

MoC to implement HS 2022 Product Specific Rules of AANZFTA

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Visitors take rest at the rows of Madhuca Plants near Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township of Mandalay.

Mandalay's upgraded area of Madhuca plants near Taungthaman Lake, U Bein Bridge attract more visitors

Taungthaman Lake, U Bein Bridge and the area of Madhuca plants are upgraded and open to public aiming at attracting more travellers, and the sites are crowded with visitors from across the nation.

These three significant areas are located in Amarapura Township of Mandalay and also symbols of Mandalay Region. Therefore, the officials upgraded Madhuca plants' area near Taungthaman Lake to beautify the surrounding areas and to be perfect with signatures of resorts and also aim to support the inbound and outbound tourism sectors and socioeconomic development.

Regarding Madhuca plants' area near Taungthaman Lake upgrade work, Mandalay Mayor U Kyaw Hsan said, "This place was not neat and tidy in the past, and it was inappropriate when the

visitors come here. The rows of Madhuca plants were also full of rubbish. No one can go there. Therefore, we discussed making the place clean. Now, it is a good place to take a rest. Those who come here are also surprised, as the scene they see is totally different from the old one. Some of the people share the photos of U Bein bridge and the rows of Madhuca plants near Taungthaman Lake on social network. I want to invite all to pay a visit to Taungthaman Lake, U Bein bridge and rows of Madhuca plants."

Moreover, the resort boasts souvenir shops and traditional food stalls, and so the visitors can buy local handicrafts and enjoy the local food.

A visitor to the rows of Madhuca plants near Taungthaman Lake said, "I visited only U Bein bridge in Amarapura previously. Even though I knew about

the rows of Madhuca plants, I did not go there as it was weak in cleanliness. Now, I visit the rows of Madhuca plants near Taungthaman Lake as I hear that the place is clean. Before I arrived here, I thought it would not have anything unusual. But, I was very surprised when I saw the view. I would like to thank the officials who made efforts to beautify and decorate the place ensuring its cleanliness. My family is very happy to visit here. Therefore, I want to urge to visit here."

Therefore, the Taungthaman Lake, U Bein bridge and the rows of Madhuca plants are crowded with local and foreign visitors who enjoy the picturesque scene of historic wooden bridge and Taungthaman Lake and local food just in one place, and the visitors can breathe in clean and fresh air. — Maung Aye Chan/KTZH

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Myanmar earns over US\$7.82 billion from finished industrial exports in current FY

BUSINESS

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Pure gold price swells to K3.9 mln per tical in grey market

NATIONAL

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Myanmar bamboo handicrafts attract attention from Japan and foreign tourists

NATIONAL

Objectives of 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2024

(A) To safeguard the State with the sacrifice of life by upholding Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy of Tatmadaw;

(B) To actively participate in implementing the processes of two national visions of the State: the prosperity of the country and food security by Tatmadaw members together with the government and ethnic people in their respective sectors;

(C) To steadfastly implement enhancement of three capabilities in accord with the work process of Tatmadaw, such as study, practise and obey in building a modern patriotic Tatmadaw with powerful strength and sharpening prowess;

(D) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw to ensure peace and stability, solidarity and development, which are actual needs of the State and to emerge a Union based on democratic and federal systems.

MoC to implement HS 2022 Product Specific Rules of AANZFTA

THE Ministry of Commerce announced on 16 February that Myanmar will implement HS 2022 Product Specific Rules according to the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA).

The statement unveiled that AANZFTA signatories discussed applicable products specified in the HS 2017 Version and updated to HS 2022 Version.

The updated specific product description is approved by the Free Trade Area Joint Committee on implementation and operation of the AANZFTA. Those 12 parties have agreed to be committed to the HS 2022 Product Specific Rule of Origins starting from 1 March 2024.

The Free Trade Agree-



A map of AANZFTA.

ment is an agreement between the ten-member states of ASEAN (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), Australia and New Zealand. — NN/KK

Myanmar Gazette

Confirmation and appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

(1) The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Htay Thwin, Director-General of Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training under the Ministry of Science and Technology, after the one-year probationary period.

(2) The State Administration Council has appointed U Mya Oo from the Ministry of Defence as Director-General of Directorate of Industrial Collaboration under the Ministry of Industry on probation.

Myanmar engages in India-ASEAN Trade Summit 2024 for healthcare and education cooperation



The photo shows attendees at India ASEAN Trade Summit 2024 promoting Healthcare and Education.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Myanmar participated in the India-ASEAN Trade Summit 2024 in Bengaluru, Karnataka State, India, on 16 February, focusing on promoting healthcare and education cooperation between Myanmar, India, and ASEAN.

U Moe Kyaw Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to India, represented Myanmar at the summit and delivered a presentation titled "India-Myanmar Relations Analysis of the Emerging Education & Healthcare System and its Role in Society".

During his presentation, he highlighted the collaborative efforts between the two countries in the education and healthcare sectors, as well as the government's initiatives aimed at enhancing socio-economic development for the citizens.

The participants engaged in discussions regarding the challenges and best practices in the education and health sectors, as well as explored potential avenues for mutual cooperation between Myanmar-India and ASEAN-India. — ASH/TMT

Myanmar Gazette

Duty-Assignment of Permanent Secretary/ Director-General

THE State Administration Council has assigned U Htein Linn, Director-General of Commission Staff Office of Anti-Corruption Commission, to the duties of Permanent Secretary at the same organization concurrently.

NATIONAL

SAC member DPM UM donates offertories to monks, meets town elders in Thantlang, Haka

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo donated alms to members of the Sangha from MyoU monastery in Haka on 21 February as a gesture of honouring the 76th Anniversary of Chin National Day.

The General met with town elders from Thantlang and Haka at Taungzalat Avenue in Haka. After delivering a speech,

the General heard reports on social, economic, health and educational difficulties of town elders and fulfilled their needs.

The meeting was also attended by SAC member Dr Hmu Thang, Union Ministers, the Chief Minister of Chin State, deputy ministers and officials. — MNA/TS

General Mya Tun Oo offers alms to a venerable Sayadaw in Haka on 21 February.



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing meets those from Senior Advisory Board and MISIS.

