

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Diplomats have to enhance political, economic and cultural exchanges in assigned countries



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with ambassadors and chargés d'affaires ad interim who serve diplomatic duties abroad yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing said diplomats have to effectively utilize their endeavours in relevant arenas to enhance political, economic and cultural exchanges in assigned countries.

Yesterday morning, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

explained the necessary measures to ambassadors and chargés d'affaires ad interim serving duties abroad at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Senior General clarified terror acts of CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups, terror acts of PDF terrorists in some townships of the nation

in 2023, acts of some ethnic armed organizations to give terrorist training, sell arms and ammunition and blow up bridges and roads together with PDF terrorists while killing innocent people with different attitudes, cooperation between Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force and people in launching counter-terrorism operations in some areas of EAOs, eradication of online gambling and scams in which some EAOs are involved.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General noted diplomats serving duty abroad are responsible for implementing the State's independent and active non-aligned foreign policy. It is necessary to monitor neighbouring and global countries' situations while successfully implementing Myanmar's policies. They have to disseminate past correct incidents and present actual Myanmar situations to the international community in their respective countries. Depending on ex-

periences, those diplomats have to take appropriate measures for the interests of the nation, he noted.

He pointed out that service personnel can cast votes for their favourite parties, but it must not affect their duties, thoroughly understanding party politics and serving the State's duties. Ambassadors, chargés d'affaires ad interim, and staff members have to realize that they are serving the State, not the government.

The Senior General underscored that diplomats must effectively utilize their endeavours in relevant arenas to enhance political, economic and cultural exchanges. Personal and working fraternities can contribute to success in their duties. Those diplomats have to serve their duties with loyalty to the State and the national spirit. They have to emphasize boosting the economy of the State and citizens, he added.

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### Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General at the meeting with diplomats: -

- Diplomats have to effectively utilize their endeavours in relevant arenas in order to enhance political, economic and cultural exchanges.
- They have to disseminate past correct incidents and present actual situations of Myanmar to the international community in respective countries.
- An appropriate number of individuals within the designated age range will be recruited to minimize the burden on the State.
- Necessary number of war veterans will be recruited to assign duties to them.
- Myanmar is ready to accept those who arrived in Bangladesh if those persons are in line with the designated issues.

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NCPNC meets officials from registered political parties

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Sino-Myanmar border trade surges in past ten months

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MSME products show & traditional food sale conclude with high participation



# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 24/2024

5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME  
14 February 2024

### Substitution of Minister for Transport and Communications

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Nay Lin Aung as Minister for Transport and Communications of the Chin State government in place of Police Colonel Soe Lwin Moe under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,

**Aung Lin Dwe**  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 25/2024

5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME  
14 February 2024

### Substitution of Ministers for Social Affairs

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Ministers for Social Affairs of the governments of Regions/States in place of those shown against them under Section 419 of the Constitution: -

- |  |             |                |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| (1) Kayah State government<br>U Aung Myo Thein | in place of | U Ye Yint Tun  |
| (2) Chin State government<br>U Win Zaw Oo      | in place of | U Kyaw Soe Win |
| (3) Magway Region government<br>U Myo Myint    | in place of | U Win Ye Tun   |
| (4) Rakhine State government<br>U Thet Tun     | in place of | U Saw Naing    |

By Order,

**Aung Lin Dwe**  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary

#### Myanmar Gazette

### Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Kyaw Thet, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Mines under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

## ASEAN-Prague Committee donates food to Czech Federation of Food Banks



Officials from the ASEAN-Prague Committee, the Czech Federation of Food Banks, and foodstuffs.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the ASEAN-Prague Committee, based in Prague City, the Czech Republic, made its fourth donation of foodstuffs to the Czech Federation of Food Banks on 7 February. Dr Htun Naung, the charge d'affaires ad interim

of the Myanmar Embassy, attended the donation ceremony alongside heads of embassies from ASEAN member countries.

During the ceremony, Ambassador of Malaysia Ms Suzilah Binti Mohd Sidek, the alternate chairman of the ASEAN-Prague Committee, explained that the annual donation of foodstuffs by ASEAN countries to the Czech Federation of Food Banks aims to foster mutual understanding and assistance between the peoples of the Czech Republic and ASEAN nations.

Mr Aleš Slaviček, the Czech Federation of Food Banks president, expressed gratitude for the donation. — ASH/TKO

## Myanmar, Brazil discuss collaboration in technology, sports and culture

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that on 12 February, Myanmar and Brazil discussed closer collaboration in technology, sports, and culture.

The discussion occurred when U Aung Kyaw Zan, Myanmar's Ambassador to Brazil, met Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes, Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the latter's residence in Yangon.

During the meeting, both ambassadors exchanged views on fortifying the existing friendship between Myanmar and Brazil. They also discussed the agreement signed by the two countries for technological collaboration, promoting bilateral cooperation within the ASEAN-Brazil Practical Cooperation Areas, exploring opportunities for collaboration

in bilateral trade, investment, health, agriculture, sports and culture, renewable energy, natural environment conservation, climate change, and the enhancement of mutual understanding not only between the peoples but also between the governments of the two countries. — ASH/TMT



Brazilian Ambassador Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes and Myanmar Ambassador U Aung Kyaw Zan met.



# NATIONAL

## Diplomats have to enhance political, economic and cultural exchanges in assigned countries

### FROM PAGE-1

He stressed that as Myanmar citizens abroad are also Myanmar people, diplomats have to solve their difficulties as much as possible. The government allows entitlements and allowances for Myanmar diplomats abroad. So, they can submit their difficulties in their respective assigned countries.

He continued that ambassadors and chargés d'affaires ad interim must submit their efforts for education promotion and encouragement in their assigned countries, and they have to take examples from respective countries that are appropriate for Myanmar. As such, they need to participate in the country's education promotion sector.

The Senior General noted that the People's Military Service Law and the Reserve Forces Act had been issued due to the nation's conditions. As all citizens are responsible for defending the country, the People's Military Service Law was issued in the past. It is indispensable to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes. In compliance with the law, all relevant measures will be carefully considered. An appropriate number of individuals within the designated age range will be recruited to minimize the burden on the State. Under the Reserve Forces Act, war veterans will not be enlisted; only the necessary number will be recruited to fulfil assigned duties. As such, ambassadors and chargés d'affaires

ad interim have to clarify matters related to these laws in their assigned countries.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe reported on the implementation of the State's foreign policies and diplomatic relations with the international community.

They also discussed the enhancement of bilateral relations with relevant countries, the attitudes of these countries towards Myanmar, and other diplomatic measures.

In his speech, the Senior General said that the State Administration Council is striving to successfully hold a multiparty democratic general election as its ultimate mission in order to hand over the State responsibili-

ties to the elected party. As such, he stressed the need to hold a prestigious election and to convene a prestigious Hluttaw. If so, the election will be reputable, and Hluttaws will have a check and balance system taking a lesson from voting fraud in the 2020 general election.

He highlighted that Myanmar is ready to accept those who arrived in Bangladesh if those persons are in line with the designated issues. So, efforts will be made to ease the problems in accord with the agreements of both countries.

To implement Our Three Main National Causes, the government conducts measures on armed conflicts and different opinions under the law. As the instigation of media may cause

the disintegration of the unity of the Union, diplomats have to manage the international community to know the nation's actual situation.

The Senior General urged diplomats to look after scholarship students in their respective countries while solving the problems of scholarship students and those who arrive abroad for various reasons. They must manage a smooth international relations and cooperation process to contribute to the motherland properly.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister at the SAC Chairman Office Ministry No 1 U Ko Ko Hlaing and advisers to the SAC Chairman. — MNA/TTA

## NCPNC meets officials from registered political parties

A meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and representatives from registered political parties was held yesterday morning at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, who is also the Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, and its members, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and officials from registered political parties.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung discussed holding the meeting with the previous group of political parties, seeking positive suggestions from political parties, future processes, the vital role of political parties in the peace processes, the implementation of the peace processes, negotiations for the amendment of essential sections of the Constitution and plans.



