

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officials of registered political parties at SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Upcoming elections must maintain political prestige

All party members must be hard cores of relevant parties as well as a democratic system, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At the meeting with officials of reg-

istered political parties at the hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unveiled that

the ultimatum vision of the government is to hold a free and fair election so as to hand over the State responsibilities to the election-winning party.

He continued that armed conflicts

occur in the country due to attempts to solve the political problems in terrorist ways but political ones. On the other hand, ethnic armed organizations widely shape terror acts. So far, skirmishes still happen in some areas. As such, the Tatmadaw cooperates with the Myanmar Police Force to lessen terror acts through the strength of the people, he added.

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SUNDAY SPECIAL

WITH SPECIAL 8 PAGES



BUSINESS

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YGEA diminish gold reference price to below K3.7 million per tical tracking spot gold price dip



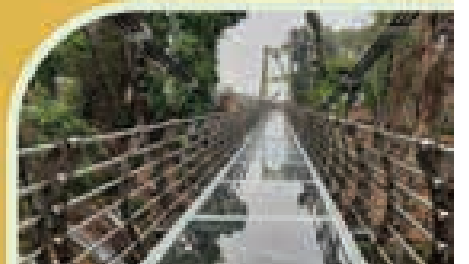
Wintering birds arrive in Rakhine State

SEE PAGE-2



Now, Sky Cable car has been just opened, you can see and enjoy the beauty of Pyin Oo Lwin(Flower City) while riding the Sky Cable car.

Pwe Gauk (BE.FALLS) Waterfalls Resort



NATIONAL

Mr Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President of the Republic of Nicaragua and Mrs Rosario Murillo, Vice President of the Republic of Nicaragua send Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the solemn occasion of commemorating the 76th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar this coming 4 January, let us convey our warmest congratulations to you and the brotherly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

We send our best wishes of peace, coexistence, stability and fighting spirit, with our will to continue consolidating the bonds of brotherhood, solidarity and cooperation that unite our peoples.

Receive dear brother, from our Nicaragua, always blessed and always free, our fraternal and revolutionary embrace, for the sovereign dignity, prosperity and progress of the brother people of Myanmar.

Mr Zhang Ming, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, allow me to extend my warm congratulations to you and to the people of Myanmar.

We are pleased to see Myanmar's impressive development achievements since independence, which reflect the dedication and hard work of the people of Myanmar.

The signing of the Memorandum on granting the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the status of a Dialogue Partner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Goa, India, last year officially marked Myanmar's entry into the SCO family. I am confident that this partnership will flourish and contribute to mutually beneficial cooperation in the region and look forward to the continued strengthening of our ties in various fields.

Your Excellency, on this auspicious occasion, please accept, once again my heartfelt wishes to you for good health and further achievements in your high office, and for peace, prosperity and good fortune to the friendly people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement 1/ 2024

1. In commemoration of the 76th Anniversary of Independence day which falls on 4 January 2024 and on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, the Chairman of the State Administration Council has pardoned 9,652 male and female prisoners serving prison terms at their respective prisons, jails, and detention camps under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1), through the State Administration Council Order No 1/ 2024.
2. In addition, on bilateral relations and humanitarian grounds, the State Administration Council Chairman has remitted the sentences of 114 foreign prisoners from the respective prisons, and detention camps under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 401 (1), through the State Administration Council Order No 2/ 2024.
3. It is a positive action in terms of human rights to release the prisoners who are serving sentences in various prisons and detention camps. The Commission believes that those who are pardoned will have the opportunity to be reunited with their family members and will be able to participate in building a Union based on democracy and federalism while respecting the goodwill of the state.
4. The reduction of sentences and the release of foreign prisoners is perceived as a means to foster friendship and enhance relations between countries.
5. Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is pleased and rejoices together with the family members of those who have been granted pardons and hopes that similar positive actions will be continued in the future.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 5 January 2024

Wintering birds arrive in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE-1

REPORTS indicate that since December, wintering birds from the northern hemisphere have been spotted entering Nantha Island in Rathedaung Township, Rakhine State.

The island, regarded as a World Ramsar wetland site, is the second-largest wintering habitat for the endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

Chairman U Yan Naung Soe of the Rakhine State Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association said: "We've

noticed the birds entering Rakhine State since 25 December. In the last week, we counted about 16,000. Compared to last year, we found more other birds except the Spoon-billed Sandpiper."

The island spans 22,979 acres and sits 10 miles northwest of Sittway Township between the Mayu Estuary and the Bay of Bengal.

The Ramsar Convention recognized the island as a wetland on 21 May 2020, meeting all six criteria required for such

designation.

Nantha Island boasts rich biodiversity; it serves as a nesting ground for sea turtles and hosts various aquatic creatures, including dolphins.

Efforts to designate the island as a marine national park began in March 2020. However, the island is facing challenges from sand diggers and bird hunters.

Conservationists are trying to preserve the island's territory and prevent the erosion of coral islands. — ASH/NT



Nantha Island in Rathedaung Township.

NATIONAL

Upcoming elections must maintain political ...

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General noted that the government had adopted the last point of the roadmap that work will be undertaken to ensure accuracy and fairness in the general election to prevent eligible voters from losing their rights. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held, and State duties will be handed over to the elected government.

He underlined that all party members must be hard cores of relevant parties as well as a democratic system, adding they have to utilize the strength of the parties for the State efficiently. Moreover, he underscored that party members have to participate in the peace and stability of the State. He said everyone must unite to forge peace and stability in the State and peacefully solve controversial measures.

The Senior General highlighted that peace and stability must prevail in the entire nation to initiate the democratic system. Implementing an all-inclusive public security system is necessary to ensure peace and stability. He noted that the acts of PDF terrorists, which emerged after 2021, caused loss for the State and harmed the life and property of the people. As such, all party members have to know

diverse attitudes and weaknesses and systematically implement their policies and visions.

The Senior General stressed that the State Administration Council has adopted political and national visions, roadmaps, and objectives and strives to develop the nation on political, economic, and social trends while encour-

parties participating in the forthcoming election will have the capacity to develop the education, economic, and social sectors of relevant regions. He explained that the census and household registration are being enumerated as a preliminary measure. He said that if so, the voter lists would be correct. So, political

hinder preparations to hold the election successfully. The forthcoming election must be politically prestigious. Hence, political parties need to strive to ensure the betterment of the nation with a firm spirit. The Senior General invited open discussions of officials from the political parties for the nation's sake.

Officials from political parties discussed the implementation of their functions in line with the directives and disciplines of the SAC under the supervision of the Union Election Commission, their participation in the successful undertaking of MSME businesses, plans of political parties to contribute to the public security system, forging the patriotic spirit of ethnic people, needs to ease some restrictions over political parties, creation of chance for parties in flourishing democratic system and firmness of public security system, assistance for the development of agriculture and livestock tasks in respective areas, the help of the State for opening office of political parties, some points for enumeration of census, State security measures, and needs for arranging to vote of all eligible citizens.

The UEC Chairman, the Union Minister for Legal Affairs and the member of the Legal Advisory Board, clarified party registration and revocation,

the needs of political parties to follow the relevant laws, legal assessment over suggestions on easing restrictions over political parties and holding the election.

In his response, the Senior General said the government could not take loans abroad and faced many economic sanctions. So, the government operates all measures with the currency obtained from exports. A large sum of foreign currency is spent on fulfilling the needs of fuel and cooking oil. Hence, local oil refineries are being prepared to be run at total capacity to meet the fuel demand of factories and industries. Raising the salaries of State service personnel depends on the State budget. The government has provided uniforms, allowances and cash awards to the employees.

The government will fulfil the demands of political parties but consider some demands for the long term. The government has noted down reports of political parties in individuals for fulfilling their needs.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, UEC Chairman U Thein Soe, Union Minister for Legal Affairs Dr Thida Oo, legal advisory board members, officials from 39 political parties and officials. — MNA/TTA

..... peace and stability must prevail in the entire nation to initiate the democratic system. Implementing an all-inclusive public security system is necessary to ensure peace and stability.

aging MSME businesses. So, he continued that parties need to participate in implementing these measures. If all school-age children have chances to learn, they will have improved knowledge and technologies. He added that parties need to cooperate with the government to enable all school-age children to be educated in the country.

The Senior General expressed his firm belief that all

parties need to participate in that process.

He disclosed that a plan is underway to hold meetings with political parties and ethnic organizations to exercise the PR system. Necessary provisions will be amended in the constitution. To do so, all measures must be taken in the parliamentary process, he noted.

The Senior General remarked that armed conflicts



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than and party view round MSME products at newly opened showroom yesterday.

THE opening ceremony for the showroom of MSME products on the e-market platform was held yesterday at the MSME Development Centre in Yangon Region. The showroom aims to foster the development of

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), expand markets for MSME products, and align with the evolving digital system.

The event was attended by Vice-Chairman of the MSME

MSME products showroom launches to promote local entrepreneurs and boost economy

Development Working Committee, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Patron of the Yangon Region MSME Development Agency Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Soe Thein, officials from the Yangon Region government, and other relevant personnel.

Union Minister Dr Charlie Than stated, "Visitors can view products made with raw materials from respective states and regions in one place. It is designed to be a hub for connecting market networks to promote the country's economy."

According to the report, MSME entrepreneurs from states and regions participate in the showroom by showcasing their products. Those interested in selling or distributing these products won't need to travel to various states and regions. This centralised approach saves time, money, and other opportunity costs since products can be purchased at the centre with the same prices and quality as in the main shops. Foreigners can also observe local products conveniently at the showroom.

The MSME products show-

room features 906 products manufactured by 171 MSME entrepreneurs. Following the showroom event, the Union Minister visited a pharmaceutical factory in Insein Township, Yangon. During the visit, he observed the manufacturing processes of tablets, capsules, and caplets and emphasized the importance of continuous manufacturing processes without machine breakdowns. He called for the presence of spare machines and equipment to substitute in case of breakdowns.

— MNA/ TMT

NATIONAL

Tender process arranged on 21 December for Botahtaung Pagoda cancelled

THE Pagoda Board of Trustees has announced the cancellation of the tenders that were called on 21 December for the Botahtaung Kyaikdeatt Pagoda.

The tender works that were called to complete the full gold robe include double scaffolding, removal of old gold waste, purchase of 7,000 gold foils in size of 2" x 2" which includes 100 layers of gold foils, and donation of 9" x 9" pure gold plates.

In addition, gilding activities, copper frame, copper plate import business, and copper plating business for copper frames are included in the announcement.

The tenders were originally planned to be submitted and opened on 3 and 4 January, but they were cancelled since the activities were no longer to continue and the resumption date of opening the tender will be re-advertised in the newspapers, according to the Board of Trustees.

The detailed information can be investigated by contacting the trustees' board, the announcement stated. — TWA/TKO

Myanmar citizens in Viet Nam required to pay 2% of income tax

THE Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi, Viet Nam, stated that Myanmar citizens must pay two per cent of their income as tax.

It is also described that

the two per cent of income tax ranging from October 2023 to March 2024 will be collected starting from 5 January.

The income tax payment by Myanmar citizens residing

in foreign countries contributes to education, health, transport, and other public services for the people of the home country. Furthermore, it is also mentioned that taxpayers can enjoy the benefit of income after tax when purchasing houses, land plots, apartments, and vehicles in the motherland by showing the receipts of income tax payments.

For further detailed information, individuals can contact and ask mehanoiconsular@gmail.com, the email of the consul section of the Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi as reported. — TWA/ TRKM



The Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi of Viet Nam.

Counter-argument to false information

Alert: Fake news fabricated by Khit Thit Media

KHIT Thit Media is circulating false information on social media platforms, claiming that the army carried out bombardment using two airplanes above Seinnan village in Taze Township, Sagaing Region, resulting in civilian casualties.