Union Minister meets members of Senior Advisory Board, Executive Board MISIS

U KO KO HLAING, Union Minister for the Ministry of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office (1), delivered the remarks at the meeting with members of the Senior Advisory Board and the Executive Board of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), which was held at the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies' meet-

ing room in Yangon yesterday. At the meeting, the Union Minister explained the position and policy of the Government, current implementation of the ministries and the plans to be carried out in the future as well. Furthermore, he urged the MISIS to boost the cooperation not only in the regional but also in the international intellectual context, and to contribute to the

nation with analysis and recommendations from the academic's perspectives through the effective use of their expertise, experience and knowledge.

Then, members of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies reported to the Union Minister on the undertaking activities of the Institute and future direction. — MNA

MNHRC inspects Patheingyi Prison, police Lock-up, court detention center, Settawya Home for the Aged, and MNHRC branch

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on 21 February stated that an inspection team, led by U Kyaw Myint, member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, conducted an inspection of the Police Lock-up and Court Detention Centre on 19 February 2024 and inspected Patheingyi Prison and Settawya Home for the Aged, on 20 February 2024 in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region in accordance with Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law and also looked into MNHRC Branch Office (Patheingyi) yesterday.

The inspection team also inspected Patheingyi police lock-up and court detention centre that the conditions of remand period of detainees, families visit, food supply and water sanitation system of the detention centres.

The inspection team inspected the Patheingyi prison according to MNHRC law and procedures whether the prisoners and detainees enjoy the fundamental rights, including appropriate food supply, access to healthcare and provision of adequate purified water and

cleanliness of police lock-up and court detention centre. The inspection team inquired the prisoners in order to ensure that whether their personal items and items sent by families can get, family visits and whether there were human rights violations and torture cases in the prison and detention centres. The inspection team also privately interviewed the prisoners who wish to meet with the team freely and privately and also inspected the dormitories, clinic, library, kitchen, food storage, water purifier, water sanitation system of the prison.

They inspected the Settawya Home for the Aged in accordance with the MNHRC Law and procedures whether the old aged persons can get fundamental human rights including healthcare services, food supply, provision of purified drinking water, right to freedom of religion, adequate dormitories and arrangements for leisure.

The commission will send recommendations to the relevant departments for necessary action based on the findings during inspection. — MNHRC

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NATIONAL

Kuwaiti Embassy in Yangon hosts reception to mark Kuwait's Independence Day, National Day



UNION Minister for the Ministry of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office (1) U Ko Ko Hlaing and wife attended the reception to mark the 63rd Kuwait National Day and the 33rd Anniversary of Kuwait's Independence Day at Lotte Hotel in Yangon on yesterday.

The ceremony was opened with national anthems of Myanmar and Kuwait. Kuwaiti Ambassador Mr Mubarak Muhanna Eissa Aladwani extended greetings. The Union Minister and the Kuwaiti Ambassador cut the commemorative cake. They all had the dinner hosted by the Kuwaiti Ambassador.

Also present at the dinner were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and wife, Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Bo Htay and wife, ambassadors from foreign missions in Yangon and diplomats, military attachés and officials from UN agencies. — MNA/TTA

A reception hosted by Kuwaiti Embassy in Yangon marking 63rd Kuwait National Day and 33rd Anniversary of Kuwait's Independence Day in progress on yesterday.

Counter-argument to false information

Malicious media circulates fake news that an audio file of security forces instructing to set ablaze in Kawlin



A screen-shot photo shows an audio file posted by malicious media.

SOME malicious media outlets disseminated false information alleging the emergence of an audio file instructing security forces to set fire to villages in Kawlin, where the Tatmadaw currently maintains a presence. The fabricated audio file features an individual posing as a Tatmadaw officer issuing orders via a communication device to ignite Say-minkhon Village.

Responding to this misinformation, a security forces officer in Kawlin clarified that the fabricated audio file was intentionally created to mislead the public. In reality, following the withdrawal of troops by the KIA and PDF terrorists, heavy weapons fire was directed at security forces engaged in mine clearing operations within the town and surrounding villages. Consequently, houses were engulfed and destroyed by these explosions. — MNA/TMT

False claims regarding military service registration circulate in Myaungmya Township

MALICIOUS media outlets are disseminating false information alleging that government employees in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyarwady Region, are required to register for military service on 21 February.

Some of these media platforms are intentionally fabricating and spreading misinformation and conspiracy theories via social media platforms, aiming to mislead young individuals, people, and civil servants about the People's Military Services Law.

The regulations outlined in the People's Military Services Law apply not only to specific townships or villages but to all



A screen-shot misinformation of Ayeyarwaddy Times.

individuals residing in towns and villages nationwide. Official announcements by state-owned media have provided contact information for the Central Body for Summoning People's Military Servants for any inquiries.— MNA/TKO

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From Delta to Myawady

By TWA



TAKING a long breath, the trader U Win Thein, who delivers commodities from Patheingyi to Yangon, said, “Usually the truck running on the delta region used to earn K20,000 per tonne of goods for a 100-mile-long journey. Now, the Myawady border route’s transport truck rate earns much more than the Delta routes. Therefore, most six-wheeled trucks that used to run in the Delta region are shifting to the Myawady route, resulting in difficulty transporting goods to Yangon.”

A truck owner from the Delta region U Thaw affirmed the Global New Light of Myanmar that many six-wheeled trucks from the Delta region have been turning to run in the Myawady border route since January this year as they earn much more.

Old route, fuel oil and six-wheeled trucks

The reports state that a transporter that carries various fruits such as watermelons or onions and transports to the border area from the mainland earns from K8 million to K10 million for transporting the goods.

There also are advertisements on social media to hire lorries for freight transport with freight rates.

Since the old road is used for the Myawady border route, the transport charges are increasing, and the prices of imported goods are getting high. As fuel prices skyrocket in these months, truck owners choose routes that earn more. Thus, a shortage of trucks occurs on the original route.

Commodity transports are usually low between September and December. The commodity transports are boosting when it is turning into the dry season. However, the industry experiences the abovementioned shortage of trucks and high lorry charges.

Despite the skyrocketing fuel price increase by K400 per litre, truck owners, especially six-wheeled truck owners, earn

much more.

