

## SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends men's football tourney finale, awards ceremony



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing awards the championship trophy to the Mandalay Zone B team yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing watched the final match of the men's football tournament of the Inter-Education Degree Colleges for the 2023-24 academic year. He awarded prizes to the relevant teams at the awarding ceremony at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Senior General and party watched the final match between the Mandalay Zone A and Mandalay Zone

B teams.

As it was the final match, both teams put pressure on each other from the start of the game. The Mandalay Zone B netted an opening goal in 16 minutes and a second goal in the 36<sup>th</sup> minute. In the second half, Mandalay Zone B scored its third goal in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute.

In the 59<sup>th</sup> minute, Mandalay Zone A scored its first and second goals in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute. At the final whistle, the Mandalay Zone B team clinched the title with a 3-2 win over the Mandalay Zone A.

Then, Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe and State Administration Council Members Dr Hmu Thang, Mahn Nyein Maung, Porel Aung Thein and Daw Dwe Bu presented the best player awards to the players.

Afterwards, SAC Member U Wunna Maung Lwin presented cash awards to the fourth-prize-winning Yangon Zone B team, while the individual medals and cash awards to the third-prize-winning Yangon Zone A team by SAC Member Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and to the

second-prize-winning Mandalay Zone A team by SAC Member Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo presented individual medals to the first prize-winning Mandalay Zone B team.

The Senior General presented cash awards and the championship trophy to the first-prize-winning Mandalay Zone B team.

After the awarding ceremony, the Senior General cordially greeted the athletes. — MNA/KTZH

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Naungtalaw sandbank resort opens in Kachin State to boost tourism

# NATIONAL

## Five national objectives of 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day

1. To uphold “Our Three Main National Causes” – Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty, which are national interests and national politics
2. To ensure the promotion of a comprehensive education sector that produces human resources with perfect abilities like intelligence, skills, and talents in building a Union based on democracy and federalism.
3. To make efforts to hold free and fair elections under the law and ensure the right to vote across the nation
4. To foster public cooperation for state stability and strengthen the multiparty democratic system at the end of acts of terrorism
5. To promote agriculture and livestock-based MSMEs

### MYANMAR GAZETTE

## Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Daw Khin Khin Thi as Director-General of the Department of Inspection under the Office of the Union Auditor-General after the one-year probationary period.

## Medical services commissioning ceremony for DSINPS 21<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Intakes (Female)



The commissioning ceremony for the 21<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> intakes (female) of the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences in progress yesterday.

A ceremony to commission the trainees of the 21<sup>st</sup> Intake and the 8<sup>th</sup> Intake (female) of the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences was held at the convocation hall of the institute in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Adjutant-General Lt-Gen

Soe Min Oo of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior Tatmadaw officers of the office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commandant of the institute Brig-Gen Win Bo.

According to the agenda, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo, senior Tatmadaw officers, the commandant of the Defence Services Institute

of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences took seats in the convocation hall, and Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo handed the commissioning letter to each graduate trainee.

Afterwards, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo delivered the speech, and the ceremony ended. — MNA/TRKM

## 27<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Defence Services Institute of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences held

THE 27<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences was held yesterday afternoon in Yangon Region. The ceremony was held at the Institute convocation hall in Mingaladon Township, and the commandant of the institute Brig-Gen Win Bo, and faculty members attended.

According to the programme, the commandant and faculty members of the institute entered the graduation hall. They took their seats, and the Myanmar orchestra opened the graduation ceremony by playing the national anthem.

Afterwards, the graduates took the oath of education and were brought to the rector according to the programme. Next, the rector awarded the degree certificates. The commandant



The 27<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences in progress yesterday.

then allowed the graduates to wear the insignia appropriate to their degree and signed the graduation record book. Then, the commandant gave the grad-

uation speech, and the ceremony ended.

The Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences has held graduation

ceremonies since 2003.

The faculty members of the institute were sent to foreign courses to obtain international-level skills. In 1998, 1999 and

2001, they were sent to La Trobe University in Australia for a doctorate in nursing and a master's degree. In 2022, they were sent to Burapha University in Thailand to study for doctorate degrees in nursing.

Similarly, senior nurses were sent to the People's Republic of China for practical nursing training and to the National University Hospital of Singapore for intensive care cardiology training.

They were also invited to work for the Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Medicine courses at Chiang Mai University and Mahidol University in Thailand and to the Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Airlangga Muljorejo Surabaya in Indonesia. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

The fact that we are making endeavours for peace today as a national duty is to be able to relay a legacy of a bright and stable future and a developed nation for our future generations. This if not meant for self-interest or for the good reputation of a sole person.

*[An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 1/2021 of the National Unity and Peace Restoration Central Committee on 3 March 2021.]*



## Graduated nurses urged to follow ethics of nursing and uphold spirit of nursing



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win returns the salute of the graduation companies yesterday.

THE Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences held the passing-out parade for the 21<sup>st</sup> intake of the institute and the 8<sup>th</sup> intake of the female nursing and paramedical sciences at its parade ground in Yangon yesterday morning, with an address by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win, on behalf of the SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe

Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing.

On the agenda, the Vice-Senior General took a salute from the graduation companies.

The Vice-Senior General presented the Best Trainee Award to trainee Nang Nwe Nwe Aye, the Excellent Award in Training to trainee Thiri Power and The Excellent Award in Studies to trainee Ei Mon Kyaw, respectively, in the 8<sup>th</sup> intake of female course.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General, on behalf of the Senior General, delivered an address, saying

that starting from 2016, the curriculum of the institute was amended, and the new one was approved in 2020. The new curriculum has been given to trainees since the 2020-2021 training year, and this intake is the first-ever produced trainees from the new curriculum.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that when they join the practical fields, the nursing trainees have to improve their capacity for applying nursing techniques and handling medical equipment and further study advancements in nursing techniques and medical equipment.

As behaviours of a good

nurse can reduce half of the suffering of patients, those nurses have to follow the ethics of nursing and the spirit of nursing in addition to upholding friendly relations, helping, honesty, patience, politeness, consideration and compassion.

The Vice-Senior General underscored that nurses should try hard to have more comprehensive knowledge and skills in using Western medical science as well as traditional medical science to share their expertise with Tatmadaw families and the people and provide medical treatment to them.

The Vice-Senior General

highlighted that Tatmadaw is part of the State and that Tatmadaw members are part of the people.

He noted that those nurses have to organize the ethnic people in their assigned areas to forge the Union spirit and national unity.

He added that if they follow nine oaths of nursing and five basic qualifications, they will be skilful nurses and paramedics on whom the State and Tatmadaw can rely.

The Vice-Senior General left the parade ground after taking the salute of the graduation trainee companies.

He then met outstanding award-winning trainees at the parlour of the institute's headquarters.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General, Union ministers and their wives, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region and officials.

In the evening, the Vice-Senior General attended the graduation dinner of the 21<sup>st</sup> Intake of the Nursing and Paramedical Sciences course and the 8<sup>th</sup> intake of the female nursing and paramedical sciences course and had the dinner together with the graduated nurses. — MNA/TTA

# NATIONAL

## Vice-Senior General Soe Win boosts morale at Tatmadaw Hospital in Mingaladon

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, senior military officers and their wives from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the Yangon Command commander visited and uplifted the spirits of officers, other ranks, and family members undergoing treatment at the 1,000-bed Tatmadaw Hospital's special treatment centre in Mingaladon Township yesterday morning.

