

## The message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kachin State Day

10 January 2024

### Esteemed national brethren in Kachin State,

On the occasion of the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kachin State, which falls today, I extend my greetings with best wishes to

the people of Kachin State and all national brethren across the nation physical and mental well-being.

All ethnic groups have been residing in Myanmar for many years through thick

and thin, sharing fortune and standing tall across the world. The 10<sup>th</sup> of January was designated as Kachin State Day in honour of forming the Kachin State government at the first Kachin State Council

Conference held on 10 January 1948 in the post-independence period of Myanmar. The celebrations have been held annually, and today is the 76<sup>th</sup> occasion of its kind.

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# 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kachin State Day celebrated with enchanting Manaw Dance



76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kachin State Day celebrated with Kachin Manaw Dance on the lawn of Kachin State Government Office yesterday.

**T**HE ceremony of the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kachin State Day was organized with Manaw Dance on the lawn in front of the Kachin State

Government Office yesterday.

It was attended by State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence

Admiral Tin Aung San, SAC members Daw Dwe Bu, Dr Hmu Thang and U Shwe Kyein, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Maung Maung Ohn, U

Min Naung, U Hla Moe, U Nyan Tun, Dr Thet Khaing Win, U Myo Thant, Dr Thet Thet Khine, Jeng Phang Naw Taung,

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NSPNC hosts productive meeting with 7 NCA-Signatory EAOs

### NATIONAL

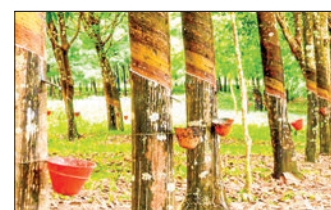
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Entrepreneurs seek machinery, technology for recycling waste into consumer goods

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Myanmar's rubber exports generate US\$144 mln in 9 months



# NATIONAL

## The message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kachin State Day

### FROM PAGE-1

More than 1.7 million of the population, including Shan ethnic groups, Bamar and other ethnics are residing in Kachin State in fraternity in addition to Kachin ethnic groups, namely Jingphaw, Lachid, Lawwaw, Lisu and Zaiwa and Shan ethnic groups such as Tailon, Taileng, Taikhamti, Taisa and Tailey.

Costumes, traditional dances, literature, culture and customs of Kachin ethnic groups are grandeur, and Manaw dance presented by Kachin ethnic with traditional costumes is a traditional culture showing preferable unity.

Moreover, it is a state blessed with valuable natural resources and an excellent and beautiful natural environment with fertile soil. Beautiful scenes of year-round snow-capped mountains and pleasant Indawgyi Lake and Myitsone areas are symbols of the state.

As Kachin State has many natural resources blessed by nature, if development tasks can be undertaken for the state based on these natural scenes and natural resources, national and ethnic people will have socioeconomic development and job opportunities.

Now is a time for the State Administration Council, which is taking State

responsibilities under the Constitution (2008). The State Administration Council has been implementing a five-point roadmap and nine objectives since its establishment.

The current situation is being managed by the emergence of a peaceful and prosperous future for the State and all national people. Setting national visions: prosperous nation and food security, political visions: strengthening the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on the democratic system and federalism are being initiated. The government and Tatmadaw pledge to join hands with ethnic people in successfully implementing adopted visions, roadmaps, and objectives, as well as strengthening the multiparty democratic system.

To achieve success in the implementation of national and political visions, as it is important for the enhancement of intelligence and knowledge of local ethnic people, a particular emphasis must be placed on the promotion of education.

Currently, the government is implementing plans to develop socioeconomic life, including agriculture, livestock, education, health, communications and electric power sectors for the development of Kachin State. Moreover, I would like to

emphasize the socioeconomic improvement of ethnic people in the State and development undertakings by encouraging booming MSME businesses based on natural products such as wood, bamboo, rattan and other materials.

If Kachin State can maintain existing natural resources and systematically promote the production of value-added products, it will contribute to the sufficiency of needs in the state and supply the demands of the country. Moreover, products can be exported abroad as it is a border area, which will help improve the socioeconomic life of the local people and generate income for the State.

The government cooperates with ethnic people, including Tatmadaw, to safeguard the Union's non-disintegration, national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty as national political duties based on genuine patriotic spirit forever.

It is necessary to follow NCA so as to ensure peace of the whole Union, which is essential for building a peaceful and prosperous nation that all people aspire to. In forging peace in our country, only when national brethren have to seek the solution in political dialogue based on the Union spirit will they achieve success. I would like to urge all ethnic people to

harmoniously serve the interest of the State through the united strength.

During the period from the post-independence period to date, as border areas and ethnic areas, including Kachin State, have been missing chances for peace and stability, local ethnic people cannot enjoy the essence of independence and encounter social problems. Hence, I urge all of you to cease the tragic events in our era and try hard to hand over a good legacy for the future to new generations by building a developed nation with durable peace.

In conclusion, I send a message of honour to the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day, sincerely urging ethnic people, including national brethren from Kachin State who actually adore the nation and the nationals, to participate in peace and stability of the State, perpetual peace, prosperity of the State, food security, socioeconomic development and building a Union based on the democratic system and federalism with might and main.

**Senior General  
Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu  
Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma  
Min Aung Hlaing  
Prime Minister  
Chairman  
State Administration Council**

## 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kachin State Day celebrated ...

### FROM PAGE-1

Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung and departmental officials.

Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, relevant officials, and traditional ethnic cultural troupes welcomed them with a traditional dance.

After the opening ceremonial procedures of the 76<sup>th</sup> Kachin State Day, the Deputy Prime Minister and the party and participants joyfully participated in the Manaw dance at the same venue.

Then, the Deputy Prime Minister and party observed the booths displaying vegetables and local products.

They proceeded to the Bala Min Htin No 2 bridge construction site in Myitkyina

Township at noon. They then watched the demonstration of basic swimming techniques and swimming competitions at Nyeinchan Thaya swimming pool and awarded the winners.

Moreover, they visited a cultural museum in Ayeyaward, Jingphaw Thu loom in Rampu ward and Safe & Sure Auto Service Centre in Myothigyid ward.

Similarly, SAC Member Dr Hmu Thang and U Shwe Kyein, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Min Naung, U Nyan Tun, Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung attended the Honorary Certificate/Award-Giving Ceremony in Commemoration of the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kachin State Day.



SAC members and Union Ministers visit booth of Border Affairs Ministry displayed at Kachin State Day ceremony yesterday.

There were 22 recipients of Excellence in Management Affairs (second class), 16 recipients of Excellence in Social Affairs (second class), seven

recipients of Excellence in Management (third class), and seven winners for higher education and basic education level essay and poem competitions.

They also watched the sports competitions marking the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kachin State Day at the state football stadium. — MNA/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## State anticipates rise of educated, disciplined youth athletes

THE education sector plus sports must be improved for the emergence of educated, disciplined, healthy and fit outstanding youths, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win said so at the opening of the Inter-University Sports Competitions for the 2023-24 academic year of the Ministry of Education at Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium (B) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General highlighted that the Ministry of Education creates chances for youths to learn education plus sports while emphasizing the development of physical and mental strengths of the youths and sports sector in addition to upgrading school sports grounds.

He recounted that the Myanmar sports contingent comprising university students participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> SEAP Games hosted by Myanmar in Yangon from 6 to 13 December 1969, sweeping 57 gold, 46 silver and 43 bronze medals on the chart's top position. Of them, he contin-



SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses opening of Inter-University Sports Competitions for the 2023-24 academic year in Nay Pyi Taw.



ued, university students of the contingent secured six gold, four silver and five bronze medals.

The Vice-Senior General noted that Myanmar is currently actively participating in the ASEAN University Games-AUG with great success.

Concerning the success of university students, he said that 33 Myanmar athletes participated in football, archery, Sepak Takraw and Wushu events of the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games held in Thailand in 2022, bag-

ging two gold, two silver and two bronze medals. Hence, he continued that the government deservedly honoured those victorious university athletes.