Since there are difficulties in transporting goods for Myawady border route import items, consumers are encountering scarcity of commodities and high prices.

Like the Myawady route, transporting goods to Rakhine State charges K1 million per ton through the water transport route. Hence, transporting goods via the water route costs a lot since a vessel carries around 3,000 tonnes of goods.

A jump in prices of freight transport with lorries

Only the old way can be used for the Myawady route for the time being. The Asia Highway cannot be used at present for various situations. Although the Htokawko old road can be used, only the six-wheeled trucks are allowed to pass.

Even when there were regular journeys on the Myawady route, only those transporters that could carry 20,000 visses of commodities run. Within these months, the ratio of goods to trucks is imbalanced on the road. Moreover, the Muse route cannot be used currently; thus,

the goods that will be delivered from China to Myanmar must be transported via Thai routes, including river routes.

There are difficulties in transporting goods from Thailand to Myanmar, and now, more loads, including imports from China, are stuck at the Thai border trade post. The prices are now standing at K300,000 per tonne.

It is a short route from Myawady to Thamanya. The goods are freighted to cities on the mainland with transporters from Thamanya. Since trucks from the delta region are turning to run in the Myawady route, the trucks are allowed on the old road one day for an up-trip and another day for a down-trip. Goods such as refrigerators and washing machines are carried in premium vans.

Transport workers and truck owners amid danger

It is also essential to carry the tax-levied goods in the import. The authorities find ease in inspection since goods are transported with small vehicles.

In the delta area, forest products are freighted with

interdepartmental circulation letters and return circulation letters. However, there were incidents in which transport was allowed for two ways within a day with a single circulation letter. Sometimes, some transport workers use fake plate numbers with tax-paid sheets, and truck owners encounter difficulties when inspections find them, although truck fares earn tenfold more than the delta area.

Since trucks can pass the old road as the Asia Highway cannot be used at the time being, the six-wheeled trucks earn much more within these months in the Myawady trade route.

Although some truck owners said trucks are running from Thamanya to Myawady without load, there actually are loads to transport to the borderline. Authorities announce to measure the weight of lorries plus loads since 8 February, and the trucks are allowed to run from 6 am to mid-night on the old road.

It allows 15 tonnes of truck and loads for a six-wheeled truck and 20 tonnes of truck plus loads for a ten or 12-wheeled truck. However, city routes allow 16 tonnes of truck plus loads for a

six-wheeled truck, 21 tonnes for a transporter, and 23 tonnes for a 12-wheeled truck, as reported by U Thein Win, an owner of the truck told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Old road and lorries

On social media, it is reported that six-wheeled lorries with transporter heads are running on that road. The trucks were passing through the Asia Highway with reasonable delivery prices. However, the Asia Highway has not been used for various reasons since earlier this year. Only six-wheeled trucks can pass on the old roads.

Since the Asia Highway cannot be used, the lorries that are at border crossings have to leave their back parts in Myawady and continue to Yangon. In Yangon, the truck buys the back parts with K20 million to run on the city roads.

In such a time when only small trucks can pass from Myawady to Thamanya, roads are busy with six-wheeled trucks. At present, drives of six-wheeled trucks are leading to Myawady routes.

Translated: TMT

Corrigendum

Please read “in her interview with Reporter Myint Oo (Myeik)” instead of “in her interview with the IPRD” in an interview story mentioned in the quote of the interview on Pages 1 and 5 of GNLM issued on 22-2-2024. Error is regretted. — Ed.

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

YRIC nods four foreign enterprises with capitals of K9.15 bln, US\$0.704 mln



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein is delivering a remark at the YRIC meeting 2/2024.

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed four enterprises with an estimated capital of US\$0.704 million and K9.15 billion at the recent meeting 2/2024 held on 21 February. They are two enterprises

wholly invested by Myanmar citizens in the hotel service sector and one domestic enterprise and one joint venture in the manufacturing sector. Those businesses will execute hotel service, manufacturing of building materials for do-

mestic distribution only, rice milling and exportation. They are set to create 94 jobs for residents.

At the meeting, eight companies also raised capital expansion and general matters. — TWA/KK

China's YNPAFFC donates 40 sets of solar-power streetlights to Thakayta Township

ACCORDING to reports, the Yunnan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (YNPAFFC) donated 40 sets of solar-powered streetlights and lamp-posts for Thakayta Township, Yangon.

The aim of the donation was to enhance safety and convenience for residents of Thakayta Township at night, reduce electricity bills, and contribute to environmental conservation efforts.

The donation ceremony took place on 21 February at the U-Energy (UREC) office in

Thakayta Township. Attendees included the Chief Minister of Yangon Region, officials from Yunnan Province, the Deputy Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Community Party of China and Yunnan Province Governor, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, and members of the Yunnan Province delegation.

Solar-powered streetlights and lamp-posts will be installed in areas of Thakayta Township that lack access to electricity. — TWA/TKO



Donation ceremony of solar-powered streetlights in Yangon on 21 February. PHOTO: XINHUA

Myanmar earns over US\$7.82 billion from finished industrial exports in current FY



The photo shows a garment factory.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar has earned over US\$7.82 billion from exporting finished industrial products between 1 April 2023 and 9 February 2024 of the current financial year 2023-2024.

The statistics released by the MoC show that this figure is more than US\$1.88 billion less than that of the same period in the last financial year 2022-2023.

The report also states that more than US\$4.92 billion was generated from the private export sector, whereas more than US\$2.89 billion was generated from the state-owned sector.

Finished industrial products include garments, sugar, natural gas, and other industrial raw materials. Garments stand at the top among the ten most exported products. — TWA/TMT

Buddhological Museum at Shwesandaw Pagoda goes digital, stone inscription to receive revised translation

UPON completion of the preservation work on King Kyansittha's stone inscription at the Shwesandaw Pagoda in Pyay Township, the restoration of the inscription chamber and the revision of its translation will be undertaken, according to Director U Myint Zaw from

Bago Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum. Furthermore, as the Shwesandaw Pagoda Buddhological Museum has been upgraded to a digital museum, steps will be taken to add voiceovers, background music, and bilingual explanatory captions

in English and Myanmar for both displays and photo records.

