

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Tachilek is sprayed to ease the very unhealthy stage of air quality.

Five major cities face very unhealthy levels of air quality

THE survey on air quality across the nation showed a very unhealthy level of atmosphere in five major cities of Mandalay Region and Shan State (East) in March 2024, according to the Environmental Conservation Department.

The particles in sizes of 2.5 microns are spreading in the air in five major cities, namely Amarapura, Aungmyethazan and Patheingyi townships in Mandalay Region and Tachilek and Kengtung townships in Shan State (East).

The Environmental Conservation

Department has measured the air quality at 13 sampling points of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and 13 regions and states in order to assess air quality across the nation.

Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Ozone (O3) and Carbon Monoxide (CO) for air quality were regularly measured with the use of an Environmental Perimeter Air Station (EPAS)-Haz-Scanner, Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM-65), Scentroid (SL-50 Scential), Aeroqual

(Series-500 Portable Air Quality Monitor), AQMesh (Dust Analyzer-1941150), (Gas Analyzer-1940150), Portable Beta Attenuation Mass Monitor (BAM 1022), Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQMS) and Continuous Particulate Monitor.

The department stated that air quality may change depending on conditions such as temperature of the atmosphere, wind speed, wind directions, moisture, rainfall, use of vehicles, emission of smoke from industries, and environments around the measurement of air quality. — ASH/TTA

Export/import licences now mandatory as pre-arrival documents

SEEKING an import licence for the goods before arrival at the port is obligatory, and failure to do so is subject to a fine and sentence under the existing laws, as declared by the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce on 5 April.

In accordance with Chapter IV of the Export and Import Law, no person shall export or import restricted, prohibited and banned goods under Section 5. Without obtaining a permit, no one shall be allowed to export and import the specified goods that need to seek licences in accord with Section 6. A person who has obtained a permit or licence shall not break the licence conditions under Section 7.

According to Chapter V stating offences and penalties, whoever violates those prohibitions contained in Section 5 or Section 6 is convicted and shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or with a fine or with both under Section 8. If a person holding any permit is found to violate prohibitions contained in Chapter VII, that one shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or with a fine or with both under Section 9. Any person who attempts to commit or abet in the commission of any offences obtained in the law shall be punished, and exhibits will be confiscated under Section 10.

Thus, the Trade Department warned the exporters and importers of penalties for non-compliance with the Export and Import Law, directives and guidelines and informed them to seek licences first as pre-arrival documentation for all types of shipment by air, sea and land road. — NN/EM

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NATIONAL

Chaukhtetkyee reclining Buddha image's unique eyes draw Chinese pilgrims



A panoramic view of the Chaukhtetkyee Pagoda from the front perspective.

ACCORDING to Sayadaw U Vannita, one of the resident Sanghas at Chaukhtetkyee Pagoda in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, the reclining Buddha image, particularly its eye painting, has been attracting Chinese pilgrims annually.

The Sayadaw explained, "Each eye of the Buddha image measures five feet and seven inches wide and one foot and nine inches high. Myanmar and Chinese artisans collaborated on crafting them back in the early 20th century."

The process faced numerous challenges due to technological limitations at the time. However, a team from the Nagar Glass Factory, led by renowned glassblower U Mya Kyaw, successfully heated imported glass slabs to mould them into concave glass eyes.

Once formed, the artisans encountered difficulty finding someone skilled enough to paint the eyes. With the assistance of residents from Latha Township, they approached a

bottle-painting artist visiting from Guangzhou. This artist graciously painted the eyes free of charge.

Sayadaw U Vannita concluded, "So, Chinese visitors come and observe the eyes of the reclining Buddha since they are the works of their national artist."

The reclining Buddha, formally known as Shwethalyaung Pagoda, was commissioned by rice merchant Sir Bo Tha and his wife Daw Sein Yin in 1907. The pagoda housing the Buddha image was constructed on a six-tier hill, hence the name "Chauk", which means "six" in Myanmar.

Initially, the Buddha image stood at 235 feet in length and 101 feet in height. However, in 1957, a team of artisans reduced the size of the Buddha image to accommodate a 65-foot-tall iron pavilion. Following the reconstruction of the Buddha image on 25 November 1977, the original statue was reduced to 216 feet in length and 58 feet in height. — ASH/NT

Yangon Region govt donates nutritious refreshments to fasting Muslims

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials donated nutritious refreshments to fasting Muslims yesterday evening.

At Cholia Jamah Mosque on Bo Sun Pak Street in Pabedan Township, they were welcomed by the Chair of the mosque board of trustees Haji Jamar (aka) U Aung Thein and officials who clarified the fasting process.

The Chief Minister and ministers donated fruits and Royal-D drink donated by the Yangon Region government to 700 fasting Muslims individually and presented cash for refreshments.

Officials of the mosque accepted the donations and prayed for serving the inter-



The donation of nutritious refreshments in progress yesterday.

ests of the State to be a peaceful and prosperous nation.

The Chief Minister and party also donated fruits and Sunkist soft drink tins to 400 fasting Muslims individually and cash for refreshments

to the Chair of 'Tachanpae' Masjid on Upper Pansodan Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township Haji Ibrahim (aka) U Zaw Win Naing and officials. — Hsan Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/TTA

Alternate daily newspaper publishing planned for New Year holiday

DAILY newspapers of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be in alternate circulation during the holidays of the Myanmar New Year. The Myanma Alinn Daily will be published from 13 to 16 April, whereas the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will take holidays. The Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will be in circulation from 17 to 21 April, while the Myanma Alinn daily will take a break.

The Ethnic Sector in the Shan Language by the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi), published every Thursday, will take a holiday on 18 April; the Ethnic Sector in Mon, Skaw Kayin, Poe Kayin and Pa-O languages published every Sunday by the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) will take holidays on 14 and 21 April; the Ethnic Sector in the Kachin Language by the Sub-Printing House (Myitkyina) published twice a week will take a holiday on 20 April. After the Thingyan holidays, all dailies will be published regularly. However, advertisements will be accepted throughout the holidays.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Sai Sai Kham Leng to celebrate birthday with special show at Inya Lake Garden

ACTOR-SINGER Sai Sai Kham Leng has announced that his birthday show will be held on 10 April at Inya Lake Garden in Mayangon Township.

The show is scheduled from 4 pm to 10 pm, with ticket fee of K100,000 per person.

Sai Sai Kham Leng mentioned, "In 2004, I organized my very first Birthday Show with the idea from the staff at Blazon, and it continued annually until 2019. Unfortunately, we couldn't hold the birthday

shows after that. However, we will resume the Birthday Show again this year. This year marks the 20th anniversary of my Birthday Show."

Furthermore, an album is typically released for each Birthday Show, which is well-received by his fans.

It is also anticipated that following the upcoming Sai Sai Birthday Show in 2024, a music album will be released, as in previous birthday celebrations. — ASH/TRKM



One of the previous posters bearing the Sai Sai Birthday Show.

NATIONAL

United Nations' one-sided pressure on Myanmar fails to foster constructive cooperation

RECENTLY, the United Nations has put pressure on Myanmar in different ways. An open briefing was convened at the United Nations Security Council in New York on 4 April 2024, and the current situation in Myanmar was discussed.

The Human Rights Council held the 55th regular session from 26 February to 5 April 2024 in Geneva. During the meeting, the Interactive Dialogues with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar were held on 1 and 19 March 2024, respectively. The Human Rights Council also adopted the resolution entitled "Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar" submitted by Belgium on behalf of the EU on 4 April 2024 in the absence of Myanmar (the country concerned). It is observed that the said resolution included unfounded and one-sided allegations pertaining to humanitarian assistance and human rights in Myanmar.