He underscored that the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs assists in conducting training courses for physical training teachers in relevant regions and states in the basic education sector. Likewise, Dagon University and Yadanabon University open BSc (Sports) courses in higher education in cooperation

with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. In conclusion, the Vice-Senior General urged university student-athletes to compete in sports events under discipline, sports techniques and sporting spirit in order to uplift the prestige of the State.

The Vice-Senior General launched the Inter-University Sports Competitions for AY 2023-24 and cordially greeted athletes, managers and coaches.

He also enjoyed exercise

dance, physical fitness dance, pom-pom dance, and the Kay-in don dance of university students.

The competitions comprise football, volleyball, track & field, Sepak Takraw and table tennis events at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium, gymnasiums and football training grounds in Nay Pyi Taw. More than 1,160 athletes, managers and coaches from various universities will participate in the competitions from 9 to 18 January 2024. — MNA/TTA

## SAC members visit Myitkyina General Hospital



STATE Administration Council members Daw Dwe Bu and Dr Hmu Thang and Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win visited Myitkyina General Hospital on Monday.

During the meeting, Daw Dwe Bu greeted the medical staff and reaffirmed her support for the hospital. Subsequently, the Union Minister

explained the ministry's endeavours in controlling diseases and caring for the people in line with the SAC's objectives for social affairs.

He highlighted numerous upgrades in general hospitals, including labs, x-ray facilities, and diagnostic fields, while advocating for a unified effort towards public healthcare.

The specialists and medical staff presented their requirements, and the Union minister addressed them accordingly.

Representatives from different public healthcare bodies in Kachin State were also present among the attendees. — MNA/NT

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win explains ministry's endeavours in controlling diseases.



# NATIONAL

## NSPNC hosts productive meeting with 7 NCA-Signatory EAOs



NSPNC meets seven NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and seven NCA-signatory EAOs took place at the NSPNC centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting garnered the presence of esteemed individuals,

including members of the State Administration Council, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, and Lt-Gen Sein Win (Retd), a member of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee. Additionally, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, members of the

Negotiation Committee, and representatives of the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) were in attendance. Among the ethnic armed group representatives were U Khun Okkar and U Myo Win of the PPST, Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin, Chair of the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP),

Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo, Vice-Chair of the KNU/KNLA-Peace Council, Kyar Phoo, Vice-Chair of the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU), Khun Min Thein, Joint General Secretary-1 of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), Saw Kyaw Than Htay, Head of Relations Department

of the Democratic Kay-in Benevolent Army (DKBA), Nai Nyi Nyi, second in-charge of Central Development Department from the New Mon State Party (NMSP), and Nang San Hpaung, Central Steering Committee member from the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS).

Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo, Vice-Chair of the KNU/KNLA-Peace Council, extended greetings on behalf of the ethnic armed groups participating in the meeting. Subsequently, the participants engaged in fruitful discussions on the forthcoming peace process, humanitarian initiatives in areas housing ethnic armed organizations, and negotiations related to local development activities. Concluding the meeting, Chair Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin of the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) and Union Minister for Home Affairs, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, shared their concluding remarks. — MNA/TS

### Counter-argument to false information

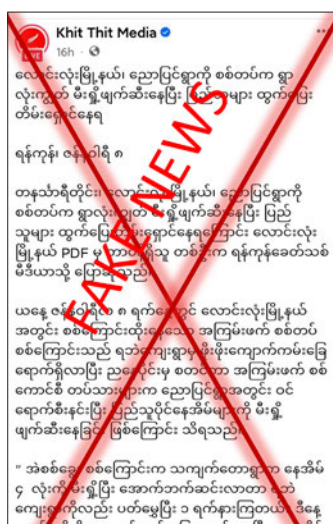
#### Malicious media spreads misinformation about residents evacuating Nyawpyin Village, Launglon Township

MALICIOUS media Khit Thit Media spread misinformation that as security forces set fire to the whole Nyawpyin Village of Launglon Township in Taninthayi Region on 8 January, residents had to flee away.

According to the information of residents, terrorists who set fire to villages some 3,700 metres southwest of Nyawpyin Village of Launglon Township secretly took

positions, and security forces took security measures. So, terrorists set fire to huts where they took a base camp ran away. Tatmadaw seized homemade mines, explosives and accessories.

Malicious media are making attempts to cause misunderstanding between residents and security forces and defame these security forces through social network pages. — MNA/TTA



#### False News: Alleged civilian list for military service in Nattalin Township defames Tatmadaw on social media

FAKE news and misinformation are spreading on the social network that the Tatmadaw demanded ten men aged between 18 and 55 from each village-tract from administrators for serving military service at the office of Nattalin Township Administrator of Bago Region on 5 January.

According to an official from Nattalin Township, Tatmadaw did not demand the strength of

residents to serve in the military service nor ordered them to serve forcibly. These are just misinformation spread by unscrupulous persons.

Malicious media posts misinformation on social network pages to cause misunderstanding amongst people about defaming Tatmadaw. They are instilling fear and hate speeches in people in all ways. — MNA/TTA

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# NATIONAL

ENTREPRENEURS have expressed the need for machinery and technology to transform waste materials into value-added consumer goods. There is a high demand for products crafted from chemical-free waste materials like plant fibres obtained from pineapple, roselle, lotus, and banana, especially in foreign markets. However, local enterprises face challenges in fulfilling these orders due to inadequate equipment and technology.

U Myint Thein from Green Banana Myanmar highlighted the situation: "We already have abundant raw materials. What we need is machinery and technology. We noticed foreigners love clothes and scarves made of Myanmar banana fibres."

## Entrepreneurs seek machinery, technology for recycling waste into consumer goods



Products made of banana fibres are displayed to attract visitors. PHOTO: KANU



His company is involved in a weaving business that utilizes banana fibres.

Despite having numerous orders, the company faces limitations due to inadequate equipment, mainly spinning

machines. While India and the Philippines have sufficient equipment, foreign buyers prefer Myanmar products. Weaving a six by 2.5 feet garment with banana fibres takes five days, and the entrepreneur

stressed the need for equipment and know-how to expedite the process.

Various materials such as water hyacinth, banana leaves, banana stem pith, and mashed areca nuts can serve as raw materials for producing consumer goods, and these products are in demand in countries like Thailand, Singapore, and Spain.

The government actively promotes micro, small, and medium enterprises in domestic and international markets. In late 2023, Japan ordered garments and towels made of Myanmar banana fibres, prompting entrepreneurs to work diligently to meet these orders.

Clothing made from banana fibres is renowned for its cooling and lightweight properties, with some countries even producing bullet-proof vests from these fibres. Additionally, banana fibres can replace bamboo in paper production, reducing chemical usage and environmental conservation. Entrepreneurs predict that manufacturing consumer goods from waste materials will become indispensable in the future. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/NT

## Bangkok music show hyped for Myanmar citizens in Thailand

CEO Ko Aung Gyi of Synergy Entertainment said they will organize an entertainment programme named "Hype in Bangkok Music Show" for Myanmar citizens in Thailand.

Famous Myanmar singers Bunny Phyo, Bobby Soxer, and Snare will perform at the music show in Thailand.

Ko Aung Gyi, CEO of Synergy Entertainment and the show organizer, said, "This is the very first music show of our Synergy Entertainment, and it is for Myanmar citizens in Thailand. The show will be performed at Spicy Club in Phetchaburi 15 of Bangkok on 27 January. Our target audience is Myanmar youths."

It is also known that the music show will start at 7 pm at Spicy Club in Phetchaburi 15 of Bangkok. — ASH/ TRKM



An advertising poster for Hype in Bangkok Music Show.

## Kayin New Year celebration show at 16<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival's Bazaar Stage in PyinOoLwin

U Zaw Min Tun, the warden of PyinOoLwin National Lake Garden, announced an entertainment show as part of the festivities to celebrate the Kayin New Year at the ongoing 16<sup>th</sup> Flower Dreamland Flower Festival in PyinOoLwin.