Initially, Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrived at the special treatment centre of the Tatmadaw Hospital, where the commandant of the military hospital and officials warmly welcomed them. Following the



SAC Vice-Chair Deputy C-in-C of Defence Services C-in-C (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win encourages the patients at Tatmadaw Hospital (1,000-bedded) yesterday.

reception, Vice-Senior General Soe Win personally attended to the needs of officers and other

ranks receiving medical care, enquiring about their treatment progress and overall health con-

ditions. He provided both nourishment and cash assistance (allowances) to support them.

Simultaneously, Daw Than Than Nwe, the wife of the Vice-Senior General, and her entourage visited the special treatment centre. They extended care to dependents and family members, attentively observing each individual's health status, enquiring about their medical treatment, and offering encouragement. They also provided food and cash assistance to the hospitalized officers, other ranks, and their family members, which Tatmadaw Medical Corp officials gratefully accepted.

Furthermore, the Vice-Senior General presented cash assistance to the dedicated health workers serving in the hospital. The commandant of the Tatmadaw Hospital graciously received the cash assistance on behalf of the healthcare staff. — MNA/TS

### Counter-argument to false information

## Misinformation: 2 children killed, 4 injured due to military firing in Thabyayni Village

THE Than Lwin Times media outlet reported false news that KNLA and PDF terrorists attacked an army convoy with mines near Ahlu Village and Daukyat Village, Bilin Township,

Mon State, on 24 December.

The media is also spreading false information on social networks saying that two children were dead and four local people were hurt when Tatmadaw raided Thabyayni village with heavy and small arms.

According to investigations and statements of a security official in the area, there was no mine attack on the Tatmadaw convoy on 24 December, and there were no military deployments and security operations in Thabyayni village and the nearby regions.

These media outlets are taking advantage of the current situation and spreading false reports and claims at the right time to disrupt the stability of the country, create fear among the local people and misunderstand Tatmadaw. — MNA/KZL

## 56 preliminary receptionists selected for 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards event



The selection process for receptionists underway.

U Aye Kyu Lay, the Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, has announced the ongoing selection process for receptionists for the 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards event.

Following the distribution of application forms from 1 to 15 December, interviews were conducted on 17 December, resulting in the first preliminary selection of 97 candidates from a pool of 300 applicants. Among them, 56 receptionists have

been chosen for the next stage.

U Aye Kyu Lay stated, "We have already selected 56 receptionists from the second stage of the preliminary pool of 97 candidates, and we are set to choose the finalists on 28 December. Ten male and ten female receptionists will be selected as finalists for the upcoming Myanmar Academy Awards event in 2023."

The judging panel for the selection includes experienced senior actors and actresses such as Academy Yan Aung,

Academy Ye Aung, Academy Khant Si Thu, Academy Aung Khine, Academy May Than Nu, and Academy Soe Myat Thuzar.

In preparation for the Academy Awards ceremony, the names of actors and actresses from movies shown in cinemas during 2023 and the names of the respective movie producers were requested by the 8 December deadline. Nay Pyi Taw will host the 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards Ceremony. — ASH/TRKM



Screenshot validates false claims.

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar, China ink addendum for Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport Project



The signing ceremony of the Addendum to Concession Agreement on the Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport Project in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, addressed by SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo.

**S**TATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo addressed the signing ceremony of the Addendum to Concession Agreement on the deep seaport project in Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Committee Union Minister for Union Government Office 1 U Aung Naing Oo, Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Thida Oo, U Maung Maung Ohn, and U Tun Ohn, Deputy Ministers, departmental officials, chairpersons of special economic zone management committees, CITIC Group President, Chargé d'affaires ai of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, local and foreign media.

Speaking at the event, the General said Myanmar shares long borders with China and boasts close Pauk-Phaw rela-

tions. During over 70 years of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations, the two countries have built mutual trust. The bilateral relation also becomes firm, and the bilateral cooperation deepens more in economic sectors like bilateral trade and investment.

The CMEC stretches 1,700 kilometres and is a project to connect Kyaukpyu, the western maritime gateway, passing through the middle part of Myanmar, Mandalay, to Kunming of Yunnan Province of China.

The General continued that Kyaukpyu township is located in the Bay of Bengal and is a strategic site for development in the future. For such valuable economic opportunities, the government encouraged international investments to establish a special economic zone in Kyaukpyu on 23 November 2011. Moreover, the deep seaport project to be carried out in Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone with an enormous investment volume will be a project that will support the economic growth of the country.

The Shareholders' Agreement and Concession Agreement were made in 2020.

However, delays occurred in the past two years to start the project due to the COVID-19 infections and ongoing coordination between the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee and CITIC.

The Addendum to the Concession Agreement was made to resume the deep seaport project as quickly as possible. The project will create jobs for the locals in the country and the people in Kyaukpyu region of Rakhine and support the country's socioeconomic status. Similarly, it will promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Moreover, it would offer imported products from South Asia, West Asia, and Africa with a shorter route to the Chinese mainland, thereby cutting transport time and costs.

The Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport Project will be the first international seaport in Myanmar. The industrial park project will also be

implemented with the deep seaport project to provide the locals with job opportunities.

General Mya Tun Oo then wished to start the project and cooperate more closely in various sectors, including bilateral trade and investment.

Then, Chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Committee Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo, CITIC Group President and Chargé d'affaires ai of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China briefed the signing of the Addendum to Concession Agreement. Next, Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee Chairman U Kyaw Shwe Tun and Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Deep Seaport Company Limited Director Mr Liang Chuanxin signed the Addendum.

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo and Mr Liang Chuanxin told the media that the project is a four-phase project containing ten jetties where the ships can dock. It can accommodate about

seven million 20-foot containers per year once completed.

The products, including the goods of Myanmar, can be exported directly to African countries, South Asian countries, and European countries. Currently, the goods are transported via Singapore and Malaysia. The project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is completed at about 85 per cent.

They also talked about the cooperation to start the project, demands of Kyaukpyu residents to begin as quickly as possible, creation of job opportunities and promotion of the socioeconomic status of people in Rakhine, including Kyaukpyu, promotion of Myanmar-China bilateral trade and economic cooperation, Myanmar's first international deep seaport when completion, focal trade sites for Asia, Africa and EU, improvement of socioeconomic of Myanmar and regional countries as a door to the world.

The dinner event was also organized, marking the signing of the Addendum. — MNA/KTZH



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# NATIONAL

## Temporary power outages expected in YGN townships for gas pipeline maintenance

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) has scheduled a temporary power outage in specific township areas from 26 December to 2 January for the Yadana Offshore Natural Gas pipeline maintenance. This pipeline supplies gas to the natural gas power plants in Yangon Region.

YESC reports that the maintenance work will temporarily decrease approximately 100 megawatts in the capacity for generating and transmitting power from the natural gas generator into the power system.