The actual incident, as reported by a relevant area security officer, reveals that drone bombs deployed by PDF terrorists attacked Seinnan Village in Taze Township.

Similarly, there was another instance of fake news stating that the army fired heavy weapons and conducted air strikes on villages near Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine, leading to the destruction of villages.

According to a relevant local security official, there were no shootings near Maha Muni

Pagoda or the surrounding villages in Kyauktaw Township.

Instead, AA insurgents fired from a distance at the military camp using heavy weapons and improvised rockets, resulting in reported incidents of houses catching fire due to the explosions in villages inhabited by local ethnic groups.

Reports indicate that media outlets supporting terrorists and spreading malicious news are fabricating and circulating false information.

They intend to conceal the actions of terrorists and create a misleading image of Tatmadaw to disrupt peace, stability, and socioeconomic life in towns and villages, ultimately causing harm to people's lives and property. — MNA/TKO

A screen-shot of misinformation.



Misinformation: Alleged Tatmadaw arson, violence in Yayphyukan village, Bago Region

IT has been discovered that malicious news media outlets are circulating misinformation about Tatmadaw, falsely claiming that Tatmadaw burned twenty houses and attacked local people with heavy weapons in Taungkhamauk village, Thitpok village-tract, Paungde Township, Bago Region, without provocation.

REGARDING this news, officials in the relevant area have clarified that there were no active security forces present at that specific time, and the PDF terrorists were responsible for burning the houses and subsequently fleeing. Similarly, the malicious Khit Thit Media is spreading false information, as usual, wrongly stating that Tatmadaw attacked a funeral house with heavy weapons, resulting in

the death of eight individuals and injuring twelve people from Yayphyukan village, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region.

In response to this news, an official from the area explained that armed insurgents and PDF terrorists attacked the village using drones, causing fatalities and damage to residents.

Reports indicate that armed insurgents and PDF terrorists are killing local people, burning and destroying houses, and coercively extorting money from citizens through fear.

However, malicious news media outlets are intentionally spreading misinformation about Tatmadaw, aiming to create misunderstanding between Tatmadaw and the people while concealing the violent actions of terrorists. — MNA/TRKM

Global NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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NATIONAL

Record-high visitor numbers to Kyaiktiyo in December 2023

SINCE November 2023, people from all over Myanmar have visited Kyaiktiyo Pagoda daily. As of December, the total number of visitors reached a record-breaking 65,389, with 64,105 domestic travellers and 1,284 foreign tourists, according to U Soe Hla, the Chairman of the Pagoda Trustee's Board.

He mentioned that December, with holidays and gazette holidays, saw a high influx of pilgrims, making it the busiest time of the year. From Janu-

ary to December 2023, 284,079 domestic pilgrims and 10,214 foreign tourists visited, totaling to 294,293 pilgrims.

About 250 mountain cars run daily to the Kyaiktiyo hill, and hotels, rest houses, and restaurants are open full-time to cater to pilgrims.

The Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is an annual event from the full moon of Kason to the full moon of Nayon. — ASH/TKO



Kyaiktiyo Pagoda seen with flocks of pilgrims.



Local people clean up plastics and other debris in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone during a campaign on 6 January 2024.

MoHT UM pays inspection & motivational tours for Bagan Plastic Campaign

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine conducted inspection and motivational tours as part of the Bagan Plastic Campaign. The initiative aimed to boost the morale of the campaign team and district/township departments involved in cleaning activities within the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone.

Commencing the event, the Union minister delivered an uplifting speech to the Bagan Plastic Campaign team members actively engaged in cleanup efforts at various key locations.

These included NangU Pagoda, Thatbyinnyu Temple, Thantawkyia Pagoda, Grocho Pagoda, Pitakataik area and Information Cen-

tre, Maha Bodhi Pagoda, Gupisat Pagoda, Kawpalin Pagoda, Myingala Stupa in the north of Myingaba Village, and Shwenanyin Forest Monastery within the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone.

The cleanup activity witnessed a collaborative effort involving not only the Bagan Plastic Campaign team but also participants from hotels/motels in NyaungU Township, members of the restaurant owners' association, tour operators' association, tour guides' associations, and staff from NyaungU District/Township departments. — MNA/TKO

Annual examination of Indawgyi Lake water quality, studies planned for fish species

U Maung Win, the warden of Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, reported that water quality in Indawgyi Lake, located in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, undergoes annual testing.

“Collaborating with Norway and Germany, a fish species study in the lake is ongoing. Since 2016, water quality has seen no significant changes, with only slight variations observed. The lake boasts four unrecorded loach species globally and two unique fish species,” contributing to Indawgyi pride”, U Maung Win said.

The report highlights joint fish species and water quality studies with Fauna and Flora International (FFI). The biodiverse location attracts winter migratory birds, and research collaborates with Norway, sending water specimens to Germany for laboratory tests.

Recent research reveals 95 fish species in the lake, including the unique loaches and two specific species. Indawgyi Lake, a Forest Department-protected wildlife sanctuary spanning 314.67 square miles, remains uninhabited, ensuring an uncontaminated natural environment.

As one of Myanmar's eight Ramsar Sites, Indawgyi Lake is a preferred destination for winter migratory birds. — ASH/ TMT



Some bird species are seen settling in the Indawgyi Lake.

NATIONAL

YCDC announces billboard advertising application process in Yangon

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has announced that businesses interested in advertising on 389 billboards within the YCDC area can now submit applications.

Each billboard measures 45 feet by 15 feet. To apply for billboard usage, interested parties should submit their applications to the office of the Assistant Head of Department (Admin) on the third floor of the City Hall. The application period is from 25 January to 9 February during office hours.

The selection of advertisers for the billboards will be determined by drawing lots.



One of the advertisement billboards at the bus stop in Yangon.

The drawing lots will take place at 9 am in the City Hall meeting room on 5-6 March. — TWA / TRKM

Myanmar workers in HK, Macau informed of 2% income tax

ACCORDING to the announcement by the Consulate-General of Myanmar in Hong Kong, Myanmar citizens residing in Hong Kong and Macau must pay a two per cent income tax.

Beginning on 2 January, Myanmar citizens in Hong Kong and Macau who hold PJ

or PS passports will be eligible to pay income taxes.

Furthermore, income tax payment will be a prerequisite for processing passport renewal and consular procedures.

Approximately 5,000 Myanmar citizens live in Hong

Kong and Macau, working at manufacturing factories, hotels, restaurants, and casinos.

Similarly, income tax collection has begun at the Myanmar Embassies in South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia. — TWA/MKKS

Edible Oil Dealers' Association invites new members

MYANMAR Edible Oil Dealers' Association is inviting new members. The association welcomes applications from companies, oil mills, wholesalers, retailers of edible oils, farmers cultivating edible oil crops, and distributors.

For individual permanent membership, the requirements include photocopies of the household list and the citizenship scrutiny card, along with three 1×1-inch sized colour photos. The fees are K500,000 for membership, K9,000 for a member card, and K1,000 for a membership form.

For company permanent membership, applicants need to submit a copy of the company registration card issued by



A ceremony to elect the association's executive committee and central executive committee members for 2023-2026.

the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, along with the exporter/importer registration card, a meeting record serving as the company's representation, a delegation letter, a copy of the CSC card belonging to the representing company director, and three 1×1-inch sized colour photos. The fees for company member-

ship are K2 million, K9,000 for a member card, and K1,000 for a membership form.

No additional fees are required besides those mentioned above. For further details, individuals can visit the association's office at No 803, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. — TWA/NT

News in Brief

Three R's courses to be conducted during summer holidays

IN the message sent to celebrate the 76th Independence Day in 2024, the Chairman of the State Administration Council announced the initiation of a literacy campaign, including the Three-Rs Course, during the upcoming summer school holidays. This literacy movement is set to be a nationwide initiative aiming to ensure literacy and access to formal education for rural communities and all ethnic groups. The goal is to empower individuals with education and foster national development.

Directive issued to Advance Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport Project

UNION Minister at the Union Government Office-1 U Aung Naing Oo, who is also Chair of the Myanmar Special Economic Zones Central Body, issued an order on 5 January for the timely completion of the work plans to be undertaken by the Myanmar side for the implementation of the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Deep Seaport Project.

Basic diplomatic skills course 44/2023 winds up

THE graduation ceremony for Basic Diplomatic Skills Course No 44/2023, was conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2024, at 10 am on 5 January at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. Concurrently, a ceremony was held at Wun Zin Min Raza Hall in Yangon, with Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut delivering the graduation speech. The course covered various diplomatic subjects, including international affairs, international relations, international law, business, negotiation, and organizing international conferences. The course spanned 12 weeks.

Indonesia buys 1.5 mln tonnes of rice from Myanmar in 4 months

INDIA'S banned on exporting some types of rice abroad has led to a rice shortage in the market, and Indonesia's purchase rate of Myanmar rice has risen higher than the previous month. Indonesia's monthly purchase of Myanmar rice was 11,775 tonnes in September, 40,150 tonnes in October, 42,225 tonnes in November, and 55,850 tonnes in December, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) statistics.

Gold stars to adorn Academy's statue, pure gold brooches for award-winning artistes

GOLD stars are set to be installed on the Academy's iconic statue, and Academy Award-winning artistes attending the ceremony will receive pure gold brooches. It is reported to cover the costs of the necessary gold for these badges, with Forever Group Co Ltd serving as the main sponsor. The 2023 Academy Awards ceremony is scheduled for 3 February at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I (MICC-I) in Nay Pyi Taw. — Htun Htun/KZW

YGEA diminish gold reference price to below K3.7 million per tical tracking spot gold price dip

WITH the decline in spot gold price, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the pure gold price lower to K3.6537 million per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme).

The spot gold price stood at US\$2,045 per ounce at present.

On 5 December, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate forex exchange transactions freely as per the liberalized market rate determined by the supply and demand dynamic. Following this move, the price

gap between the YGEA's price and the market price is not that different.

Earlier, the YGEA used the interbank transaction rate set by the CBM in calculating the reference price for pure gold, indicating a big gap of K400,000-K500,000 per tical. The greenback is valued at around K3,450 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 ornaments are displayed at a retail outlet in Yangon.

Myanmar earns US\$978 million from over 1.1 million tonnes of pulses exports in past nine months



Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar.

MYANMAR shipped over 1.1 million tonnes of pulses worth over US\$978 million to foreign trade partners in the past nine months of the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar bagged \$861.726 million from pulses exports of over 1.019 million tonnes through seaborne trade, whereas over 135,838.398 tonnes of pulses worth \$116.687 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through the

border posts between 1 April and 29 December 2023, totalling \$978.413 million from exports of 1,154,963.874 tonnes.

The value of Myanmar's pulses exports totalled over \$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India while green

grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements on black gram and pigeon peas.

According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram 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 pulses annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

The prevailing market prices stand at K3.005 million per tonne of black gram (urad), K3.39 million per tonne of pigeon pea (tur) and K1.888 million per tonne of green gram.