The flower festival features entertainment, market festivals, and an upcoming entertainment show celebrating the Kayin New Year Festival on 11 January.

"During the Kayin New Year Festival, performers such as Yaw Yazt, Min Thant, and EFL, along with popular DJs, will entertain the audience," said U Zaw Min Tun.

The festival includes shops offering local goods, clothes, handicrafts, and souvenirs. Scheduled from 16 December to 14 January, the 16<sup>th</sup> flower festival takes place at PyinOoL-

win National Lake Garden, covering 436.96 acres with 366.96 acres of land and 70 acres of water. Established in 1924, the

garden has been leased to the Htoo Group of Companies for 15 years starting from 2010. — ASH/TRKM



The visitors seen at the PyinOoLwin Flower Festival.

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# NATIONAL

## Illustrious singer Mar Mar Aye passes away at aged 82

**M**AR Mar Aye, a nationally renowned vocalist in the Myanmar music landscape, passed away yesterday at her residence in Fort Wayne, Indiana, United States of America.

Mar Mar Aye was 82 years old at the time of her demise. Born as Ma Aye Myint in Shangon ward, Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region, in the second Waso month of Myanmar Era 1304 (26 July 1942), she hailed from a family of musicians. Her father, U Aye, was a *Hne* (Myanmar clarinet) player, and her mother, Daw Than Hnit, also known as Myaungmya Than, was a singer.

Initiating her illustrious career at three with the Khitthit Razawun Drama Troupe, she began radio singing at eight. Mar Mar Aye adopted various stage names with different orchestras, but she became most prominently known by her given name.

Her breakthrough moment occurred in 1955 when her single "Let's Play on

the Rainbow" catapulted her to musical stardom. She secured top poetry reciting awards in the middle grade for three consecutive years from 1956 to 1958, also winning the Tagonsite Award for this achievement. Additionally, she wrote songs and poems under the pen name Lay Mar and published a novel titled "Mummy Sheep."

Joining Myanma Radio in 1961 as a deputy programme broadcaster, she served as an executive member of the Myanmar Modern Music Council and a member of the Gita Padetha magazine committee. Mar Mar Aye took lead roles in three films. In 1971, she established her record label, "Tay Than Shin," and founded the "Aye School for Vocalist Training" in 1976. Managing Mar Mar Aye Music Productions and Studio-A recording studio, she also served as Secretary-1 of the National League of Musicians in 1989 and a member of the committee for musical note documentation under the Ministry of Culture.



Mar Mar Aye's life in photo.

Mar Mar Aye, a multi-talented artist and celebrated vocalist, immigrated to the USA in 1998. Besides writing musical memoirs and studying medicine, she performed for Myanmar immigrants in various states of the USA, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Japan. Hosting the fan-favourite radio programme "I Still Have a Lot to Say" with the London-based BBC Burmese, Mar Mar Aye remained respected and garnered admiration from contemporaries and audiences alike. — TWA/NT

## Taxis without yellow sideline stickers face fines from 1 Feb

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) has announced that taxis operating in the Yangon region without yellow sideline stickers will face penalties and wheel tax starting from 1 February.

The installation of yellow sideline stickers on taxis commenced on 12 October 2023, and the educational period was from 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024.

As of 23 December 2023, 75 per cent (approximately 42,000 vehicles) had been equipped with yellow sideline stickers. Currently, 55,227 out of the 58,481 city taxis have been registered with YRTC.

YRTC has instructed taxis from Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Mon and Kayin States, which operate in the Yangon Region, to affix yellow stickers on both sides. — TWA/MKKS

## Weekly updated prices of Bayintnaung Wholesale Market

WITHIN 3-9 January 2024, the prices of black gram and pigeon pea at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market trended upward, while Kyukok garlic and onion prices dropped.

### Onion

On 9 January, a total of 180,000 visses of onions from various states and regions arrived in the Yangon market, with prices ranging between K1,700-2,300-2,900-3,000 per viss of Seikphyu; K1,700-2,350-2,850-3,000 per viss of Myingyan; and K3,100-3,400-3,500 per viss of Myitha. The prices of Myitha (big size) and Seikphyu Myingyan declined to K1,300 and K800 per viss, respectively, within a few days.

Seventy-thousand visses of rainy onion (new) arrived in the Pakokku market on 9 January with a maximum price of K2,500 per viss.

### Garlic

The price of Kyukok garlic fell on 9 January to K9,300-9,500 per viss. The price of Shan Aungban garlic ranged between



The photo depicts a kitchen grocery outlet in the market.

K14,500-15,500-15,700-16,000 per viss. Chinese white potato was priced at K2,900, and new (red soil) potato was priced at K2,700 on 9 January, respectively.

### Chilli

On 9 January, long red chil-

lies from Salin Town were priced at K14,500 per viss, long Shan chillies were priced at K10,000 to K12,000 per viss, and Moehtaung new chillies from various towns and Moehtaung chillies with cold storage were priced at K10,500 per viss. Chilli processed in cold

storage with a pink colour was priced at K14,500 per viss, and Hmyarni chilli in cold storage was valued at K13,500 per viss. Chinese bell pepper was priced at K19,500 per viss, whereas Sinyukyun bell pepper (new) was priced at K19,800 per viss.

### Rice

On 9 January, new monsoon rice (rough) was priced at K63,000, and Manaw Thukha (new) at K80,000 per bag in the Yangon market. Pawkywe rice (new) was K95,000 per bag, 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 8 to 14 January, the wholesale reference price of palm oil is set at K4,955 per viss, which has remained unchanged within the previous three weeks. On 8 January, one tonne of palm oil in the external market was priced at US\$835.

### Beans and Pulses

On 9 January, one tonne of black gram RC was priced at K3,061,000, one tonne of SQ/RC at K3,411,000, red pigeon pea at K3,505,000 per tonne, green gram at K3,830 per viss, while chicken pea was priced at K6,250 to K6,500 per viss. — TWA/TMT



## Myanmar's rubber exports generate US\$144 mln in 9 months

MYANMAR shipped 114,855 tonnes of rubber to foreign countries in the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April, bagging US\$144.046 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar Rubber Association aims to achieve about 300,000 tonnes of rubber export this FY.

The prevailing prices are K1,620 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 and K1,600 for sun-dried rubber in Mon State's rubber market.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the South-east Asian nations and the market supply weigh on Myanmar's rubber prices.



Collection of rubber latex seen at young rubber farm.

The traders elaborated that the rubber price in Mon State, a significant rubber production

state in Myanmar, is closely tied to those factors as well. Seventy per cent of rubber

produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malay-

sia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

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

The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 exceeded 360,000 tonnes, and over 200,000 tonnes of rubber were shipped to foreign trade partners. — NN/EM

## DICA report: 6,400 companies fail to file AR in 2023

A total of 6,400 companies were struck off the register in 2023 as they failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Last year, 500 companies in January, 400 each in February and March, 200 in April, 550 in May, 750 in June, 600 in July, 750 in August, 450 in September, 750 in October, 600 in November and 450 in December did not file the AR on the MyCO, according to the DICA.

The DICA notified any registered company which fails to file its AR on the MyCO are to be struck off the register from the date of directive, under section 430 (F) of Myanmar Company Law, according to the DICA's notification.

The DICA's statistics showed that 5,000 companies did not file the AR in 2022.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at least once every year



Photo shows Directorate of Investment and Company Administration in Yangon.

(not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorpo-

ration or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totaling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

## Pigeon pea price climbs on global demand

THE pigeon pea price bounced back to K3.505 million per tonne on 9 January 2024 after a drop to K3.22 million on 30 December 2023 in the domestic market.

The figures reflected a sharp rise of K280,000 per tonne within ten days. The price rise is attributed to the surge in foreign demand.