Furthermore, YESC has identified a leak in the Taungtha Natural Gas Pipeline, which is responsible for

transmitting gas from Shwe Offshore to Myingyan. To address this issue, the pipeline will be temporarily halted for repair on 26 December, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. This repair work will necessitate a suspension of gas delivery, leading to an estimated 315-megawatt reduction in power generation and transmission capacity into the power system.

In light of these circumstances, YESC has announced a reduction in electricity production during the gas pipeline repairs. Consequently, emergency load reduction measures will be implemented, resulting in temporary power outages in specific townships within Yangon Region. — TWA/KZW



The Gyophyu substation in Yangon.

## Myanmar brings in 66,000 tonnes of fertilizer in Nov



The photo shows the unloading procedure of fertilizer bags imported from abroad.

MYANMAR imported 66,410 tonnes of fertilizer by sea and via land borders in November 2023 to increase productivity in agriculture, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In November, Myanmar's seaborne trade saw imports of 65,510 tonnes of fertilizer worth

over US\$29 million, while 900 tonnes of fertilizer (800 from Thailand and 100 from China) worth \$0.183 million were imported through the border.

Myanmar imported 25,000 tonnes of fertilizer from Oman, 24,000 from China, 4,200 from Germany, 3,500 from Viet Nam,

2,000 from Russia, 1,500 each from Belarus and Laos, 1,200 from Uzbekistan, 1,000 each from Saudi Arabia and Thailand, 300 from Canada, 200 from Malaysia, 50 from India, 30 each from Indonesia and Mexico respectively in November. — TWA/KK

## MR resumes YGN-MDY daily train services from 26 Dec

MYANMA Railways has announced the commencement of daily train services between Yangon and Mandalay, beginning on 26 December. The 5-Up train departs from Yangon, reaching

Mandalay at approximately 10:30 pm, while the 6-Down train travels from Mandalay to Yangon with a similar schedule.

Each train consists of six upper-class coaches, ten

ordinary carriages, a luggage coach, and one carriage for the train's brake system. The trains will stop at Bago, Taungoo, Pinyinana, Nay Pyi Taw, and Thazi. — TWA/TRKM

## Weekly updated prices of Bayintnaung Market

BETWEEN 20 and 26 December, the price of Shan garlic surged, while the price of Kyukok potatoes declined in the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market.

### Onions

On 26 December, 270,000 visses of onions from various cities and towns arrived in the Yangon market. Prices for Seikphyu old onions ranged from K2,600 to K5,100 per viss. Prices of new Myingyan (monsoon) onions were K1,900 to K3,800, and Myittha fresh onions were priced at K3,100 to K4,700 per viss. In the Pakokku

market, 170,000 visses of monsoon onions arrived on the same day, with the maximum price of K2,450 per viss.

### Garlic

On 26 December, the prices for various garlic varieties were as follows: Kyukok garlic—K10,500 per viss, Shan Aungban garlic—K15,000 to K16,700 per viss.

### Potato

On 26 December, new (red soil) potatoes were priced at K2,100 per viss, while old (sandy) potatoes were priced at K2,450.

### Chilli

On 26 December, long

red chillies from Salin Town were priced at K13,500 per viss, long Shan chillies were priced at K10,500 to K12,000 per viss, and Moehtaung new chillies from various towns were priced at K11,000 per viss.

Chilli processed in cold storage with a pink colour was priced at K15,500 per viss, and Myarni chilli in cold storage was valued at K14,500 per viss. Zee bell pepper was priced at K14,500 per viss, whereas

Chinese bell pepper was priced at K19,000 per viss.

### Rice

On 26 December, monsoon rice (rough) was priced at K68,000, Manaw Thukha (new) at K74,000, rough rice (old) at K95,000, and old double-cropping rice (rough) at K82,000 per bag in the Yangon market. Pawkywe (old) was priced at K100,000, Ayeyawady Pawsan (new) at K120,000, Shwebo Pawsan (new) at K140,000, Ayeyawady Pawsan (old) at K15,500, and Shwebo Pawsan (new) at K170,000 to K180,000 per bag.

### Palm oil

From 26 to 30 December, the wholesale reference price of palm oil increased to K4,955 per viss, marking a K145 per viss decrease compared to the previous week.

### Beans and Pulses

On December 26, one ton of black gram RC was priced at K2,994,000, one ton of SQ/RC at K3,304,000, red pigeon pea at K3,275,000 per ton, green gram at K3,750 per viss, while chicken pea was priced at K6,025 to K6,200 per viss. — TWA/TMT



The photo shows a dry grocery outlet.

## YGN palm oil wholesale reference price set higher to K4,955 this week ending 31 Dec



A vendor seen organizing cooking oil for sale in the market.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market this week ending 31 December 2023 was set higher to K4,955 per viss from K4,810 per viss registered last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The figure reflected an increase of K145 per viss this week.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has closely observed the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the

weekly wholesale market reference rate for edible oil.

Nevertheless, the market price is way higher than the reference price.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The Department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The 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.

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 palm oil consumption 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

## Corn price rises at slower pace

CORN prices are gradually increasing in the domestic markets due to strong demand by feedstuff factories.

The prices increased to K1,170-K1,190 per viss on 26 December from K1,050-K1,070 per viss on 1 December.

Myanmar exports corn to China and Thailand through land borders. Also, it delivers it to China, India, Viet Nam, and the Philippines by sea, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Thailand nodded corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

China has been purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the

opium substitution programme. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted for corn exports.

Myanmar shipped 918,606 tonnes of corn worldwide as of 15 December in the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, bagging US\$275.046 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar exported more than 2 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2022 corn season. Most of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM



A thriving corn plantation.

## YGEA gold reference price hits K3.7 mln per tical

TRACKING spot gold price rally, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) raised the pure gold price to K3.72 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

The spot gold price on 27 December rose to US\$2,064 per tical.

On 5 December, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) allowed authorized dealers

(private banks) to conduct online forex trading freely at a market rate determined by supply and demand dynamics.

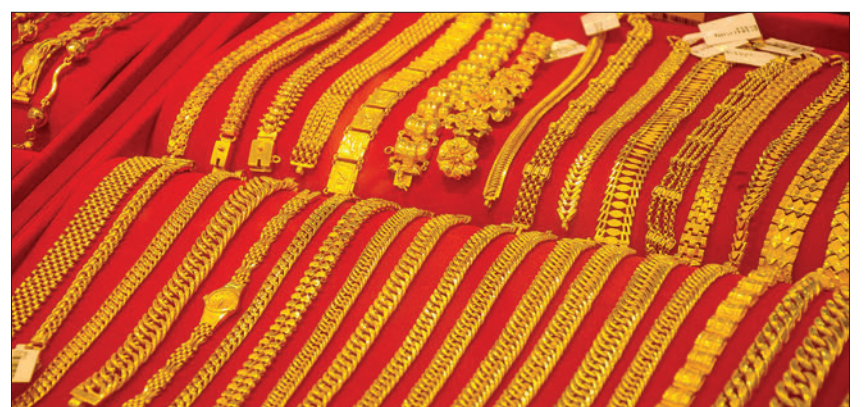
Following the CBM's forex liberalization, the YGEA's reference price is relatively similar to the actual market value.

Earlier, the gap between them widened at K400,000-K500,000 per tical

as the YGEA used the inter-bank transaction rate set by the CBM in calculating the reference price for pure gold.