Black gram that India primarily purchases is commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon pea, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EMM

CBM sells nearly US\$29 million within five days

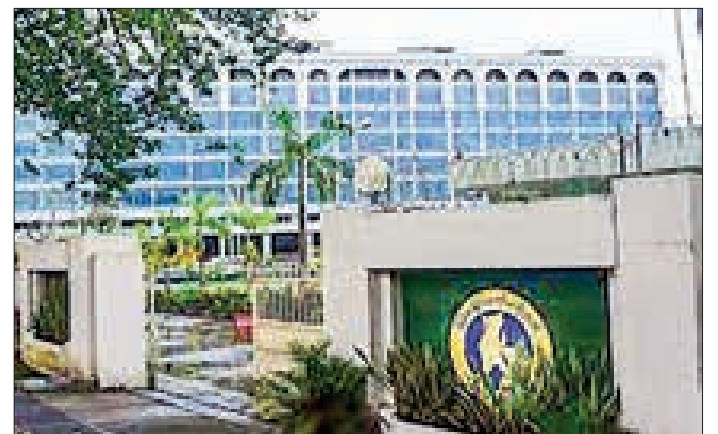
CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$12.93 million on 1 January and \$16 million on 5 January.

Also, the CBM injected US\$22.15 million into fuel oil sector last year, selling \$9.72 million on 18 December and \$12.43 million on 21 December for fuel oil importing companies.

Yet, the CBM did not reveal the exchange rate in selling dollars. At present, the CBM set the reference exchange at K2,100 against a US dollar. Kyat-US dollar exchange rate is K3,450 at the over-the-counter-market.

On 5 December 2023, the CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate forex exchanges freely as per the market rate determined by the market force of the supply and demand.

Additionally, the CBM notified that outward remittance must comply with the rules and regulations of the Foreign Exchange Management Committee. — NN/EM



The office building of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon.

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OPINION

Produce safe and secure foodstuffs for public consumption

ENSURING safe and secure food production for public consumption has become a national imperative, aligning with the government's vision of fostering prosperity and food security. Various authorities, departments, and organizations are actively promoting awareness among the public, emphasizing the importance of choosing and consuming safe and fresh foods to safeguard the nation's food security.

Safe and secure food encompasses properly managing, storing, and processing food items to prevent infectious diseases, ensuring that consumers receive sufficient nutrition to contribute to their overall health. Recognizing this, individuals can comprehend the pivotal role that safe and secure foods play in their daily lives.

Consumers play a crucial role in this process by diligently checking food labels to select products suitable for their health conditions. Manufacturers and distributors are also urged to adhere to packaging regulations, such as order 8/2022, to prevent the distribution of expired food items. Compliance with these guidelines

protects families from potential health hazards associated with unsafe food consumption. Given the shift in consumption patterns towards instant and preserved foods, businesses must prioritize the production of high-quality, side-effect-free foodstuffs. Regulatory bodies, such as the Food and Drug Supervisory Committee, the Department of Food and Drug Administration and relevant ministries routinely inspect products, ensuring their safety and occasionally releasing lists of unsuitable items for public consumption. However, public awareness remains paramount in choosing safe and secure food options. Foodstuff producers and distributors bear the responsibility of systematically creating products in various forms, adhering to ethical standards for both the domestic and international markets. The consumption of safe and secure foods not only enhances the nutritional intake of individuals but also contributes to overall health and fitness. They have to remove and substitute the expired foodstuffs with fresh ones at relevant retail and wholesale centres without fail, emphasizing the interests of consumers. Sellers should never violate business ethics in selling genuine and unexpired products in the market at home and abroad. Healthy and fit consumers are better equipped to fulfil their duties, thereby promoting socioeconomic development.

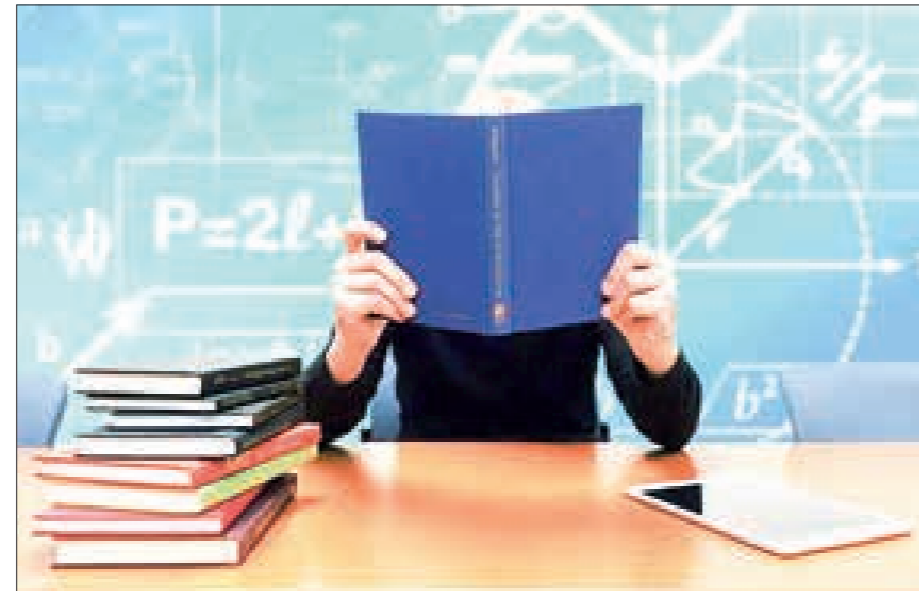
without fail, emphasizing the interests of consumers. Sellers should never violate business ethics in selling genuine and unexpired products in the market at home and abroad. Healthy and fit consumers are better equipped to fulfil their duties, thereby promoting socioeconomic development.

The government, consumers, and foodstuff producers share a tripartite responsibility to manufacture quality, fresh, safe, and secure foodstuffs. Emphasizing public and business ethics over selfish interests is crucial in this endeavour. By doing so, these foodstuffs become instrumental in improving the health and fitness of Myanmar citizens, empowering them with physical and mental strength for a more robust future.

A Comprehensive Survey of Curriculum Developing

IN so far as I know it, a curriculum is the lifeblood of an education system, for various reasons. After the curriculum has been drawn in the realm of education, especially basic education, it often takes time to be re-drawn or even

updated for formal education of most world nations except some developed countries whose education is based on a living or flexible curriculum, because curriculum developers usually dedicate heaps of their time and effort to drawing



The curriculum is seen as the backbone of education, and effective implementation by dedicated teachers is essential for maintaining a relevant and efficient learning environment.

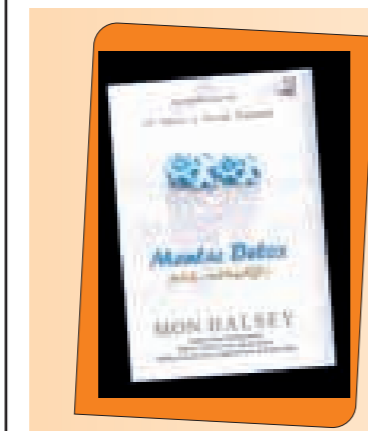
a suitable systematic curriculum with all their heart. Thus, novice teachers and teachers still in charge ought to implement the prescribed curriculum effectively. Here, the key issues in curriculum study for teacher training relate to the general goals and specific standards of subject areas. Of course, curriculum development is really difficult, and curriculum work is essential for study if teachers are to keep the learning environment current and efficient.

In terms of its Latin origin 'currere', a curriculum means 'running', that is, to reach the goal or objective of education. In brief, the meaning of curriculum is delimited as carefully guided, reselected experiences, concrete plans for learning, ends or outcomes of getting educated, or systems for achieving educational production. The curriculum of a school is the formal but sometimes informal content and process by which students gain knowledge or understand-

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

ing, develop skills, and alter attitudes, appreciations, or values under the auspices of the school. Myanmar Basic Education Law states that the curriculum shall mean subjects taught at school and practical educational development activities constituting training inside and outside schools to realize the educational objectives prescribed by the law. The curriculum will certainly consist of five aspects: 1) program of studies, 2) curriculum in the field, 3) course of study, 4) unit, and 5) lesson plan, where the first refers to school subjects or disciplines and activities; the second to a particular domain of knowledge; the third to learning experiences in a field for a semester or year, often composed of several units; the fourth to a series of learning experiences which culminate in the resolution of a problem or task; and the fifth to the ordering of the instruction for a single period.

SEE PAGE-11



Book Title - Seik Ko Ah Hseik Hote Chin
Writer - Mon Halsey
Publishing House - MH
Publication Date - 2023 August
[15th Impression]
Price - K6,000

Seik Ko Ah Hseik Hote Chin [Mental Detox By MON HALSEY]

THIS book of Mon Halsey is the 15th Impression. The sale of this book has numbered more than 20,000 up to 14th impression. This book under review is also concerned with Buddhism. People are composed of matter and mind according to Buddhism. It is said that mind matters most. Nonetheless, mind cannot exist without matter and vice versa. They are interrelated and also interdependent. There are mind, mental factors, Metta and Nibbana according to Buddhism. Mind comes first in this series, and so, mind can be said to be the most important. And this mind is too changeable; it is changing all the moment. This being so, people are high spirited sometimes while

they are low spirited the other times.

Mon Halsey said our mind is very often poisoned, and so, we need to do mental detox or mental detoxification. Otherwise, we can commit sins and/or crimes if our mind is impure. These days, detoxing is popular among the people particularly among the girls and women. Detoxification is good but people are detoxing their body only. This is the reason why the writer of this book has recommended mental detox to purify our mind.

This book includes four parts. The first part is about environmental detox whereas the second deals with physical detox. The third and fourth parts are

concerned with emotional detox and mental detox respectively. Of these four parts, the mental detox matters most, and so, I will deal with the following steps you can take to start a mental detox: make a "to worry about" list. Often we are not worried about things because we think ruminating is productive. We are worried because it is a way to ensure that we don't forget to deal with something especially if it poses a threat or risk. Jot down everything that bothers you throughout the day, and set aside a time to review it. You will either find that the fears were unfounded or you can make a plan for action to address them. The next step is "junk journaling." Get a note book solely devoted to this, and keep it in a safe and private place. Any time you feel totally pretzeled up by your emotions or your mind is spinning in

seven different directions, write down everything and anything that comes to your mind. Release whatever thoughts you are harboring even if it does not make sense or you do not really believe it. The next step is to spend more time outside. If you are spending time online, make it a productive and positive experience. Clean out who you are following, and make sure every account you do subscribe to is actively adding something to help make your life better. The next step is to clean out the old phone numbers of people you do not talk to, and should not ever again. And your inbox ought to function like a "to do list". Unsubscribe from any unnecessary emails and promotional information. The next step is to record how much time you are spending online. And then reflect on how your life would feel if you did not know how it looked. As a lot of mindless scrolling is just that mindless, make it more difficult for yourself to access these accounts either by not autosaving your passwords on your computer or deleting the apps on your phone. Either way, just making it less accessible will actually help you stay on it a lot less. The author of this book has confessed that she has taken the aforesaid steps for mental detox.



Book Title - Po Aye Chan De Ko
Writer - Lun Htar Htar [Hsay Tekkatho]
Publishing House - Aung Myin
Publication Date - 2023 June
[1st Impression]
Price - K7,000

Po Aye Chan De Ko

THIS book is a collection of 35 articles written by Lun Htar Htar [Hsay Tekkatho], who has become quite pious these days. This book under review is published by her own publishing house called Aung Myin. All articles are concerned with religious thoughts. The book is started with the following clause, "Those who are not interested in others have peace of mind." Nowadays, the majority of the people start a day with the use of facebook. They are seen busy with giving likes and writing comments good and bad, depending on their opinion and feelings and personal values. Matter-of-factly, the facebook users are struggling

with anger, pride and prejudice, merely wasting their precious time reading the posts.

She said that people should not start a day with the use of facebook. Instead of wasting energy on facebook, people should commence a day in front of the altar in the prayer room, paying homage to Buddha, reciting parittas and telling the rosary beads. Better still, people should meditate, she said. Lun Htar Htar also provides some tips for the readers to enable possession of peace of mind. She said, "Getting old is not something to be afraid of. What counts is to know how to lead a peaceful life."