The pigeon pea hit a record high of K4.15 million per tonne on 8 November 2023.

Myanmar primarily exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Black grams and pigeon peas are mostly conveyed to India, while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myan-

mar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulse's annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

Myanmar exported around 1.15 million tonnes of pulses worth over \$978 million to foreign trade partners over the past nine months of the current 2023-2024 financial year, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed. Myanmar's pulses exports bagged US\$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. — NN/EM



Pigeon pea plants bearing ripening fruits.



## OPINION

### Take lessons in catastrophes in recent years for new era

**I**N recent years, the world has been confronted with catastrophic events, and the devastating earthquake that shook parts of Japan during the New Year period served as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities inherent in human daily routines. Despite the significant strides in creating powerful weaponry and other scientific advancements, the fragility of human existence becomes evident when faced with natural disasters, particularly unpredictable earthquakes.

This latest powerful earthquake underscores the imperative for humanity to glean essential lessons for the advancement of the world. It is crucial to recognize that while we have made remarkable scientific and technological progress, these achievements may prove futile in the face of the vastness of the Universe. Therefore, humanity must make resolute decisions to march into the future with a commitment to continuous creation and innovation to benefit society and fortify it against the impact of natural disasters.

The ability to defy the consequences of natural disasters holds the key to saving countless lives and averting tragic events like the recent tsunami and earthquake in Japan. Innovation should transcend discrimination, ensuring that the fruits of scientific endeavours benefit all of humanity, irrespective of factors such as race, religion, politics, or skin colour. The products of innovation must be purposefully directed toward the collective well-being of people worldwide.

Promoting a sense of family and brotherhood, along with fostering a spirit of unity, must be priorities in society, contributing to the establishment of lasting peace across the globe. Humans must unite in the face of potential catastrophes, channelling their collective efforts towards overcoming challenges. By doing so, societies can thrive under the protective umbrella of innovative measures, ensuring peace, safety, and security for all.

Conversely, global citizens should encourage and support scientists and innovators in pursuing scientific endeavours that benefit the broader community. The current juncture demands a concerted effort to embark on creations and innovations aimed at safeguarding the world and preserving the lives of living beings during natural disasters. Building the capacity to withstand catastrophes becomes paramount to minimizing loss and damage.

Furthermore, the findings resulting from innovations and creations should be passed down to subsequent generations, facilitating ongoing progress. The present moment is undoubtedly the optimal time for humanity to engage in a collective endeavour to protect the world and enhance our resilience to natural disasters. Through sustained efforts and a commitment to innovation, everybody should create a safer and more secure future for all.

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## The Secrets of Sleep in Transformative Technologies

By Yin Nwe Ko

**S**LEEP is a biological need. However, a poet known as Samuel Taylor Coleridge composed, "Oh, Sleep. It's a gentle thing loved from pole to pole. Is sleep poetic as he said? Is sleep a complex matter of what we cannot guess? In this article, my esteemed readers are going to become understand it soon.

Many people experience a terrible feeling after a night of bad sleep: tiredness, grumpiness, difficulty concentrating, and slow reactions. Luckily, catching up on sleep the next day can usually fix these issues. However, if sleep troubles persist, it can lead to serious health problems like obesity, diabetes, and depression.

The amount of sleep each person needs varies, but most adults require seven to nine hours each night. Sadly, many people don't consistently meet this target. The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about a third of US adults don't get enough sleep daily, and around 20 per cent suffer from chronic sleep issues.

According to Mark George at the Medical University of South Carolina, lack of sleep is a significant problem, and finding a solution would be great. While there are many apps and gadgets claiming to monitor and improve sleep, recent advancements in brain stimulation offer a new approach. Devices that directly interact with brainwaves promise to hack sleep for a better night's rest.

Consumer sleep technology emerged in 2005 with Zeo's headband, but it folded in 2012. Fitbit then introduced its Tracker, claiming to measure sleep. Other devices, like smartphone apps and bedside gadgets, followed. By 2015, almost a quarter of US consumers owned sleep-tracking technology. In 2020, experts considered the market saturated.

The goal of these devices is to record sleep duration and quality, offering feedback to help users improve. In sleep labs, polysomnography (PSG) achieves this by using an electroencephalogram (EEG) machine to record brain activity, along with devices



PHOTO CREDIT: NEW SCIENTIST

tracking eye movements, muscle tension, heart rhythm, breathing patterns, and blood oxygen level. Specialists later analyze the data, breaking down sleep into 30-second segments called epochs to determine wakefulness or sleep stages like rapid eye movement (REM) or non-REM sleep.

The gold standard for measuring sleep is polysomnography (PSG), but it has drawbacks. PSG is expensive, takes a lot of time, can only be done in a lab, and may disturb sleep. It requires experts to operate and interpret data, leading to inconsistent results.

An alternative is actigraphy, using wristbands with accelerometers to track physical activity during the night. While it reliably distinguishes between wakefulness and sleep, it can't identify different sleep stages and often overestimates sleep duration. Despite these limitations, actigraphy is useful outside the lab over multiple nights.

Early consumer sleep-track-

Overall, all four devices performed well in detecting sleep versus wakefulness and sleep efficiency. Sleep efficiency measures the percentage of time spent asleep in bed and ideally should be around 90 per cent, according to Michael Grandner of the Sleep and Health Research Program at the University of Arizona.

While collecting accurate sleep data is helpful, acting on it is a different challenge. Many sleep devices offer coaching based on collected data, but, as Grandner notes, a sleep tracker is not a sleep improvement program.

Some newer devices, like the Eight Sleep smart mattress, go further by cooling down for sleep and warming up for waking. The Smart Nora pillow detects snoring and adjusts the head position to open the airway.

Responsive interventions to sleep include Kokoon headphones, which monitor heart rate with infrared light. When detecting sleep onset, they fade audio and mask disturbances with nature sounds or pink noise.

The real-world benefits of sleep trackers are unclear. A small trial with WHOOP wristbands showed improved perceived sleep quality but reduced sleep duration, possibly due to advised sleep reduction. However, small gains may not significantly impact those without major sleep issues.

Population-level data suggests limited progress in overall sleep quality. The US Sleep Health Index scores have only slightly increased over the years, indicating modest improvements.

There's concern that the use of sleep trackers might backfire, leading to obsession and ironically causing insomnia.

Despite challenges, a new phase in consumer sleep technology is emerging. Research-grade sleep trackers, like the Sleep Profiler and Dreem headband, combine PSG details with actigraphy convenience. The Sleep Profiler, FDA-approved, records EEG, heart rate, muscle tone, eye/body movement, and sound

in a headband. The Dreem headband, backed by a study, matched PSG results in 2020, signalling potential advancements in at-home gold-standard sleep tracking.

There are exciting developments in sleep technology, including EEG sensors placed in or around the ears. While not as sensitive as lab-based PSG sensors, these devices reliably identify sleeping brainwaves, indicating the sleep stage.

Manufacturers recognize the commercial potential of such devices. Sleep Profiler and Dreem, for instance, have showcased consumer versions. Philips also tested a similar headband named Smartsleep, showing a positive effect on sleep quality. However, Philips seems to have discontinued the product.

A significant breakthrough is the Dreem 2 headband. It not only tracks sleep using EEG, actigraphy, and a pulse sensor but also intervenes when it detects the wearer exiting deep sleep too early. By transmitting vibrations through the skull to the inner ear, perceived as pulses of pink noise, the headband nudges the brain back into deep sleep. This builds on the science that well-timed bursts of noise can enhance deep sleep.

Deep sleep, also known as slow-wave sleep, is the most restorative phase. In 2006, researchers at the University of Lubeck in Germany demonstrated its hackability. They applied electrical currents during deep sleep, leading to increased deep sleep and improved memory.