Amidst the challenges, the government continues its endeavours to maintain peace, stability, the rule of law, prosperity, and the systematic convening of general elections. Myanmar always attaches great importance to providing humanitarian assistance to the people in need. 16 UN agencies have opened their

field offices throughout Myanmar. As of February 2024, there are over 1,700 staff, more specifically around 130 international staff and around 1,600 locally recruited staff, working for the UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in Myanmar.

Travel access has been facilitated for the AHA Centre, UN agencies and international organizations, INGOs, and some embassies of donor countries to the requested areas of Myanmar, depending on the prevailing situation and on-ground security conditions. During the past three years, the government has facilitated over 1,000 times of travel access to UN agencies and INGOs and more than 60 visits to embassies throughout Myanmar. Particularly, in Rakhine State alone, the government has granted 250 times of travel authorization to UN agencies and over 300 times to INGOs in 2023. Therefore, Myanmar clearly states that the accusations of access denial mentioned in some reports and statements of the United Nations are groundless.

Moreover, the Government of Myanmar has facilitated the proposed visits of high-level and senior officials of the UN agencies. A total of 19 official visits of high-level and senior officials of the

UN and international organizations, including the visits of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, were facilitated during the past three years.

Myanmar is keeping up its efforts for the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State in accordance with the bilateral instruments and is always ready to receive verified displaced persons. The government is fully committed to the repatriation process. The process has not yet been able to commence due to the current security conditions of the Rakhine State.

Myanmar consistently opposes country-specific resolutions and mandates as well as their follow-up Interactive Dialogues since their modalities do not contribute to objective reporting, constructive dialogue and cooperation between the country-concerned and the international community, in addition to going contrary to the fundamental principles of impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity of the Human Rights Council. Therefore, Myanmar categorically rejects the resolution submitted by Belgium on behalf of the EU. The government highly appreciates the friendly countries that uphold a balanced position

during the dialogues.

The United Nations Secretary-General announced the appointment of the former Australian Foreign Minister Ms Julie Bishop as his Special Envoy in Myanmar on 5 April 2024. Despite Myanmar's rejection of the country-specific resolutions, including the resolution which contains the creation of the mandate of appointing a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Myanmar has constructively cooperated with the previous Special Envoys of the Secretary-General on Myanmar as a gesture of constructive cooperation with the United Nations. Pertaining to the appointment of Ms Julie Bishop as the Special Envoy on Myanmar, no official communication has been made to Myanmar by the United Nations.

Myanmar underscores that unilateral pressure does not contribute to constructive cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations. Mutual understanding, respect, and reciprocal engagement will result in pragmatic and positive collaboration.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
8 April 2024

DPM Union MoPF Minister receives EEC Minister in Charge for Integration & Macroeconomics

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein received the delegation headed by Mr Sergey Glazyev, Member of the Board – Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed matters related to financial and customs cooperation between Myanmar and Russia, trade and payment and the possibility of conducting training courses and seminars for the development of human resources.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and heads of departments, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce, and members of the delegation headed by Mr Sergey Glazyev. — MNA/TS



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein holds talks with the delegation led by Mr Sergey Glazyev, Member of the Board—Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission, yesterday.

NATIONAL

DPM Union MoFA Minister receives EEC Minister in Charge for Integration & Macroeconomics

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received the delegation headed by Mr Sergey Glazyev, Member of the Board — Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday.

They discussed matters on the enhancement of cooperation between Myanmar and Eurasian Economic Union (EEU/EAEU) member countries in the sectors of trade, investment, business-to-business, and people-to-people contact, among others. — MNA



The EEC Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics calls on Deputy Prime Minister and Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

MIFER Union Minister receives EEC Minister in Charge of Integration & Macroeconomics



EEC Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics Mr Sergey Glazyev calls on Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received the delegation led by Mr Sergey Glaziev, Member of the Board – Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) at Office No 1, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Both sides cordially discussed and exchanged their views on implementing the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) signed by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and promoting economic cooperation in the prioritized areas.

The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission was signed on 15 June 2023. The priority cooperation areas of the MOC are regional economic integration, customs regulations, technical regulations, application of sanitary, veterinary-sanitary, quarantine, and phytosanitary measures, financial markets, transport, energy, agro-industrial complex, competition policy and antimonopoly regulation, industrial sector, consumer rights, informatization, information and communication technologies, digital transformation of the economy and other areas of mutual interests to promote the economic cooperation. — MIFER

Myanmar People's Health Foundation, WHO cooperate in establishment of 8 smoke-free zones in Yangon in 2023

MYANMAR People's Health Foundation and the World Health Organization (WHO) cooperated to establish eight smoke-free areas in the Yangon Region in 2023, according to Dr Than Sein, Chairman of the People's Health Foundation.

The Myanmar People's Health Foundation and the WHO are cooperating to reduce smoking and tobacco usage, mainly by designating smoke-free areas.

"In Yangon Region in 2023, we were able to establish a total of eight smoke-free areas. The main designated areas are shopping centres, schools, offices, restaurants, hotels, motels, guest houses, and pagodas. Smoke-free areas have been established in the townships of downtown Yangon, such as Ahlon, Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Dagon, Yankin

and, Thingangyun townships, restaurants, hotels, motels, and shopping centres. Furthermore, the remaining townships within Yangon have been able to continue to be designated as public areas due to the cooperation of administrative organizations, pagoda trustee board, and the public," Dr Than Sein explained.

In addition, such smoke-free areas are being established not only in Yangon Region but also in Mandalay Region, Shan State, Mon State and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

At present, a total of 90 pagodas in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone of Mandalay Region, Pindaya Caves in Shan State (South), Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda and Kyaiktiyo Pagoda Platform in Mon State have been designated smoke-free areas. — ASH/TKO

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NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister meets trainees of People's Military Servants Training 1/2024 in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn warmly greets trainees of the People's Military Servants Training 1/2024 yesterday.

MEMBER of the Central Body on Summoning People's Military Servants Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn

met trainees of People's Military Servants Training 1/2024 at No 2 Advanced Training Depot in Nay Pyi Taw, together with Nay Pyi

Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Saw Than Hlaing, relevant officials

and artistes, yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister highlighted the tour to the depot to comfort and honour those joining the military training, including his life experience as a Tatmadaw member; duties assigned by Tatmadaw and the government to date.

He added that every citizen should consider that they bear responsibility for the defence of their country as an inborn duty.

He then explained the benefits of being a people's military servant and their dignity after serving the duties for two years.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman then said they will also be provided with the needed utensils and cash.

Moreover, the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander said that the trainees should obey

the order and show loyalty to the country, people and the unit. They also should follow the law, rules and regulations.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn also handed 22 MRTV DTH receivers and 111 DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes to the relevant officials for the villages in Nay Pyi Taw Council, Nay Pyi Taw Command and 11 companies of the training school.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman then presented necessary utensils and cash assistance for members of people's military service to an official.

The Union minister and party gave two MRTV DTH receivers and 30 MRTV DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes for 1/2024 trainees through lottery.

They cordially greeted trainees. — MNA/KTZH

People's military servants training No 1 begins across various commands

THE People's Military Service Law was enacted as Law No 27/2010 in November 2010, and the law came into force on 10 February 2024. The youths from different regions and states voluntarily registered to join the No 1 training for people military servants.