The stone inscription of King Kyansittha dates back to 445 ME (1083 AD) and is written in the Mon language, detailing the life story of the king and the history of the Shwesandaw Pagoda. — ASH/MKKS



Officials cut the ribbon opening the newly renovated Buddhological Museum of Pyay Shwesandaw Pagoda on 16 January 2023.

Pure gold price swells to K3.9 mln per tical in grey market

FOLLOWING spot gold price gaining above US\$2,000 per ounce and Kyat depreciation against the US dollar, the pure gold price surged to K3.915 million per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) in the unofficial market. Meanwhile, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association set the reference price at K3.6558 million per tical, indicating the large difference of over K250,000 per tical between the YGEA's price and the actual market value.

Earlier, the YGEA used the interbank online 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.

On 5 December, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate forex exchange transactions freely as per the market rate determined by the supply and demand factors. The Kyat-US dollar exchange rate is some K3,600 at the over-the-counter market.

When the Kyat weakened to K4,000 against the greenback in the forex market, the gold price peaked at K4 million per tical in August 2023. Subsequently, the YGEA requested the members to deal in immediate transactions with instant payments to curb the volatile market. — NN/EM



Gold ornaments displayed at a gold shop.



Corn price slides slowly

WITH the corn market shifting, the corn price has been on a gradual decline since early January. The prevailing price reaches K1,100 per viss.

Myanmar exports corn to China and Thailand through the border and also delivers to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines by sea at the present time, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Thailand nodded corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand impos-

es the maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

China has been purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the poppy substitution programme. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted for corn exports.

Myanmar shipped 934,883 tonnes of corn worldwide as of 29 December in

the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, bagging US\$279.042 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar delivered more than two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

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

Black gram price dips amid sluggish demand

THE prices of black gram plunged to K3.07 million per tonne in domestic market at present as the demand slowed down.

The price hit a new peak of K3.5 million per tonne of black gram on 5 February and dropped to K3.07 million for black gram on 22 February, indicating a sharp drop of K430,000 for black gram.

Myanmar's black gram price is closely tied to the demand by main buyer India. India also imports the urad from Brazil and other countries. Yet, they prefer Myanmar's black gram on account of better quality and increased availability of supply. India extended the free import policy of black gram (urad) and

pigeon pea (tur) up to March 2025.

Additionally, India's pulses output dropped more than expected due to erratic weather in India, prompting them to import a large quantity from abroad. India was reportedly to bring in 400,000 tonnes of pigeon pea (tur) and 1 million tonnes of black gram (urad) from Myanmar in two months (Jan-Feb) 2024, citing reports by foreign news agencies.

Myanmar conveyed over 1.3 million tonnes of various pulses worth US\$1.123 billion in the past ten months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

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 consumption requirements on black gram and pigeon pea. 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



Pulses and beans put on display at the commodity depot.

that annual quota.

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 stated. — NN/EM

OPINION

Efficiently use fuel in smooth process of all sectors

A positive development in the realm of fuel management has surfaced, delighting vehicle owners and users as a groundbreaking software application for the streamlined supply of fuel oil is in the works. This innovative application is poised to assist vehicle owners in locating nearby filling stations, revolutionizing the fuel procurement process.

The upcoming application is designed to empower drivers, enabling them to effortlessly discover filling stations within a 30-mile radius of their vehicle's location, facilitating the seamless purchase of essential fuel oils. The application also features monitoring capabilities that scrutinize the remaining stock levels and prices of fuel across various filling stations, providing valuable information to the public. A pilot project is scheduled for this month in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, encompassing 107 filling stations to assess the convenience and efficacy of the application for both drivers and vehicle owners.

In the face of escalating fuel prices, individuals utilizing fuel for diverse purposes, such as operating generators and electronic equipment, must exercise conscientiousness in their fuel purchases. The application aims to prevent fuel market disruptions caused by greed-driven hoarding, which could adversely impact the regular trading of fuel. Filling station

shortages may impede the smooth flow of commodities and potentially lead to illicit fuel trading.

To further facilitate the flow of commodities, the government has authorized businesspersons to import cooking oil and fuel oil using earnings derived from the export of rice, broken rice, pulses, beans, and corn. Businesspersons are urged to adopt responsible business practices, ensuring the proper utilization of their income for the greater good. Understanding the dynamics of normal and border trade is emphasized, as these incomes contribute to the importation of fuel oils, ultimately benefiting all sectors across the nation and fostering a smooth and efficient trading process.

Understanding the dynamics of normal and border trade is emphasized, as these incomes contribute to the importation of fuel oils, ultimately benefiting all sectors across the nation and fostering a smooth and efficient trading process.

Don't bring pessimism, jealousy and selfishness to societies and workplaces

By April Son

When I was young age, a mentor gave me advice not to easily give up on any issues, using a quote that a winner never quits, but a quitter never wins. Coincidentally, at a time when he advised me, I was downhearted about some problems. Due to his advice, I rebuilt myself to carry on all processes successfully.

I think a large number of people have had to solve similar problems to the ones I have faced. In this case, the problems may not have coincided with each other. I mean, many people may face complicated and confusing issues in their lifespans. Most of them might solve and overcome such challenges. But no one scolds them whether they could solve these problems or not. Actually, we, individually, keep our endeavours of solving the problems in our minds as records. It is a root cause of polishing our prestige. It is an actual duty of humans. In summary, no one should quit any issues, and they have to try hard to overcome challenges as much as they can. Similar problems can be seen not only in the societies but in the workplaces. As such, those who face these problems should proceed to the end of the process, but they should not have to grasp the reasons.

Seek ways how to overcome the challenges

Not only females but also males have to uplift their capacity to be able to seek ways how to overcome the challenges. If they do not have adequate capacity, it will be hard to solve the problems. If so, they will be downhearted to overcome the challenges. That is why anyone should never consider how to give up on these issues. Actually, they have to try hard to accomplish the missions with efforts to seek potential ways for successfully implementing the process of these missions. Hence, all humans have to march towards their relevant goals by shaping their ambitions. Such a kind of human can take a seat in society as part of honouring their

vigorous efforts in the work process, and it is certain that relevant workplaces or societies always welcome them. However, some people, as a minority of society, never try to overcome challenges by showing different forms of reasons why they cannot overcome these issues. So, the society does not have any seats for those persons.

