through digital means.

According to the Michal Sela forum, one of the five warning signs in a relationship is "obsession" which sometimes manifests itself in technological violence.

Women who live with a jealous and obsessive partner experience a fatal violation of their privacy and attempts to control every area of their lives, even after the separation. — ANI

SPORTS

2024 Beijing Daxing Half Marathon to take place on 27 April

THE 2024 Beijing Daxing Half Marathon is to take place on 27 April. This year's event, which has 6,000 runners, features a half-marathon and a seven-kilometre happy run.

The half-marathon requires the runners to be 16 years old and above, while the happy run sees the age limit lowered to eight years old.

In addition to a change in the route of the half-marathon course, this year's event will see facial recognition technology used for material distribution, and for the first time, data connection between the facial recognition verification system and the timing chip system will be applied in order to avoid runners cheating and to provide more efficient and accurate data collection.

Organizers announced that a 10-day training camp would open before the race, providing professional marathon training guidance for runners and forming professional running teams. — Xinhua

Facial recognition technology will be utilized for material distribution, with data connection between facial recognition and timing chip systems implemented to prevent cheating and ensure accurate data collection.



Runners take part in the 2023 Beijing Daxing Half Marathon.



The Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT) expressed "great surprise" and disappointment at the appointment of Belgian Marc Brys as head coach of the national men's football team. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Cameroon FA says appointment of Belgian coach "regrettable"

THE Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT) on Wednesday expressed "great surprise" at the appointment of Belgian Marc Brys as head coach of the national men's football team, calling it regrettable.

On Tuesday, the country's Minister of Sports and Physical Education, Narcisse Mouelle Kombi said that the new head coach was appointed following "high instructions" of President Paul Biya. FECAFOOT said in a statement that it did not know about the appointment. — Xinhua

Getafe receives partial ground closure for racist incidents against Sevilla

SPANISH La Liga side Getafe has been handed a partial ground closure for its next three home games by the Disciplinary Committee of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) as punishment for racist insults aimed at Sevilla

coach Quique Sanchez Flores and defender Marcos Acuna during last Saturday's game between the two sides.

Madrid has also been given a 27,000 euro (29,100 US dollars) fine for the incidents which were reflected in the post-game report of referee Javier Iglesias Villanueva.

racist insults towards the number 19 of the visiting team, with words such as 'Acuna monkey' and 'Acuna you come from a monkey', from fans seated in the middle of the ground, behind the position of my second assistant." — Xinhua

The club from the south of "In the 68th minute, I had to halt the game after there were



Martin Odegaard. PHOTO: ARSENAL/X

Odegaard helps Arsenal log three crucial points with 2-0 win over Luton

MIDFIELDER Martin Odegaard helped Arsenal log three crucial points after a clinical 2-0 win over Luton Town in the Premier League (PL) at the iconic Emirates Stadium in London on Thursday.

Odegaard's 24-minute goal and an own goal from Luton defender Daiki Hashioka propelled the Gunners to the top of the PL standings with 68 points by

their name.

The hosts started to dominate the game from the opening minutes of the game. In the ninth minute, the Norwegian midfielder Odegaard placed a corner towards Oleksandr Zinchenko, who lined up a powerful shot towards the goal from 20 yards, however, Luton midfielder Alfie Doughty got in the way to block the shot. — ANI

Railway services resume in east China after 7.3-magnitude quake in Chinese Taipei

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WORLD

No issue with oil payment from India: Russia

Maria Zakharova, the ministry's spokesperson, emphasized that payments are prioritized in national currencies to avoid dependence on Western banking regulations.

THE Russian Foreign Ministry has said that deliveries of Russian oil to India are steadily high, with no payment issues encountered, the state-owned news agency TASS reported.

“Russian oil supplies to India are maintained at a steadily high level; no problems arise with determining means of payment for oil exported by Russia,” Maria Zakharova, the official spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing on Wednesday (Local Time).

The priority in payments “is given to national currencies”, she highlighted.

“This makes it possible not to depend on the so-called ‘rules of the game’ imposed by the Westerners when making banking transactions”, TASS quoted Zakharova as saying. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in February this year reaffirmed India’s stance on buying Russian oil despite sanctions on Moscow amid military conflict with Ukraine. He said that India and Russia have always shared “stable and friendly ties” and Moscow has never hurt the interests of New Delhi. In an interview with the German economic daily, Handelsblatt during his visit to Germany for the Munich Security Conference, Jaishankar said that Europe should understand that India cannot have a view of Russia that is identical to the European one. — ANI



The Essar Oil Refinery in Vadinar stands as a cornerstone of India’s petroleum industry, combining cutting-edge technology, strategic location, and a commitment to sustainability to meet the nation’s energy needs efficiently while driving economic growth and development.

PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SPUTNIK

SEMICONDUCTOR CHEMICAL REPLACEMENTS

US, EU to utilize AI for semiconductor chemical discovery

THE United States and the European Union intend to utilize artificial intelligence (AI) technology to find replacements for chemicals used in semiconductor manufacturing, Bloomberg reported on Wednesday.

Following a US-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting in Belgium, the group drafted a statement outlining their intention to use AI to accelerate the discovery of materials to replace per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), dubbed “forever chemicals” due to their slow breakdown, in semiconductor manufacturing, the report said, citing the draft statement.

In February, the US Environmental Protection Agency proposed regulatory modifications to classify some PFAS as hazardous.— SPUTNIK

Almost 4,000 schools in Philippines shift to online learning due to intense heat

SWELTERING weather has forced 3,954 schools across the Philippines to implement alternative delivery modes of learning to protect the students from the high heat index, the government said Wednesday.

The Philippines’ Department of Education (DepEd) said many schools opted to ditch face-to-face classes, so students can study from home instead of going to school and avoid exposure to the hot weather.

The DepEd said the number of schools translates to more than 1.3 million learners in 11 regions, including Metro Manila.

The Department of Health also warned the public against heat-related illnesses that become more prevalent with extreme temperatures.

“Prolonged heat exposure increases the probability of heat stroke, a serious condition characterized by loss of consciousness, confusion, or seizures,



Children have fun in a makeshift swimming pool on World Water Day at a slum area in Manila, the Philippines, 22 March 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

which can be deadly if left untreated,” the health department said.

Heat index temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius were logged in

some provinces from 28 March to 1 April. Those conditions are forecast to persist in the coming days, local media reported — Xinhua