Therefore, the eligible volunteers were selected for No 1 training, and the opening ceremonies for training were held at the respective military commands yesterday.

The region and state chief ministers, commanders, and relevant officials attended the events, and the commandants of training depots gave opening speeches.

They also met trainees and provided them with cash assistance.

The People's Military Service Law was enacted as every citizen is under a duty to safeguard Our Three Main Nation-

al Causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Every citizen should undergo military training and to serve in the armed forces to defend the State.

The opening ceremonies of training for people's military servants were held so that those voluntarily registered to

join the training were able to serve the State duties as good citizens of the country. — MNA/KTZH



The inauguration event of the People's Military Servants Training No 1 in action yesterday.

NATIONAL

Black gram, pigeon pea prices surge in pre-Thingyan holidays



Images show black grams and pigeon peas in the market.

THE prices of black grams and pigeon peas showed upticks prior to the Thingyan holidays starting from 13 April.

The prices stood at K3.015 million per tonne of black grams (Fair Average Quality), K3.26 million per tonne of black grams (Special Quality) and K3.775 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 30 March. The prices moved up to K3.18 million per tonne of black grams FAQ, K3.44 million per tonne of black grams SQ and K3.99 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 6 April. The

figures reflected an increase of K168,000 per tonne of black grams and K215,000 per tonne of pigeon peas in the past six days.

Similarly, the FOB price is also up by US\$30 per tonne within a week. The FOB prices were \$945-\$965 per tonne of black grams FAQ, \$1,030-\$1,050 per tonne of black grams SQ and \$1,160-\$1,180 per tonne of pigeon peas on 28-30 March. They went up to \$970-\$990 per tonne of black gram FAQ, \$1,060-\$1,080 per tonne of black grams SQ

and \$1,190-\$1,210 per tonne of pigeon peas on 4-6 April.

Meanwhile, the price of green grams did not fluctuate this week. A total of 135 containers (3,240 tonnes) of black grams were transacted during the six market opening days this month.

With the pulse prices rising, the domestic market sees brisk sales. The traders and growers are financially doing well. It contributes to a country's foreign earnings as well. — TWA/KK

MoALI earns K11.27 bln from grant lake sales in 2023

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), the ministry has generated over K11.27 billion from selling grant lakes, based on the 2023 statistics.

Preservation of natural resources such as rivers, creeks, and lakes is crucial as they are part of our natural heritage and national resources.

On 3 April, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Dr Aung Gyi, urged fish producers and consum-

ers to view the preservation of grant lakes as a national duty to prevent the extinction of fish resources.

Fish production is regulated in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations to protect the habitats of freshwater fish and their ecosystems.

Due to the gradual decrease in freshwater fish production, public collaboration is necessary to ensure sustainable production and consumption. — TWA/TMT



The photo shows the ceremony of breeding fishes in the land-leased grant lake (in Dahka River) in Kyaunggon Township, Kyonpyaw District in Ayeyawady Region for improving fish resources and for assisting the socioeconomic of the locals.

Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion to temporarily close surrounding roads during festival

ROADS around Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion will be temporarily closed during Thingyan, announced by the Yangon Region government.

During the Myanmar



The Yangon Mayor inspects progress of Thingyan Pavilion.

Thingyan Festival, which is going to be celebrated from 13 to 16 April 2024, along with water splashing, Thingyan traditional Yein dance (choral dance) will entertain at the Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion located at the front of Yangon City Hall.

During the water festival, Maha Bandoola Road will be closed from Sule Pagoda Road to Pansodan Road, and Sule Pagoda Road will be closed from Anawrahta Road to Merchant Road from 7 am to 6 pm; therefore, traffic needs to use other roads during that time, the regional government has announced. — TWA/ZS

Strong winds damage almost 22,000 houses in 2023-24



A tree uproots and falls onto the houses in Mingan village in Madaya township of Mandalay region due to strong winds on 8 April 2024.

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement has reported that in the financial year 2023-2024, strong winds caused damage to nearly 22,000 houses.

Throughout this financial year, strong winds occurred

approximately 650 times, resulting in the destruction of around 21,700 homes, as well as causing fatalities and injuries.

Presently, the ministry, in collaboration with relevant administrative bodies and the public, is undertaking the

repair of houses susceptible to strong winds. Additionally, efforts have been made to educate the public on actions to take during strong winds and hotlines have been set up for emergency assistance requests. — TWA/MKKS

Domestic gold price hits record high at K4.56 mln per tical

THE domestic gold price hit an all-time high of K4.56 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) again on 4 April after spot gold price reached a record high of over US\$2,330 per ounce on 8 April.

At present, the 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 K3,997,900 per tical, showing a large gap of over K560,000 per tical with the actual market value.

YGEA notified on 30 March that inspections were underway against those allegedly manipulating the market through a verbal deal.

Seven big gold shops in Yan-



CBM constantly states that it is essential to dispel false news. Upon tips off, the authorities inspect the price speculators, and legal proceedings against them are officially declared

gon 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. YGEA asked its members to inform law enforcement agencies of the news regarding those ma-

nipulators.

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

CBM initiated an online trading market in which exporters/importers and private banks are engaged, with a view to developing the FX market and stopping price manipulation. The market exchange rates are officially announced on the FX market online trading platform. Additionally, CBM let the authorized money changers sell foreign currency as petty cash to those studying abroad, going on a pilgrimage and working abroad, according to CBM's notification on 30 March.

Some unscrupulous individuals are attempting to manip-

ulate the market by spreading misinformation from the verbal deal or sparking public concerns with malicious news about the volatile exchange rate. Some are also engaged in transactions without a valid licence, violating the existing laws.

They will face legal action under the Foreign Exchange Management Law. CBM also informed the people of accurate information and data released by the departments concerned and authorized money changers.

CBM constantly states that it is essential to dispel false news. Upon tips off, the authorities inspect the price speculators, and legal proceedings against them are officially declared, according to the notification released on 30 March. — NN/EM

YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate stable for five straight weeks

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market remained unchanged at K5,250 per viss for the five consecutive weeks from 18 March to 21 April 2024, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

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.

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

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed



The photo shows imported jerry cans of palm oil at the warehouse in Yangon.

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 Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer

fairer prices to consumers in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association and oil importing companies.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over 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

Sugar price shows upward trajectory as milling season almost ends

SUGAR prices show bullish market sentiment when the sugar mills nearly finish operations. However, jaggery prices continue to decline with persistent production.

The sugar price jumped to K4,600 per viss in early April from K3,970 per viss on 17 February 2024 in Yangon's market.

Meanwhile, the jaggery fetched K3,600-K5,500 per viss depending on producing areas, varieties and quality on 6 April, decreasing from K3,700-K5,800 per viss on 27 March. Jaggery combo mixed with sugar is cheaper than organic jaggery. Sugar mills' dynamic pricing might influence the market value. The sugar price is expected to continue rising, Ko Min, a trader who sells sugar to regions outside Yangon, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). — TWA/EM

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.

OPINION

Take preventive measures of fire in summer

FIRE outbreaks caused by natural or human-induced demand vigilance and proactive measures from everyone. Whether it's for cooking, crafting, or machinery operations, it's imperative to handle fire with care in daily routines.

Annually, Myanmar faces over 1,800 fire incidents, resulting in property losses exceeding K15 billion. Between 2013 and 2022, the nation witnessed a staggering 18,336 fire outbreaks, inflicting damage worth more than K155 billion. Negligence and electrical faults are the primary culprits behind these calamities.