In her article titled, "Seik Ne

Meik Swe Phwe Bar," she advised the readers to make friend with their own mind. She likens the mind to a bad child, who does not know what other people expect of him, merely worrying parents to fulfill their wishes. Our mind is swayed by evil things. If we are not on the alert, we will be swayed by our evil desires to commit sins or crimes. This being so, we should always be mindful of our actions. Exactly speaking, we ought to practice mindfulness.

In another article titled, "Nyein Aye Chin Ye Ahsa," she deals with the nature of mind. To be aware of ourselves, we have to watch our mind constantly. When we meditate, we are aware of our feelings be they good or

bad. We must not respond to our feelings; what we must do is just to watch what is happening to us. If we concentrate on what is happening to us, not responding to the stimuli, simply knowing what is happening at every moment, we will see that nothing is permanent and everything is transitory. What we must do is to watch what is happening to us with equanimity. She said that if the readers want to lead a peaceful life, they should have positive attitude towards things, that positive vibe matters most to be able to lead a happy life and that they should harbour agape love—i.e. Godly love or divine love. I agree with Lun Htar Htar. We must avoid the negative attitudes or negative vibes.

In another article, she advised the readers to exercise restraint with their remarks, for giving bad remarks is of no use although they are true. In the article titled, "Hla Pa Thaw Htaung Chauk Tway Shi De," she warns the readers of the traps which are very much attractive because the traps come in the form of golden opportunities. If the readers are greedy enough to grasp such opportunities, they will fall into the trap, which would make them disloyal and untruthful.

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Life

Composed by
Myo Myat Myat Myint Maung
1-1-2024

The Old are gone,
The New are born;
Get the age,
Check the face;
Go slow and steady,
Grow good-minded and ready.



Affection

By Chit Ko Pe

My place is so safe and tight
with sentry throughout the day
and night.

My place is so safe and tight
with barbed wire fence held high.

My place is so safe and tight
with locked doors and gates.

Not invited, there is a quiet trespass.
It even refugees in my heart!

NATIONAL Entertainment

Kar Yan Lwe Myitta season 2 to be aired on MRTV-4

SEASON 2 of Kar Yan Lwae Myitta will be broadcast on MRTV-4 Channel at 7 pm from Monday to Friday starting from 8 January, according to director Ko Ko Win.

It is an adaptation of the novel "Poisoned Mother" by Nay Nwe Zin Myint. It was produced by Niyyayana Entertainment and edited with plots by Aye Kyi Thar Han, Mel Min Bon and Kyaw Kyaw Tun.

"Since arranging Season 1, we have planned to create Season 2". Season 2 also adapted the background information of veteran writer Nay Nwe Zin Myint, who

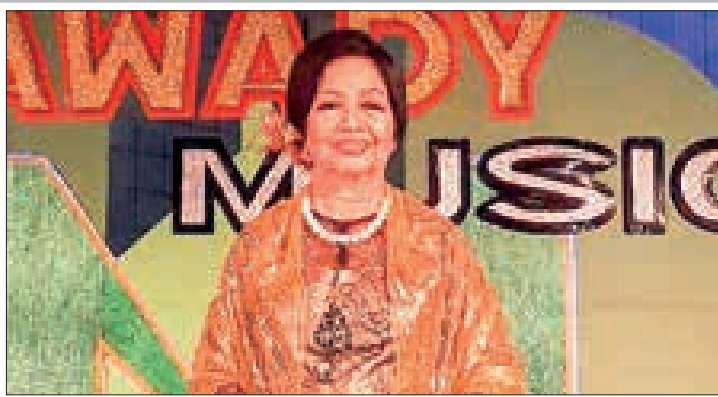
wrote Season 1. Even though we change most prominent characters, we add well-experienced artistes," he said.

The Kar Yan Lwe Myitta Season 2 will include Moe Thura, May Myint Mo, Great Chan, Nay Lin Shein, Phyo Yazar Naing, academy Ye Aung, academy Min Oo, academy Cho Pyone, academy May Than Nu, Than Than Soe and Min Thu.

Season 1 featured 16 episodes and was aired on the MRTV-4 channel. – ASH/KTZH



Poster of Kar Yan Lwe Myitta Season 2.



Htar
SINGER Htar attended the respect-paying ceremony for veteran musicians of the Myanmar Music Association (Central) on 30 December. The 83-year-old singer is healthy and said, "I am in good health for keeping a positive mind. I suffer from back pain. I do religious activities. I forgive everyone, both the good and bad ones. That might be the reason for having good health."



Couple of film artistes
ACTOR Pyay Ti Oo and actress Eaindra Kyaw Zin made an alms food donation at a monastery in Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Road in commemoration of their 13th anniversary of marriage. The two artistes celebrated their six wedding receptions in January 2011. The Jalebi (gipsy) film, in which Eaindra Kyaw Zin starred and directed by director Ko Zaw (Aryon Oo), is currently screened at the cinemas. Eaindra Kyaw Zin grabbed three academy awards for the films - Myet Hnar Myar Tae Moe Kaung Kin in 2014, Yin Bat Hte Ka Dah in 2018, and Hit Taing for Best Actress Award (2019) at the 2013 Myanmar Motion Pictures Awards Presentation Ceremony.

Aung Min Khant
WE Love AMK Family sent birthday presents to actor Aung Min Khant, who is currently residing in the US. He also thanked his fans, saying, "Thank you very much. I am delighted as they remember the date and send the presents even though I am overseas now. I am happy as I feel their love." He visited Hollywood in the US on 5 January.

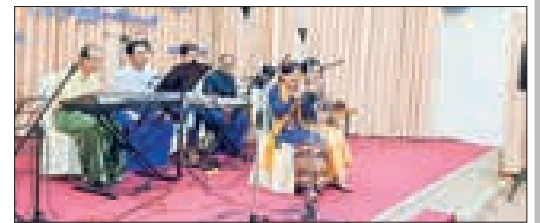
Khant Sithu

ACTOR Khant Sithu donated K1 million to construct Nyeinchanyay Dattawtaik Pagoda in Dhamma Rekkhita Wuntho monastery in Myitkyina Township of Kachin State and another K1 million to the monastic school at Aungzay Yanaung Aungthabyay Tahtaung monastery on 1 January 2024. Moreover, he also made cash donations to improve Yadanagiri Natyaykan Lake in Shwenattaung Pagoda.



Pianist Hla Htut (Sandaya Hla Htut)

THE artistes from music, literature and media attended the ceremony marking the 24th anniversary of the demise of Pianist Hla Htut in Yangon on 5 January. At the event, singer (Daw) Cho Wai Lwin, wife of the great pianist, and other contemporaries sang his famous songs.



Bunny Phyoe

BUNNY Phyoe recently released a cover song, "Aein Met Yeh Athet", featuring Bobby Soxer. The original singers are Tun Eaindra Bo and Anegga. Bunny Phyoe said, "The first lyric of the chorus is my favourite part. It got me hooked a lot. I don't know why. Someone listening to this song might remember something or someone or a specific time. I

also thank song composers Ko Saung Oo and Ko Tweet for trusting me to rearrange the song." – Htun/KTZH



A Comprehensive Survey of Curriculum Developing

FROM PAGE -9

In the curriculum, there are found four components. These components are objectives, content, implementation, and evaluation. The objectives make the curriculum decision on what to cover, what to emphasize, what content to select, and what learning experiences to stress. A curriculum's objectives should be stated clearly and succinctly consistent with the general objectives of education and a particular curriculum as well as the specific objectives of each subject and the translation into objectives for each lesson or activity. These objectives may be derived from three main sources of data – the student, the social condition, and the nature of the subject matter – and then divided into three domains – cognitive, affective, and psychomotor. And the curriculum content should contain the learning experiences organized as regards at least two fundamental requirements – the requirement of society, and that of child growth and learning, in which content standards are those considered competencies all students must attain before graduating from high school. Integration, reiteration, and sequence are the guiding principles in the detailed organization of an effective course. Integration is the relationship between learning experiences in the several areas concurrently being presented to the lesson that must be arranged so as to reinforce and illuminate one another. The integration within and between areas of knowledge is needed. Reiteration refers to the repetition of major curriculum elements that have to involve wider and more

advanced information. Sequence emphasizes that each successive learning experience needs building on the preceding one in the progression of tasks in order of depth and difficulty as the student climbs an educational ladder. Besides, learning experiences are planned and guided by the school in accordance with societal opportunities, school community nature, teacher-student relationship, individual differences, readiness levels, actual lesson content, and methods given to students. The major purpose of curriculum evaluation is to determine whether what has been planned has actually been carried out and the intended outcomes have been achieved. Positive findings on these two purposes aid in the interpretation associated with student evaluation. Through evaluation, more rational decisions may be made about the extent to which precisely defined objectives have been or can be attained.

For the curriculum development, the teacher must recognize five broad categories of students: terminal students (drop-out students), college-bound students (students preparing for higher education), vocational-technical students (students primarily preparing for jobs), destination unknown students (students with native ability but not an expected level of achievement during high schools), and students with special needs (students with emotional, mental, or physical disabilities). Curriculum development should always proceed on the basis of a clear understanding of the various kinds of students the curriculum is intended to serve; in other words, every

curriculum includes three expansive academic offerings: general education, exploratory education, and career education. General education addresses the common learning requirements for all students. This education aims to provide a basis for citizenship participation and good mental health; fosters student development in reading, composition, speaking, listening, computing, humanities, arts, music, social and natural sciences; stresses learning skills of knowledge application and inquiry. Exploratory education is expected to help students take exploratory experiences and utilize them in making educational and career decisions that they will pursue in high school and beyond. Career education is a balanced education that prepares students to function successfully in the real world, where elective courses enrich this education by giving them an opportunity to take up in earnest a particular avenue of learning. The task of education is to promote creativity, emotional health, physical prowess, social expertise, and cognitive skills as well as a curriculum should have everything that happens to students within the space of their time at preschools, nursery schools, or students' centre. What a teacher is obliged to do is develop the curriculum that enables such total learning to take place.

School systems are now using a large variety of structures to develop their curricula. Such structures are commonly founded on two categories, subject-centred and learner-centred curriculums. The subject-centred curriculum focuses on what is to be taught and is content-orient-

ed, whereas the learner-centred curriculum relies on the needs of students and is process-oriented. The subject-centred structure comprises separate courses and fused programmes. In the single-subject curriculum, the areas of knowledge are taught in isolation without any attempt at integration with the intent to provide a discipline for students that alerts them to set classifications and to recognize arrangements of facts and ideas which have lasted over time. The single-subject curriculum remains almost intact, but students are introduced to subject areas as a whole rather than to bits and pieces. This curriculum demands extensive explanation and oral discourse. On the other hand, the fused curriculum attempts to decrease the number of separate subjects that have gradually accumulated in the single-subject structure. The fused approach provides students and teachers more latitude within an extensive subject area.

Typical learner-centred structures are the core curriculum and the activity curriculum, both of which have social and psychological foundations. The social foundation lies in an awareness of what society expects of maturing young students while the psychological foundation is in students' interest and appreciation for learning. In the learner-centred structure, its motivation becomes intrinsic instead of being extrinsic. With an increasingly fragmented society, the only logical approach to developing social values and vision is through a core organization. The core curriculum may have different degrees of organization

and cross broader subject lines, even placing much greater stress than the fused curriculum on the need to integrate subject matter. It stresses facts, descriptive principles, socioeconomic conditions, and moral values of conduct and behaviour; students spend much time studying the culture and its moral content. On the other side, the activity curriculum treats the student as the sole centre of learning in its purest form. If a child develops an interest in something and becomes emotionally involved with it, learning is enhanced. After all, the activity curriculum encompasses all subject matter.