The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and representatives from registered political parties in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Afterwards, NCPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein explained joint agreements on peace and development negotiated with ethnic armed organ-

izations and amendments to the Constitution (2008).

Attendees also discussed necessary measures for cooperation in forging peace and

stability of the nation, formation of the group of political parties, amendment to essential provisions of the Constitution, attitudes and suggestions over

the role of Hluttaw. NCPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing reviewed discussions, and the NSPNC chairman gave a concluding remark. — MNA/TS



# NATIONAL

## UEC meets registered political parties

THE meeting of the Union Election Commission and the political parties that have been approved for registration was held yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of the Union Election Commission office.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko and officials from 43 political parties attended the meeting.

At the ceremony, UEC Chair U Ko Ko said that he would spare no effort with the political parties to hold the next election successfully.

He said that in accordance with the amended and enacted Political Parties Registration Law, the commission is preparing the rules for the registration of political parties and publishing them.

If there are any requirements for opening party offices, the commission coordinates with relevant ministries and region/



Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko meets officials from 43 political parties that have been approved for registration at the UEC Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

state governments. The collection, maintenance, and use of political parties' funds should also be appropriately documented. Section 17 (b) of the Political Parties Registration Law stipulates that party funds shall be used following the order or instruc-

tions issued by the commission. According to this provision, the commission will release the necessary instructions as soon as possible, and the parties must use them as per the instructions. The election will be successful only if the commission, political parties

and the voters work together.

The commission must supervise the political parties under the laws and regulations enacted by the commission and assist the political parties' needs under the law. For all those who have the right to vote, officials must co-

ordinate and cooperate with the relevant ministries to ensure that the voter list is complete and correct, and voter education activities must also be coordinated with the appropriate organizations.

For the parties to be strong and for the voters to vote for their party and their parliamentary candidates, it is necessary to conduct a proper election campaign. To get the correct voting choice of the voters, people must choose only those who are really qualified to choose the candidates who will compete in parliament.

He added that the commission will supervise the election according to the laws and regulations enacted to ensure free and fair elections.

Afterwards, the persons responsible for the event had discussions, and the UEC Chair clarified and gave a closing speech to conclude the meeting. — MNA/KZL

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Defence

#### Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants Notification No 1/2024

5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME  
14 February 2024

#### Formation of Nay Pyi Taw Council Committee on Summoning People's Military Servants

As every citizen is obliged to safeguard the "Our Three Main National Causes", viz non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty, the People's Military Service Law was enacted for every citizen to undergo military training to serve these duties. The Nay Pyi Taw Council Committee on Summoning People's Military Servants has been formed with the following persons under Section 7 of the People's Military Service Law.

(a) Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman	Chairman
(b) Deputy Commander Nay Pyi Taw Command	Vice-Chairman (1)
(c) Nay Pyi Taw Council Member (1)	Vice-Chairman (2)
(d) Nay Pyi Taw Council Member (3)	Member
(e) Director-General Ministry of Legal Affairs	Member
(f) Command Staff Colonel (Adjutant) Nay Pyi Taw Command	Member
(g) Head of Police Force Nay Pyi Taw Police Force	Member
(h) Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Ministry of Immigration and Population	Member
(i) Administrator Nay Pyi Taw General Administration Department	Secretary

Chairman  
Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Defence

#### Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants Notification No 2/2024

5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1385 ME  
14 February 2024

#### Formation of Region/State Committee on Summoning People's Military Servants

As every citizen is obliged to safeguard the "Our Three Main National Causes", viz non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty, the People's Military Service Law was enacted for every citizen to undergo military training to serve these duties. The Region/State Committee on Summoning People's Military Servants has been formed with the following persons under Section 7 of the People's Military Service Law.

(a) Chief Minister Region or State government	Chairman
(b) Deputy Commander Respective regional command	Vice-Chairman (1)
(c) Minister for Security and Border Affairs Region or State government	Vice-Chairman (2)
(d) Minister for Social Affairs Region or State government	Member
(e) Region or State Advocate-General	Member
(f) Command Staff Colonel (Adjutant) Respective Military Command	Member
(g) Head of Police Force Region or State Police Forces	Member
(h) Head of Region or State Ministry of Immigration and Population	Member
(i) Head of Region or State General Administration Department	Secretary

Chairman  
Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants



## MoI initiates knowledge sharing seminar on Artificial Intelligence

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the knowledge-sharing seminar on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Union minister said that AI is used in different fields today, and developed countries have introduced driverless cars, drones and domestic robots. AI technology can provide innovative services to understand emotions and cognition processes in the human community. Therefore, the seminar intends to share the usefulness and risks of AI.

He continued that AI replaces the human workforce, whereas the demand for professionals with expertise in AI is on the rise. Moreover, online search engines, entertainment and trading use AI in this digitalization era. The

AI can replace both the physical activities and human intelligence.

Therefore, the Foundation Course for Public Opinion Mining Analysis (AD) was conducted for the officers and staff of the Media Development Department to conduct data analysis on human resource development, misinformation and news flow. A total of 12 trainees sat for the placement test, and eight who passed the test were trained under a three-month online course.

He then urged the staff to promote HR according to the technology trend and apply the knowledge gained at the seminar for the department.

Then, Dr Tin Bhone Kyaw explained AI-related cases, benefits, disadvantages and challenges among others. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attends the knowledge-sharing seminar on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Appointment of Sri Lankan Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mrs Ponnampereuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampereuma as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr J M Janaka Priyantha Bandara.

Mrs Ponnampereuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampereuma was born on 20 February 1973. She earned a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Zoology

from University of Delhi, India in 1998, a Master of Science in Aquatic Resource Development and Fisheries from University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka in 2002 and a Master of Arts in International Relations from University of Monash, Australia in 2003.

She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka in 2003 as Assistant Director and has held various diplomatic capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Embassy of Sri Lanka in the United States of America,

the Sri Lankan High Commission in Malaysia, the Embassy of Sri Lanka/ the Mission to European Union in Belgium and the Consulate General Office of Sri Lanka in Italy.

Mrs Ponnampereuma Arachchige Prabashini Ponnampereuma has been serving as Acting Director-General at the Africa Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka since September 2023.

She is married with one son. — MNA

## YGEA chair urges trust in official gold price announcements amid online misinformation

FALSE news about gold prices has been circulating online. Therefore, people should only believe official announcements, said Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Myo Myint.

He was responding to news that an internet user wrote a post on a social media Facebook group that the gold price had risen to K4 million, which drew some attention on 13 February.

“We have made daily announcements on the official prices as well as on the digital platform UAB Pay and CB’s One Pay by connecting with banks,” said U Myo Myint. He urged the public not to fall for such false news.

“Respective government departments have been dealing with the spread of rumours. We are just making sure that the public should only believe official announcements, but the departments are dealing with the management,” he said.

The closing price of premium gold announced by the YGEA on 13 February at 2:30 pm was K3.645 million. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

## Appointment of Pakistani Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Imran Haider as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Imran Haider was born on 20 June 1969 in Lahore, Pakistan. He studied at Government College, Lahore, Pakistan, from 1985 to 1987 and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Government College, Lahore, Pakistan in 1989, a Master of English Language

and Literature from University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan in 1992 and a Master of Human Rights from Curtin University, Perth, Australia in 2009.

He served as Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax from 1995 to 1996. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan in 1996 and has held various diplomatic capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Pakistan Mission to the United Nations in New York, the Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, the High Commission of

Pakistan in New Delhi, India, the Embassy of Pakistan in Madrid, Spain, the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran, Iran. He served as the Ambassador of Pakistan to the Republic of Tajikistan from 2019 to 2023.