In 2023, 77 locals lost lives, and 193 were injured in 1,362 outbreaks of fire, causing loss and damage to property worth more than K35 billion. In 2022, fires broke out across the nation 1,507 times, leaving K6.7 billion worth of loss and damage of property, with 96 civilians dead and 139 injured.

Common triggers for fire outbreaks in Myanmar include offerings of oil, candles, and joss sticks to Buddha images, mosquito coil mishaps, and accidental fires from cheroots. Additionally, issues like electrical short circuits and improper use of electronic devices contribute to the risk.

To address these risks, firefighters from various brigades conduct thorough inspections of stove-wiring systems and promote the use of fire extinguishers and circuit breakers. With the onset of hotter summers, heightened caution is necessary.

Residents and firefighters alike participate in fire prevention exercises to prepare for emergencies. The Mandalay fire of 24 March 1984 stands as a stark reminder. Within eight hours, over 2,500 buildings, including schools, residences, and businesses, were razed. Since then, the community has mobilized, utilizing fire engines donated by

well-wishers and locals, while youths volunteer for auxiliary fire brigades, driven by the memory of past tragedies. From then on, local youths join the auxiliary fire brigade to take voluntary fire preventive measures due to remembering the bitter experience of a terrible fire.

By remaining vigilant and proactive, communities can mitigate the devastating impacts of fire outbreaks. Every individual in Myanmar must prioritize fire safety, from adhering to preventive measures in daily activities to actively participating in fire prevention initiatives. Through collective effort and preparedness, the nation can safeguard lives and properties against the ravages of fire.

As such, individuals in Myanmar society need to be reserve forces for fire prevention in accord with the missions of the Fire Services Department for fire safety, the prevention of natural disasters, search and rescue, and public welfare measures. If so, the society will be safe and sound in all seasons. Hence, people need to use fire systematically and carefully.

The Significance of Myanmar Water Festival



Myanmar Water Festival

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

THE Myanmar Water Festival, locally known as Thingyan, is one of the most significant and widely celebrated events in Myanmar. The following are some significant realities about the festival;

Cultural Significance: Thingyan marks the traditional Myanmar New Year and is celebrated with great willingness and enthusiasm across the country. It usually falls in mid-April, and the 17th of April is the first day of the Myanmar New Year.

Water Symbolism: Water is the central theme of the festival, symbolizing the washing away of the previous year's misfortunes and sins and welcoming the new year with a fresh start. People engage in water fights, wetting each other with water from buckets, pipes, and water guns.

Religious Observances: The festival also has religious significance, with Buddhists visiting pagodas and monasteries to make offerings, listen to ser-

mons, and perform merit-making activities. It's a time for spiritual reflection and renewal.

Street Celebrations: Streets across Myanmar transform into lively water-splashing zones during Thingyan. People of all ages participate in the events, dancing to music blaring from speakers, enjoying street food, and engaging in friendly water battles.

Community Unity: Thingyan brings communities together, fostering a sense of unity and friendship as people join hands to celebrate the new year. It's a time when social barriers are relaxed, and people from all walks of life come together to enjoy the celebrations.

Traditional Customs: Traditional customs and ceremonies are observed during Thingyan, including the pouring of scented water over Buddha images, symbolic cleansing of homes and possessions, and the offering of food to monks and elders.

Pandal Decorations: Attractively decorated pandals or stages are set up in towns and cities, featuring colourful displays, performances, and cultural shows. These pandals serve as focal points for community gatherings and entertainment.

Modern Adaptations: While Thingyan has deep traditional roots, it has also evolved with modern influences. In urban areas, there are concerts, dance parties, and other modern forms of entertainment alongside traditional celebrations.

Tourist Attraction: Thingyan attracts both domestic and international tourists, drawn by the vibrancy and exuberance of the festivities. It's a unique cultural experience that offers visitors a glimpse into Myanmar's rich heritage and traditions.

Generally, Thingyan is a joyous celebration that expands the spirit of renewal, unity, and prosperous community in Myanmar.

Any Words of Sympathies or Condemnation?

THOUSANDS of insurgents made up of personnel from the Arakanese Army (AA), Chin PDF, Magway PDF, and MNDAs rebels attacked a military base in Kyauktaw, north of Sittway in Rakhine State. Due to the mismatch in manpower, Tatmadaw personnel and their families decided to abandon the camp and leave with two landing crafts (LCU) on the evening of 7 February.

The insurgents started attacking the vessels as soon as they realized the garrison was be-

ing shifted out. Along the 50-mile-plus waterway from Kyauktaw to Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State, there were no other supporting ground infantry or Navy boats. The Air Force arrived on time, with aircraft and helicopters providing defensive cover to the two vessels and their passengers.

Along the Kaladan River, the enemies continued their attacks using superior firepower, including drone bombs, RPGs, machine guns and sniper fire, from both sides of the channel. One of the

LCUs was damaged, taken out of action and ran aground because of incessant attacks in the early afternoon of 8 February. The personnel and families on the damaged LCU were forced to abandon the ship and move on to the remaining craft.

Further attacks on the remaining vessel and sabotages on an incoming auxiliary LCU meant that these vessels also ran aground further down the river before reaching the safety of the incoming Navy gunboats.

The military personnel bravely defended themselves while screaming at the top of their lungs that many women and children were trying to leave the grounded boat. With more than 50 drop bombs falling on them, they had no choice but to run ashore, hoping the insurgents would be somewhat humane towards unarmed and innocent women and children. Perhaps hopelessness is the very soil that nourishes human hope. The terrorists did not spare women and children

By U AC

begging for their lives.

Tears of sadness flow from the river to the sea. Grief was only worsened by lack of compassion, commiseration, condolence, consolation, concern, comfort or care by the West or ASEAN, a stark contrast if you could recall the response at the sentencing of a known terrorist leader and murderer; Phyto Zeya Thaw!

Why unprotected eclipse gazing will leave you seeing stars

Eye health experts warn that even a brief, unprotected glance at a solar eclipse can lead to lifelong vision loss.

JUST a single, unguarded glance at a solar eclipse can result in a lifetime of vision loss, eye health experts warn.

On Monday, tens of millions of spectators across Mexico, the United States and Canada will witness the Moon completely obscure the Sun's light, a rare celestial spectacle that won't be visible for most of North America again until 2044.

Medical literature is teeming with examples of people who suffered damage to their retinas — the layer of light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye — and health professionals are offering advice on how to avoid becoming the next cautionary tale.

Aaron Zimmerman, a clinical professor of optometry at the Ohio State University, told AFP that the dangers of sun-gazing during eclipses were discussed by the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates, but it wasn't until recently that science really caught up with how eye injury happened.

When it comes to eclipses, he explained, the main damage comes from "photochemical toxicity," where short, high-energy wavelengths of light — blues, violets and non-visible ultraviolets — trigger chemical reactions that damage the rods and cones

of the retina.

Cue visits to the emergency department by people with complaints of blurry vision, changes in colour perception, and blind spots, with the outlook for recovery far from certain.

Human beings inherently look away from the Sun because of the discomfort it causes, but during eclipses "you can psychologically override" that instinct, explained Zimmerman.

A famous journal report about the 2017 US solar eclipse involved a woman in her twenties who presented to the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary after looking at the solar rim "several times for approximately six seconds without protective glasses" and then later with eclipse glasses.

Hours later, objects started to look fuzzy and out of shape, colours became distorted, and she developed a central black spot in her left eye.

An advanced imaging technique was able to show the damage at the cellular level which persisted on her follow up six weeks later.