Articulation and balance play two essential sectors for curriculum evaluation. Assessment of articulation evaluates how well various school programmes are working together both horizontally and vertically in achieving curriculum goals and aims for education whilst balance examines the degree of emphasis in any school programme. In this context, student evaluation, standardized assessment, authentic assessment, portfolio assessment, and grading can be applied effectively and efficiently. Above all, curricular issues are constantly changing as modern society acquires new expectations. A teacher working in curriculum development must be knowledgeable about current issues and how these issues bear on the goals and aims of the curriculum. The teacher ought to bring about the motivation in such curriculum development and its implementation at all levels of education with a view to accomplishing the national educational goal.

■■■



A man holding an umbrella rides in rain in Singapore, 4 January 2024. PHOTO: THEN CHIH WEY/XINHUA

Singapore to face more extreme weather amid climate change: report

SCORCHING heat, extreme rainfall, and rising sea levels will bring growing challenges to Singapore if climate change intensifies, according to a report issued by the Centre for Climate Research Singapore Friday.

The "Third National Climate Change Study" of Singapore

shows that the city-state is expected to become warmer, with its annual mean temperatures rising to 0.55 degrees Celsius per decade by the end of the century under the high emission scenario.

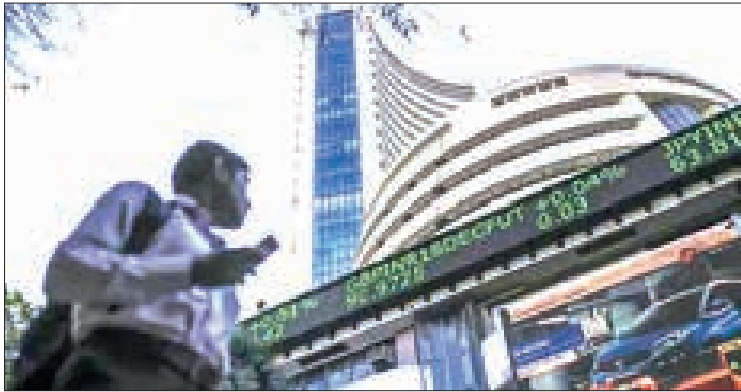
Singapore's annual mean temperatures increased at a

rate of 0.24 degrees Celsius per decade in the past 40 years, the report added.

Noting that Singapore's rainfall is highly variable at seasonal scales, the report warned that the rainfall will be increasingly unbalanced due to severe climate change. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

India expected to grow 6.2% in 2024: United Nations report



Despite challenges, India showcased strong investment performance in 2023, attributed to government infrastructure projects and multinational investments. **PHOTO: ANI**

ECONOMIC growth in India is projected to reach 6.2 per cent in 2024, slightly lower than the 6.3 per cent estimate for 2023, amid robust domestic demand and strong growth in the manufacturing and services sectors, the United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 report said on Friday.

Gross domestic product in South Asia grew by an estimated 5.3 per cent in 2023 and is projected to increase by 5.2 per cent in 2024, driven by a robust expansion in India, which remains the fastest-growing large economy in the world.

"Growth in several economies in the region will face downward pressures from tighter financial and fiscal conditions, balance-of-payments challenges, and the return of the El Nino climate phenomenon," the report said. India, however, registered strong investment performance in 2023, driven by government

infrastructure projects and multinational investments.

"Investment has been more resilient in developing economies than in developed economies. Investment in South Asia, particularly in India, remained strong in 2023. India is benefiting from growing interest from multinationals, which see the country as a key alternative manufacturing base in the context of developed economies' supply chain diversification strategies," the report said.

Global inflation is projected to decline further, from an estimated 5.7 per cent in 2023 to 3.9 per cent in 2024. But price pressures are still elevated in many countries and any further escalation of geopolitical conflict will add to that.

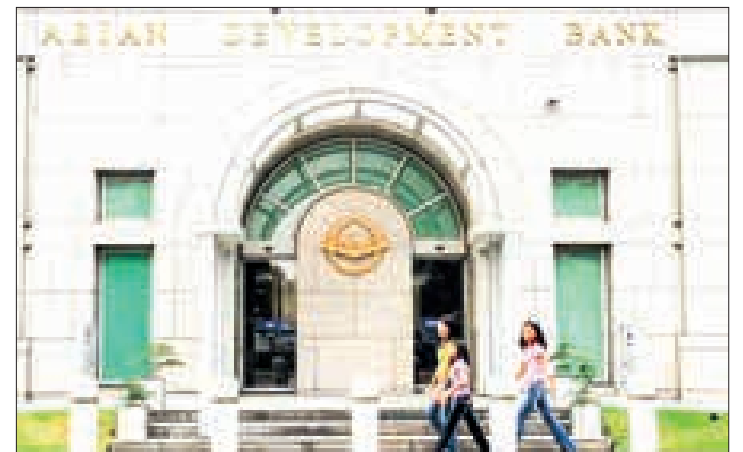
In about a quarter of all developing countries, annual inflation is projected to exceed 10 per cent in 2024, the report highlighted. — ANI

ADB secures US\$ 5 bln through dual-tranche global bonds for Asia-Pacific development

The funds raised will contribute to the ADB's ordinary capital resources, supporting social and economic development initiatives across the vast Asia-Pacific region.

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has successfully priced a dual-tranche global benchmark bond, securing US\$ 3 billion for a 3-year issuance and US\$ 2 billion for a 10-year issuance. According to ADB, the funds raised will contribute to ADB's ordinary capital resources, dedicated to fostering social and economic development across the expansive region of Asia and the Pacific.

ADB Treasurer, Pierre Van Peteghem, expressed satisfaction with the strong and consistent support received from investors during the first US dollar global benchmark outing for 2024. He stated, "We are very pleased with the strong and consistent support of our investors on our first US dollar global benchmark outing



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has successfully raised a total of US\$ 5 billion through a dual-tranche global benchmark bond. **PHOTO: ADB**

for 2024. This provides us with additional resources as we actively support our developing member countries in our evolving mission to address challenges confronting Asia and the Pacific."

The 3-year bond, featuring

a coupon rate of 4.125 per cent per annum payable semi-annually, matures on 12 January 2027. Priced at 99.663 per cent, it yields 11.9 basis points over the 4.375 per cent US Treasury notes due December 2026. — ANI

Indian officials discuss Red Sea impact with shipping companies amid global concerns over attacks

Increased freight and insurance costs result from ships avoiding the region, taking longer routes, and extending turnaround time by 14 days.



Amid global concerns over attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea by suspected Houthi rebels, the government closely monitors the situation. **PHOTO: ANI**

THE central government met representatives from shipping companies and exporters to understand the impact of the evolving situation in the Red

Sea.

Sources in the government said that they were closely watching the unfolding situation in the Red Sea amid

growing global concerns over attacks on several commercial ships in the region by suspected Houthi rebels. Sources told ANI that the cost of freight and insurance has risen due to ships being compelled to avoid the region and take a longer route which has increased the turnaround time of 14 more days.

Further, according to sources, the cushion of a month's inventory currently available for imported items may face disruptions if the Red Sea conflict prolongs. At present, there is no shortage of containers, but a longer turnaround time of 14 days due to longer routes across Africa and European countries could be a concern. — ANI

TOP NEWS

China to revise financial leasing regulation to curb risks

CHINA is amending market rules for the financial leasing sector to intensify supervision, improve financial services, and prevent and defuse risks.

The National Administration of Financial Regulation said Friday that it is soliciting public opinion about a draft revision to the existing regulation on financial leasing companies that took effect in 2014.

The new version of the document, which comprises 96 articles in nine chapters, adds and improves risk management and operation rules for financial leasing companies.

The draft requests financial leasing companies to return to the main business of leasing, raises standards for market entry, and accentuates the prevention and control of risks. — Xinhua

China strengthens NEV industry design to support the sector's high-quality development

By 2025, China aims to fully implement and optimize a time-of-use electricity pricing mechanism for NEV charging.

CHINA has stepped up the design of its new energy vehicle (NEV) industry to facilitate the sector's high-quality development and consolidate its strong growth momentum.

Most recently, the National Development and Reform Commission and three other authorities released a guideline to strengthen the integration of NEVs into the country's power grid.

By 2025, China's preliminary technical standards system for this

integration will be established, and its time-of-use electricity pricing mechanism for NEV charging will be implemented fully and optimized. By 2030, NEVs will be an important part of the country's electrochemical energy storage system, per the guideline.

China has released a series of plans and guidelines for the NEV industry, outlining the sector's development path and aiming to accelerate the country's transition into



This photo taken on 3 July 2023 shows the final inspection line at the general assembly workshop of GAC Aion New Energy Automobile Co., Ltd. in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province. PHOTO: DENG HUA/XINHUA /FILE

an automotive industry powerhouse.

In November 2020, China unveiled a development plan for the industry from 2021-2035, listing five strategic tasks: improving the country's technological innovation capacity, building new types of industry ecosystems, advancing industrial integration and development, perfecting the country's infrastructure system, and deepening opening-up and cooperation. — Xinhua

IEA forecasts 6 per cent share for biofuels in road transport by 2030

The growth is attributed to policies and planned projects outlined in the IEA's report on the role of E-fuels in decarbonizing transport, as highlighted in a report by S&P Global Commodity Insights.

ACCORDING to data from the International Energy Agency (IEA), biofuel demand is expected to expand, making up six per cent of forecasted road transport energy demand by 2030. According to a report by S&P Global Commodity Insights (GCI), this growth is attributed to policies and planned project additions outlined in the IEA's December report ti-

tled "The Role of E-fuels in Decarbonising Transport."

The forecasted 6 per cent share is equivalent to 5.3 exajoules, reinforcing the significance of biofuels in the broader context of decarbonizing the transport sector. The IEA notes that road transport will continue to dominate the use of liquid biofuels, maintaining a share of 98 per cent by 2030. — ANI



The 6% share equates to 5.3 exajoules, emphasizing the crucial role of biofuels in the broader effort to decarbonize the transport sector. A researcher tests a biofuel made from cooking oil in Shangrao, Jiangxi province. PHOTO: XINHUA

Maersk says to avoid Red Sea for foreseeable future



Maersk ships have been attacked in the Red Sea. PHOTO: AFP

FOLLOWING attacks by Yemeni rebels on merchant ships, shipping giant Maersk announces a redirection away from the Red Sea for the 'foreseeable future'. Shipping giant Maersk said Friday that it would divert all vessels around Africa instead of using the Red Sea and Suez Canal for the "foreseeable future" after Yemeni rebels attacked its

merchant ships.

The Danish company cited the highly volatile situation and noted that the security risk remains high.

"We have therefore decided that all Maersk vessels due to transit the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden will be diverted south around the Cape of Good Hope for the foreseeable future," it said in a statement. — AFP

US hiring exceeds expectations in December

US job growth surged unexpectedly in December, government data showed Friday, wrapping up a solid year for the labor market even as voters remain gloomy about the economy ahead of November's presidential election.

The world's biggest economy added 216,000 jobs in the final month of 2023 despite expectations of a slowdown from the prior month, according to Department of Labour

data.

The unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7 per cent, holding at a historically low level and defying forecasts of a small uptick.

These robust figures come as higher interest rates bite, after the Federal Reserve lifted the benchmark lending rate rapidly and held it at a high level to ease demand and rein in inflation. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (062N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (062N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-1-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Israel says time for diplomatic solution with Hezbollah is “short”

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant emphasizes a limited timeframe for a diplomatic resolution with Hezbollah, expressing concern over the escalating tensions.