Mr. Imran Haider has been serving as Director-General at the Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan since April 2023.

He is married with two children. — MNA



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar aims to export over 5,000 tonnes of raw salt to ROK next FY 2024-2025

MYANMAR will ship over 5,000 tonnes of raw salt to the Republic of Korea in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Myanmar's raw salt fetches a good price in the ROK. Currently, salt produced from Mon State is exported to external markets, according to Mon State's Salt Farmers Association.

A container loaded with 20 tonnes of salt was sent to the ROK on a trial basis in September 2023. The experts from South Korea have already visited the salt ponds and salt processing businesses. South Korea and

Japan proposed to purchase Myanmar's raw salt.

Myanmar's salt production is estimated at over 400,000 tonnes. Mon State, Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Region are the leading producing areas in Myanmar. Myanmar also exported a container carrying 20 tonnes to Japan in August 2023 on a trial basis. Then, Japanese trade partners ordered about 30 containers (600 tonnes of raw salt) during the salt farming season in December 2023.

Mon State is the second-highest salt-producing state



The photo shows salt farmers harvesting salts at a salt farming pond in Mon State.

in the country, with over 4,500 acres. The salt output in Mon State exceeds 50,000 tonnes per year.

The locally produced salt is widely and primarily distributed in the domestic market. Foreign demand like that might

have an impact on the salt price. Myanmar's salt will become a worldwide commercially valued product. — TWA/KK

## CBM sells US\$5.38M into forex market in Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced the sale of an additional US\$5.38 million into the foreign currency market on 14 February.

This latest transaction brings the total amount of dollars sold in February to \$24.38 million, as reported.

Moreover, alongside the

sale of \$5.38 million, CBM has also sold 313.5 million Thai baht and 4 million Chinese yuan in the foreign currency market during February. — TWA/TKO

## Myanmar's mineral exports generate over US\$230 mln in 10 months

MYANMAR earned over US\$233.197 million from exporting mineral products during the ten months from April 2023 to 2 February 2024, as reported by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the previous year, mineral product exports had generated \$289.257 million during a similar timeframe. Consequently, the current figure represents a decline of \$56 million compared to the previous year. Within this financial year, approximately \$200 million was generated from the private sector, while the State-owned industry contributed around \$32 million.

According to the Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce, most of the \$233.197 million earned in the ten months of this fi-

ancial year resulted from the export of minerals and ores, followed closely by the export of jade. The exported

minerals include jade, diamond, gold, pearl, lead, tin, tungsten, copper, silver, coal, and zinc. — TWA/ TMT



A mining project area in Myanmar. PHOTO: XINHUA



The photo shows the vehicle crashed between the 35/5 Milepost and 35/6 Milepost on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on 26 January 2024.

## 18 accidents on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in January

ACCORDING to the office of the expressway police commander, a total of 18 traffic accidents occurred on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in January, resulting in 15 fatalities and 37 injuries.

These accidents were attributed to various causes, including speeding, reckless driving, driver fatigue, negligence of pedestrians, negligence of motorcycle riders, and tyre punctures. The

total loss amounted to K50 million. Measures are implemented to penalize vehicles exceeding the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway's speed limit.

From January to December 2023, there were a total of 163 crashes, resulting in 326 injuries and 86 fatalities. Additionally, action was taken against over 13,000 vehicles for speeding during this period. — TWA /MKKS



## Myanmar rice body to introduce subsidy programme across Yangon Region on 16 Feb

MYANMAR Rice and Paddy Traders Association will roll out rice sales at affordable prices in Yangon Region starting 16 February, covering 18 townships.

Under the guidance of the Myanmar Rice Federation, the association will sell Aemahta rice at K3,300 per pyi (2.13 kg or 4.69 lb) on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through 58 member retailers in 18 townships in the region, the notification stated.

This rice subsidy scheme will include 18 townships: Hlaingthaya, Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (South), North Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Seikkan, Dagon Myothit (East), Hmawbi, Thingangyun, Thakayta, Pazundaung, Dawbon, Dala, Kyimyindine, Ahlon, Seikkyi Khanaungto, Mingaladon and Insein.

At present, rice prices are surging. The non-premium rice moved between K72,000 and K84,000 per sack depending on varieties (Aemahta, rice grown under the intercropping system). Premium Pawsan wholesale prices are K100,000-K135,000 per sack depending on producing



File photo shows that a vendor sells rice to customers at a market in Yangon.

areas (Myaungmya, Pyapon and Shwebo) on 14 February, as per the association.

Next, the reasonable market prices set for January are K70,000-K72,000 per 108-pound sack of Aemahta rice (25 per cent broken), K72,000-K75,000 for Aemahta rice (15 per cent broken), K75,000-K78,000 for Aemahta (10-5 per cent bro-

ken), K80,000-K85,000 for 90-day short matured rice, Pakan, Anyatha, special Aemahta rice varieties (5-10 per cent broken), K95,000-K100,000 for Ayamin, Ayeya Padaytha, Ayamin (5-10 per cent broken), K100,000-K110,000 for Ayeyawady Pawsan rice and K90,000-K100,000 for normal Shwebo Pawsan, K110,000-K115,000 for Ayeyawady

Kyapyan (5-10 per cent broken) and K125,000-K135,000 for premium Shwebo Pawsan (5-10 per cent broken).

The federation determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors: fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market

prices and other commodities prices. Yet, the market price is way higher than the reasonable prices. Therefore, the federation rigorously reflected on high market rates.

Consequently, MRF encouraged the affiliated associations, members of commodity depots, exporters and rice companies to follow the price.

Nonetheless, according to the MRF, the price difference is five to ten per cent between the retail and wholesale markets and 10-20 per cent for modern trade with consumer packaging at mini-marts. MRF stated that those reasonable market prices only influence the new monsoon paddy produced this year.

MRF urged the buyers to contact the MRF and the relevant wholesale centres to have a smooth trade.

The federation notified on 21 September paddy reference price for 2023 monsoon paddy and called for its affiliated companies, millers and traders to buy it at a reasonable market price during the monsoon paddy harvest season. — NN/EM

## YGEA sets pure gold price lower to K3.58 mln on weak global trend

WITH the spot gold price dip below US\$2,000 per ounce, the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) accordingly lowered the gold reference price to K3.587 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

Pure gold market price hit K3.87 million per tical in the grey market. There is a large gap of over K280,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the unofficial market's rate.

The YGEA switched to the Central Bank of Myanmar's exchange rate for interbank transactions in calculating the reference price for pure gold.

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

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

The dollar gained to around K3,540 on 19 August 2023.

Along with the US dollar gain and record high gold price in August 2023, the domestic gold price hit K4 million per tical, and the Kyat-dollar exchange rate hit K4,000. — NN/KK

## Sino-Myanmar border trade surges in past ten months

THE border trade value between Myanmar and China surpassed US\$2.839 billion in the past ten months (April-January) of the current financial year 2023-2024, rising from \$2.42 billion recorded in the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The figures reflected a remarkable increase of \$412.146 million this FY compared to last FY.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with neighbouring China via Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti, and Kengtung. The Muse border saw the highest trade figure of \$1.836 billion.

The trade values stood at \$703.066 million via Chinshwehaw, \$36.266 million via Kampai-



Cargo trucks are seen at the Muse 105<sup>th</sup>-mile border trade zone along the Myanmar-China border.

ti, \$98.566 million via Lweje, and \$64.435 million via Kengtung.

Myanmar has been conducting border trade with the four neighbouring countries: China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India.