Later, teams explored magnetic fields, sound, and touch for similar effects, though the results were weak. Ian Born, part of the Lubeck team, highlights the brain's own rhythm's unpredictability. Their "closed-loop" stimulation, applying auditory bursts when the EEG detects spontaneous slow waves, resulted in stronger and longer deep sleep enhancement and better memory improvements.

These advancements hold promise for improving sleep quality by influencing deep sleep

patterns. As technology continues to evolve, we may see more accessible and effective tools for enhancing our sleep experiences.

The Dreem 2's success in enhancing deep sleep has been widely acknowledged since its 2013 publication. Although the Dreem 2 was discontinued, closed-loop technology is being incorporated into other prototype wearables and consumer sleep headbands.

In a clinical trial led by Caroline Lustenberger at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, older adults using an EEG headband called SleepLoop experienced improved deep sleep during stimulation periods. However, responses varied among participants, demonstrating that the technology can benefit some older adults.

For younger individuals, evidence is mixed. Alexandra Puchkova from the Russian Academy of Sciences tested Dreem devices on herself and a small group aged 20 to 40 in 2019. Results varied, with some reporting improvements and others struggling to adapt. Puchkova, while undecided about its personal effects, acknowledges the potential but awaits more conclusive results.

Earable Neuroscience in Boulder, Colorado, offers the FRENZ Brainband, a closed-loop headband that speeds up sleep onset by 24 minutes, as per recent results. Available for preorder at US\$490, its future remains uncertain, but closed-loop sleep systems show promise.

Despite uncertainties, many believe in the potential of this sleep stimulation technology. Puchkova expresses high hopes for closed-loop systems, emphasizing their potential to improve sleep in the long run. The continuous development of such technologies holds promise for enhancing sleep experiences, bringing us closer to achieving better and more restful nights.

Now, there is a query. Is sleep poetic or biological? **Reference:** *New Scientist* 25 Nov 2023



The findings suggest the need for clinical trials to evaluate the efficacy of therapies increasing omega-3 levels in individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and other chronic lung disorders. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ INSTAGRAM**

### Healthy omega-3 fats may slow deadly pulmonary fibrosis: Study

*Researchers from the University of Virginia explored the potential of omega-3 fatty acids, found in foods like nuts and fish, to slow the progression of pulmonary fibrosis, a fatal lung scarring condition, and delay the need for lung transplants.*

**C**OULD the healthy fats found in nuts and fish help to slow the progression of potentially fatal lung scarring known as pulmonary fibrosis and hence postpone the need for lung transplants? The UVA pulmonary experts investigated the relationship between blood-plasma levels of omega-3 fatty acids—heart-healthy fats found in foods like salmon and flaxseeds—and the advancement of pulmonary fibrosis, as well as how long patients may go without requiring a transplant. The researchers discovered that higher omega-3 levels were linked to improved lung function and a longer transplant-free life. While additional research is needed, the researchers believe their findings warrant clinical trials to see if therapies that increase omega-3 levels will help individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and other chronic lung disorders.

#### Omega-3 fatty acids

"We found that higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids in the blood, which reflects several weeks of dietary intake, were

linked to better lung function and longer survival," said researcher John Kim, MD, a pulmonary and critical care expert at UVA Health and the University of Virginia School of Medicine. "Our findings suggest omega-3 fatty acids might be a targetable risk factor in pulmonary fibrosis." Omega-3 fatty acids have already been linked to a host of health benefits. Studies have suggested, for example, that they may lower the risk of heart disease, stroke-causing blood clots, breast cancer and other cancers, Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Kim and his colleagues wanted to determine if omega-3s could play a protective role in interstitial lung disease, a group of chronic lung diseases that can lead to pulmonary fibrosis. A growing problem around the world, pulmonary fibrosis is an irreversible condition that leaves the lungs unable to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide properly. This can cause patients to become short of breath, weak, unable to exercise and a host of other symptoms.

SOURCE: *ANI*



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar, India ink 2 MoUs under Quick Impact Projects

THE signing ceremony for two Memorandums of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India under Quick Impact Projects (QIP) was held at the Ministry of Border Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Deputy Directors-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of India Mr Ashish Sharma and relevant officials.

At the event, the Deputy

Minister remarked, and the Deputy Chief of Mission of the

Embassy of India, clarified the MoU.

Then, Director-General U Sai Tun Nyo of Progress of Bor-

der Areas and National Races Department and the Indian Deputy Chief of Mission signed MoUs and exchanged them.

The Quick Impact Project (QIP) allows for a project cost of US\$50,000 each, and Indian Government aims to support Myanmar's socioeconomic development.

The MoUs will contribute to the construction of a 60 by 30 by 12 feet multi-purpose hall in Taikyan village of Lahe Township of Naga Self-Administered Zone, a 20 feet double-layer one-floor bailey bridge between Lahe-Nanyun (three miles and six furlongs) and a Laung Kyan Naut Gone-Taikyan-Lanhtein route and four 5 by 5 by 26 feet Box Culverts. — MNA/KTZH



MoU signed between Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and Indian Government yesterday.

## Myanmar Child Labour Eradication Awareness & Capacity-Building Working Committee holds coord meeting



The awareness and capacity-building working committee meeting on eliminating child labour in Myanmar in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE awareness and capacity-building working committee meeting on eliminating child labour in Myanmar was held yesterday at the Ministry of Information assembly hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, who is also Chairman of the Education and Capacity-Building Committee, emphasized the importance of children's rights and children's education. He said that the first five-year national plan to eliminate child labour in Myanmar from 2019 to 2023 had

been completed. To implement the second five-year plan (2024-2028), he said he would like to coordinate with the secretary and present the work plans to the relevant departments on a suitable date.

He added that the annual report is also to be submitted to the National Committee. For the next five-year plan, the relevant departments and organizations of the committee should draw up detailed work plans and submit them to the National Committee in January.

The Education and Capacity-Building Committee

secretary then gave a report on the points to be based on the drafting of the second five-year national plan (2024-2028) to eliminate child labour in Myanmar.

Furthermore, the attendees discussed the activities related to awareness and education activities, opening vocational courses, broadcasting awareness programmes through the media, and the activities that will continue to be executed.

Afterwards, the deputy minister gave a closing speech after discussing and supplementing the discussions and presentations. — MNA/KZL

## CRIME NEWS

### K650M worth of Happy Water, revolver seized in Kunhing township

HAPPY Water, worth over K650 million, and a revolver were seized in Kunhing township, the Myanmar Police Force reported.

A combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, stopped and searched a Probox car driven by Myo Thet Ko at the Takaw village checkpoint in Kunhing township at 8:30 am on 6 January. The police seized 5.95 kilogrammes of Happy Water from a paper box.

After some interrogation, the Police Force arrested Sai

Kaw Ya (aka) Sai Kam Mat, who was involved in drug trafficking with a Toyota Crown car, a revolver, and 23 rounds on Namsang-Kholam road on the outskirts of Namsang township at 2:15 pm on the same day, and Moe Thet Ko (aka) ByBye at his house in Loilem township at 2:45 pm on the same day.

Legal action has been taken against the offenders, and an ongoing investigation aims to arrest the perpetrators involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



Offenders were seen with the seized drugs and vehicles.



## Street dance in China — from niche to pop culture phenomenon



Dancers compete during the final of a street dance competition in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province, 16 October 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

IN the summer of 2023, a domestic film titled "One and Only" captivated the interest of Chinese audiences, making waves at the box office.

The film, which tells the story of breakdancers against the backdrop of the 2023 Asian Games, secured the 15<sup>th</sup> spot in the 2023 China box office ranking list with a total box office of 913 million yuan (about 128.6 million US dollars).

In addition to this film, a variety of shows and live action performances have played a pivotal role in thrusting the art of breakdancing into the spotlight. Most notably, breakdance made its debut as an official competition event of the Asian Games in 2023, and is all set

to make its Olympic debut in Paris in 2024.

Once regarded as a product of Western subculture with limited prospects for widespread public acceptance, breakdancing, alongside other forms of street dance, has undergone a transformative journey. Today, after years of development, street dance has transcended its niche origins to emerge as a vibrant cultural phenomenon.