Nature of societies

Naturally, all societies are formed with courageous persons and fainthearted persons. It is certain that the whole world is blessed with living and non-living things of different types. Some of these are different from attitudes and preferences between all things like white and black, good and bad, large and small, bright and dim and so on. Society allows those fainthearted persons but does not give a seat to them in keeping abreast of the courageous persons. It is because those courageous persons dare to do all good things and actions beneficial for society as well as themselves. Whenever they do all things or serve all assigned duties, they can do to accomplish these things without showing any reasons. Generally, they are ashamed to show reasons for working on everything. It is because they know everything will have challenges naturally, and overcoming these challenges does not need to show any reasons.

Those who show many types of reasons

Reversely, the fainthearted persons often show many types of reasons for serving the assignments. Whenever they do everything three times, before, during and after, even though they can accomplish the assigned missions, they show a lot of reasons. Actually, they do not have a concept that when they do something, others will also be doing other things. However, fainthearted persons think they are always serving heavy duties and assignments without fairness management of superiors due to bias. They seem only to be serving heavy work-



The photo depicts unity as strength in a workplace without pessimism, jealousy, and opposing views. PHOTO: FREEPIK

loads and are tired, and the superiors pile these duties on them only without empathy. They think other persons are not assigned to serve heavy duties, but those other persons are serving just light work and have much spare time. The fainthearted persons seem that when they are hardly able to serve duties, some others are enjoying the favours of superiors in workplaces or societies. In fact, such a thought is based on jealousy and a mindset based on shirking responsibility.

Set aside pessimism and jealousy

Practically, when those awkward persons do not achieve success or successfully accomplish missions, they put the blame on others, but they never analyze their weaknesses in all processes. Upholding the negative views and pessimism, they always keep their actions under the cover of reason. Even though they accomplished

the missions, their projects will not be totally completed because their focus cannot be fully put on the work process. But they do not actually understand that their jealousy and pessimism have become hindrances to their progress in all aspects. Those who comprehensively supervise all types of workplaces know all situations and all actions of participants in addition to their qualifications and work capabilities. In any society, qualified, responsible persons at management levels can assess the physical and mental performances and attitudes of subordinates. They really know the workable levels of subordinates and their mental and physical situations as well, and they know how to improve the qualifications of subordinates. However, some subordinates do not accept the enhancement of their capacity due to firmly upholding pessimism for many reasons. If so, it is regrettable that they shall

be set aside or they themselves shall be set aside the societies or workplaces.

Whatever it may be, all responsible persons and friends will give chances to those fainthearted persons to be able to address themselves whenever they still join the relevant societies or workplaces. Suppose those awkward persons link out the connections with all and remove offers of friends. In that case, all participants from the institutions and workplaces will no longer have responsibilities for looking after the awkward persons and will sorrowfully wave to them.

To avoid unacceptable situations

Everybody wishes to avoid unacceptable, undesirable and unnecessary situations. Nobody wishes to encounter difficulties and hardships, but they all are naturally overcoming challenges on a daily basis. To do so, it is not

necessary to show reasons. To have a wider margin, some people show reasons and refuse their weaknesses even though they are making mistakes. They think they are always doing the right things. Even when they make mistakes, they have many reasons to defend themselves from the root causes of errors, and they show their acts without any mistakes to everyone. Despite knowing their mistakes and weaknesses, they never accept them, and they always hide these acts.

In fact, actions of pessimism, jealousy and selfishness actually harm the unity of societies and workplaces, sparking hostility and conflicts. Moreover, these acts will be rooted in causing splits as well as secession. It can be seen that such actions of pessimism, jealousy and selfishness never bring good results to the societies and themselves. Despite knowing a saying goes: No pain, no gain, they have never accepted such

a saying and exercised it. They never wish to suffer pain, but they always wish to enjoy gain. Extremely, some fainthearted persons seem to be concerned with all fruitful results from hard work and work processes, although they do not deeply participate in efforts to overcome these challenges. They are eager to take all opportunities, but they do not dare to take risks in work processes. Such a mindset seems like committing a kidnapping to take extortion of money from hostages.

Great chance to show skills and talents

Careful working is a great chance for individuals to show off their skills and talents in the work process. If so, they can catch the attention of all for noticing their performance and workability. Even though they do not consider any advantages such as taking higher positions of ranks, getting greater opportunities in the work process, having authority in managing some projects and so on, they can enjoy the applause of audiences, encouragement of responsible persons and smiles of all. For them, the smile recognizing their talents and skills will be a considerable record in their lives. Conversely, careless activities in workplaces or societies reveal the actual behaviours of those careless persons without genuine goodwill over the work process. If so, any bosses can assess and compare the activities of subordinates and may decide how to recruit and nurture and how to pick out the outstanding persons. At that time, those who miss the chance to be exceptional persons may express their jealousy and malpractices. To avoid such an event, everybody needs to take care of working on any assignments with genuine goodwill as their own businesses.

Actually, I think those who consistently emphasize working processes with careful efforts do not have spare time to consider any thoughts except the development process of relevant societies or workplaces. Those

who actually work do not accept wrongdoings and acts that may defame society or workplaces, and they do not have any hobbies that may derail from their ambitions or targets of the societies or workplaces. I think they do not have spare time for burdening jealousy and wrong thoughts.

To change the mindset

Everybody needs to address their weaknesses in all aspects in time for their interests as well as for the societies. They have to understand their changed mindsets, which will polish their images and that of their partners. If so, all participants of the society will have to feel peaceful. It is maybe a dream that all participants from the societies or workplaces must have equal capacity in implementing the projects, and they must be reliable for each other and have to lend a lending hand to each other. If so, these relevant societies or workplaces will grow up at the same time. They have to forget the ways of showing reasons in order to prevent scolding and blame in advance.