Export items are agricultural produce, livestock products,

fisheries products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and other goods. In contrast, capital goods, intermediate goods, manufacturing goods and raw materials by CMP enterprises are imported. — NN/EM



## OPINION

### Build a progressive nation: Nurturing educated and empowered youth

THE cornerstone of building a modern nation rests on the robust capabilities of well-versed youth. Education serves as a conduit for acquiring knowledge and wisdom, enabling individuals to evaluate the distinctions between right and wrong critically. Wisdom, cultivated through the pursuit of knowledge and a willingness to analyze the living and non-living facets of society, imbues the educated with the ability to assess and emotionally connect with their learning.

Education and knowledge extend beyond the confines of books, permeating the societal and environmental spheres. Mere acquisition of degrees and titles falls short if individuals lack the capacity to delve into the essence of education and knowledge. Recognizing that learning is a perpetual journey, all members of society must possess the aptitude for criticism and analysis that transcends conventional textbooks.

As now is an education age, every citizen of Myanmar needs to improve their human resources to be deployed in nation-building tasks. Well-versed youths will be reliable for the State and the people. Their capability will be a basic source for turning out highly qualified new generations so as to uplift the prestige and integrity of the nation and the nationality.

with education and knowledge must elevate themselves to embody wisdom, becoming catalysts for leading comprehensive development processes within the country. Consequently, youths must actively pursue both formal school education and experiential learning from society to equip themselves with the powerful tools of knowledge, education, and technology essential for shaping the nation.

Presently, the government underscores the importance of a comprehensive education system to empower the populace with advanced knowledge and technology. This strategic emphasis aligns with the country's developmental aspirations, including the burgeoning manufacturing sector. Youth, therefore, must initiate their educational journey during their formative years, acquiring foundational knowledge before engaging with societal challenges. As adults, they must actively seek relevant knowledge and techniques to enhance their capacity for successful engagement in various arenas.

As now is an education age, every citizen of Myanmar needs to improve their human resources to be deployed in nation-building tasks. Well-versed youths will be reliable for the State and the people. Their capability will be a basic source for turning out highly qualified new generations so as to uplift the prestige and integrity of the nation and the nationality.

■

## Let's enhance happiness in the workplace

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

ENHANCING happiness in the workplace is essential for fostering a positive and productive environment. Staff should come to the workplace with a feeling of joy and return home with a sense of satisfaction. The following mentioned points are some strategies to enhance workplace happiness;

- ❖ Cultivate a Positive Culture: Foster a positive and inclusive workplace culture where employees feel valued and appreciated. Encourage

teamwork and collaboration to build strong interpersonal relationships.

- ❖ Recognition and Appreciation: Acknowledge and appreciate employees for their hard work and achievements. Establish recognition programs to highlight outstanding contributions.

- ❖ Work-life Balance: Promote a healthy work-life balance to prevent burnout and ensure well-being. Offer flexible work arrangements or



Enhancing workplace happiness is crucial for a positive and productive environment. Employees should feel joyful at work and leave satisfied. **ILLUSTRATION:**

- ❖ Open Communication: Create

- remote work options when possible.

- ❖ Professional Development:

- Support continuous learning and professional development opportunities. Help

- ❖ Flexibility and Adaptabil-

- ity: Be flexible in adapting to changes, encourage a mindset of resilience and then show that the organization values innovation and embraces new ideas.

- ❖ Employee Support Programmes: Offer employee assistance programmes for personal and professional support. Provide resources for mental health and stress management.

- ❖ Leadership: Leadership plays a crucial role in demonstrating a positive attitude. Encourage leaders to be approachable, supportive, and empathetic.

employees grow in their careers and achieve individual goals.

- ❖ Wellness Programmes: Implement wellness programs that focus on physical and mental well-being. Provide access to fitness facilities, health resources, or mindfulness activities.

- ❖ Social Events: Organize social events and team-building activities to build friendships. Celebrate achievements and milestones with team gatherings.

- ❖ Empowerment and Delegation: Empower employees by giving them authority to make decisions. Trust your team members and encourage them to take ownership of their work.

- ❖ Create a comfortable Environment: Ensure the workplace is relaxed and conducive to productivity, and think through factors like lighting, seating arrangements, and temperature.

- ❖ Flexibility and Adaptabil-

ity: Be flexible in adapting to changes, encourage a mindset of resilience and then show that the organization values innovation and embraces new ideas.

- ❖ Employee Support Programmes: Offer employee assistance programmes for personal and professional support. Provide resources for mental health and stress management.

- ❖ Leadership: Leadership plays a crucial role in demonstrating a positive attitude. Encourage leaders to be approachable, supportive, and empathetic.

Enhancing happiness in the workplace is an ongoing process, and the company regularly assesses the effectiveness of these strategies and seeks employee feedback to ensure continuous improvement. The happy employees are more engaged, creative, and likely to contribute positively to the organization's success.

■

NORMAN Rockwell created some of the most iconic images of 20th-century America. His paintings, such as the "Four Freedoms series from World War II" and "The Problem We all Live with from the Civil Rights Movement, were intended to evoke the best in people who saw them: hope, solidarity, courage, justice. Besides, they intended to get peace, love and joy. Moreover, they intended to live without worry. Much of his work also inspired happiness, capturing scenes of light-hearted joy. His work helps him gain confidence and courage to face the difficulties.

And yet Rockwell himself struggled with happiness. In 1953, he moved to a small, rural town, not for its natural beauty and peace but because it was home to a psychiatric hospital where he and his wife could receive treatment for chronic depression. There, he was a patient of a famous psychoanalyst, with whom Rockwell racked up large bills.

That a man with such significant happiness problems would be known for painting images of undeniable happiness might seem as iconic. In truth, it's not strange at all. Research shows that you can bring joy to others even if you're unhappy and that doing so is a reliable

way to improve your well-being. So, you try to get away for happy. Think out the happiness things several times. Don't think about unhappiness matters.

The key is to act like a happy person, even if you don't feel like it. In 2020, researchers at the University of California at Riverside asked people to behave in either extroverted or introverted ways for one week.

Those who purposely acted extroverted, which decades of research have shown is one of the most common characteristics of happy people, saw a significant increase in well-being. Meanwhile, acting introverted led to a decrease. So, try to be happy people.

Similarly, spending money on others and volunteering have been shown to raise one's own happiness levels. Singing songs is one of the ways to get happiness.

One plausible explanation is that prosocial behaviours induce cognitive dissonance. I feel unhappy, but I am acting unhappy – which people resolve subconsciously by feeling happier. Psychologist Richard Wiseman calls this the "As If Principle": if you want to feel a certain way, act as if you already do, and your brain will grant that feeling, at least for a while.

How would they greet someone on the first call of the day? How would they call just to check in? If you are stuck, ask happy people you know about what they do for others.

Next, make a plan to follow through on everything you just imagined. Write three ideas for extra-king greetings on some note pa-

## To Create Happiness

Mya Thae (Research)

This is not a substitute for formal therapy most of his adult life. But his happy paintings were clearly part of his treatment. Rockwell's biographer, Deborah Solomon, states, "He was painting his longing". Playing sports and other games also brings happiness.

Even if not literally, you can use the Rockwell formula to bring joy to yourself and the people around you when you are down. First, think about what happy people in your situation would do to improve things for themselves and others.

How would they greet someone on the first call of the day? How would they call just to check in? If you are stuck, ask happy people you know about what they do for others.

Next, make a plan to follow through on everything you just imagined. Write three ideas for extra-king greetings on some note pa-

per and consult them before making a phone call. Draft a sample email in the voice of a happy person and use it as a template.

By deliberately preparing yourself to cheer up the people around you the way a happy person would, you'll create the conditions by which you can produce your own happiness naturally – and give the gift of joy to others as well. You will eventually produce your own happiness by behaving like a happy person. Moreover, you will get happiness by watching humorous films and writing poems and short stories also give you pleasure and enjoyment. When your manuscripts are published in a journal, you will be happy.

This happiness is not like other happiness. Your heart shakes when you see your poems and short stories are published in journals, magazines, and newspapers.