Recently, the China Hip-hop Union Committee (CHUC) under the China Dancers Association celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Set up in September 2013 to facilitate the development of street dance, the committee has made no-

table efforts in this regard in about a decade.

"China's street dance industry now includes multiple business forms including competition, performance, variety show and cultural product development," said Liu Lian, an official with the country's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, adding that the industry is striving to cater to the public's growing cultural needs and vividly showcases the vibrant creativity of street dancers.

The most important reason behind the growing popularity of street dance in China, according to Liu, is its integration with Chinese culture, particularly traditional music and dance. — Xinhua

## Back-to-school support eases burden for Fijian students

THE Fijian government has launched a 200-Fijian-dollar Back-to-School Support initiative to assist parents and guardians in purchasing proper school uniforms, school bags, shoes, lunch boxes, stationery, and other necessities for their children before school starts on 29 January this year.

Over 40.2 million Fijian dollars (around 17.9 million US dollars) has been distributed to

200,760 students, according to Fiji Broadcasting Corporation news website on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Finance said the first round of payments is made to all eligible students enrolled from early childhood education to Year 12 in the upcoming 2024 school year, with 200 Fijian dollars (some 89.5 dollars) per child.

Milika Marama, a mother of five, said the assistance for

her children was a great help.

She said she was grateful for the financial help, with which she could afford to buy new uniforms and sandals for her five children.

The second round of payment will include around 8,200 applications, currently on hold for students yet to be enrolled in Year 13 as they await their Year 12 exam results, the ministry said. — Xinhua

## Chinese museum opens up digital database of 2,000-year-old tombs

THE Hunan Museum made the digital database on the world-famous Mawangdui Tombs available to colleges and companies on Monday, becoming the latest Chinese museum aiming to turn archaeological finds into popular cultural brands.

The museum in central China's Hunan Province will allow two colleges and 12 companies, including popular tea brand Sexy Tea and online video platform Mango TV, to freely use the digital resources of Mawangdui.

Located in the provincial capital Changsha, Mawangdui houses the grand tombs of the Marquis of Dai during the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD), as well as his wife and son.

The site gained international attention in the 1970s when researchers opened a coffin and found a female corpse that showed no signs of decay. The corpse, now preserved in the museum, is said to be that of a woman named Lady Xin Zhui, the wife of the Marquis of Dai. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 8 January 2024 shows a scene at the launch ceremony in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province. The Hunan Museum made the digital database on the world-famous Mawangdui Tombs available to colleges and companies on Monday, becoming the latest Chinese museum aiming to turn archaeological finds into popular cultural brands. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## 34-year-old New Zealander to challenge new shearing record

A 34-year-old New Zealand mum will challenge a world record bid less than three days old on Wednesday, Shearing Sports New Zealand said on Tuesday.

Catherine Mullooly, from Gisborne of New Zealand's North Island, will be trying to break the Women's solo eight-hours strong-wool ewe-shearing record of 386, which was shorn by Amy Silcock near Pahiatua, a rural service town in the southeastern North Island, on Sunday.

With a historic background on the shearing board — seven wins in 17 finals, Mullooly became the first women to attain the No 1 spot in any grade in more than 20 years of Shearing Sports New Zealand annual

rankings.

A sample shear of 10 sheep took place on Tuesday, with the sheep needing to average over 3 kg of wool each, said Shearing Sports New Zealand.

Mullooly needs to get onto an average of over 48 sheep an hour from the start to break the record, with supporters keen to see 50-an-hour and the first record tally over 400 ewes in eight hours by a female shearer, it said.

Meanwhile, five other shearers from throughout New Zealand are preparing for the competition to be held on Sunday, targeting the five-stand eight-hour strong-wool lambs record of 2,910 which was set nine years ago. — Xinhua



# ECONOMY WORLD



This aerial photo taken on 6 January 2024 shows tourists chatting at a homestay in Tianzhu Village of Shuihou Township, Qianshan City, east China's Anhui Province. The tourist service of Shuihou Township at the foot of Tianzhu Mountain used to be limited to pure sightseeing in the mountainous areas. In recent years, the service has been diversified with the development of a number of high-quality homestays. A new business model of "snow plus homestay" has also been built based on the nearby ski resort during winter time. Homestays and other household-based tourist attractions now provide job opportunities to more than 3,000 local residents. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## UA finds loose bolts on Boeing 737 Max 9s

CHICAGO-BASED United Airlines (UA) has found loose door plug bolts on at least five Boeing 737 Max 9 planes as it begins inspecting planes following the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) temporary grounding order.

The loose bolts were found during initial inspections of what is known as the "mid-cabin door plug", located partway down the fuselage of Boeing

737 Max 9, local media reported Monday. It appears to be a manufacturing quality issue as opposed to a design issue. "The issue could be an assembly error by Boeing, an install error by supplier Spirit AeroSystems, or an issue further down the supply chain," local media quoted Bank of America analyst Ronald Epstein as saying on Monday.

The mid-cabin door plugs

on a Boeing 737 Max 9 operated by Alaska Airlines became dislodged from the aircraft following an abrupt depressurization shortly after departure on Friday. As a result, a piece of the fuselage was expelled at an altitude of 16,000 feet.

The plane, bound for Ontario, California, executed an emergency landing in Portland just 20 minutes after taking off. — Xinhua

## Philippine manufacturing output maintains growth in November 2023

THE performance of manufacturing production in the Philippines maintained its growth in November 2023, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said Tuesday.

Based on the preliminary results of the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries, the PSA said the year-on-year value of production index (VaPI) and the volume of production index (VoPI) increased by 2.2 per cent and 1.9 per cent respectively in November 2023.

The agency said the November VaPI was faster than its an-

nual growth of 1.1 per cent in the previous month. In November 2022, the VaPI recorded a double-digit annual increase of 13.2 per cent.

The PSA attributed the expanded annual VaPI growth in November to the slower annual decrease in the manufacture of beverages at 1.4 per cent in November 2023 from a 26.9 per cent yearly drop in the previous month. The manufacture of beverages contributed 46.1 per cent to the annual uptrend of the VaPI for the manufacturing section in November 2023. — Xinhua

## Mongolia moves to promote winter tourism

MONGOLIA will hold an international ice and snow festival to enhance winter tourism, local media reported Tuesday, citing the country's Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

The festival "Mazaalai" co-organized by the ministry and the non-governmental Mongolian Tourism Organization, is to be held at the ski resort Sky Resort on the southeastern outskirts of the capital Ulan Bator from 14 January to 8 February.

Competitors from six countries, namely Mongolia, China, Russia, France, the United

States and Thailand, will carve ice and snow sculptures with free-style themes, according to the organizers.

During the festival, visitors can enjoy various ice and snow events, folk music and dance concerts, among others.

Currently, Mongolia's economy primarily depends on its export-oriented mining sector, and developing tourism is seen as the most viable way to diversify economy as the Mongolian government has taken measures to promote the development of tourism. — Xinhua

## Over 50 hydropower projects approved in southern Laos

AUTHORITIES in southern Laos' Sekong province have approved the study, exploration, design and construction of more than 50 hydropower plants in the province.

Lao Economic Daily on Tuesday quoted the director of the provincial Planning and Investment Department Sakon Phonepaseuth as saying that 54 hydro stations are currently

planned and at various stages of development.

Memorandums of Understanding are in the process of being signed to initiate the study and possible construction of 28 hydro stations. Project Development Agreements are being signed on another 15 schemes, while 11 more hydro plants are at the concession agreement stage. — Xinhua



People shop for decorations at Pancoran Glodok in Jakarta, Indonesia, 9 January 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



## Riding RCEP momentum, China-ASEAN industrial cooperation continues to deepen

DURING the 2024 New Year holiday, a bustling scene unfolded at Youyi Pass, also known as Friendship Pass, situated in the border city of Pingxiang in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, as trucks from both China and Viet

Nam formed queues for customs clearance.