The US dollar is currently exchanged at K3,500 at the over-the-counter market.

When the Kyat depreciated at K4,000 against the greenback in the forex market, the gold price peaked at K4 million per tical in late August 2023. — NN/EM



Gold jewellery items seen being displayed for sale in Yangon.

# OPINION

## Prepare for impacts of El Nino in southern Myanmar

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology forewarns that the forthcoming impacts of El Nino will be more severe in the southern regions of Myanmar, particularly in the deltaic areas of Ayeyawady Region. The effects of El Nino are growing more robust, with a noticeable decrease in coolness in the southern parts of the country and deltaic zones despite the ongoing cold season. El Nino predominantly influences temperatures during winter, resulting in reduced coldness that can adversely affect the residents.

Originating in the Pacific Ocean, El Nino's impacts extend to various climatic extremes, including abnormal rainfall, elevated daytime temperatures, premature storms, and the onset of droughts. The heightened effects of El Nino are expected to manifest in February 2024, gradually diminishing thereafter.

Residents in vulnerable areas must proactively prepare for the untimely occurrences of climatic conditions. This entails storing water in earthen lakes and tanks for emergency use.

To mitigate crop losses due to high temperatures, it is imperative for residents to judiciously consume food without waste and store surplus crops for distribution to affected individuals during adverse weather conditions. Furthermore, preparations should be made to withstand extreme weather events, including untimely storms and rains.

Government officials must raise awareness among the populace regarding effective strategies to cope with the heightened daytime temperatures and seek shelter during the hot season. Additionally, authorities should stockpile necessary medications to address potential outbreaks of diseases in high-temperature periods.

Anticipating possible adverse weather occurrences during the El Nino period is crucial. While El Nino visits Myanmar every three to four years, the magnitude of its impacts can vary. The upcoming impacts are projected to be more intense, serving as a valuable lesson for the nation to formulate plans to overcome the challenges posed by El Nino's impending events.

It is imperative for all Myanmar citizens to adopt a collective mindset, understanding that successfully overcoming these challenges requires the unified efforts of the government and the people. The population must engrain the forthcoming impacts of El Nino in their minds, seeking the most effective ways to combat adverse weather conditions and contemplating strategies to mitigate similar impacts in the future.

Hence, people from the southern part of Myanmar must be resilient and endure the impacts triggered by El Nio. They have to know if they are united in defying impacts without fail whenever they face subsequences of unfavourable weather.

## Rediscover Your Optimism

In life, it's not always easy to keep negative thoughts at bay, especially when things get tough. But did you know that being optimistic — having a positive outlook on life — can make a big difference? Being optimistic doesn't mean ignoring problems; instead, it's about finding the good even in difficult situations. Kimberly Reed, the author of "Optimists Always Win," explains that optimistic people look for the best in any circumstance, expecting good things to happen. Even when faced with challenges like losing a job, optimists see a silver lining, an opportunity for something better. Optimism is not just about feeling good; it's a mindset that can benefit your health and happiness. In this article, we'll explore what it means to be optimistic, the characteristics of optimists, and the surprising health benefits that come with a positive outlook on life. So, let's dive into the world of optimism and discover how it can make a positive impact on your well-being.

It can be hard not to let negativity seep into your day, especially during stressful periods of life. A dose of optimism not only makes you feel better, but it's also good for your physical and emotional health - even if initially you need to force yourself to feel more positive. "An optimistic person is always looking for the best in any situation and expecting good things to happen," says Kimberly Reed, "Even if something negative happens, such as the loss of

a job, an optimist sees the silver lining. For example, the chance to pursue a more fulfilling career or hobby or take a much-needed break. Optimists believe their actions result in positive outcomes, that they are responsible for their own happiness, and that they can expect more good things in the future."

If you're an optimist, you try to look for good in every situation. "An optimist views adverse events (such as your car being broken into, redundancy, and so on) as a result of something outside of themselves," explains Kimberly. "But, even if it's something that happened as a result of an action they took, an optimist will always try to see what they can learn from the experience. They think of an unfortunate event as a temporary setback - not a permanent way of life. Even if something awful happens, a positive thinker believes good things will come again."

"Optimists look on the bright side," reveals psychologist Dr Sandra Wheatley (potentpsychology.com). "They emanate a hopeful positivity. But being optimistic doesn't mean you go into denial and pretend everything is fine when it's not. It's a frame of mind where you hope for the best but prepare for the worst."

She adds that an optimist can look at a situation squarely in the eye and plan what to do if things go wrong. "By having a contingency plan, this makes it easier to turn things around before there's

a huge problem."

### Get an optimistic mindset

"Optimists tend to share several positive characteristics that can lead to greater happiness and promote good health," says Kimberly. An optimist:

- Thinks about, reflects on, and emphasizes the good things in life
- Tries not to waste time and energy on complaining when something goes wrong but focuses on what they do to change or learn from a situation
- Feels that nothing can hold them back from achieving success and reaching their goals
- Sees challenges and obstacles as opportunities to learn
- Feels gratitude for the good bits - even in a negative situation
- Has a positive attitude toward themselves and others
- Is tenacious and carries on when the going gets tough
- Doesn't let one bad experience color their expectations of the future
- Accepts responsibility for mistakes but doesn't dwell on them
- Is always looking for ways to make the most of any opportunities that come their way

There's a common assumption that optimism is the same as happiness, but that's not the case. "While optimism can lead

to greater happiness, it's actually to do with how you view the world," says Dr Wheatley. "Optimists experience difficulties and problems like anyone else. Being an optimist doesn't protect you from feeling negative emotions. If something bad happens, you still feel the pain, upset, grief, betrayal, or disappointment. It's just that an optimistic mindset helps you cope better."

In a recent Indian study, it was shown that optimists tend to have more effective coping strategies, which helps them to feel less stressed. Pessimists, on the other hand, have a tendency to dwell on stressful feelings, which can make them feel worse.

So, what makes some people more optimistic than others? "Some people are just born naturally optimistic. It's part of their genetic makeup," explains Dr Wheatley.

"But your upbringing also has an impact. If you grew up in an environment where there was a focus on the positive, the likelihood is that this would have had an effect on your own attitude to life." Likewise, research shows that if you had a parent who was pessimistic or depressed, you're far more likely to have a pessimistic outlook on life as an adult. But ultimately, optimism is a choice, and anyone can acquire a more optimistic mindset that will help you to face life's challenges and feel confident that you can expect positive things to happen in the future.

### Health Benefits Of Being An Optimist

The latest research shows that optimism is associated with a number of physical and psychological benefits.

#### It's good for your heart

In a recent US review of 15 studies that looked at 200,000 people, it was shown that optimists had a 35 per cent lower risk of developing heart disease and a 14 per cent reduced incidence of early death.

#### It lowers your stress hormones

A study at Concordia University, Canada, asked participants to measure their daily stress levels. Optimists were found to have lower levels of stress hormones (such as cortisol). Pessimists, who were shown to go into 'fight or flight' mode more frequently, triggered by negative thinking that exacerbated stress, had higher stress hormones. When cortisol remains constantly elevated, this can lead to health problems.