To create happiness, you listen

to Sayadaus' sermons, meditate, sympathize, be kind, help poor people be pious, and participate in religious activities. These not only give you happiness at that moment but also are good for several lives. This way is the best of all to be happy.

Reference: *The Atlantic*

Norman Rockwell made famous images. Paintings aimed to inspire hope, courage, and justice. Triple Self-Portrait, Norman Rockwell 1960. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM.**





# NATIONAL

## MSME products show & traditional food sale conclude with high participation



Crowds of visitors join the performance of ethnic dance troupes at the MSME products show and traditional food sale in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTOS: POE PYAE SONE**

AS a gesture of hailing the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day, the MSME products show and tradi-

tional food sale concluded yesterday with high numbers of participants, such as students, youths,

and locals who participated in the Union Day ceremony. THE event occurred in Tabaung

Ground near Uppatasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw. It also included various

MSME products, ranging from traditional food representing multiple ethnic groups to locally-produced MSME goods and the One Region One Product initiative.

Businesspeople from MSME sectors and those who run manageable MSME businesses also visited the show, and the relevant officials explained the information on developing MSMEs and the challenges in penetrating local and foreign markets, among others.

The five-day event featured 34 venues to display MSME products of regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and 19 booths for traditional food. — Aung Ye Thwin/KTZH

## Initial awardees for 57<sup>th</sup> Nationwide Photo Competition unveiled



Submitted photos and board of judges.

THE Myanmar Photographers Association has officially revealed the initial roster of winners for the 57<sup>th</sup> Nationwide Photography Competition in 2024. The association has been accepting photo submissions for the competition since December and has received 780 photos from 58 photographers across six categories.

U Than Tun Oo, the association's chairman, stated: "Seasoned photographers have meticulously evaluated the submitted photos and unveiled the preliminary list on 13 February. We will be awarding 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes and two honorary awards

for each category."

Contestants listed in the preliminary results must submit both the original file and the final print to the association within one week. Failure to meet the deadline or comply with any of the rules will lead to elimination from the list. The prize will be bestowed upon the next best photo in such cases.

Under the chairman's leadership, the board, comprising five judges, will meticulously select winners for the monochrome, colour, landscape, digital, portrait, and photo essay categories. — ASH/NT

## U Bein Bridge, Taungthaman Lake travellers enjoy boat rides, tours in decorated horse carts

OVER 10,000 travellers visited daily during the three-day holiday in February.

Both domestic and international travellers enjoy boat rides and tours in decorated horse carts around Taungthaman Lake and the U Bein Bridge, a renowned tourist attraction in Mandalay. A significant influx of both domestic and international tourists has been observed since 1 February.

Traditional decorated horse carts are available for rent in various options to enhance visitors' experiences amidst the

natural beauty surrounding the U Bein Bridge and Mae Zel trees. Initially introduced in 2019 with fares ranging from K5,000 to K10,000, the rental charges have now increased, ranging from K15,000 to over K30,000, depending on the distance covered around Taungthaman and along the Mae Zel trees. According to U Soe Win, the secretary of the U Bein Bridge maintenance team, more than 10,000 domestic and international travellers visited the iconic Taungthaman Bridge and Taungthaman Lake during the three consecutive

holidays in February.

"The number of visitors to Taungthaman Lake, both domestic and international, has significantly surged in February. Since 1 February, the daily influx of both domestic and international visitors has been on the rise. Over 10,000 people per day, including both domestic and international tourists, visited on 10, 11, and 12 February. Similarly, there is an increasing number of tourists arriving to enjoy the serene sunsets at Taungthaman Lake," said U Soe Win. — ASH/MKKS



The photo shows decorated horse carts and boats at the Taungthaman Lake.



# NATIONAL

## Kyaikto hospital pledges safe future for abandoned child

KYAIKTO People's Hospital has made arrangements for the future of a baby abandoned by its mentally ill mother, according to the hospital. Born underweight, the baby is now over one month old and in good health thanks to special care from the hospital.

The hospital posted on Facebook on 9 February, when she turned one month old, that it had arranged for a safe and happy future for the baby named Ma

Swe Nyein.

"We wish Baby Ma Swe Nyein many happy returns of the day on her one-month birthday. Although she has no parents, the doctors and nurses at the hospital are like second parents. We have ensured the girl's safety, continued survival, and bright future. We wish you happiness, our daughter," wished the hospital staff.

After giving birth to the girl

at Kyaikto Hospital on 9 January 2024, the mother, who appeared to be mentally ill, left the hospital after saying she would bring her relatives from Kadike village in Paung township on 13 January.

If her relatives do not come back until the girl's health becomes stable and safe, the hospital will systematically arrange for the promising future of the abandoned girl, the hospital has informed. — MT/ZN



PHOTO-KYAIKTO TOWNSHIP HOSPITAL

## Counter-argument to false information

### Fake news: Over 100 youths forcibly recruited as porters in Thanlyin



Screenshot validates the spreading of false news.

THE rebellious Khit Thit media deliberately concocted false news alleging that Tatmadaw, police, and administrative body forcibly conscripted

youths as porters, demanding at least one from each household in Ngwethanwin Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, on 12 February. These forced porters were detained in the military compound located near Thanlyin Phayagon. Furthermore, the misinformation also falsely claimed that the Tatmadaw demanded at least 20 young men from each ward in Yangon Region.

The youths underwent disaster rescue training for two weeks in Thanlyin, and no underage individuals were involved in the training, as confirmed by an official from the Yangon Region government.

Similarly, the malicious media outlets are propagating that over 100 people were arrested by the security forces within four days in Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa, and Sagaing starting from the date of the enforcement announcement of the People's Military Service Law.

The State Administration Council Information Team provides clarifications and disseminates accurate information about the People's Military Service Law through State-owned media to reassure the public and the security forces never unlawfully apprehend civilians. — MNA/TMT

### Malicious media outlets circulating fake news

MALICIOUS media outlets have been circulating false news claiming that Tatmadaw killed twelve Pa-O ethnic people who refused to go to the military front line in Hsihseng Township, Shan State (South).

However, an official from the regional security forces

has refuted this fake news. According to their statement, Tatmadaw is collaborating with members of the Pa-O militia in security operations within and around Hsihseng Township, all in the interest of peace and stability in the area.

These malicious media outlets are deliberately spreading false information on social media platforms, intending to cause misunderstanding and undermine unity between ethnic communities and Tatmadaw. — MNA/TKO

### Mizzima allegedly spreading misinformation on Obo Prison inmate's death

THE malicious media outlet Mizzima has been disseminating false news on social media regarding the death of a female inmate due to inadequate medical attention at Obo Prison in Mandalay on 4 February.

The unsubstantiated news report also alleges that the inmate, named Ma Yin Moe, was transferred between external hospitals and the prison multiple times and was discharged prematurely due to security concerns.

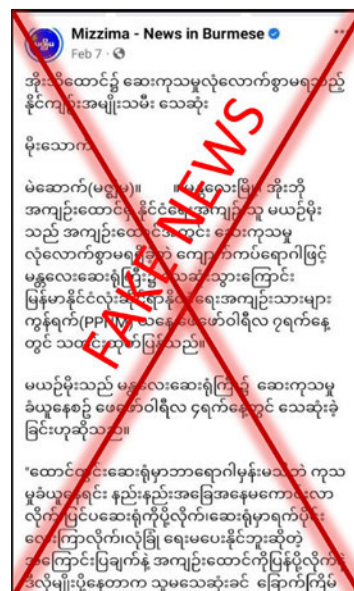
An official at the prison has refuted this false news by clarifying that the inmate

exhibited signs of heart disease, hypertension, anaemia, and laboured breathing. She received treatment from 1 to 10 July 2023 at the prison hospital in Myingyan. Subsequently, she was transferred to the Myingyan District General Hospital on 10 July and later to the Mandalay General Hospital based on the physician's recommendation. She was discharged on 21 July.