ISRAELI Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Thursday the window of time for a diplomatic solution with Hezbollah is short.

Gallant made the remarks in Tel Aviv when meeting with visiting US Senior Advisor Amos Hochstein, who arrived in Israel earlier on the day in a bid to lower roiling tensions between Israel and the Leba-

nese militant group.

A statement released by Israel's Government Press Office said the US envoy, during the meeting with Gallant and other senior military officials, was briefed on the security situation on Israel's northern border and the conditions required by the defense establishment to facilitate over 80,000 displaced Israelis to

return home.

According to statements released by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Thursday, the army continued to carry out airstrikes on several Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon. The targets included a rocket launch position, an observation post, and other infrastructure belonging to the Lebanese military group. — Xinhua



A man walks past buildings destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Naqoura, Lebanon, on 4 January 2024. PHOTO: ALI HASHISHO/XINHUA

Cold wave grips several states in north India as fog delays flights, trains

Dense fog disrupts air and rail traffic in various regions.

COLD wave conditions on Friday gripped several states in north India, including the capital territory of Delhi, officials said.

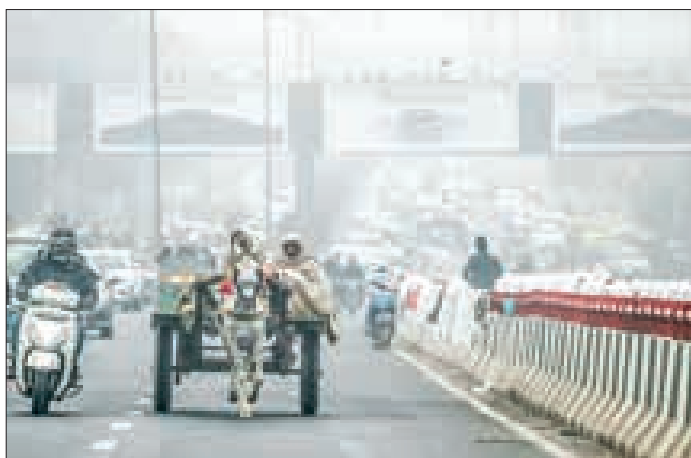
The dense fog prevalent in several parts led to disruptions in both air and rail traffic.

On Friday morning, Delhi's primary weather station in Safdarjung recorded a minimum temperature of 9.4 Celsius degrees, which is colder than the normal average by 2.5 Celsius degrees.

“Cold day to severe cold day conditions likely to continue over some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Rajasthan during next two

days and significant decrease thereafter,” the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. “Dense to very dense fog likely

to continue over northwest India during next two days and gradually decrease thereafter.” — Xinhua



People ride a horse-driven cart on a cold foggy winter morning in New Delhi on 5 January 2024. PHOTO: ARUN SANKAR / AFP



Britain's Prince Andrew. PHOTO: POOL/SPUTNIK

London police say no probe launched into Prince Andrew after Epstein files unsealed

The Metropolitan Police acknowledge the court documents but clarify that no investigation has been launched, stating they will assess new and relevant information if brought to their attention.

LONDON police said on Friday they were not investigating allegations against Prince Andrew after anti-monarchy campaign group Republic filed a report against the Duke of York in connection to recent unsealing of court documents pertaining to the late US financier Jeffrey Epstein.

On Thursday, Republic re-

ported Prince Andrew to the police after a US federal court released the first batch of documents that include the names of witnesses and accusers tied to Epstein's case. In the files, Prince Andrew is accused by a woman named Johanna Sjoberg of touching her breast in Epstein's house in 2001. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ahead of polls, Bangladesh Nationalist Party holds massive protest

AHEAD of the general elections set to be held on 7 January in Bangladesh, the country's opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) staged a massive protest in Dhaka's Paltan area.

Protestors expressed their refusal to engage in the electoral process unless a caretaker government is implemented. The protestors, chanting slogans in Bengali, emphasised that elections are not mere child's play. They shouted slogans like “Sheikh Hasina vote chor” to voice their concerns. BNP issued a call for a 48-hour nationwide ‘hartal’ (general strike) commencing from today to demand resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's “illegal government”, the Dhaka Tribune reported. — ANI

US Supreme Court agrees to review Trump's Colorado ballot eligibility

THE US Supreme Court on Friday agreed to take up whether former President Donald Trump can be disqualified from appearing on Colorado's primary ballot, setting up a historic case ahead of the presidential election.

The US Supreme Court's announcement came two days after Trump asked the court to invalidate a recent ruling by the Colorado Supreme Court, which removed him from the state's 2024 presidential primary ballot, citing a US constitutional provision that prohibits people who have engaged in “insurrection” from federal office. — Xinhua

SPORTS



The domestic futsal league is resounding in Myanmar. PHOTO: MFF

MFF Futsal League 2 launches in Yangon

ORGANIZED by the Myanmar Football Federation, the opening games of the Myanmar Futsal League-2 began at MFF Futsal Stadium of Thuwunna in Yangon yesterday.

Sun Far FC beat SGF FC 6-4, while YRG FC won over KKY FC 4-0. Next, Black Cross FC defeated Seven FC 8-5, and Shwe Pyitha FC smashed TG United 4-2. Likewise, Maryar FC crushed M-Million FC 5-2, and Golden Yoma FC celebrated a 5-4 victory against

Noka United. The Golden Yoma, M-Million, Shwe Pyitha, Black Cross, YRG, Sun Far, Noka United, TG United, Seven FC, KKY FC, and SGF FC will compete in the Day-2 matches on 10 January.

This season, the Futsal League-2 competition has increased the number of teams, and the first rounds will be held at the MFF Futsal Stadium of Thuwunna, Yangon, starting from the first day of the week. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Real Madrid loses Vazquez to injury, Barcelona confirms Cancelo knee problem

REAL Madrid defender Lucas Vazquez was added to the club's extensive injury list on Friday with a muscle injury that will keep him out of its Copa del Rey debut away to Arandina on Saturday and next week's Spanish Supercup in Saudia Arabia.

"Following tests carried out today by the Real Madrid Medical Services on our player Lucas Vazquez, he has been diagnosed with an injury to the semitendinosus muscle in his right thigh. His progress will be

monitored," explained the club's website, without speculating about a return date.

Vazquez joins Thibaut Courtois, Eder Militao, David Alaba and Ferland Mendy on the injury list, with the added problem for coach that all the injuries are in defense, limiting his options to rest players during an intense period of the season when they are playing League, Cup and Supercup, before the return of the Champions League in February. — Xinhua

Top seeds Gauff, Svitolina to clash in Auckland Classic final

US Open champion Coco Gauff maintained her imperious form in the lead-up to the Australia Open by dismantling Emma Navarro 6-3, 6-1 in the semi-finals of the Auckland Classic on Saturday.

Gauff, world number three and top seed, will defend the title she won a year ago against number two seed Elina Svitolina, who defied a back injury to beat Wang Xiyu.

The Ukrainian needed two medical timeouts before fighting back to beat her unseeded Chinese opponent 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Gauff will be the fresher of the two finalists having not

dropped a set all week and racing past fourth seed Navarro in a display that highlighted all her attacking weapons.

The 19-year-old served 10 aces and struck 26 winners, saying afterwards she knew what would be needed to quell her American compatriot. "Just being aggressive, with my serve and my return," she said.

"We played a practice set before the tournament started and she was playing really well so I knew it had to be my best game if I wanted to win.

"It's definitely a good start to my 2024. Emma is an incredible player". — AFP

World Athletics official hails China as contributor to marathon development

Attending the fifth China Marathon Expo, Punzi highlights China's substantial contribution to the road running market since the debut of the Beijing Marathon in 1981.



People visit the China Marathon Expo. PHOTO: WEI PEIQUN/XINHUA

WORLD Athletics Road Running Manager Alessio Punzi has hailed China as a great contributor to the world marathon development.

Punzi, who came here to attend the fifth China Marathon Expo, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview on Friday that since 1981 when the Beijing Marathon debuted, a road running market in China has been built, improved and mature. "Now, there is a road running event boom in China," he added.

According to the Chinese

Athletics Association, the year 2023 witnessed 580 official marathons in China with 5.5 million participants.

"The Chinese Athletics Association has a certain job to control that, creating regulations, creating guidelines on the practice for the harmonious development of the marathons," said Punzi.

"Also, running plays an important role in the Healthy China Policy, which is seen by the central government and the local government. They

are very positive for the continuing growing of the sports," he added.

"Not every country in the world has the resources that China has, has the organization that China has, and masters all forces of society to guarantee a safe running event," Punzi said.

"It would really be important that if more of the rest of the world organizers came here to see how the Chinese organize the marathons because it is second to none," he noted. — Xinhua



Researchers address security and privacy concerns arising from the proliferation of complex and opaque Internet of Things (IoT) devices in smart homes. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

The study focuses on various consumer IoT gadgets in smart homes, such as smart-phones, smart TVs, virtual assistants, and security cameras, which increasingly interconnect and collect data.

Researchers have released ground-breaking research on the security and privacy issues raised by the increasing number of opaque and intricately designed Internet of Things (IoT) devices in smart homes.

Smart homes, which include a va-

Research shows serious security, privacy risks in smart homes

riety of consumer-focused IoT gadgets including smartphones, smart TVs, virtual assistants, and security cameras, are getting more and more networked. These gadgets can sense activity in our homes, which are the most private places we have, using cameras, microphones, and other sensors. Can we trust that the sensitive data that these gadgets in our homes have access to is being handled and protected in a safe manner? is an important question.

“When we think of what happens between the walls of our homes, we think of it as a trusted, private place. In reality,

we find that smart devices in our homes are piercing that veil of trust and privacy — in ways that allow nearly any company to learn what devices are in your home, to know when you are home, and to learn where your home is.

These behaviours are generally not disclosed to consumers, and there is a need for better protections in the home,” said David Choffnes, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Executive Director of the Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute at Northeastern University.

The research team’s extensive study, titled “In the Room Where It Happens: Characterizing Local Communication and Threats in Smart Homes,” was presented this week at the ACM Internet Measurement Conference (ACM IMC’23)

in Montreal (Canada).

The paper delves for the first time into the intricacies of local network interactions between 93 IoT devices and mobile apps, revealing a plethora of previously undisclosed security and privacy concerns with actual real-world implications.

While most users typically view local networks as a trusted and safe environment, the study’s findings illuminate new threats associated with the inadvertent exposure of sensitive data by IoT devices within local networks using standard protocols such as UPnP or mDNS. — ANI

Google launches its largest and ‘most capable’ AI model, Gemini

CALIFORNIA: In its most ambitious effort to compete in the rapidly growing field of generative artificial intelligence (AI), Google has introduced ‘Gemini’ as the company’s “largest and most capable AI model”, CNN reported on Wednesday.

The report stated that Gemini is designed to compete with the likes of OpenAI’s GPT models and supercharge everything from Google’s consumer



apps to Android smartphones and that foresees the tech giant’s model being used in every setting, from big companies to consumer devices such as the Google Pixel 8 Pro.

Unlike existing AI models that typically deal with only one type of user prompt, such as exclusively images or text, Gemini was built to be “multimodal,” Google said. This means it accepts inputs that include multiple types of media, combining text, images, audio, video and programming code. — ANI

Climate change is an urgent threat to pregnant women and children

The document, titled “Protecting maternal, newborn and child health from the impacts of climate change,” contends that the effects on maternal and child health have been overlooked, underreported, and underestimated.

Pregnant women, babies and children face extreme health risks from climate catastrophes that warrant urgent attention, according to a Call for Action released today by United Nations (UN) agencies ahead of the global Conference of the Parties (COP28) negotiations on climate change in Dubai.