Shipments of agricultural products like durians and mangosteens from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries were streaming into China through the border port. In the

opposite direction, trucks laden with electronic components, machinery and equipment were en route to ASEAN countries.

Boosted by the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement that entered into force on 1

January 2022, industrial cooperation between China and ASEAN has continued to deepen over the past two years, contributing to the regional economic development.

As the world's largest free trade agreement, the RCEP includes 10 ASEAN members, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The 15 states' total population, gross domestic product and trade all account for about 30 per cent of the world total. According to China's General Administration of Customs, ASEAN remained China's largest trading partner in the first 11 months of 2023, with the total trade between the two sides reaching 5.8 trillion yuan (about 816.9 billion US dollars), up 0.1 per cent year on year. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 12 April 2023 shows cargo trucks passing through an immigration inspection checkpoint at Dongxing port in Dongxing, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Confidence among foreign business community in Viet Nam on rise

CONFIDENCE among the foreign business community in Viet Nam is clearly on the rise, according to the fourth quarter (Q4) 2023 Business Confidence Index report from the European Chamber of Commerce in Viet Nam (EuroCham).

Vietnam News on Tuesday cited EuroCham Chairman Gabor Fluit as saying that "Last year, foreign direct investment reached 36.61 billion US dollars, jumping 32.1 per cent from 2022. This is a clear illustration of growing faith in Viet Nam's economy."

Looking ahead, Viet Nam's business sector is

poised for growth, with 31 per cent of companies planning to expand their workforce in Q1 2024, and 34 per cent intending to increase their investments, a clear uptick from 2023. These statistics signal a strong momentum for growth and opportunity as Viet Nam begins 2024, said the report.

In Q4 2023, Viet Nam's investment hotspot status increased significantly. An impressive 62 per cent of those surveyed ranked Viet Nam among their top 10 global investment destinations, with 17 per cent placing it at the very top, according to EuroCham. — Xinhua

## Samsung Electronics' operating profit falls 35% in Q4

SOUTH Korea's tech firm Samsung Electronics saw a double-digit fall in the fourth-quarter operating profit, the company said Tuesday.

Preliminary operating profit dropped 35 per cent from a year earlier to 2.8 trillion won (2.1 bil-

lion US dollars) in the October-December quarter.

It missed market expectations of about 3.9 trillion won (3 billion dollars), but was higher than an operating profit of 2.43 trillion won (1.9 billion dollars) in the previous quarter.

Preliminary revenue shrank 4.9 per cent over the year to 67 trillion won (51.2 billion dollars) in the fourth quarter.

Net income and detailed earnings in each business unit will be unveiled later this month. — Xinhua

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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HUPEH VOY.NO. (2309)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HUPEH VOY. NO. (2309)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-1-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (25/2023-2024)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-173(23-24)	Conceptual and Basic Engineering Design for the New Dry Dock (Dock Yard) (1) Lot	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024** to **24<sup>th</sup> January, 2024** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Meeting Room(1), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **13:00 pm on 23, February 2024**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **23-2-2024, 13:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. + 95 67 - 411 206

### Notice of unanimous resolution approving selective share buyback by Alliance Brewery Company Limited

Notice is hereby given as required by section 121 (h) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 that Alliance Brewery Company Limited (registration number: 116511053), a company incorporated in Myanmar and with its registered office at No. 33, Pyay Road 6 ½ Miles, 11 Quarter, Hlaing Township, Yangon Region, 11051 Republic of the Union of Myanmar (the "Company") has on 20 December 2023 passed a unanimous resolution approving a share buy-back of the Company.

The summary details of the share buy-back are as follows:

- The buy-back is selective.
- 55,182 ordinary shares will be cancelled.



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



This photo taken from the Israeli side of the border with the Gaza Strip shows an Israeli military helicopter hovering over the Gaza Strip, on 8 January 2024. The Israeli army has started a new, less intensive phase in its military operation against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Spokesman Daniel Hagari said on Monday. The remarks came after Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told the Wall Street Journal that Israeli forces would start a new chapter of the conflict that “will last for a longer time.” **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Israeli army starts new, less intensive phase in Gaza operation: spokesman

THE Israeli army has started a new, less intensive phase in its military operation against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Spokesman Daniel Hagari said on Monday.

The IDF now turns to “conducting one-off raids there instead of maintaining wide-scale maneuver”, Hagari was quoted by the New York Times as saying. “The war shifted a stage,” he said.

Israel will now focus on fighting against Hamas in central

and southern Gaza, particularly around the cities of Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah, while reducing the number of its troops in Gaza, added Hagari.

He also vowed that more humanitarian aid would be delivered to the enclave. The remarks came after Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told the Wall Street Journal that Israeli forces would start a new chapter of the conflict that “will last for a longer time.” — Xinhua

## Singaporean DPM encourages young scientists to explore real-world challenge solutions

SINGAPOREAN Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat Tuesday called on young scientists to venture beyond academia and deliver more impact by solving real-world problems.

Heng made the remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of the Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS) held in the city-state.

Noting that nurturing scientific talent requires long-sighted and patient funding, Heng said Singapore set aside 25 billion Singapore dollars (18.8 billion US dollars) for research and in-

novation between 2021 and 2025, including 6 billion Singapore dollars (4.5 billion US dollars) for basic research in health, urban sustainability, digitalization, among other areas.

He also encouraged young talents to make new connections with their peers in the week-long event to support each other toward breakthroughs.

Organized by Singapore’s National Research Foundation, the GYSS 2024 attracts about 350 young scientists worldwide. The annual event started in 2013. — Xinhua

## Nepal confirms presence of JN.1 variant of coronavirus

THE Nepali government on Monday confirmed the presence of a new coronavirus sub-variant JN.1 in the South Asian country.

The JN.1 strain was found in seven out of 16 coronavirus positive samples taken from people of different ages for examination through the gene sequencing method, the Ministry

of Health and Population said in a press statement.

“It is the first time that the presence of the JN.1 strain was confirmed in Nepal,” the ministry said. Coronavirus cases re-emerged in Nepal in recent days as neighbouring India has witnessed increasing infections with the JN.1 strain. — Xinhua

## German farmers protest against subsidy cuts

FARMERS in Germany have kicked off a week of protests against the abolition of agricultural subsidies, with thousands of tractors disrupting traffic on major roads on Monday.

In Berlin alone, around 550 tractors gathered at the Brandenburg Gate. Meanwhile, farmers from all around the country are set to meet in the German capital next Monday.

In response to recent protests, the German government has already made its first concessions to farmers. Instead of an immediate abolition of agricultural diesel subsidies, these are now to be gradually reduced. A planned abolition of a vehicle tax exemption was also completely withdrawn.

However, the farmers say this does not go far enough. “In

the end, this means dying in installments,” said Joachim Rukwied, president of the German Farmers’ Association (DBV), at an event of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) party on Monday.

With the demonstrations, farmers are exercising their fundamental right “to communicate to society and politicians that Germany needs a competitive agricultural sector”, said Rukwied. — Xinhua



Tractors are seen during a protest near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany, 8 January 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Bolivia reinstates school mask mandate amid rising COVID-19 cases

THE Bolivian government announced Monday the reinstatement of strict health measures, including mandatory school mask use, in response to rising COVID-19 cases ahead of the upcoming school year. The pro-

protocol includes the mandatory use of masks among students, the availability of disinfectants like alcohol in schools, and adequate conditions for handwashing, said Maria Renee Castro, minister of health and sports.

Bolivian authorities declared an end to the COVID-19 health emergency in August last year. However, the nation is currently facing a new outbreak, notably the JN.1 variant in the eastern region. — Xinhua



# SPORTS

## German football icon Franz Beckenbauer dies at 78

GERMAN football legend Franz Beckenbauer has died at 78, according to German Football Association (DFB) on Monday.