'Permanent blank spot'

Young adults might be more susceptible, the authors of the paper said, because of larger pupils, clearer eye structure, or



This year's eclipse's path of totality is about 185km wide, wider than in 2017. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

"poorer recognition of the dangers" of viewing eclipses with improper eyewear.

"In some cases, it's just partially damaged and it may resolve so that you don't notice it anymore," Neil Bressler, a professor of ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins University and editor-in-chief of JAMA Ophthalmology told AFP. If recovery happens, it's normally within the first six months.

"But in other cases, it can leave a permanent blank spot... and we don't have a treatment to reverse that. It's like brain tissue, once you lose it, it won't grow back," added Bressler. The best way to view the eclipse is with eclipse sunglasses, which block out 99.999 per cent of light.

Always go for genuine products. To test if your glasses are up to standard, "find the brightest light bulb in your home — and then

look at that from up close and you should barely be able to see the light," said Zimmerman.

If it's too late to procure specialist eyewear, then there are indirect methods, such as punching a pinhole into a cardboard and letting the light shine onto another surface, or even using the humble kitchen colander to the same effect. NASA's webcast is another option.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Completion ceremony held for Mekong-Lancang Special Fund Project 2021

A ceremony was held on 8 April at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw to announce the successful completion of the Special Fund Project 2021 for the production of cross-border animal infectious disease vaccines between the Mekong-Lancang countries. The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department implemented the project, attended by Union Minister U Min Naung of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi, Second Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Zheng Zhihong, along with representatives, directors-general, rectors, and project officials.

During the ceremony, the Union minister highlighted the achievements of the Mekong-Lancang Special Fund Project 2021 by the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary. The project focused on



The completion event for the Mekong-Lancang Special Fund Project 2021 in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

producing vaccines for infectious diseases transmissible between animals and humans, along with capacity building activities. Additionally, it facilitated

the establishment of emergency vaccine storage in Nay Pyi Taw head office, laboratory network systems, and two medical laboratory animal buildings to ensure

high-quality vaccine production and proper care of medical test animals.

Acknowledging the contribution of the People's Republic of

China and all individuals involved in the project, the Union Minister expressed gratitude for their cooperation and support, which led to the successful implementation of the project.

Following this, Mr Zheng Zhihong congratulated the team on the project's successful completion.

Dr Ye Tun Win, Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, provided insights into the project's implementation process. The Union minister presented a souvenir to Mr Zheng Zhihong, while the Director-General presented a souvenir to the project leader.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation announced the commencement of the fourth Mekong-Lancang special fund project in November 2021, which was successfully completed in March 2024. — MNA/TKO

MoHT hosts delegation from Eurasian Economic Commission

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine received a delegation led by Mr Sergey Glazyev, Member of the Board — Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics Eurasian Economic Commission, at the ministry yesterday.

Both sides engaged in friendly and open discussions regarding tourism cooperation between Russia, a member of the Eurasian Economic Commission, and Myanmar; poten-

tial signing of a memorandum of understanding on tourism cooperation, close collaboration between the public and private sectors of both countries in promoting tourism and implementing tourism development initiatives, the possibility of signing memorandums of understanding on tourism cooperation with other countries within the Eurasian Economic Commission, potential investments from these countries in Myanmar's hotels and tourism sector, the

sharing of travel promotion information, the development of sports and adventure tourism, facilitating visits to Myanmar by travellers from commission member countries, airline flight operations, payment convenience issues, and the development of digital tourism.

Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe, the permanent secretary, the director-general, and senior officials were also present at the meeting. — MNA/TRKM



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine and Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics pose for the documentary group photo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation spread by Khit Thit media regarding alleged forced conscription in Bago Region

THE malicious media outlet Khit Thit Media has circulated fake news on social media, accusing security forces of forcibly conscripting civilians in Bago Region on 7 April.

According to the false report, ten pedestrians in Minhla Township, three cowherds, and two pedestrians in Okpo Township were allegedly conscripted.

However, a member of the security forces has refuted these allegations, stating that they were merely patrolling the region and did not apprehend anyone.

It is evident that malicious media outlets and individuals are disseminating misinformation in an attempt to instil fear among the public. — MNA/NT



NATIONAL

MoALI Union Minister meets EEC Minister in Charge for Integration & Macroeconomics

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received the delegation headed by Mr Sergey Glazyev, Member of the Board – Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides discussed matters related to the implementation of the direct export of fertilizers produced in Russia to Myanmar, Myanmar's proce-

dures for importing fertilizers, Myanmar's rice, coffee, fruits and agricultural produce, aquatic products that the market needs of the European Asian Economic Union (EAEU) member countries, coordination between Myanmar and Russia, opportunities to invest in Myanmar, including coffee and oil crops, the export of coffee, which is a Myanmar GAP product, to (EAEU) countries, the use of good varieties of oil crops and cotton crops, natural

fertilizer production and technical cooperation, conditions that will be shared and exchanged for pure potato production technology and collaboration related to technical with Yezin Agricultural University (YAU). — MNA/TS

Union Minister U Min Naung and EEC Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics Mr Sergey Glazyev exchange gifts at yesterday's event.



World Health Day ceremony introduces plan to combat non-communicable diseases



A glimpse of the ceremony to mark the 2024 World Health Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, along with representatives from relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, convened at the Ministry of Health office yesterday to mark World Health Day (WHD) 2024.

The Union minister highlighted that since the founding year of the World Health Organization in 1950, WHD has been commemorated annually. Member countries gather to discuss global health challenges and strategies for collective action.

This year's WHD theme, "My Health, My Right", emphasizes health as a fundamental human right. The Union minister emphasized the ministry's commitment to expanding access to quality healthcare in line with the State Administration Council's nine objectives.

Following this, attendees watched the WHD 2024 commemoration video. Subsequently, the Union minister and the Deputy Minister presented awards to outstanding state and regional public

health workers.

In the afternoon, an introductory ceremony was held for the National Strategy for Preventing and Controlling Non-communicable Diseases (2023-27). After the Union minister's opening remarks, Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Kan Kaung of the Public Health Department presented the strategy's objectives and programmes. A brief explanation of the strategy by Director Dr Thida Win of the Non-communicable Diseases Unit followed this. — MNA/NT

Support provided to IDPs in Myitkyina, Waingmaw townships

KACHIN State Chief Minister U Khat Htein Nan provided comfort to internally displaced people (IDPs) who have fled from conflicts in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships. The meeting took place at the Sutngai Mountain shelter in Myitkyina yesterday.

He assured the IDPs that the state government would swiftly provide support for their basic needs. Additionally, the chief minister and his team offered K5 million in cash and K522,500 worth of rice, instant noodles, eggs, and edible oil to assist 53 IDPs at the shelter.

Following this, they sought

the blessing of the Reverend and inspected the shelter for infrastructure maintenance.

Later in the afternoon, the chief minister held a meeting with the Committee to Reassess Seizures of Farmland and Other Land in Kachin State. During the meeting, he stressed the importance of adhering to laws, rules, and procedures in the evaluation process.

The committee members presented a restructuring plan for the committee and discussed pending cases awaiting decisions. The Chief Minister provided his insights on each case. — IRPD (Kachin State)/NT



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khat Htein Nan provides foodstuffs and cash assistance to families of IDPs yesterday.

ECONOMY WORLD

Intl cruise ship carrying over 1,800 tourists arrives in China's Tianjin

CRUISE ship Serenade of the Seas docked at Tianjin International Cruise Home Port in north China's port city of Tianjin on Sunday morning, with over 1,800 tourists from 50 countries and regions aboard.