According to the document — Protecting maternal, newborn and child health from the impacts of climate change — the effects of climate events on maternal and child health have been neglected, underreported and underestimated. It highlights that very few countries’ climate change response plans mention maternal or child health, describ-

ing this as “a glaring omission and emblematic of the inadequate attention to the needs of women, newborns, and children in the climate change discourse”.

“Climate change poses an existential threat to all of us, but pregnant women, babies and children face some of the gravest consequences of all,” said Bruce Aylward, Assistant Director General for Universal Health Coverage, Life Course at the World Health Organization (WHO). “Children’s futures need to be consciously protected, which means taking climate action now for the sake of their health and survival, while ensuring their unique needs are recognized in the climate response”. — UNICEF



United Nations (UN) agencies release a Call for Action emphasizing the severe health risks faced by pregnant women, babies, and children due to climate catastrophes, urging urgent attention. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**



Myanmar's fisheries exports bag US\$448 mln from over 290,000 tonnes in Apr-Nov

Myanmar conveyed over 290,000 tonnes of fisheries worth US\$448 million to more than 40 foreign countries in the past eight months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, said U Nyunt Win, director of the Department of Fisheries in Nay Pyi Taw.

The fisheries are steadily delivered to Japan, countries from the Middle East, European Union member countries, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, and Australia. Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Department of Fisheries are closely working together to bolster fisheries exports.

"Fisheries exports are separated into three main categories: fish, shrimp and others. Fisheries exports are estimated at 180,000 tonnes, while shrimp export volume was 30,000. Myanmar exports fisheries to its trade partners via maritime and border channels. China and Thailand are the main buyers of Myanmar's fisheries," U Nyunt Win elaborated.

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Fisheries Department conserves species of Crocker Fish, increase fisheries production



Fishing trawlers dock at the jetty.

Myanmar territorial seas: Remarkable fishery resources for domestic consumption and export purpose

By Aung Kyaw Thant

BLESSED with land and water resources, Myanmar possesses a long coastal line from the mouth of the Naf River in Rakhine State, the western part of Myanmar, to Kawthoung, the southernmost of the nation, which is 2,800 kilometres long.

The total coastal area of Myanmar is 1,384 nautical miles, which is long-formed with several small and large islands as well as beautiful archipelagoes. Myeik Archipelago is constituted of more than 800 islands accumulating natural resources such as above-ground, underground, above-water and underwater resources.

Myanmar's total water area is 8,910 square miles (23,100 square kilometres), and an exclusive economic zone covers 205,706 square miles (532,780 square kilo-

metres). The entire economic zone of the State is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea. Such an exclusive economic zone extends to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines.

Maritime zones comprise territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. Myanmar's marine fisheries waters mean the waters along the sea coast of Myanmar from the high tide mark toward the open sea, the waters on the seaside of the straight line drawn from one extreme end of one bank to the extreme end of the other bank of the river and creek mouths, the waters from the said high tide

mark to the end of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Inshore fishery means fishery carried out in the inshore area along the Myanmar coast as determined by the Director General of the Fisheries Department as an inshore fishery area. Offshore fishery means fishery carried out in the Myanmar marine fisheries waters as determined by the Director General as an offshore fishery area. As Myanmar is a sovereign country, everybody needs to follow any laws enacted by the State in operating their businesses or doing something concerning all the measures of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. As such, not only Myanmar

fishery entrepreneurs and fishermen but also those from foreign countries engaging in the fishery industry in Myanmar have to abide by the provisions of existing laws enacted by Myanmar governments in successive eras.

Myanmar citizens, foreign businesspeople, and those from the fishery industry must know the restrictions, prohibitions and penalties in Myanmar's fishery sector. In this regard, Tatmadaw (Navy) and Myanmar Coast Guard are serving their defence and security duties in the Myanmar water territorial area. They will seize illegal fishermen and fishing trawlers for taking action against them under the law.

Myanmar authorities and relevant organizations are ready to take rescue and relief measures for those who face natural disasters and accidental dangers to life while legally doing fishery business in Myanmar's waters. As such, any fishermen can seek help from these organizations for their survival in emergency cases or in natural disasters. On the other hand,

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Commercial farms of Panamei white shrimp set to develop in Bokpyin District, Taninthayi Region

MANAGER of Pyae Phyo Tun Panamei white shrimp farming company from Taninthayi Region U Moe Kyaw Han re-

ported that the commercially produced Panamei white shrimp, which is one of the major aquatic products of the region, will

be expanded farming in Bokpyin District in addition to the significant farming plots in Kawthoung District, Myeik District, and Dawei District.

"Panamei white shrimps are primarily produced in Myeik District in Taninthayi Region. At the time, the target is to expand farming in the Bokpyin District. Three companies are running the Panamei white shrimp farms in Myeik Township in Myeik District. Two more companies in Kyunsu Township and another two companies in Bokpyin will also be operating it. These companies are projected to commence farming this financial year," U Moe Kyaw Han said.

Since Myanmar exports this type of shrimp to the external market, the report says that the canned Panamei white shrimps are mostly shipped to China, whereas to Japan, the farmed Panamei white shrimps are sent in container shipment by cold chain.

U Moe Kyaw Han added, "Major external markets of Myanmar are China and Japan. We will seek to expand the market into European countries and Thailand later. We are trying to meet the criteria demanded by China and Japan for exporting Panamei white shrimp."

The Panamei white shrimps were farmed in the Myeik Archipelago, commencing in 2018. Furthermore, Myanmar's clean and fresh marine environment favours the successful breeding of shrimp there.

The fishery business entrepreneurs are keen to increase Panamei white shrimp farming upon getting global market shares to a certain extent. Additionally, the deep sea fishers prefer commercial farming of Panamei white shrimp rather than fishing marine life in the deep sea territory since the farmed Panamei white shrimps are potentially profitable after three months of breeding. — ASH/ TMT



Processing workplace of quality Panamei white shrimps being packed to export to China and Japan. **PHOTO: KANU**

SEE FROM-B

those organizations are searching for illegal fishery businesspersons in the seas to be taken action.

Businesspersons and those wishing to operate and those operating offshore and inshore fishery industries need to know the prohibitions of the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law. The law states that no person shall engage in inshore and offshore fishery without a licence. The licence holder shall not violate any of the conditions contained in the licence. The holder of the licence shall not transfer his licence. No person shall engage in the industry with the licence obtained by way of transfer under Section 36 of the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law. No person shall keep on board the fishing vessel explosive substances, poisons, chemicals, and other dangerous substances not permitted for use in fishing. No person shall dispose of living aquatic creatures or any material into the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Waters to cause water pollution or to harass fishes and other marine organisms. No person shall search for and collect any marine products without a licence.

Myanmar captures fisheries from the sea for the purpose of export and domestic consumption. Myanmar's fishery industry exports a large volume of fishery products to China, Thailand, Bangladesh and other regional countries through land borders such as Htikhee, Mawtaung, Myawady, Myeik, Kawthoung, Sittway and Maung-taw border points as well as through the maritime trade route, generating millions of US dollar incomes on a yearly basis not only for the businesspersons but for the State.

The Department of Fisheries set a timetable for the non-fishery period all offshore trawlers must follow. Every year, the non-fishery period is set from May to July to set a time to regenerate various species of fish in the Myanmar water territorial area to avoid depletion of fishery deposits in Myanmar seas. According to the restrictions, all fishermen and fishing entrepreneurs need to prevent fishery processes in the seas totally.

In line with the economic objective of the State, which mentions Enhancing agriculture and livestock production with modern technologies for the benefit of all National people and promoting growth in other sectors of the economy for achieving national prosperity and food security, businesspersons have to produce food-stuffs based on agriculture and livestock raw materials as well as fishery products for ensuring local food security. That is why fishery businesspersons and fishermen have to take deserved rights and advantages in doing their businesses of offshore and inshore fisheries with might and main, whereas they have to be liable to follow the existing laws of the State. To ensure the sustainability of fish resources at Myanmar seas, all Myanmar citizens must conserve water resources, including fish deposits and aqua creatures and underwater resources such as coral reefs, seagrass, natural plants in the seas and various fish species.



Salt,

By TWA

a gifted item of nature



The photo depicts salt production.

THE sun-dried salt production can be mainly found in coastal regions like Ayeyawady Region, Mon State and Rakhine State. The Mon and Rakhine states produce salt only about 34 per cent, but the Ayeyawady Region has 66 per cent.

The Ayeyawady Region is a focal salt production region, mainly in Labutta, Ngaputaw and Pyapon townships. The coarse salt received from traditional salt production methods like seawater is pooled into evaporative farms to make salt that is transported to the salt factories by the salt farmers.

In the last week of September 2023, the government signed a MoU with the South Korean government to export quality coarse salt from Mon State, according to the Mon State Salt Trader Association.

“Arrangements are being made to export the coarse salt from this region to the Korean market. It is likely to create a firm foreign market for salt farmers,”

said a salt trader.

The coarse salt from the Ayeyawady Region, Mon and Rakhine states are being transported to the regions and states.

“The coarse salt fetched K120-K130 per viss last year. It is only K70-K80 per viss this year. The salt businesspeople cannot profit from high production costs, employee fees and warehouse rental fees,” said U Zaw Htay, who runs a salt production business in Pyapon Township.

Some salt farmers are watching the market status despite the typical transaction of coarse salt, and the profits and losses can be estimated at the end of the salt season, April.

Although there is a high local demand for Myanmar's salt, the coarse salt market is not controlled due to the lack of raw industrial materials and export market the salt farmers considered.

Although the salt production industry took a long time and required hundreds of workers before Cyclone Nargis,

the destruction of stored coarse salt, salt fields and flaws made flaws in the local salt market during the period of Nargis and the salt was imported from foreign countries, according to market indexes.

“The salt market was ruined after the Nargis. The salt was imported from foreign countries. The imported salt is better than the locally-produced salt and occupies the market at good prices. If the locally-produced salt is processed with high technology and packing to export, it can get firm foreign market,” said U Zaw Htay.

The salt farmers start the sun-dried salt production in October yearly. They first dig farms and fill them with seawater. After four months, the coarse salt is ready to be distributed to the market.

“We cannot make salt in the rainy season. The salt season lasts from the end of the rainy season to the summer. It takes about seven months. It costs over K500,000 per farm,” a salt producer told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Although the salt is produced from boiling processes, sun-dried salt was produced from 1963 to 1964 in Kyaikkhami. Since then, the sun-dried salt production process has become widespread nationwide. The government controlled salt production and trade, but salt was recognized as an essential goods under the 1965 fisheries products order, and salt trading was also exempted in 1976. Then, the number of salt producers started growing, and the salt production industry developed.

The officials need to provide finance and modern techniques to establish the modern salt mill and improve the existing salt mills. If so, it can reduce the reliance on salt imports and export of locally-produced quality salt to foreign markets.

Translated: KTZH

Livestock entrepreneur U Win Myo Lin unveils lucrative soft-shell crab farming generating export earnings during an exclusive interview with The Global New Light of Myanmar.



ABIDING by the guidelines of the Prime Minister to make progress in agriculture and livestock, the backbone of the economy, all the stakeholders in the supply chain are exerting concerted efforts to have industrial growth based on agriculture and livestock products. Sunflower soft-shell crab farming, run by Sunflower Co Ltd, located in Kyauktan Township, Thanlyin District, Yangon Region, is a successful soft-shell crab farming business.

Following is the interview with U Win Myo Lin from Sunflower soft-shell crab farming.

When did you start getting into the crab farming business?