As such, individuals need to hold up a good concept and always apply a good and constructive idea in all aspects. They have to change their mindset in conformity with the relevant workplaces or societies, which are based on constructive attitudes. They always have to consider how to make sacrifices for all partners without the perception of taking any advantage of their performance. Setting aside malpractice and bad manners such as jealousy, acts of showing reason, and careless activities, all workable adults have to culture a positive attitude on how to improve the workplaces or societies for the sake of all partners. In cementing fraternity among the participants of the societies, everybody needs to recognize the gratitude of others and forget their own contributions. It means they all have to give priority to others except themselves. If so, societies or workplaces will be prospered forever.

NATIONAL

Conservation efforts underway for Myanmar's native 'Pride of Burma' plant

CONSERVATION and public education works will be carried out to conserve Golden shower or locally known as Large Golden shower or *Amherstia nobilis* plant native to Myanmar, as the species is in a state of near extinction, according to the Native Species Conservation and Identification in Myanmar (NSCI) group.

The British botanist Sarah Amherst (1762–1838) is credited with making the initial discovery, identification, and documentation of the medium-sized plant in Taninthayi Region in 1826 that is typically found in evergreen tropical forests. He named the plant as 'Pride of Burma' before the plant took the scientific name of *Amher-*



The inflorescences of a Golden shower tree are seen dangling from the branches.

stia nobilis Wall.

The leaves of the Golden shower plant tend to hang down. Inflorescence of about one and a half feet long dan-

gled from the branches usually contain 20 to 26 red flowers. A flower has a total of five petals, and two of them are very small. The remaining three petals are

different in size. The largest petal is 7.5 cm long and about 4 cm wide, and has the shape of a fan. The lower part of such petal is white, with red spots in the middle and a yellow mark at the tip, according to the NSCI.

"When the flowers bloom, it is so beautiful that it looks like as if big red glass lanterns are hanging from the plant. Due to its unique flower appearance and beautiful colour, Golden shower is also dubbed the 'Queen of Flowering Trees'. In addition, the flower is also called "Orchid flower" because it resembles an orchid flower. The fact that the plant is native to Myanmar is a matter of pride, but these plants are almost extinct on

the land of Myanmar. Therefore, I would like to encourage people to plant this tree to be able to conserve it. The plants can be propagated from seeds or by air-layering method. We will encourage people to reproduce and cultivate with these methods," said Ko Min Khant Naing, a researcher from the NSCI.

NSCI employs local and expatriate experts to conduct on-ground works to record Myanmar's biodiversity species and also to carry out services such as the identification of species and publishing articles on the conservation of biodiversity as well as myths and facts about some plants and animals. — ASH/TH

Security Forces provided with foodstuffs

THE well-wishers and donors provided members of Security Forces, who are serving national defence and security measures, with cash assistance and foodstuffs.

The Ayeyawady Region government distributed 6,620 packs of dried Anchovy, 5,450 packs

of fried dried prawn with chili and fish paste and 400 packs of fish sauce and dried shrimp spicy curry, donated by people from districts and townships, to Sittway of Rakhine State via Patheingyi Township by Tatmadaw aircraft yesterday. — MNA/KTZH



Tatmadaw members loading packages of foodstuffs aboard the freighter.

Customs seize contraband goods valued at over K212.55 million in various operations



Timbers seized in Bago Region.

DURING inspections conducted on 16, 19, and 20 February, combined teams under the management of the Customs Department apprehended seven types of goods worth K116.565 million. These included 2,030 sets of blood glucose monitoring meters and 710 bulbs of Mudra solar streetlights, which were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), discovered in four containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. Additionally, 19,700 bottles of undeclared Ibuprofen Oral Suspension valued at K49.25 million were seized at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. These enforcement actions were carried out

in accordance with Customs procedures.

On 19 February, combined teams supervised by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force intercepted a Hino Ranger truck, estimated to be worth K30 million, travelling from Mawlamyine to Yangon. The truck was found to be carrying 1,900 kilogrammes of undeclared Nanaco pudding jelly valued at K5.365 million at the Ywathagyi Dry Port, along with an unregistered Toyota Mark II worth an estimated K3.5 million in Insein township. These actions were conducted under Customs procedures and the Export and Import Law.

Furthermore, the joint on-duty teams confiscated an unregistered Kenbo 125 motorbike, valued at approximately K200,000, in Kanbalu township, and a total of 10.149 tonnes of smuggled teak, 1.788 tonnes of smuggled hardwood, and 1.095 tonnes of smuggled timbers in Bago, Toungoo, and Thayawady districts on 21 February. These operations were carried out under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 11 arrests were made on 16, 19, 20, and 21 February, with an estimated value of K212.55 million. — MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

ME Tokyo warns of discrepancies in payment for consular services

AS it is difficult to repay, those seeking consular services are advised by the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo to take great care to avoid discrepancies in deposits to the embassy's account. Consular services for Myanmar nationals and Japanese in Japan include passport renewal, reapplication for losses, payment of income tax, and the issuance of endorsement letters. Those seeking services must pay directly into the embassy account at SUMITOMO MITSUI BANKING CORPORATION (GOTANADA BRANCH) (NON-RESIDENT CURRENT ACCOUNT). However, the bank has informed that payments to the embassy account at SMBC bank cannot be made via ATM at SMBC bank. The transfer fee at the SMBC counter is over 7,000 yen, and they can transfer from ATMs of other banks as well as of convenience stores with affordable charges, the embassy said. The transfer details are SUMITOMO MITSUI BANKING CORPORATION (SMBC), Gotanda Branch, Current Account, Account Number 4035008, beneficiary Myanmar Embassy and Tel:03-3441-9291. The remitter must make the remittance in the name of the applicant and if Myanmar Embassy is not mentioned in the recipient, it will not be credited to the embassy's account. They are also required to submit original bank chalangans deposited to the embassy account within three days from the date of application to collect their documents on a scheduled date, the embassy stated. — MT/ZN

Myanmar bamboo handicrafts attract attention from Japan and foreign tourists



Myanmar's bamboo handicrafts.

MYANMAR bamboo handicrafts receive enthusiastic buyers from Japan and also attract foreigners visiting the country, said Myanmar Bamboo Society's founder U Kyaw Win.