The 275-day cruise on the ship, which is registered in the Bahamas and operated by Royal Caribbean Group, is the longest round-the-world route at present. Tianjin is its only stop in Chinese mainland, according to the company.

The ship will dock at Tianjin for two days and one night, carrying over 800 crew members and over 1,800 tourists. Most of the tourists will go sightseeing in the cities of Beijing and Tianjin.

"We work with the cruise line and the port company to streamline passenger clearance procedures and let them have more time to travel in China," said Bi Linlin, a local immigra-



An aerial drone photo taken on 7 April 2024 shows cruise ship Serenade of the Seas docking at Tianjin International Cruise Home Port in north China's Tianjin Municipality. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

tion inspection officer, adding that with the rapid recovery of China's cruise industry, the demand from foreign tourists to visit China's

scenic spots and historic sites is growing.

Liu Zinan, chairman of Royal Caribbean Cruises, Asia said,

"We always stick to the Chinese market, and we are committed to creating value for Chinese consumers, social and economic

development, as well as inbound and outbound travel. We have full confidence in the resilience of the Chinese economy."

Royal Caribbean International announced its new China route deployment plan in March, with two cruises deployed in the ports of Shanghai, Tianjin and Hong Kong. The plan's sailing time frame ranges from February 2025 to April 2026.

Tianjin International Cruise Home Port has welcomed 22 cruise ships and seen 68,000 tourist visits so far this year, according to Dong Zichen, deputy general manager of Tianjin International Cruise Home Port Co, Ltd.

"We are quite optimistic about the recovery of the cruise tourism industry in Tianjin," Dong said, adding that the port is estimated to receive 100 cruise ships and 300,000 inbound and outbound tourist visits this year. — Xinhua

China-ASEAN economic, trade links inseparable: UOB China executive

THE Chinese economy has promising prospects and China-ASEAN economic and trade links are inseparable, with the integration of the bilateral industrial chains to be deeper, a senior executive of United Overseas Bank (UOB) China told Xinhua in a recent interview.

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) share a common development philosophy and industrial chains, said Cynthia Xin, general manager of Beijing branch, UOB China.

From her perspective, China has built industrial chains covering many fields, including high-end manufacturing, over the past decades. Notably, such industrial chains are under steady development, giving China an obvious advantage.

Cooperation between the two major economies has evolved from economic and trade exchanges to industrial

chain integration, she said.

China, as the largest trade partner of ASEAN, can extend and drive the industrial chain development of the whole ASEAN through RCEP and other economic and trade agreements, she added.

The investment volume between China and ASEAN is increasing with a growing proportion of greenfield investment, which indicates that industrial chain integration between the two sides will further deepen, said Xin.

"I can tell from work that Chinese business partners are practical and down-to-earth. They consider more about cost-saving and efficiency. Thus, I am confident of China's economic performance," she noted.

"Overseas capital and companies will maintain their interest in China as long as the country keeps opening up," Xin said. — Xinhua

Japan launches ride-hailing services in Tokyo, other areas to follow

JAPAN on Monday launched ride-hailing services in Tokyo, with other areas across the country to follow suit in a bid to address a nationwide shortage of taxi drivers.

The country partially lifted a ban on the services earlier this month, allowing drivers with a standard licence to offer taxi services on specified days and hours using their own private vehicle, provided they are under the management of a local tax company.

The Tokyo Hire-Taxi Association, one of the operators involved in the project, held a ceremony to commemorate the launch, demonstrating how drivers use a dedicated smartphone app to receive despatch requests and to input health-related data concerning their fitness to drive.

"We will greatly expand the ride-hailing business and establish it throughout Japan to resolve a shortage of transport providers," transport minister Tetsuo Saito said at the ceremony. He went for a test



Transport minister Tetsuo Saito (front L) and digital minister Taro Kono (front R) attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Tokyo to mark the launch of Japan's first ride-hailing service on 8 April 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ride using the service.

About 80 drivers were available as of Monday morning, with the services used around 50 times before 9 am, according to the association.

Registered vehicles are despatched with destinations and fares calculated in advance. Only cashless payments can be accepted in principle.

The services are now available in Tokyo's 23 wards

and the suburban areas of Musashino and Mitaka from Monday to Friday from 7 am to before 11 am and from 12 am to before 4 am on Saturday mornings.

The services will later be expanded, with the transport ministry having also allowed their introduction in other large cities such as Kyoto, Osaka, Nagoya and Fukuoka. — Kyodo

Businesses in Viet Nam worst affected by cyber threats in Southeast Asia: report

BUSINESSES in Viet Nam were the worst affected with 17.1 million cyber threat incidents, local media VnExpress reported Monday, citing global cybersecurity company Kaspersky.

It was followed by Indonesia and Thailand with 14.6 million and 4.7 million incidents respectively.

According to the Vietnamese Ministry of Information and Communications, as many as 1,812 cyberattacks were detected in Viet Nam so far this

year, a drop of 38 per cent compared to the same period last year.

The ministry will develop and issue a guidebook on information system security by levels in the second quarter.

According to Kaspersky, Southeast Asia saw nearly 43 million local threats targeting businesses in 2023. Singapore recorded a 67-per-cent increase in local incidents, from 300,000 in 2022 to 500,000, the lowest in the region. — Xinhua

Pilot carbon capture project stores CO2 in bricks in E China

TO achieve China's dual carbon goals of peaking carbon emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060, Chinese energy enterprises use carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technology to reduce emissions.

In east China's Zhejiang Province, a pilot project that can store CO2 in bricks has recently passed the 72-hour running test. It is one of the country's lead-

ing projects using CCUS technology to capture and utilize CO2 emitted from coal-fired power plants.

The project was built at a power plant in Lanxi County that was affiliated with Zhejiang Provincial Energy Group Company (Zhejiang Energy). Its technology team consists of researchers from the company and institutions such as Zhejiang University and Baima Lake Laboratory. — Xinhua



The undated file photo shows the CO2 capture zone of a pilot project for CO2 capture and utilization, affiliated with Zhejiang Provincial Energy Group Company (Zhejiang Energy), in Lanxi County, east China's Zhejiang Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Japan firms' plans for CO2 export, storage in Southeast Asia on rise

MORE Japanese companies are seeking to export carbon dioxide emissions to Southeast Asian nations and elsewhere for underground storage as a way to tackle climate change, with over a dozen projects in the works, a tally by Kyodo News showed Sunday.

The move comes as the Japanese government promotes carbon capture and storage, known as CCS, and sets a goal of putting the technology into practical use by 2030. However, the technology costs are high, and overseas projects could face local opposition.

CCS technology captures CO2 from industrial plants before it can be emitted into the atmosphere and injects it deep underground for

long-term storage.

Trading house Mitsubishi Corp., major oil distributor Eneos Corp, and two other companies are studying a project to liquefy CO2 emitted from thermal power plants and oil factories in the Tokyo Bay area and ship it to Malaysia for storage there.

About three million tonnes of CO2 is expected to be collected annually under the project, which the companies aim to start by fiscal 2030.

Chubu Electric Power Co, based in Nagoya, central Japan, has also started, along with other companies, a feasibility study on collecting CO2 from plants and factories at the Port of Nagoya area for storage in Indonesia. — Kyodo



Photo taken in March 2024 shows a carbon dioxide capture and storage demonstration test plant in Hokkaido's Tomakomai. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Germany industrial output rises for second straight month

GERMAN industrial production rose strongly in February for the second straight month, official data showed Monday, offering hope for the beleaguered manufacturing sector in Europe's biggest economy.