When the Kyauktan Shrimp Farming Zone was implemented in 2000 to effectuate the nation's economic growth, ten companies started executing shrimp farming operations. Most of the livestock companies turned to potential soft-shell crab farming in 2007. The Department of Fisheries designated some areas as soft-shell crab farming zones; we commenced running this business in 2009.

Could you elaborate on capital investment and the number of farming acres for the soft-shell crab business?

The soft-shell crab farming camp covers 99.06 acres. We started the business with only four farms. Each farm is 2-acre wide. The company has expanded to 25 farms, with three acres and four water lakes.

Please explain the crab population and soft-shell crab production?

If farming operations are in full swing, about 1.5 million crabs can be farmed. The soft-shell crab production is 20 tonnes a month.

How do you find raw materials for soft-shell crab production?

We rely on mud crabs or wild-caught crabs dwelling in mangrove forests, rivers and the mouth of the sea as raw material for soft-shell crab business.

For farming, we buy natural crabs

weighing above 80 grammes from the Pyapon, Bogale and Labutta areas. This business creates job opportunities for marine workers in Delta regions and helps contribute to community development.

Would you please explain the soft-shell crab production stages step by step?

The wild-caught crabs are systematically farmed at the crab farms, under the close monitoring of the staff by day and night shifts. We provide feedstuff in line with the standards of the Food and Drug Administration. When they have matured and out-

grown their shell to 15-20 per cent growth beyond their original size, those soft-shell crabs are collected and sent to a temporary storage tank with oxygen treatment. They are delivered to cold storage facilities after discarding the dirt. After processing them step by step, they are ready to be packaged.

How many countries do you export the soft-shell crabs to? What label symbolizes your business?

They are distributed to local hotels and restaurants and shipped to foreign countries under the Frozen Myanmar Soft

Shell Crab label according to the customized packaging style of those countries that place the order. They are primarily exported to China, Australia, the US, the UAE, and Europe.

Please tell me about the service to the consumers?

Soft-shell crabs are value-added products, so they are ready to cook.

Could you please reveal the advantages of soft-shell crab farming?

We follow the instructions given by the experts to ensure no environmental impact. The shells of the crabs can be recycled to biofertilizer. It is a zero-waste product and environmentally friendly.

How do you use waste crab shells in compost?

For recycling waste crab shells, after sun drying the shell, the powder is used as a compost and an amino organic solution to treat plants.

How do you handle biofertilizer from waste crab shells?

We distributed biofertilizer (amino organic folio fertilizer and land treatment fertilizer) under the brand Wathondray in the domestic market. We also conducted awareness training for the farmers regarding organic fertilizer.

Please let me know the number of staff and employment management?

We employ about 200 staff. We also provide accommodation for the married and the single separately. Additionally, we support educating the employees' children and the religious house and library to improve IQ, EQ, and literary skills. Moreover, we have a health care service plan as well.

Is there anything you would like to add?

Our soft-shell crab farming business creates job opportunities for locals and contributes to economic growth.

The GNLM genuinely appreciated your interview.

*Interview By Kyauktan (IPRD)
Translated By EM*



Some saltwater shrimp farms are seen in Myeik District.

Saltwater shrimp farming projected to expand more acres in Myeik District

THERE are more than 1,500 acres of saltwater shrimp farms in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, and the Myeik District Fisheries Department stated that shrimp farming acres are set to expand this financial year, according to the department's Deputy Director U Zaw Min Oo.

Saltwater shrimp is one of the major marine export products of Myeik District.

The district mainly operates offshore fishing businesses and saltwater shrimp farming businesses to boost regional fishery product exports. There are over 1,200 offshore fishing trawlers in Myeik. In detail, 900 regularly depart for the offshore area to fish.

In addition, the report states that there are more than 1,500 acres of saltwater shrimp farms within the district, especially in Palaw and Kyunsu townships.

“Offshore fishing is conducted in Myeik District as an export business. There are more than 1,200 offshore fishing trawlers in Myeik. Amongst, at least 900 are being operated regularly. Since fishing is a business that extracts aquatic resources, it has some limitations. However, we will



expand the aquatic farming businesses. Currently, we run four plots of aquatic farming, especially in Palaw and Kyunsu (townships). Seven more plots are projected to expand within this financial year. Three new plots are being expanded in Kyunsu,” said U Zaw Min Oo.

Myeik District of Taninthayi Region shipped 4,471.35 tonnes of fishery products to Thailand in November 2023, which generated US\$4.73 million as trade revenue.

Taninthayi Region exports fish, prawns, commercially farmed fish and shrimp, and other marine products from the Kawthoung, Dawei, and Myeik districts via five transport channels. Besides, the aquatic products from the Taninthayi Region are also delivered to Yangon by both land and water transport modes; then, the marine products from the Taninthayi Region are exported through Yangon. — ASH/ TMT



Employees are working at soft-shell crab farm and a soft-shell crab.



Ngapi made from Myanmar fish enriches taste of Myanmar meal with nutritional values

By TWA



NGAPI (fish paste), a Myanmar side dish meal served deliciously with fresh vegetables, is a popular fermented condiment to complement Myanmar cuisine. Ngapi has been commonly consumed and highly demanded by people of all ages from the past generations. Moreover, ready-made fish paste with good packaging and value addition is delivered to foreign countries to satisfy the cravings of Myanmar citizens abroad.

MAKING THE PROCESS OF NGAPI

Ngapi is made from mixing fish such as butter catfish, *Mystus vittatus*, swamp barb, small snake-headed fish, catfish and snakehead murrel. There are two types of fermented fish: small fish and large fish Ngapi. Its taste differs from fish ingredients. Fish paste is a taste to Myanmar people.

“Ngapi can be made on your own. After salting and drying fish under the sun for two days, it is pounded to a certain extent. Some ferment them with rice water or broken rice soup to get thicker liquid. They are fermented in glass bottles, plastic jars and earthen pots. If it’s not mixed with rice water, Ngapi sauce looks thin,” Daw Tin Aye, a Ngapi maker working on a manageable scale in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Commercial fish paste processing businesses utilize a glazed earthen pot with a capacity of a hundred visses of fish, placing a glazed earthen bowl at the bottom. *Desmodium triquetrum* leaves cover the top of the lid to kill blowfly larvae. “Salting and pounding fish are important

steps in fermenting fish to enrich the flavour of Ngapi. If the fish is not pounded well, the taste is not rich. Fermentation duration takes five months at least to get delicious Ngapi”, Daw Tin Aye explained. The Ngapi-making process varies depending on the region. It’s primarily found in coastal areas and delta regions.

BIZARRE CASE OF NGAPI FERMEN-TATION

Ngapi pot is overfilled during high tide, even if the location is far from the coastal area. The pot is dry during the



waning days of the month.

During the waxing days of the month (high tide), the pot is refilled with fish sauce after collecting them. The clear liquid at the top of the Ngapi pot is called fish sauce from the pot (locally called O tat Ngan Pyar Yay).

FERMENTED FISH PASTE AND ITS NUTRITIONAL VALUE

Myanmar people love eating boiled Ngapi with fresh and assorted vegetables. Ngapi is rich in water, protein, vitamins and minerals such as calcium, phosphorus, copper, potassium and zinc. It contains 40-50 per cent of water content, 20-30 per cent of protein and 3-4 per cent of fat. The salt content in fish and shrimp paste is 10-25 per cent, while fish sauce and salted fish have a high salt content of 20-30 per cent. Thanks to protein and fat, 31-48 calories are found in Ngapi. This being so, it gives one nutrition like a slice of meat like mutton, beef and pork. Ngapi consists of 1.5-2.5 per cent of calcium and 0.75-1.25 per cent of phosphorus. “Children are fed a plate of rice mixed with fish paste as the adults consider Ngapi contributes to strengthening bone. Because of its nutritional value, some people feed Ngapi to the children. It is like receiving child nutrition from low-cost Ngapi,” Ma Thanda Swe, a mother of a five-year-old child, told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

VALUE-ADDED MYANMAR’S NGAPI PENETRATING EXPORT MARKET

Myanmar’s fisheries businesses are commonly found in coastal areas and delta regions. Value-added fish paste, shrimp paste, fish sauce, dried fish, dried shrimp and ready-made canned fish paste (Ngapi) are shipped worldwide. Many value-added and diversified fish products are placed on external markets to meet consumer demand.

Translated by EM



MYANMAR Fisheries Federation and Mon State Fisheries Department are working together to conserve fish species and increase production of Crocker Fish, which has a decent price in the local fish market, according to U Kye Ngwe, Secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Crocker Fish is widely consumed in the local fish market and has a good price. As it is a type of fish that has market stability, the two fishery bodies are

Fisheries Department conserves species of Crocker Fish, increase fisheries production



collaborating on research activities to improve conservation and production.

“Crocker Fish is widely consumed in the local market because of its good price. As the market is strong, the first step is to maintain the domestic sufficiency. The next step is to send it abroad. Currently, experts are researching together with the Department of Fisheries. We are doing this to improve the fish production rate in the fish farm-

ing section,” said U Kye Ngwe.

Crocker Fish is caught the most during the winter months such as Tazaungmone, Nattaw, Pyatho and Tabodwe (Myanmar months). Demersal fish named Croaker, is most commonly found in the mixed area of freshwater and saltwater, and saltwater areas.

Especially, they are mostly found in the Ayeyawady Delta region and Gulf of Mottama. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar’s fisheries exports bag US\$448 mln from over 290,000 tonnes in Apr-Nov

FROM PAGE-A

Myanmar has been focusing on fisheries processing in line with Good Manufacturing Practices to ensure seafood safety

and comply with the relevant countries’ import rules and regulations.

Beyond seaborne export, Myanmar sends fisheries to

neighbouring countries such as China and Thailand through Myawady, Muse, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik and Maungtau border points.

The department and exporters are joining hands in fulfilling the requirements of each country that imports Myanmar’s fisheries and exerting concerted efforts not to reduce export volume. The country is endeavouring to adhere to the stricter regulations for seafood export set by countries like China. Myanmar is committed to meeting market demand and boosting fisheries exports. — ASH/EM



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Fisheries Federation to export value-added river catfish products

THE Myanmar Fisheries Federation revealed a plan to export value-added river catfish products.

Dr Toe Nandar Tin, vice president of the federation, said: “We’ll source the fish from the Ayeyawady Integrated Food Industry Complex in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region. The primary foreign market is China but we’ll also expand to Russia, Europe and Saudi Arabia.”

The products include fish fillet, fish meal and fish sausage.

The industry complex processes 30,000 to 50,000 visses of fish daily based on the order from dried fish manufacturers. It is part of the larger fish farming project.

The federation initiated the project in 2019 on 1,000 acres of land. The first phase of the project encompasses 300 acres and includes a fish-pellet factory and cold storage.

The first of the three phases of the project has concluded. Upon full completion, the complex holds the potential to process 1,000 tonnes of marine products daily, positioning itself as the largest fish farm in Southeast Asia. — ASH/NT



Workplace at the Ayeyawady Integrated Food Industry Complex.

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Over 7,558 MTs of shrimp to international markets last eight months

IN the past eight months, Myanmar exported over 7,558 metric tons of shrimp to global markets.

The shrimp exports dropped by over 3,000 tonnes compared to the year-ago period, according to the statistics of the Department of Fisheries. Myanmar sent over 11,181 tonnes of exported shrimp worth \$40.095 million in the corresponding FY period.

Myanmar delivers fishery prod-

ucts, including fish and shrimps, to over 40 countries, including Thailand, Bangladesh and Japan, through Yangon Port and land borders.

There are over two million workers in the fishing industry, and the ability to export is being checked to ensure the food safety of aquatic products, following international standards. — TWA/MKKS



The photo shows shrimp being processed for exportation.