#### You'll recover better from illness

A positive mindset can help you to cope better with disease and recover better. In a recent study, it was shown that optimists had less inflammation and recovered more quickly after a stroke than those who had a more negative outlook. Another study published in the Journal of Psychosomatic Research in 2014 showed

that optimism is associated with reduced pain and symptoms after heart surgery.

#### You're more likely to live longer

Optimists are more likely to live a longer life 11-15 per cent longer - and have a greater chance of reaching 85 years of age compared to those who have a more pessimistic disposition. These are the findings of a study by the Boston University School of Medicine in 2019 that followed nearly 70,000 women and 1,500 men over a time span of 10 to 30 years.

#### It can help you to manage pain

According to a recent review, optimists who expect positive outcomes are better able to cope with and manage pain. A positive attitude seems to help reduce the perception of pain. Whereas feeling negative, pessimistic, and depressed appears to have a more adverse effect on someone's experience of pain; for example, they find it more difficult to manage.

#### It's an antidote to depression and makes you more resilient to stress

Another study in the Natural Medicine Journal in 2017 showed that people who are optimistic consider themselves as inherently protected (not vulnerable) and think about the world as a generally good place. They tend to be happier, have a lower chance of facing depression, and manage

omones that workers produce to warn the other bees of danger. If these cues are dampened or not perceived properly, the colony may fail to thrive.

#### Honey bee health

Since 2007, scientists have known that honey bees have been in trouble. One of the stressors that have raised concerns is insecticides, which affect honey bee health. Because these are usually used in combination with other chemicals, the resulting mixture can become unexpectedly toxic to bees.

"For many years, it was assumed that fungicides do not have an adverse impact on insects be-



Photo Credit: Understanding Your Emotions

stress more effectively. They're more likely to practice healthy habits such as exercising, following a healthy diet, and not smoking. And they are more likely to seek help if they need it than a pessimist would.

In brief, being optimistic is not just about feeling happy all the time; it's about looking at life in a positive way, even when faced with challenges. As Kimberly Reed and Dr Sandra Wheatley explained, optimistic people focus on the good things, learn from their experiences, and see setbacks as temporary. It's a mindset that can be learned and cultivated, bringing numerous benefits to both

physical and mental health. The research suggests that optimists have a lower risk of heart disease, lower stress levels, and better recovery from illness. They even tend to live longer and manage pain more effectively. So, while life may have its ups and downs, having an optimistic outlook can make a significant difference, helping you navigate challenges with hope and resilience. Remember, anyone can choose to be more optimistic and enjoy the positive impact it can have on their well-being.

Reference: Understanding Your Emotions 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2023



Honey bees rely on chemical communication in their dynamic communities, using pheromones for social cues. For instance, nurse bees constantly monitor larvae using pheromones in the dark, with larvae emitting cues for food needs. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

## Adjuvants, pesticides disrupt honey bee's sense of smell: Study

*Pesticide sprays, known to threaten honey bees, have been found to impact bees' sense of smell in a new study, potentially disrupting their social signalling.*

Pesticide sprays have long been recognized as a threat to honey bees. In a new study, researchers uncovered the influence of such sprays on bees' sense of smell, which could disrupt their social signalling.

Honey bees live in dynamic communities and constantly communicate with each other using chemicals that serve as social cues. For example, nurse bees—who are responsible for taking

care of larvae that ultimately become queens and worker bees—constantly monitor the larvae in the dark using pheromones.

The larvae emit brood pheromones to indicate that they need food. There are also alarm pher-

# ARTICLE



# NATIONAL

## Bagan draws 20,000+ holidaymakers during Christmas holiday

**B**AGAN Ancient Cultural Zone welcomed over 20,000 holidaymakers during the Christmas holidays, according to the Department of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan branch).

U Myo Min Aung, deputy director of the department, said: "Many visitors from across the country, including Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw, visited Bagan during Christmas. Most were pilgrims arriving to pay homage to the famous pagodas."

Situated in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, the zone is one of Myanmar's major

tourist destinations. It remains bustling with foreign and local visitors throughout the year, especially during public holidays.

Bagan experienced a temporary closure to visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 until February 2021. Tourism authorities have since permitted visitors to explore temples and pagodas, ensuring compliance with COVID-19 health guidelines.

The zone is renowned for its unspoiled ancient religious buildings and attracts domestic and international travellers. — ASH/NT



Flocks of visitors enjoy the Christmas holidays in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

## Naungtalaw sandbank resort opens in Kachin State to boost tourism

THE Naungtalaw sandbank resort, located in the upper part of the Ayeyawady River, has been set up since 2022 for regional tourism development.

The resort was opened again on 23 December 2023 by the Kachin State government and the Kachin State Tourism Entrepreneurs Association. According to Kachin State Tourism Entrepreneurs Association personnel, the first opening was on 18 December 2022.

Every year, when the Naungtalaw sandbank island emerges in the Ayeyawady River, people usually visit and relax

on it. Therefore, the island became busy with visitors, shops, and playgrounds in 2015. Now, the Kachin State government and the Kachin State Tourism Entrepreneurs Association have arranged to open a resort on it. Visitors can enjoy playing games on the beach. There are small Manaw grounds where entertainment will be performed.

On the mini beach are food shops and restaurants with traditional Kachin food, bungalows, sports zones, and areas for playing beach futsal soccer, volleyball, Sepak Takraw, golf,

and archery.

The report further states that the resort is open daily from 8 am to 6 pm. Arrangements have been made between the regional tourism businesses and the boat association for a convenient trip for visitors who will visit the resort through Myitkyina Town to be able to come from Kachinsu Ward jetty and Kyunbintha jetty.

Last year, approximately one hundred visitors on weekdays and two hundred on weekends visited the beach. — ASH/TMT



The opening event of the Naungtalaw sandbank resort underway on 23 December 2023 in Kachin State.

## Miss Grand Myanmar to compete in Miss Planet International

SU Myat Yee, 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up in Miss Grand Myanmar, has announced her participation as the Myanmar representative in Cambodia's upcoming Miss Planet International competition. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Miss Planet International 2024 is scheduled in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, featuring contestants from over 40 countries, including Myanmar.

Expressing her excitement, Su Myat Yee shared that she is familiar with Cambodia and has received tremendous support from Cambodian fans since participating in Miss Grand Myanmar. She acknowledged the encouragement from Myanmar and Cambodian fans, considering them her extended family. Although the exact dates of the competition are yet to be confirmed, Su Myat Yee is actively preparing for the event. Additionally, it has been reported that another Myanmar contestant, Naw Say Eh Phaw, also participated in the previous edition of Miss Planet International in 2023, held in Cambodia. — ASH/ TRKM



Su Myat Yee-third runner-up in Miss Grand Myanmar.

# Traditional Tibetan dance swings its way into urban life



Dancers (front), who come from a Guozhuang dance troupe in Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai Province, dance with local dancers at a square in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, 23 December 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

AT a public square in Chengdu, a bustling city of over 20 million people in southwestern China, 24-year-old Tibetan dancer Yanggyi, prepared for her performance, adjusting her traditional

attire and the bun behind her head.

As the tune of a Tibetan love song permeated the night air, she entered the dance floor, initiating a vibrant Guozhuang

dance party.