Output climbed 2.1 per cent month on month, federal statistics agency Destatis said. It follows a revised 1.3 per cent increase in January, which had been the first increase in nearly a year.

Analysts surveyed by

financial data firm FactSet had forecast an increase of 0.4 per cent for February.

"There are increasing signs that the economy is gradually bottoming out," the German economy ministry said in a

statement.

The output increase was driven by a surge in the construction sector, Destatis said, while there were also improvements in chemicals, pharmaceuticals and auto manufacturing. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (174N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (174N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT** 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 LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2408S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2408S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-4-2024** 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:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Malaysian state converts Ramadan food waste into fertilizer



This picture taken on 3 April 2024 shows a Ramadan bazaar trader throwing food waste into a composting machine in Kuantan, Malaysia's Pahang state. **PHOTO: MOHD RASFAN / AFP**

AFTER breaking their Ramadan fast outside a mosque in Malaysia, people throw their leftovers into a machine that converts the food scraps into organic fertilizer for crops.

The modest government initiative in the central state of Pahang aims to reduce wastage, especially during the Muslim holy month when huge amounts of food are thrown

away daily.

The mobile machine has been deployed at a park in the heart of state capital Kuantan during Ramadan where many families gather every evening to feast on cheap local dishes after a day of fasting.

It processes 25 kilogrammes (55 pounds) of scraps a day, said Sharudin Hamid, the state director of Solid

Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation, which started the pilot project last year.

The amount is a tiny fraction of the more than 13,000 tonnes of food sent to landfills around the Muslim-majority country every day, even more during Ramadan, but Sharudin said it was helping to increase awareness about food wastage.

"The main objective is to ensure that the waste is not sent to landfills," Sharudin told AFP.

"This has had a significant impact on us, as people are becoming more aware of environmental conservation, especially in terms of food waste reduction."

Food scraps are thrown into the machine where they are slowly mixed with rice husks and sawdust for 48 hours. The brownish-coloured waste is then packaged and given to farmers to use as fertilizer on their crops. — AFP

S Korea launches 2nd indigenous spy satellite into orbit – Reports

SOUTH Korea has successfully launched its second domestically-produced reconnaissance satellite on board SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Centre in the US state of Florida, media reported on Monday, citing the South Korean Defence Ministry.

The rocket lifted off at 8:17 am Seoul time (23:17 Sunday GMT) and sent the intelligence satellite into orbit approximately 45 minutes after the launch, South Korean news agency reported.

The satellite established contact with an unspecified foreign ground station at 10:57 am, the report said.

This is Seoul's second military satellite launch under South Korea's plan to put five reconnaissance satellites into orbit by 2025 to monitor North Korea's activities, the report also said.

The move comes as North Korea is allegedly boosting efforts to develop space reconnaissance capabilities, which could potentially enhance its "precision strike capability" against major targets in South Korea and the United States, the report added.

On 21 November 2023, Pyongyang successfully carried out the launch of its Malligyong-1 reconnaissance satellite into orbit aboard the Chollima-1 carrier rocket after two failed launch attempts in May and August. Following the launch, South Korea partially suspended the 2018 inter-Korean military agreement aimed at reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula. In response, Pyongyang announced its decision to restore all military measures suspended under the 2018 inter-Korean military accord. — Sputnik

91 killed in Mozambique shipwreck

AT least 91 people died after an overloaded boat capsized near the Island of Mozambique in Mozambique's northern province of Nampula on Sunday, the state-run Radio Mozambique (RM) reported.

The fatal victims include children, and another 34 people were missing, the report said,

adding that five survivors were found.

The vessel was a makeshift ferry departing from the district of Mossuril and carried a total of 130 passengers, the secretary of state in Nampula province Jaime Neto, was quoted as saying. Neto told RM that passengers left their areas of

origin, following a panic caused by the misinformation about the cholera outbreak.

"It is a vessel not prepared to transport so many people. It is a fishing vessel, and people had misinformation about the cholera outbreak, and they rushed to the vessel," Neto said. — Xinhua

Boeing plane makes emergency landing after engine cover falls off

A Boeing 737-800 plane made an emergency stop on Sunday after the crew reported the engine cowling fell off and struck the wing flap during takeoff from Denver International Airport in US state of Colorado, authorities said.

Southwest Airlines Flight 3695 returned safely to Denver International Airport around 8:15 am local time (1515 GMT) on Sunday after the incident,

said the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in a statement.

The plane was headed to William P. Hobby Airport in Houston, said the FAA, noting that the agency will investigate the incident.

Southwest Airlines said in a statement that the flight landed safely after experiencing a mechanical issue.

"Our customers arrived

at Houston Hobby on another aircraft, approximately three hours behind schedule," said the airline, adding that Southwest's maintenance teams are reviewing the aircraft.

The plane was delivered in 2015, and the aircraft manufacturer CFM made the engine, according to FAA records. The engine cowling is a removable metal covering on the engine.

A passenger on the flight

posted a video of debris flying off of the plane as it was moving down a runway at Denver International Airport, reported local KUSA television station.

A picture posted after the plane's safe landing shows sizable pieces missing from the plane's right engine, the report added.

From air traffic control recordings from LiveATC.net, a Southwest pilot told a Denver

International Airport air traffic controller, "We don't actually see it from the cockpit, that's just what the crew in back is telling us. Our engines seem to be fine, but we are structurally damaged," according to the report.

Boeing has grappled with significant quality and safety issues concerning its aircraft for years, leading to the prolonged grounding of specific models and halted deliveries. — Xinhua



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket lifts off from Launch Pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Fla, on 13 October 2023. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

SPORTS

Myanmar Traditional Boxing (Lethwei) Federation provides cash for former boxing players, judges, trainers

THE Patron of Myanmar Traditional Boxing (Lethwei) Federation under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs organized a ceremony to provide cash assistance to the former boxers, judges and trainers at Theinbyu gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon yesterday.

Dr Tin Aung Lwin, president of the federation, first made an opening speech, and Managing Director U Myo Min of Popular Group explained the purpose of the donation.

U Kyin Oo, the federation patron, then handed over K1



million and presented it to each of the former boxers, coaches, and trainers. U Daung Ni, chief judge of the federation, expressed gratitude and had a documentary group photo taken with the attendees.

A total of K13 million was provided to 10 old boxing players, one judge, one chief judge and one trainer at the event. — Bala Soe/KTZH

A group photo depicts veteran traditional boxers, judges and trainers with cash assistance.

14 football clubs to take part in ASEAN Club Championship



The screenshot on 8 April 2024 that AFF announces e-commerce giant Shopee as the title partner of the first-ever official ASEAN Club Championship named the Shopee Cup™.

THE ASEAN Football Federation will resume the ASEAN Club Championship this year, with the participation of 14 football clubs from member countries, including Myanmar, despite the fact that it missed hosting the tournament for many years.

Two football clubs, each from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and one club each from Singapore and the Philippines, will have the chance to take part in the final stage of the tourney.

Meanwhile, one club each from Myanmar, Brunei, Cambodia and Laos have to join

the play-off, and two of the four will be allowed to take part in the final stage. In the final stage, two groups of six clubs each will play home and away matches.

As only one Myanmar football club has a chance to compete in the tourney, it is expected that the league champion club or the first-runner-up club will be allowed to join the competition.