For medical access, she was transferred to Mandalay Prison on 7 August. However, her condition did not improve, leading to her admission to the Mandalay General Hospital on five occasions since 14 September. Tragically, she passed away on 4 February 2024 at the hospital due to kidney failure and lack of urination.

The inmate had been serving a prison sentence for charges related to burning tyres on public roads, involvement in a riot, and acting as an accomplice.

Officials emphasized that they provided medical attention under prison laws. Allegations suggesting that the patient's discharge was due to security concerns are simply false news aimed at misleading people. — MNA/NT



Screenshot validates the spreading of false news.



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Bali US\$10 tourist e-tax comes into force



Domestic tourists are exempt from the levy. Bali, heavily reliant on tourism, hopes to use the tax to boost revenue and maintain its tropical allure. **PHOTO: AFP**

*The tax, payable electronically through the “Love Bali” online portal, applies to foreign tourists entering Bali from abroad or other parts of Indonesia.*

THE Indonesian resort haven of Bali began imposing a 150,000 rupiah (\$10) tax on arriving tourists Wednesday to preserve the culture of the “Island of Gods”, officials said.

Tourist-dependent Bali attracts millions of foreign visitors annually and the beach-dotted island is trying to capitalize on its popularity to boost its coffers and protect its tropical allure.

“This levy is aimed at the protection of the culture and the environment in Bali,” Bali’s acting governor Sang Made Mahendra Jaya said at a launch ceremony

Monday. The fee will have to be paid electronically through the “Love Bali” online portal and will apply to foreign tourists entering Bali from abroad or from other parts of Indonesia, according to a press release.

The levy will not apply to domestic Indonesian tourists.

Nearly 4.8 million tourists visited Bali between January and November last year, according to official figures, as the island continued to rebound from the Covid-19 pandemic after imposing a zero-tolerance policy on rule-breakers. — AFP

## Bitcoin breaks US\$50,000 for first time since 2021



Bitcoin has broken US\$50,000 but is still well off its record high of nearly \$69,000 seen in 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

**BITCOIN** spiked above US\$50,000 Tuesday for the first time in more than two years as investors grow optimistic that US approval of broader trading in the unit will ramp up demand.

The cryptocurrency has enjoyed a strong run in recent months, fuelled by expectations US lawmakers would allow the creation of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that track the price and let the public invest in crypto without directly purchasing it.

After initially dropping in reaction to last month’s green light by Washington, bitcoin has rallied about 25 per cent since 22 January.

That advance saw it hit as much as \$50,328, according to Bloomberg data, its highest level since late 2021.

And observers were optimistic about the outlook.

“Enthusiast buyers bring in more enthusiast buyers pushing prices further up,” Fadi Aboualfa, of Copper Technologies, said.

“The cryptocurrency has momentum on the back of several green weeks and has a large chance of going up further when markets see weekly movements upwards of 10 per cent (as we saw last week).”

By 0330 GMT Tuesday, bitcoin had dropped slightly, to \$49,950.

The currency remains well below its record value of almost \$69,000 in 2020, but the rally marks a recovery following a series of high-profile scandals and collapses that rocked the crypto industry.

FTX, the world’s second-biggest crypto exchange, dramatically went under last year, and its boss Sam Bankman-Fried faces up to 110 years in prison for what prosecutors described as “one of the biggest financial frauds in American history”. — AFP

## From tourism to energy, Senegal economy braces for fallout

SENEGAL’S hotels have seen a wave of cancellations since political unrest hit the West African country and many foreign companies are nervous about the deadly troubles.

At least three people have died and scores more have been arrested in demonstrations across the country since President Macky Sall postponed an election planned for 25 February. Tourism — together with oil — is one of the cornerstones of Senegal’s economic development plan.

The tourism sector accounted for 10 per cent of gross domestic product before the Covid-19 pandemic, according to World Bank figures.

“We have seen a large number of cancellations because of the crisis,” Pape Berenger Ngom, president of the Senegal Hotel and Restaurant Professionals’ Association, said.

Searches for flights to Senegal, which relies heavily on the winter sunshine trade, fell 17 per cent in the week of 2 to 8 February compared to the previous week, according to the ForwardKeys consultancy that monitors travel industry trends.

Nevertheless, the Club Med holiday village operator indicated that there had not been much impact so far.

### ‘Positive perception’ affected

Multinational corporations such as BP, Woodside, Nestle, Philip Morris, and TotalEnergies are maintaining their presence in Senegal amid political

turmoil.

Despite concerns among some employees, no foreign staff have requested to leave yet. However, tensions may escalate in the near future.

A planned protest march against the delayed election was postponed, but the crisis persists, drawing international attention and raising uncertainties. — AFP



Several multinationals appear to be prepared to ride out the storm, with British oil and gas giant BP and Australia’s Woodside both developing new oil fields off the Senegalese coast. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WOODSIDE**





The iconic British brand has been under various foreign owners since founder Anita Roddick sold it to French cosmetics giant L'Oreal in 2006. PHOTO: AFP

## Body Shop's UK business slides into administration

*The UK branch of The Body Shop, known for ethical cosmetics, has entered administration, placing thousands of jobs at risk.*

THE UK arm of The Body Shop, the near 50-year-old cosmetics company renowned for ethical hair and skin products, has entered administration, administrators said Tuesday, placing thousands of jobs at risk.

The retailer has appointed experts from FRP Advisory to oversee

administration — a UK process where financial experts are drafted in to try and save parts of a firm.

“Today, the directors of The Body Shop International Limited have appointed Tony Wright, Geoff Rowley, and Alastair Massey of FRP as joint administrators of

the company, which operates The Body Shop's UK business,” said an FRP statement.

“Taking this approach provides the stability, flexibility and security to find the best means of securing the future of The Body Shop and revitalizing this iconic British brand.” — AFP

## Bitter year for Heineken as inflation hits profits, beer sales

DUTCH brewer Heineken on Wednesday reported a drop in annual profits as beer volumes declined in “challenging market conditions” including high inflation.

The world's second-biggest brewer after AB InBev said its net profit in 2023 came in at 2.3 billion euros (\$2.5 billion), compared to the 2.7 billion euros of profit it made the year before. Beer volume overall dipped by 4.7 per cent, with 60 per cent of that decline driven by sharp falls in Nigeria and Viet Nam, the firm said. — AFP

## Sony Group lifts profit forecast, aims to list financial unit in 2025

*Sony cut its annual sales target for PlayStation 5 to 21 million units from 25 million, citing slower-than-expected sales during the Christmas season.*

SONY Group Corp on Wednesday lifted its net profit forecast for the year ending March to 920 billion yen (\$6.1 billion) from an earlier estimate of 880 billion yen thanks to its robust finance business and a weak yen, while announcing that a planned spinoff and the listing of its financial unit is scheduled for 2025.

The sales projection for fiscal 2023, however, was lowered to 12.3 trillion yen from its November forecast of 12.4 trillion yen, overshadowed by lackluster performance in the gaming sector.

The Japanese conglomerate cut its annual

sales target for its mainstay PlayStation 5 games console to 21 million units from 25 million, citing slower-than-expected sales around the Christmas holiday season, even as a new model hit the shelves in November.