Guozhuang, which means singing and dancing in a circle, is a traditional Tibetan dance. During leisure time, Tibetans of all ages often gather in circles,

gracefully dancing to the rhythmic beats.

Since the 1980s, Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, has become a preferred destination for people relocating from within the province and neighbouring regions, thanks to its favourable climate and vibrant economy.

While embracing urban life, an increasing number of Tibetans also brought the Guozhuang dance as well as other cultural heritages to the city. As a result, the art form began to make its way into the lives of many urbanites.

In 2014, Yanggyi, at the age of 15, moved from Jinchuan County in Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture to Chengdu. After completing her university studies, she became a kindergarten teacher in the city.

Nine years of life in Chengdu has seen her transition from a teenager in the Tibetan community into a young adult

pursuing a career in the city, with Guozhuang serving as the enduring link to her hometown.

Although not professionally trained in dance, Yanggyi considers Guozhuang an intrinsic part of her cultural identity. "Dance is, in my view, the mother of all languages as it can express so many emotions," she said.

In 2021, Yanggyi, along with like-minded people, formed a Guozhuang dance group. Starting with just seven members, the group gained popularity through word of mouth and the power of the internet, attracting a large number of dancing enthusiasts.

Today, Yanggyi's dance group has become one of the most popular Guozhuang dance troupes in Chengdu, boasting 420,000 followers on social media. People travel from Beijing and Shanghai, and even foreign countries to see their performances. — Xinhua

## Takashimaya apologetic over 900 claims of ruined Christmas cakes



Supplied file photo shows the "strawberry frill shortcake" sold by Japanese department store operator Takashimaya Co. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPANESE department store operator Takashimaya Co is in damage-control mode after revealing Monday that around 900 customers have complained that a cake it sold online for Christmas arrived damaged, adding that it is urgently investigating why and working on issuing refunds.

The complaints came

from people who had ordered its "strawberry frill shortcake" priced at 5,400 yen (\$38) and delivered frozen.

Around 220 reports of damage were received as of 1 pm Sunday, the day the company first issued its apology.

Numerous customers took to social media to share photos

of their delivered cake in various forms of disarray, including squished messes and strawberries sliding off half-melted whipped cream.

Takashimaya on Monday issued a fresh apology on its website, adding that it "may take a few days" to contact customers individually regarding the matter. — Kyodo

## Japan mulls designating bear populations for capture amid attacks

JAPAN'S Environment Ministry began deliberations Tuesday on designating prefectural bear populations to assist their capture under a government subsidy system, amid a recent surge in attacks.

The panel of experts, which will analyze bear populations and damage, is expected to summarize its findings by February 2024 following a total of three meetings.

"There are areas where bears have become extinct or are endangered due to past excessive hunting," Takao Shiraishi, who heads the ministry's Nature Conservation Bureau, said at the meeting.

"It is necessary to listen to experts and come up with measures to halt extinctions while prioritizing the prevention of

injuries to people," he said.

There were a total of 193 bear attacks in Japan between April and November, with six fatalities among the 212 victims, all record highs since the tallying of figures for the period began in 2006, according to the ministry.

There have also been reports of injuries from bear attacks in Iwate and Ishikawa prefectures even into December.

A ministry official said bear distributions have been growing in 34 prefectures, apart from the western main island of Shikoku, with many seeing an increase in estimated populations as well.

However, while bear attacks in the northeastern Tohoku region have increased notably, those in other regions have not seen dramatic upticks, according to the meeting. — Kyodo

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Cambodia's exports to RCEP members up 27% in 11 months: report



Workers slice ripe mangoes at the Zhong Bao (Cambodia) Food Science & Technology Co Ltd in Kampong Speu province, Cambodia, on 7 March 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CAMBODIA exported 7.21 billion US dollars worth of products to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) members in the first 11 months of 2023, up 27 per cent from 5.67 billion dollars in the same period last year, a Ministry of Commerce report said on Tuesday.

During the January-November period, the kingdom's top five export destinations under the regional mega trade deal are Viet Nam, China, Japan, Thailand and Singapore,

the report said.

Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Secretary of State and Spokesperson Penn Sovicheat said the RCEP, which took effect in 2022, is a catalyst for long-term export growth and a magnet to attract more foreign direct investment inflows to the kingdom.

"RCEP is a huge market for Cambodia, accounting for about 34 per cent of our 21.3 billion US dollars total export in the first 11 months of this year," he told

Xinhua.

"With preferential tariffs provided under the RCEP agreement, I believe that Cambodia's exports to other RCEP members will continue to rise in coming years," he added.

Sovicheat said this world's largest trade deal, together with other bilateral free trade agreements, will help Cambodia achieve its goals of becoming an upper-middle income country by 2030 and a high-income nation by 2050. — Xinhua

## China's largest land port sees busy China-Europe freight train service



This photo taken on 17 March 2023 shows a freight train at the railway port in Manzhouli, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

MANZHOU LI, China's largest land port, handled 4,681 China-Europe freight trains in the

first 11 months of 2023, up 5.9 per cent year on year, according to data from the customs

of Manzhouli in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Lei Jianjun, director with the customs of Manzhouli railway station, said that in recent years the port has implemented measures to improve the business environment and facilitate cross-border customs clearance for China-Europe freight trains.

By the end of November this year, more than 23,000 China-Europe trains had passed through the Manzhouli port since the China-Europe freight train service via the port was launched in 2013. — Xinhua

## Singapore's manufacturing output growth slows in November

SINGAPORE'S manufacturing output increased one per cent year-on-year in November, following 7.6 per cent growth in October, according to the Economic Development Board Tuesday.

Electronics output expanded 7.3 per cent year-on-year in November, mainly led by the infocomm and consumer electronics segment, which grew 13.9 per cent.

Powered by marine and off-shore engineering, the transport engineering cluster in Singapore recorded a 7.2 per cent growth in November.

Precision engineering production decreased 14.1 per cent in November due to contraction in plastic and metal precision components, optical instruments and semiconductor-related equipment. — Xinhua

## After gloomy 2023, UK economy faces another tough year ahead



A man walks past a shop in Manchester, Britain, 11 May 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AT risk of recession, the United Kingdom (UK) has witnessed a year of poor economic performance in 2023, and next year does not look promising either.

Inflation in the country has been running high for more than two years, making the cost-of-living crisis a heated topic across the nation. The consumer price index (CPI) rose by 3.9 per cent in the 12 months to November 2023, mainly due to a drop in fuel prices and slower growth in food prices.

This was the lowest rate since September 2021, down from a 41-year high of 11.1 per cent in October 2022. The drop in inflation was welcomed by households and businesses in the country.

But lower inflation does not necessarily mean lower prices, only that they are rising less quickly.

"The sheer scale and duration of the cost-of-living crisis means that any declarations of victory in the battle to tame inflation are premature. Households are still feeling the pinch," Lalitha Try, an economist from the think tank Resolution Foundation, said.

According to the think tank, food prices in November 2023 were 29 per cent higher than they were in September 2021, and energy prices were 66 per cent higher. In a recent Resolution Foundation survey, twice as many families said that their finances had gotten worse through the autumn.