In addition to Japan, bamboo products receive attention from overseas market, plus there is also local demand, that is why sellers have earned well.

"There is a woman who orders bamboo handicrafts, conducts training and produces more than 100 products for resale. She can sell about K50 million a month. She has orders from Japan.

And bamboo handicrafts can also attract foreigners visiting Myanmar. Bamboo handicrafts have both local and foreign demand," he said.

He said Myanmar-made bamboo handicrafts had previously received orders from foreign countries.

"When I conducted training previously, I received an order for about 300,000 bamboo mugs a month after making 10,000 samples. And the next offer was for millions of bamboo pieces in 1 metre length as well as for hundreds of tonnes of bamboo charcoal. But our

business has just started so it is inconvenient for mass production," he said.

Despite receiving many offers, the business still faces labour shortage for production. "In local market, the demand is not bad and the price is not bad either. But there are just a few skilled workers so we can't produce enough. The productivity is still low. People pay high price if the quality is good," said U Kyaw Win.

The price of Myanmar bamboo handicrafts ranges from hundreds of kyat to hundreds of thousands of kyat. — MT/ZS

Buddha Pujaniya festival of Zalun Pyitawpyan Pagoda to start on 18 March

THE Buddha Pujaniya festival will take place at the Zalun Pyitawpyan Pagoda for eight days, from 18 to 25 March 2024, featuring festivities and ceremonies to pay reverence the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha, as stated

by U Khin Maung Oo, a member of the Zalun Pyitawpyan Pagoda Board of Trustees.

"The Zalun Pyitawpyan Pagoda's Buddha Pujaniya festival spans from the 9th waxing day to the 1st waning day

of Taboung. During the festival, we will offer food to the Buddha and provide provisions to members of the Sangha. Additionally, sermon-preaching ceremonies will be held," explained U Khin Maung Oo. — ASH/MKKS

Hlawga bird watching tour provides for groups, organizations and schools



FOR those who wish to explore a wide variety of bird species at Hlawga Park in Yangon, bird watching tour programme has been provided for groups of a minimum two persons as well as for organizations and schools, stated an official of the park.

Some kinds of birds that inhabit

PHOTO-HLAWGA PARK

the polar region seasonally migrate to the warm equator region in every winter and Hlawga is a place where migratory birds which are rare to see come to for winter migration.

Bird watching tour at Hlawga Park was jointly organized by Birds in Nature (BIN) and Wild Wings Group (WWG) on 11 February this year, in which watching migratory birds and other bird species and identifying and making record of birds included and bird watching enthusiasts participat-

ed.

The park recorded 41 species of birds during the tour.

It is a tour programme which enables bird watchers to see local bird species, birds which seasonally migrate for breeding and regional bird species through binoculars and learn about the identification based on their diverse colours and characteristics and connection between bird species and ecosystem, Hlawga Park mentioned on its Facebook Page. — MT/ZS

ECONOMY WORLD

What do “new productive forces” mean?

Born and bred in Chinese society, these new forces are fueled by China's stellar achievements in groundbreaking scientific research, seamless coordination and eco-friendly initiatives. And China is now entering a new stage of growth that focuses on high-quality development.



This photo taken on 2 February 2024 shows a battery production facility in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province. **PHOTO: XU CHANG/XINHUA**

EVER since Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced the term “new productive forces” in September last year, foreign think tanks and media outlets have widely discussed the concept. In a recent high-level meeting, new productive forces were again the focus of discussion, bringing attention to its various implications.

What is the true meaning of the term? More importantly, what is conveyed through it?

New growth drivers

It was in Northeast China that Xi first proposed the concept of new productive forces during an inspection and research trip. The term's birthplace was no coincidence.

Despite the Northeast region's vital role in China's heavy industry, the shift away from traditional growth drivers has lagged in recent years, posing challenges to its development.

New productive forces were needed for economic growth. The term continued to emerge in government meetings as vital

for regional and national growth.

With innovation leading, new productive forces mean advanced productivity freed from traditional economic growth models. It features high technology, high efficiency, and high quality and aligns with the country's new development philosophy, said Xi.

The term refers to new productive forces that emerge from continuous breakthroughs in science and technology, driving strategic future and emerging industries that may introduce disruptive technological advancements in an era of intelligent information. Born and bred in Chinese society, these new forces are fueled by China's stellar achievements in groundbreaking scientific research, seamless coordination and eco-friendly initiatives.

They are the engines behind China's pursuit of high-quality development, ensuring that the fruits of economic growth reach the people and freeing the economy of traditional constraints.

— Xinhua

Turkish gold coin production hits record high amid inflation

TÜRKIYE produced a record number of quarter gold coins in 2023, as Turkish consumers sought to preserve their savings amid soaring inflation, official data showed on Monday.

The country's Directorate General of Mint and Security Printing said the production of quarter gold coins rose by 67.8 per cent year-on-year, reaching 17.8 million pieces.

Murat Tufan, an analyst with Turkish broadcaster Ekoturk, said the surge in production reflected the strong demand for gold as a hedge against high inflation, which reached 64.86 per cent in January. “We can call this move the ‘forced destiny’ of Turks against inflation for the past two years,” Tufan told Xinhua, adding that investing in gold had always paid off in Türkiye.

“This intensive gold production last year also revealed that the economy has failed a bit in

the fight against inflation,” he said.

Fatih Karahan, the new governor of the central bank, announced the year-end inflation forecast as 36 per cent in 2024.

One gram of gold was trading at around 2,007 Turkish liras (65.02 US dollars) on Monday morning, up 0.5 per cent on the day, while the quarter gold coin was 3,309 liras. Gold is not only a form of savings in Türkiye, but also a traditional gift for weddings, births and other ceremonies.

Nurcan Gokyildiz, 52, told Xinhua she followed gold prices very closely, and the first thing she did every morning was to check the prices on the internet.

“Two years ago, we used to organize our gold days for complete gold coins, but we can hardly afford it anymore, and turn to buy quarter coins,” she added.

— Xinhua

Canada's CPI rises 2.9% in January

Price growth for food purchased from stores slowed year over year in January, putting downward pressure on the all-items CPI.