The downgrade brought its gaming business's annual sales forecast down to 4.15 trillion yen from 4.36 trillion yen, the company said, adding that console sales will continue to slow in the next fiscal year onward. — Kyodo



The planned spinoff and listing of its financial unit are set for 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

### For Changing Distributor Name of Pesticides

Shanghai E-Tong Chemical Co., Ltd (No.23, Lane 5398, Shenzhuan Road, Songjiang District, Shanghai, China) would like to announce that: the following our products will be transferred to Aventine Limited (No.126(A), Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar) as a new distributor. And we would like to invite any objection for the above changing distributor, please contact the Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 14 days.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg No.
1.	Yonta Myann Shinn	Atrazine 20 % + Mesotrione 7 % + Nicosulfuron 3 % OD	P2023-5401
2.	Yonta Yone Kyi	Chlorfenapyr 10 % + Indoxacarb 5 % SC	P2023-5306

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB405A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB405A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (416N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (416N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GARNET VOY.NO. (01/24)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GARNET VOY.NO. (01/24)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S WILHELMSSEN PROT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD**



# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



This photo taken on 17 January 2023 shows an interior view of the Beijing Daxing International Airport in Beijing, capital of China.

PHOTO: XINHUA

## Year of Dragon sees closer air links between China, Europe

*Air China's announcement of daily flights between Barcelona and Beijing starting from 31 March reflects this trend, following a three-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

THE Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dragon began not only with festive celebrations across Europe, but also with closer air links to China — a sign of economic recovery. Air China has announced that it will launch daily flights between Barcelona and Beijing starting from 31 March. The company returned to the Spanish city with three weekly flights in June 2023, following a three-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Marta Ortiz, a Spanish representative for Air China, said the company has noticed “a big change ... the prospects for the next few months are good”.

China's new initiative ex-

empting Spanish passport holders from the need for a visa for short-term travels to China has also boosted the recovery of flights between the two countries, Ortiz added.

Air China already has a daily flight to Beijing from Madrid airport, where Hainan Airlines runs two weekly flights to Chongqing, and China Eastern Airlines runs five weekly flights to both Shanghai and Wenzhou.

Meanwhile, Cathay Pacific will resume direct flights to Hong Kong in June. The first direct flights between Barcelona and Hong Kong began in 2017, but were suspended due to the pandemic. — Xinhua

## Farmers' protest: Heavy traffic as security ramped up at borders

*Rapid Action Force personnel, police, and riot control vehicles were deployed at the Singhu Border in Delhi to manage the situation.*

LONG traffic jams hit the Delhi-Ghaziabad border were seen on Wednesday due to the farmers' protest and security checks put in place by the authorities.

Rapid Action Force personnel, Police personnel and Riot Control Vehicles are deployed at the Singhu Border in Delhi in view of the farmers' protest.

The morning visuals showed that security arrangements have been intensified at the Shambhu border in Ambala, Haryana, as farmers who marched towards Delhi on Tuesday clashed with the police.

More concrete is being poured between the concrete slabs at the Tikri Border to make the border stronger on day two of the farmers' march towards the national capital.

DSP Anil Kumar of Jhajjar, Haryana said that the traffic has been diverted and currently the atmosphere is peaceful.

“Currently, the atmos-



Police guard a barrier blocking a road to prevent farmers demanding minimum crop prices from marching towards India's capital. PHOTO: AFP

phere is peaceful. Traffic has been diverted. The movement of the pedestrians is normal,” DSP Kumar told ANI.

Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee General Secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher said that they want the Prime Minister to step forward and speak with the farmers.

“There are reports in the

media that the MSP guaranteeing law can not be formed so soon. All, we are saying is to give us a legal guarantee on that (MSP) so that we don't sell crops below that MSP. So, there is no question of a Committee. We would want the PM to step forward and speak with the farmers,” Pandher said. — ANI

## Storms knock out power to 174,000 homes in Australia

STORMS packing powerful winds toppled trees, killed one person and knocked out power to 174,000 homes and businesses in eastern Australia, officials said Wednesday.

The wild weather hit large swathes of Victoria on Tuesday, dumping torrents of rain and unleashing gusts of more than 150 kilometres per hour (90 miles per hour), the state government and emergency services said.

A 50-year-old man was killed in the storm, dying on the scene after being struck by debris while working on his property in Darlimurla, south-east of Melbourne, Victoria police said in a statement.

The winds also fanned bushfires in the Grampians

region west of Melbourne, burning an unknown number of homes in one small town, the state's Country Fire Authority said.

At its peak, 530,000 homes and businesses lost power, the Australian Energy Market Operator said in an update. — AFP



The wild weather hit large swathes of Victoria on Tuesday, dumping torrents of rain and unleashing gusts of more than 150 kilometres per hour. PHOTO: AFP

### TOP NEWS

#### US homeland security secretary impeached by Republican-held House

ONE week after a failed impeachment vote, the Republican-held US House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, making him the first cabinet member to be impeached in nearly 150 years.

On 6 February, Mayorkas narrowly survived an impeachment vote in the House, with a vote tally of 214 to 216. In the latest development, the lower chamber voted 214 to 213, with three Republicans defecting from their party to join Democrats to vote against the impeachment against the Biden administration's top border official. — Xinhua



# SPORTS

## South Korea's Son hurt finger in brawl before Asian Cup loss: KFA

TOTTENHAM Hotspurs captain Son Heung-min injured his finger in a brawl with a teammate on the eve of South Korea's humiliating loss to Jordan at the Asian Cup, the Korean football body said, with one player involved issuing an apology on social media Wednesday.

South Korea, ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in the world, was beaten 2-0 by 87<sup>th</sup>-ranked Jordan in the semi-finals of the Asian Football Confederation competition in Qatar.

According to a report from British newspaper The Sun, Son dislocated his finger in a "bust-up" that erupted at dinner the night before the game.

The incident reportedly



Captain Son Heung-min, his fingers bandaged, warms up ahead of South Korea's semifinal loss to Jordan at the Asian Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

*Tottenham Hotspurs captain Son Heung-min injured his finger in a brawl with a teammate before South Korea's loss to Jordan at the Asian Cup, according to the Korean football body.*

happened after some younger players on the team — including Lee Kang-in of Paris Saint-Germain — rushed through their meal so they could leave early to play table tennis.

This displeased Son, the team's captain, and some of the older players, as meals on the

eve of big games are traditionally seen as a time for bonding.

An unnamed source told the newspaper that when Son asked his younger teammates to sit down, "some disrespectful things were said to him".

"Within seconds, the row spilled into the dining area and

players were being pulled apart," the source was quoted as saying. "Son badly injured his finger trying to calm everyone down."

Lee acknowledged the incident on his Instagram account in a post on Wednesday and apologized for "disappointing" his fans. — AFP

## Ex-Dutch international gets six years for coke smuggling

A Dutch court sentenced former Ajax and international winger Quincy Promes to six years in prison Wednesday, convicting him of smuggling more than one thousand kilogrammes of cocaine. The 32-year-old, now playing for Spartak Moscow, was not in court to hear the sentence, a spokesperson told AFP.

Previous attempts to extradite him from Moscow have failed.

Summing up in court, presiding judge M Vaandrager said Promes was an example to many, especially young people, due to his footballing talent.

"The suspect is regularly in the news, is active on social media, and has fans worldwide," the judge said. "This makes it even worse that he has tried to increase his wealth... by participating in major international drugs trafficking." — AFP

## Man City fret over Grealish after injury blow

Guardiola expressed more worry about Grealish's injury, stating that tests will be conducted on Wednesday to assess the extent of the damage.



Manchester City's Jack Grealish limped off against FC Copenhagen. **PHOTO: RITZAU SCANPIX/AFP**

PEP Guardiola is sweating over Jack Grealish's fitness after the

Manchester City winger limped off during his side's Champions

League win against FC Copenhagen.

Grealish was substituted with a groin problem in the first half of the holders' 3-1 victory in the last 16 first leg in Denmark on Tuesday.

City playmaker Bernardo Silva also came off with an ankle knock, but it was Grealish's injury that caused the most concern for City boss Guardiola.

"He wanted to continue but we didn't want to make the damage even worse. We'll make tests on Wednesday," Guardiola said.