Also, the 3.9 per cent inflation rate is still almost double the Bank of England's two per cent target. The bank expects the CPI to return to the two per cent target by the end of 2025. — Xinhua

# Japan's Nov job availability falls to 16-month low amid inflation

JAPAN'S job availability ratio for November fell 0.02 point from the previous month to 1.28, a level not seen since July last year, as persistently high prices weighed on recruitment activities in some service sectors, government data showed Tuesday.

Separate data showed the country's unemployment rate, meanwhile, stood at 2.5 per cent in the reporting month, unchanged from the previous month.

The latest job-to-applicant ratio means there were 128 job openings for every 100 job seekers. The figure saw its first decline in four months, according



The Tokyo metropolitan government unveils to the media a cafe staffed by people with impaired hearing in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward on 14 November 2023, two years ahead of the 2025 Deaflympics in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Some companies complained that they have seen "profits squeezed by (a drop off in demand caused by) a surge in prices and

are becoming unable to extend job offers," according to a labour ministry official.

Among sectors that shed job offers in November, the accommodation and food services sector

fell 12.8 per cent from a year earlier and the lifestyle and entertainment services sector shrank 12.5 per cent. The manufacturing sector declined 10.5 per cent. — Kyodo

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0311-760N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0311-760N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-12-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1162)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY.NO. (SCY1162)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-12-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE**

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M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (105N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (105N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-12-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2318S)

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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:

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### PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following three pesticides distributed by **Taw Win Dar Co.,Ltd** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon.

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Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
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2.	Mu La Daung Min	Felomina 75 EC	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 75 g/l EC	P2023-6094
3.	Pe Paung Sone Shin	Imatop 100 SL	Imazethapyr 100 g/l SL	P2023-6095
4.	Ywet Chone That	Eaglefop 100 EC	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 10% EC	P2023-6096
5.	5 STAR	Hexacore 50 SC	Hexaconazole 50g/l SC	P2022-5977

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2.	Procab	Isoprocarb 20%EC	Provisional	P2022-4691
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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Israeli PM inspects north Gaza, vows to continue fight



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (C) poses for a photo with Israeli troops in the northern Gaza Strip, on 25 December 2023. Netanyahu toured the northern Gaza Strip on Monday and vowed to continue the fight, the prime minister's office said. **PHOTO: AVI OHAYON/GPO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toured the northern Gaza Strip on Monday and vowed to continue the fight, the prime minister's office said.

Netanyahu visited the Palestinian enclave, where an ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has raged, together with Deputy Chief of Staff Maj-Gen Amir Baram, the office said.

"We don't stop. The war continues to the end until we finish them, nothing less," Netanyahu told Israeli soldiers.

Meanwhile, at least two soldiers were killed on Monday in battles in Gaza, said the Israeli military, bringing the total death toll of Israeli soldiers since the outbreak of the conflict to 156.

Since the army began its offensive

in response to Hamas' surprise attack on 7 October, in which about 1,200 Israelis were killed and 240 hostages were taken, large parts of Gaza have been devastated and most of its 2.3 million population have been displaced.

At least 20,674 Palestinians were killed and 54,536 others wounded in the enclave, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry on Monday. — Xinhua

## Passenger trips on Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway hit 1 million-mark

THE Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway (HSR), the first HSR in Indonesia and Southeast Asia, has handled more than one million passenger trips since its commercial operation was officially launched on 17 October, according to the China State Railway Group Co Ltd on Monday.

The railway's passenger trips hit the one-million mark in number on Sunday.

As the year-end is approaching, the rapidly growing passenger flow has prompted PT Kereta Cepat Indonesia-China (KCIC), a



Passengers walk on the platform of Halim Station in Jakarta, Indonesia, 25 December 2023. The Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway (HSR), the first HSR in Indonesia and Southeast Asia, has handled more than one million passenger trips since its commercial operation was officially launched on 17 October, according to the China State Railway Group Co Ltd on Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

joint venture consortium between Indonesian and Chinese firms that constructs and runs the HSR, to intensify the train services up to 48 trips per day, from the previous

14 trips. Since mid-October, working groups from China and Indonesia have jointly pushed for high-quality operation of the HSR by catering to passengers' needs, including promoting online ticket sales, improving passenger boarding and landing services to raise efficiency, and integrating other transit systems with the HSR to facilitate travels, among others. Restaurants and convenience stores have opened up at stations of Halim, Padalarang and Tegalluar. Food and beverage sales are also available on train. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Floods force evacuation of over 9,000 in Malaysia, 1 death

FLOODINGS have displaced 9,967 people in Malaysia as of Monday following continuous heavy rains.

Those evacuated were being housed in 121 floods relief centres in four states, according to the country's social welfare department.

Meanwhile, an 11-year-old girl drowned, while another has gone missing after falling into floodwaters in Kelantan state, Pasir Mas district deputy police chief Supt Nik Aminuddin Raja Abdullah said in a statement.

The meteorological department has issued warnings of heavy rains due to the northeast monsoon, which typically lasts from October to March, with strong winds and rough seas expected, in northern states and the east coast of the Southeast Asian country. — Xinhua

#### 1 dead, over 120,000 homes without power in severe storms in Australia's Queensland

ONE woman was killed, and more than 120,000 homes were left without power in Australia's Queensland as severe thunderstorms pounded the southeastern part of the state on Christmas night, local media reported on Tuesday.

The woman in her 50s died in Helensvale, a suburb of the City of Gold Coast, after a tree fell on her while she walked along the road, according to local newspaper The Courier-Mail.

About 127,000 homes were left without power in the peak of the storms at the Gold Coast, Scenic Rim and Logan, the newspaper said. — Xinhua

#### South Africa floods kill six, 10 missing

RESCUE teams resumed the search for bodies Tuesday after flash floods hit a South African town killing six people with 10 missing, officials said.

Torrential rain hit Ladysmith late on Sunday night sweeping cars off a main road and trapping people in homes, KwaZulu Natal provincial authorities said. The scope of the disaster only became apparent late on Monday, a spokesperson said. "At the moment, we have six people confirmed dead and still 10 people missing. The search is back on," the spokesperson told AFP. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Inoue KOs Tapales, becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> man to unify 2 divisions

JAPANESE boxer Naoya Inoue knocked out Filipino opponent Marlon Tapales in the 10<sup>th</sup> round Tuesday to become the undisputed super bantamweight champion of the world and just the second man to unify all four major belts in two different weight classes.

The fighter nicknamed “Monster” put on another dominant performance at Tokyo’s Ariake Arena as he added Tapales’ World Boxing Federation and International Boxing Federation crowns to the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Organization titles he already held.

Inoue fought on the front foot from the outset of the bout and scored the first knockdown late in the fourth, getting Tapales on the ropes before he was saved by the bell at the end of the round.

Tapales doggedly fought his way back into the contest, but with Inoue’s powerful blows taking their toll and the Filipino battling from behind on the scorecards, the 30-year-old Japanese star landed a savage right that left his opponent unable to recover his feet just over a minute into the 10<sup>th</sup>.

“It’s thanks to the support from all of you I could collect these four belts, a year on from the last one in a different division,” Inoue said. “I think super bantamweight is the right division for me at the moment and I’ll strive to show a stronger version of myself next year and the one after”.