The ASEAN Football Federation organized the tourney in 2003 and 2005 but did not continue it for many years. Albeit trying to resume the tournament in 2020, the federation

postponed its arrangements due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the new plan, the federation will host the ASEAN Club Championship for the 2024-25 season from 17 July 2024 to 21 May 2025.

Finance/Customs Football Club could grasp a great chance to represent Myanmar by taking part in two previous championships. It drew out from the competition in 2003 but participated in the tourney in 2005. Unfortunately, the Myanmar club dropped out of the group matches in 2005. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

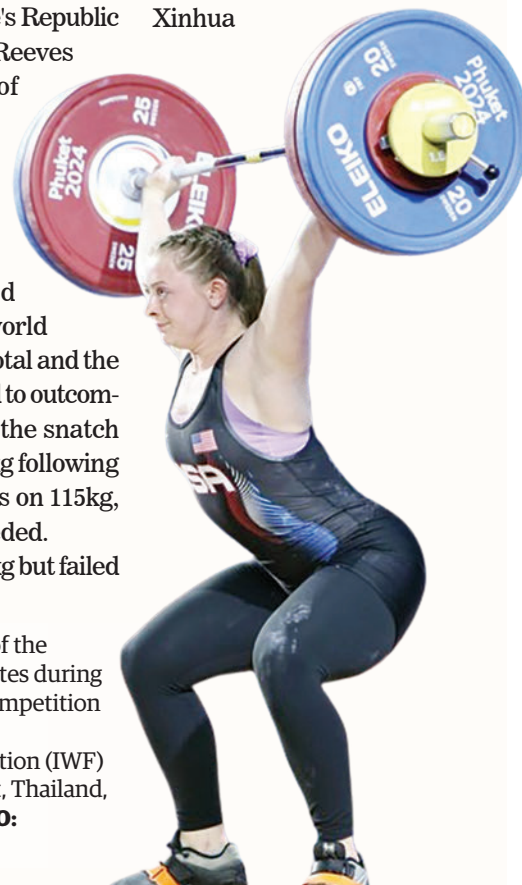
US weightlifter Reeves sweeps three golds at IWF World Cup

OLIVIA Reeves of the United States swept three gold medals in the women's 71 kilogrammes category at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup here on Sunday.

Stealing the limelight from China's Liao Guifang and Song Kuk Hyang of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Reeves succeeded in all of her six attempts, lifting 118kg in the snatch and 150kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 268kg. Liao and Song, respective world record holders in total and the clean and jerk, tried to outcompete each other in the snatch by attempting 120kg following their initial success on 115kg, but neither succeeded. Liao lifted 149kg but failed

in her third attempt of 154kg in the clean and jerk in a final bid to win the competition. The Chinese weightlifter won the bronze in the snatch, and silvers in the clean and jerk and total. The IWF World Cup in Phuket runs until 11 April and serves as a qualifying event for Paris 2024. — Xinhua

Olivia Lynn Reeves of the United States competes during the women's 71kg competition at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup in Phuket, Thailand, 7 April 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA





Gaza needs truce rather than arms



People are seen on a street with damaged buildings near the Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, on 1 April 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE Israel-Hamas conflict, which has created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, has lasted for half a year. Amidst this tragedy, the actions of the United States, Israel's key ally, have sparked serious concerns and criticism among the international community.

While Washington claims to advocate for a ceasefire in the war-devastated Palestinian enclave, its actions have repeatedly contradicted its words. In the latest case, when the US verbally criticized Israel for killing seven aid workers

from the international food charity World Central Kitchen in Gaza on 1 April, it approved the transfer of more than 1,000 MK-82 500-pound bombs and more than 1,000 small-diameter bombs to Israel on the same day.

It has been apparent that Washington's criticism of Israel serves merely as a smokescreen to divert global public opinion pressure, as its real stance has been let bare by its continued delivery of weapons to Israel during the Gaza conflict.

For American politicians, the political obligation to shield its ally from accountability outweighs the urgent need to end the mounting humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The Gaza conflict has already cost the lives of more than 33,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children. And the United Nations warned in March that 1.1 million people in Gaza, or half of the population, are struggling with hunger due to the suffocating blockade imposed by Israel.

On 5 April, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution urging countries to cease arms supplies to Israel. Yet the United States opposed it, simply because it is the key arms supplier for Israel. According to former and sitting US officials, since the outbreak of the Gaza conflict, the US has organized more than 100 individual transfers of arms to Israel, with only two made public.

On 25 March, the UN Security Council finally adopted a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan after the US repeatedly blocked previous UN resolutions aimed at achieving a truce. To everyone's surprise, the US, which abstained from the vote, declared the resolution as "non-binding," despite the fact that the UN Security Council resolutions are legally binding. — Xinhua

IAEA chief calls attack on Zaporozhye nuclear plant violation of security principles

INTERNATIONAL Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Rafael Grossi characterized the recent drone attack on the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant (ZNPP) as a violation of nuclear security principles and called for an end to such "reckless attacks" Sunday.

The IAEA confirmed minor damage to the sixth power unit of the plant as a result of the drone attacks. Earlier in the day, Ukrainian kamikaze drones attacked the territory of the power station immediately after an inspection carried out by IAEA experts, the plant's press service said. The attack left three of the facility's workers injured, with one of them sustaining serious injuries, Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom said.

The IAEA had previously confirmed damage to the plant in a separate statement. "IAEA experts confirmed physical impact of drone attacks at ZNPP today, including at one of its six reactors," the agency said. "One casualty reported. Damage at unit six has not compromised nuclear safety, but this is a serious incident with potential to undermine integrity of the reactor's containment system".

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the international community must respond to Ukraine's attack, calling it "an act of nuclear terrorism".

The Zaporozhye nuclear plant, constructed in the 1980s by the Soviet Union, is Europe's largest and one of the world's largest. The massive power station is reportedly now completely reliant on a single 750-kilowatt line for external power after previous attacks. A connection to outside electricity is necessary to ensure the plant is able to cool its reactors — an interruption in the delivery of power could precipitate a catastrophic meltdown.

Russia took control of the sensitive asset in March 2022 and it has endured Ukrainian fire ever since. Ukrainian drones, missiles, and artillery have all been used against the plant by Kyiv, which has repeatedly attempted to reassert control. Kyiv claims Russia is storing weapons at the power station and using it as cover to attack Ukrainian troops. Observers worry Ukraine may create a disaster at the plant, blaming Russia and spoiling newly-Russian territory. Kyiv has repeatedly employed US-provided cluster munitions during fighting in the Donbass, raising the prospect of unexploded bomblets creating a hazard for decades to come. — Sputnik

Xi meets National Assembly of Viet Nam chairman, urges strong sense of community with shared future

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Monday met with Chairman of the National Assembly of Viet Nam Vuong Dinh Hue in Beijing.

While asking Vuong Dinh Hue to convey cordial greetings to Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV) Central Committee, Xi also said that during his visit to Viet Nam at the end of last year, he and Nguyen Phu Trong had jointly announced the building of a China-Viet Nam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance — opening a new chapter



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Chairman of the National Assembly of Viet Nam Vuong Dinh Hue at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 8 April 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

in bilateral ties.

Under the joint efforts by the two sides, the consensus reached by him and Nguyen Phu Trong is being implemented, Xi added. Xi said the most distinctive feature of China-Viet Nam

relations is that the two sides are a like-minded pair bound by a common destiny, and "comrades-plus-brothers" is the most vivid portrayal of the traditional friendship between the two parties and two countries. — Xinhua