The German national team's honorary captain died on Sunday, as his family announced on Monday. DFB issued a statement mourning his death.

Beckenbauer left an indelible mark on German football. He achieved the rare feat of winning the World Cup both as a player in 1974 and as a coach in 1990.

Beckenbauer's illustrious playing career included winning the European Championship title in 1972. He was the first German footballer to make over 100 international appearances. His successes with the national team include being the runner-up in the World Cup in 1966 and runner-up in the Eu-



German football legend Franz Beckenbauer has died at 78, according to German Football Association (DFB) on 8 January 2024. This file photo taken on 2 April 2007 shows Franz Beckenbauer posing after winning the Lifetime Achievement Award as the 2007 Laureus World Sports Awards unveiled in Barcelona, Spain. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ropean Championship in 1976.

His club career, primarily with FC Bayern Munich, saw

him secure Bundesliga and DFB Cup titles multiple times.

Internationally, Becken-

bauer excelled with FC Bayern, winning the European Cup three times and the European

Cup Winners' Cup once.

As a coach, he won a French Ligue 1 title with Olympique Marseille in France in 1991, and with FC Bayern, he secured Bundesliga and UEFA Cup victories in 1994 and 1996, respectively.

Beckenbauer received numerous national and international awards, including being named Europe's Footballer of the Year twice in 1972 and 1976, and Germany's Footballer of the Year four times (1966, 1968, 1974 and 1976), and earning the title of Germany's Footballer of the Century in 2000. He was also awarded the Silver Laurel Leaf twice. Recognizing his contributions, the DFB honored Beckenbauer as an honorary member and captain. He was one of the first 11 players inducted into the German Football Museum's "Hall of Fame". — Xinhua

## Ding scores 147, but O'Sullivan reaches quarterfinals at Snooker Masters

CHINESE ace Ding Junhui made a sensational maximum 147 break in the opening round at the Snooker Masters on Monday, despite his opponent Ronnie O'Sullivan reaching the quarterfinals 6-3 at last.

Ding, 36, missed his fourth UK Championship title after losing to O'Sullivan in the final last month and seemed helpless as he trailed behind the world No1 4-0 on Monday.

Unexpectedly, Ding found his way to come back after the interval and recovered to one game behind at 4-3. He even scored a break of maximum in the seventh frame, the fourth 147 break in Masters history and the 195th in snooker history.

However, the 48-year-old O'Sullivan was too sharp to surpass. The Rocket then played two centuries to seal his victory 6-3. — Xinhua



Ronnie O'Sullivan competes during the round 1 match between Ding Junhui of China and Ronnie O'Sullivan of England at Snooker Masters 2024 in London, Britain, 8 January 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Fourth round of Spanish Copa del Rey gives Madrid derby

ATLETICO Madrid is set to host Real Madrid in the marquee match of the Spanish Copa del Rey's fourth round, following Monday night's draw. This much-anticipated clash, slated

for 16, 17, and 18 January, will see the fierce local rivals face off twice in one week, as they also contend in the Spanish Supercup's first semifinal in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday.

While Real Madrid leads La Liga, Atletico Madrid, currently in fifth place, boasts a 3-1 victory over their rivals in their September league match at the Metropolitan Stadium. — Xinhua

## Myanmar's Joshua Van to face Felipe Bunes in UFC Fight Night Event

MYANMAR MMA fighter Joshua Van, who is partnered with the famous fighting organization UFC, will have a third match against Brazilian Felipe Bunes.

Joshua Van has been working with the UFC since 2023, winning two fights in the first year. The first fight in 2024 will be at UFC Fight Night on 13 January (early morning of 14 January Myanmar time). Felipe Bunes has nearly 20 MMA fights with 13 wins and six losses.

Joshua Van, who has won both of his previous fights after joining the UFC, is likely to have the opportunity to challenge for the world title in the flyweight division if he can get consecu-



Myanmar's Joshua Van (Left) versus Brazilian Felipe Bunes (Right). **PHOTO: JOSHUA VAN'S FB**

tive wins in the challenge bouts.

In his first fight with the UFC, Joshua Van beat Kazakhstan's Zhalgas Zhumagulov by knockout. In the second match,

he won by knockout against Kevin Borjas from Peru.

Joshua Van, who turned pro in 2021, has won nine out of 10 fights. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL





## China to promote strategic ties with Russia, support shift towards multipolarity

**R**USSIA'S President Vladimir Putin and China's leader Xi Jinping held two face-to-face meetings in 2023, voicing shared concerns over the bellicose actions of the US and its NATO allies, and sending an important signal that the arrival of the "multipolar world" was now "irreversible".

China will continue to deepen trust and mutually beneficial strategic cooperation with Russia, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday.

For this reason, Wang pointed out, China will always oppose confrontation between major powers and unswervingly promote healthy interaction between them.

Speaking at the annual wrap-up of China's diplomatic activities over the past year and preview of the objectives for the coming year, the minister noted that Chinese President Xi Jinping chose Russia for his first foreign trip after being re-elected for a third term in 2022.

"With a high level of mutual trust and under the strategic leadership of the leaders of China and Russia, we must practice genuine multilateralism, deepen practical cooperation in various fields, and maintain global strategic stability," said Wang Yi.

Xi and Putin met twice during the year. At the end of 2023, when Russian President Vladimir Putin sent New Year's greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping,



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, addresses the symposium on the international situation and China's foreign relations in 2023 in Beijing, capital of China, 9 January 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

he underscored that the two Russia-China summits in March and October "gave a powerful impetus to the development of the comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation between the two countries in all areas."

The Chinese foreign minister underscored his country's stance regarding the practice of resorting to illegal sanctions pressure by the West, adding that the People's Republic of China (PRC) opposes the monopoly of a minority of countries

in international affairs.

"We resolutely oppose hegemony and brute force politics," said Wang Yi. He reiterated that China calls for the lifting of all illegally imposed unilateral sanctions. — Sputnik

## Iran blames US military interventions for regional instability

IRANIAN Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday that many of the insecurities, instabilities and tensions in West Asia have roots in the US military presence and interventions in the region.

He made the remarks at a weekly press conference in the Iranian capital Tehran, while commenting on the recent tensions between US forces and resistance groups in Iraq and other regional states.

"Many of the insecurities, instabilities and tensions in the region have roots in the US government's political, military and security interventions in the region as well as its unlimited and unconditional

support for Israel," said Kanaani.

Kanaani's remarks followed an attack launched by the US military on Thursday on the headquarters of the Hashd Shaabi resistance group in eastern Baghdad, which killed three people, including a leader of the Harakat al-Nujaba group that is part of Hashd Shaabi.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani said on Friday his government would soon start talks with the US-led coalition in Iraq through a committee to arrange the withdrawal of foreign troops, a move he said was "a commitment that the government will not back down from". The time has come for the US military forces' pullout



Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani speaks at a press conference in Tehran, Iran, on 8 January 2024. Kanaani said on Monday that many of the insecurities, instabilities and tensions in West Asia have roots in the US military presence and interventions in the region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

from the Iraqi territory, Kanaani said, adding regional countries could ensure peace, stability and security through collective cooperation without the help of transregional military forces. — Xinhua

## Extreme cold to hit Canada following record hot year

THE first "impactful" winter storm of the year is expected to hit the Canadian capital Ottawa late Tuesday, following a record year of heat, wildfires, and flooding.

Environment Canada, the country's weather agency, said heavy snow associated with a major winter storm is to arrive on Tuesday afternoon and continue into Wednesday.

Snow will likely change to ice pellets or freezing rain on Tuesday night. Several hours of freezing rain are possible, particularly in the Ottawa Valley. Some locations may see 10 to 20 cm of snow, the agency said.

Previously, the agency issued a winter storm watch for some parts of Ontario and Quebec, suggesting that as thick as 40 cm of snow may blanket some areas of the provinces starting Tuesday. — Xinhua