Grealish was making his first start in six games in what has been a difficult campaign for the England star. The 28-year-old had a spell out with a dead leg earlier in the season and has been kept out of the side by the fine form of Jeremy Doku and Phil Foden. — AFP



The funeral for Kenya's men's marathon world record holder Kelvin Kiptum will be held on 24 February. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Kenya marathon star Kiptum's funeral to be held 24 February

THE funeral for Kenya's world marathon record-holder Kelvin Kiptum, who died in a car crash at the weekend, will be held on 24 February, an athletics federation official told AFP on Wednesday.

"We have settled on 24 February following consultations with the family and the government which have taken over all the funeral arrangements and protocol," Athletics Kenya executive committee member Barnabas Korir said, a day after visiting the bereaved family.

Kiptum, a 24-year-old father of two, and his Rwandan coach Gervais Hakizimana were killed in a car accident on Sunday night in the Eldoret area, the heartland of Kenyan distance running.

"In honour of Kenya's departed world marathon record holder, a true national hero, the government will support Kiptum's family in according him a befitting heroic farewell," Kenya's cabinet said in a statement on Wednesday. — AFP

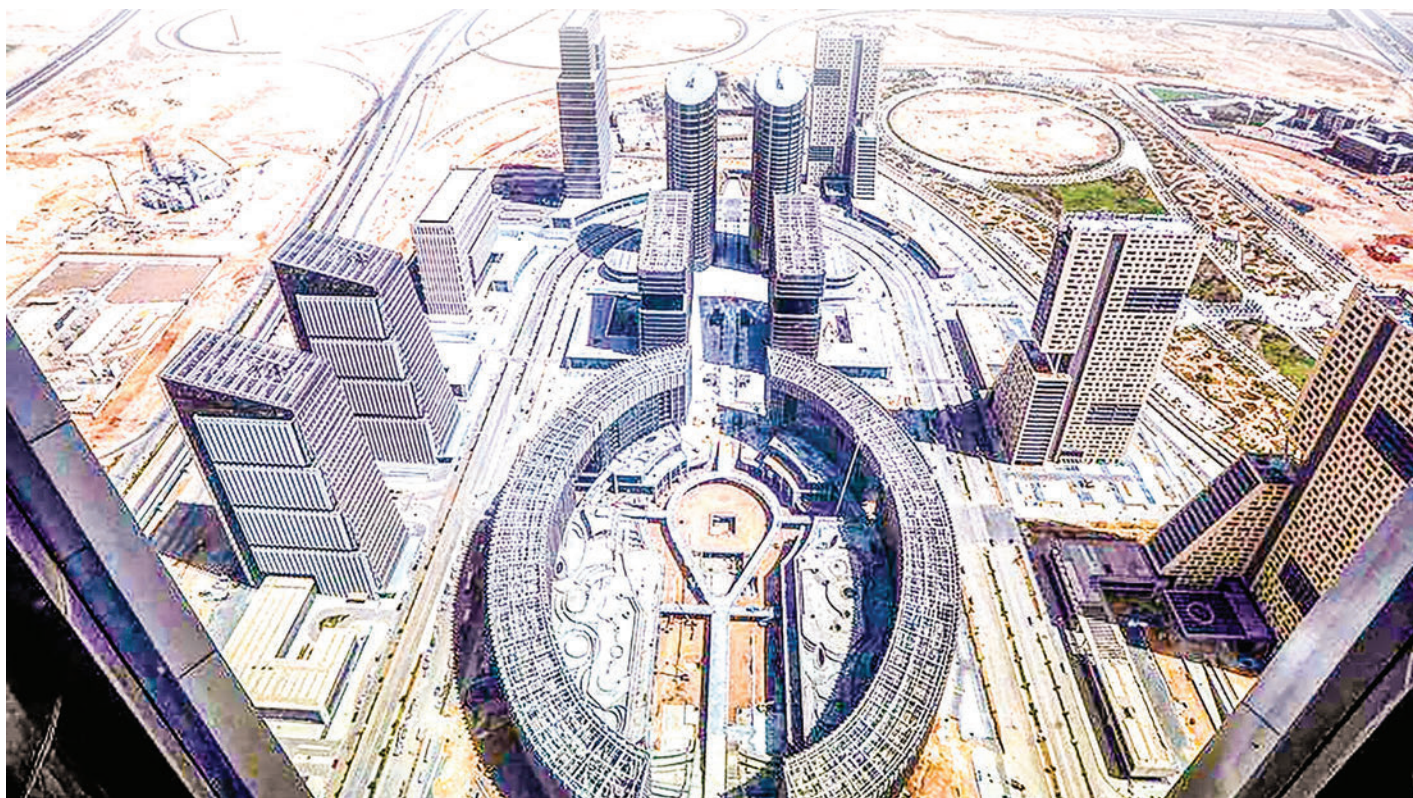


Farmers' protest: Heavy traffic as security ramped up at borders

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# WORLD



This photo taken on 11 September 2023 shows the construction site of Central Business District (CBD) project constructed by China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) in the new administrative capital, east of Cairo, Egypt. **PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA**

*Developing countries and emerging economies engage in international forums to advocate unity, cooperation, reform, and collaboration for global peace and justice.*

In recent years, representatives of developing countries and emerging economies took part in various important meetings of the BRICS, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, and other forums, during which they voiced their calls for unity, cooperation, reform and collaboration to build a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

"These meetings indicate the awareness of developing countries of the need for a new multipolar world," Helmy, also a member of the economic committee of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, told Xinhua. Helmy considered the recent expansion of BRICS to include more members as one of the indicators that the world is heading toward a multipolar global system. — Xinhua

## Global South aspires for multipolar world with fair economic governance: economist

**T**HE developing states of the Global South aspire for a multipolar world order free from US hegemony and just global economic governance under which they can achieve sustainable devel-

opment via fair, win-win partnerships, said an economic expert in a recent interview with Xinhua.

"In a just global economic system, all parties would prioritize common interests,

peaceful settlement of conflicts and cooperation for sustainable development," said Daa Helmy, secretary-general of the Cairo-based Egyptian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

### TRACK TEMPERATURE SOARED TO 48°C

#### Train services in New Zealand's Auckland cancelled due to heat

COMMUTERS in New Zealand's Auckland city were faced with disruptions and travel delays as authorities cancelled multiple trains in the city due to soaring summer heat, which led to "hot tracks", local media reported.

Kiwi Rail, which owns the tracks on Auckland's Rail Network imposed speed restrictions in place as temperature of the tracks reached 48 degrees Celsius in some places leading to the cancellation of many train services, including those during peak hours, on Monday.

A spokesman from KiwiRail, was cited by the New Zealand Herald as saying that heat causes the steel in the rail lines to move if the trains pass over them too quickly. "This means trains must go much more slowly in hot conditions.

Trains are often cancelled to prevent a major backlog," he said.

KiwiRail general manager for metros Jon Knight was cited by the news daily as saying that temporary speed restrictions are put in place once the steel rails reached 40C and lifted once the track dropped below this temperature. — ANI

## Fears that pirates are returning to seas off Somalia

*Six incidents have been recorded by the UK Marine Trade Operations since mid-December, ranging from armed approaches to successful hijackings.*

THE daring attack in December bore unsettling hallmarks of the piracy that once terrorised global shipping off eastern Africa: a cargo vessel hijacked, its crew taken to Somalia, and disappeared.

The successful capture of the foreign vessel was the first by Somali pirates since 2017, and follows a spike in armed seaborne attacks around the Horn of Africa not seen in years.

Analysts caution that Somali piracy poses nowhere near the threat it did in 2011, when navies around the world had to deploy warships to beat back the scourge and restore order at sea. — AFP



Indian commandos stand guard over Somali pirates who kidnapped an Iranian fishing vessel off the Somali coast, on 30 January. **PHOTO: INDIAN NAVY/AFP/FIE**