Inoue praised his 31-year-old opponent for putting on a tough battle at the same venue where the Japanese power puncher made his super bantam debut in



Japanese boxer Naoya Inoue poses after defeating Marlon Tapales of the Philippines in their four-belt world super bantamweight title unification match at Ariake Arena in Tokyo on 26 December 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

July, dethroning WBC and WBO incumbent Stephen Fulton in an eighth-round stoppage.

“(Tapales) was an extremely tough and mentally strong boxer, as I expected before the match. I’m relieved to have beaten such a

boxer after 10 rounds and proved what I’ve been doing was right,” Inoue said.

The Kanagawa Prefecture native moved up in weight after unifying all four bantamweight belts last December and has in-

dicated he plans to move up again down the road. He was strongly favoured by bookmakers over Tapales, who earned his world titles in a controversial split-decision win against Uzbekistan’s Murodjon Akhmadaliev in April.

Despite being confident that he was ahead on the cards, Inoue said he remained wary of his opponent’s potential to throw a knockout blow and had not expected the fight to end when he landed a straight right through Tapales’ guard in the 10<sup>th</sup>.

“Honestly, I was surprised to see him drop in the 10<sup>th</sup> round. But I had accumulated good punches, so I believe he had taken quite a bit of damage,” Inoue said. “I could tell while fighting he had one big punch in him and I’m sure my corner was feeling that too.” — Kyodo

## Pele ‘would have been sad’ at state of Brazil team, says son

PELE “would have been sad” at the state of the current Brazilian national team, his son Edinho has told AFP in an interview days before the first anniversary of his death on Friday.

Brazil have struggled in qualifying for the 2026 World Cup and presently occupy sixth place in the South American table, the last spot that affords direct qualification. The Selecao have struggled without their biggest current star, Neymar, who is a long-term injury absentee after tearing knee ligaments.

“This crisis didn’t appear overnight, there are big and complex problems,” said Edinho, 53, who is one of Pele’s seven children. “We are experiencing a decline... we still

have great players but in previous times we had more high-level players than we do today”.

Edinho, who was raised by his mother as Pele and her separated shortly after they moved to New York when he signed for New York Cosmos in 1975 but grew closer to him in later life, added: “There is no doubt, if (Pele) had been there this year, he would have been very sad”.

Santos, the Brazilian club where Pele spent most of his career, are also going through a tough period after they were relegated to the second division for the first time in its 111-year history. The club is wracked by financial problems and boardroom rifts. — AFP



View of a statue depicting Brazilian football legend Pele, design by Brazilian artist Luis Costa, at Rei Pele pier, in Sao Vicente, coast of Sao Paulo state, Brazil, taken on 19 December 2023. PHOTO: AFP

## 3<sup>rd</sup> MCF Cup Winter Traditional Chinlone Competition begins



Women Chinlone athletes showcase their talents at the 3<sup>rd</sup> MCF Cup Winter Traditional Chinlone Competition. PHOTO: LIN YAMA

THE 3<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Chinlone Federation-MCF Cup Winter Traditional Chinlone (cane ball) competition was opened at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung, in his capacity as Chairman of the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Committee, and U Thet Lwin, president of the Myanmar Chinlone Federation, delivered opening speeches.

“Today’s event is an annual competition that includes three types of competition. In the traditional Chinlone competition, the highest level is the 10-pair competition, the six-pair competition and the four women’s pair competition, which are usually held in regions and states. In previous years, it was prioritized so that more teams could come to play. Still, this year, due to priority invitation for talent, 21 teams participated,” said U Thet Lwin, president of the

Myanmar Chinlone Federation.

Aiming to promote the widespread development of Chinlone sports in all parts of Myanmar and the emergence of a new generation of Chinlone athletes, the winter traditional Chinlone competition will be held for four days from 26 to 29 December. About 210 athletes from various regions and states will compete, and the first, second and third prizes will be awarded. — Lin Yama/KZL



# Afghans still in sorrow of losing family members in US bombardments

YEARS later, Afghan villagers still vividly remember the operations and bombardments conducted by the US troops during their 20-year presence in the war-torn country.

Sayed Aziz, a resident of eastern Wardak province, stays in a mud house in the ruined Ismael Khil village. He whispered with sorrow that one US aerial strike had killed 10 people including eight of his brother Qari's family members more than a decade ago.

Recalling the miserable time, Aziz said the US ground forces came to the area and the warplanes conducted air raids, killing innocent villagers including women and children.

"Qari's children, wife and grandchildren were killed. Qari was just a poor farmer," said Aziz, who survived the strikes.

"It was a tragic day. Troops came, warplanes appeared and dropped bombs. A bomb hit a 16-year-old girl while she was washing cups to have tea," Aziz recalled.

Bearing in mind the awful day, Aziz said that Qari was irrigating his farmland when the air raids started. When he returned home, he found he lost everything.

According to Aziz, the United States did nothing good to Afghans. "The Americans dropped bombs on people, on children and even on weddings," he said.



This photo taken on 15 July 2023 shows a damaged building where the US forces dropped cluster bombs in 2001 in Herat Province, Afghanistan. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Echoing Aziz, villager Hajji Esmatullah confirmed that the US troops had killed Afghan civilians during their presence in the country.

The old man said he was on the street and saw the warplanes dropping bombs. "The first bomb killed a villager inside his shop and the second one struck Qa-

ri's house, killing his family members including his 14-year-old daughter," said Esmatullah.

Najibullah, who got mental problems from the same attacks, said the US troops targeted everyone without distinguishing if the targets were civilians or not.

Taking Xinhua reporters to the grave-

yard of the village, the mentally suffered Najibullah pointed to a grave and whispered, "This is my cousin Gulab."

"In Afghanistan, they (US troops) have trampled the human rights," the Wardak's provincial head for Information and Culture Mawlawi Habibullah Mujahid told Xinhua. — Xinhua

## Around 30 countries interested in partnership with BRICS – Lavrov

SOME 30 countries want to partner up with the BRICS club of five emerging economies, in addition to those invited to join at the summit in Johannesburg in summer, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Tuesday.

"It is logical that, since BRICS operates on the principles of a genuine democracy and mutual respect, many countries are eager to get closer to BRICS. In addition to the countries that have already joined our ranks, about three dozen countries now want to become BRICS' partners," he said at a foreign affairs committee meeting of the United Russia party.

Lavrov said that Russia would continue strengthening BRICS' position as a pillar of a fledgling multipolar world. Russia will hold the group's rotating



In this handout photo released by Russian Foreign Ministry, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov greets his colleagues during a video conference session of the BRICS Foreign Ministers Council dedicated to the coronavirus pandemic, in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

presidency in 2024 and host a leaders' summit in Kazan in October where it plans to adopt a "substantial package of decisions." — Sputnik

## New COVID variant JN.1 makes nearly half latest infections in US

A new coronavirus subvariant JN.1 is spreading fast in the United States, and is now accounting for nearly half of the latest COVID-19 cases in the country, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

JN.1 is currently the fastest growing variant and the dominant one in the country. It is responsible for over 44 per cent of new infections across the country, up from the previously reported 21.4 per cent, according to the CDC. The CDC estimates that JN.1 is strongest in the Northeast regions including New Jersey and New York, where it accounts for nearly 57 per cent of cases. — Xinhua