CANADA'S Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.9 per cent on a year-over-year basis in January, following a 3.4 per cent gain in December, Statistics Canada said Tuesday.

According to the national statistical agency, the largest contributor to headline deceleration was lower year-over-year prices for gasoline in January. Excluding gasoline, headline CPI slowed to 3.2 per cent year over year in January, down from the 3.5 per cent growth in December.

Price growth for food purchased from stores slowed year over year in January, putting downward pressure on the all-items CPI. Lower prices for airfares and travel tours also contributed to the headline deceleration, the agency



A customer shops for food at a grocery store in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 16 January 2024. **PHOTO: LIANG SEN/XINHUA**

said.

On a monthly basis, the CPI was unchanged in January, following a 0.3 per cent decline in December. On a

seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI fell 0.1 per cent in January, the first decline since May 2020, Statistics Canada said. — Xinhua

Glencore 2023 profit tumbles as energy markets calm

Gross operating profit fell by 50% to \$17.1 billion, mainly due to normalized international energy trade flows.

SWISS-BASED commodities giant Glencore said Wednesday that lower energy prices cut into its 2023 profits as it slashed its dividend to pay for an acquisition.

The group, which saw 2022 earnings leap as Ukraine conflict sent raw material prices soaring, said last year's net profit fell 75 per cent to \$4.3 billion.

Gross operating profit fell 50 per cent to \$17.1 billion, "primarily reflecting the rebalancing and normalisation of international energy trade flows," it said in a statement.

The commodities trading unit saw operating profit fall 46 per cent to \$3.5 billion, "with coal and LNG (liquefied natural gas), and to a lesser extent, oil prices materially declining."

Operating profit from mining fell 52 per cent to \$13.2 billion.

Glencore proposed cutting its dividend to \$0.13 a share from \$0.40, following its recent agreement to pay \$6.9 billion in cash for a 77 per cent stake in Elk Valley Resources (EVR), which groups the coal activities of Canadian company Teck Resources. Teck rejected Glencore's initial advances before finally agreeing to a higher price. Glencore said Wednesday it expects regulatory approval for the takeover by the third quarter of 2024.

The company, which has been criticised for its continued investments in fossil fuel activities, said it will present an updated "climate action transition plan" to shareholders this year. —AFP



The commodities trading unit saw operating profit decrease by 46 per cent to \$3.5 billion, primarily impacted by declining coal, LNG, and oil prices. PHOTO: AFP

Qantas says profits down but reputation rebounding



Australia's Qantas profits dipped in the second half of 2023 but executives see reason for optimism. PHOTO: AFP

QANTAS reported a slide in half-year net profits Thursday but said its reputation had "bounced back" under a new leader after taking a battering since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite the drop in profits, the 103-year-old airline said customer satisfaction had improved as it reported its first results under new chief executive Vanessa Hudson.

Her predecessor, Qantas veteran Alan Joyce, took

early retirement in September as the once-beloved carrier suffered sustained criticism over its service, soaring ticket prices and its treatment of staff.

"We know that millions of Australians rely on us and we've heard their feedback loud and clear," Hudson said. "There's a lot of work happening to lift our service levels, and the early signs are really positive," the chief executive said. — AFP

Nvidia quarterly profit soars on demand for AI chips

NVIDIA on Wednesday said its profit soared to \$12.3 billion in the recently ended quarter on record high revenue driven by demand for its chips to power artificial intelligence.

The Silicon Valley chip titan reported record revenue of \$22.1 billion in the quarter that ended late January and record high revenue of \$60.9 billion for the fiscal year. Profit in the same quarter a year ago was \$1.4 billion, while revenue in the same three month period a year earlier was \$6 billion, the company said.

"Accelerated computing and generative AI have hit the tipping point," Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang said in a statement. "Demand is surging worldwide across companies, industries and nations."

Nvidia shares shot up more than eight percent to \$733.68 in after-market trade that followed release of the earnings results. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ASIATIC SUN VOY.NO. (123N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ASIATIC SUN VOY.NO. (123N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (W170)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-2-2024** 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.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russia always against deployment of nuclear weapons in space: Putin

Putin clarified that Russian activities in space align with international norms and reiterated a willingness to engage in dialogue on strategic stability.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) speaks with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow on 21 April 2022. **PHOTO: RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE / VIA AFP/FILE**

RUSSIA has always been against deployment of nuclear weapons in space, President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday during a meeting with Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu.

“Our position is clear and transparent. We have always been categorically against the placement of nuclear weapons in space,” Putin said, adding that Russian activities in space are no different from that of other countries, including the US, and they “know about it”.

Russia never refused dialogue on the strategic stability, Putin added.

Last week, US Strategic Communications Coordinator John Kirby said that the White House confirmed that the national security threat stems from Russia’s ongoing

development of anti-satellite capabilities. Later, US President Joe Biden instructed his team to initiate direct diplomatic contacts with Russia in connection with the “security threat” related to Russia.

Kirby added that while Russia’s development of this particular capability is concerning, it does not pose an immediate threat to anyone’s safety.

President Biden then went on to admit that Russian anti-satellite technology does not pose any nuclear threat to Americans or anyone else in the world.

“There is no nuclear threat to the people of America or anywhere else in the world with what Russia is doing at the moment,” Biden told reporters. — SPUTNIK

Two dozen dead in Venezuela illegal mine collapse

ABOUT two dozen people died when an illegal gold mine collapsed in the jungles of southern Venezuela, officials said Wednesday as the search continued for survivors.

The incident happened Tuesday at the “Bulla loca” mine in the state of Bolivar, a seven-hour boat ride from the nearest town, La Paragua, where family members waited anxiously for news.

Yorgi Arciniega, mayor of the Angostura municipality, told AFP late Wednesday that about 23 bodies had been recovered, including 15 that had arrived by boat in La Paragua and about another eight on their way. Deputy Minister of civil protection Carlos Perez Ampueda published a video of the incident on X, and referred to “a massive” toll, though providing no numbers. Some 200 people were thought to have been working in the mine, according to officials. — AFP



Anxious relatives awaited the arrival of the bodies by boat. **PHOTO: AFP**

Abandoned Red Sea ship remains afloat, to be towed to Djibouti: operator

Crew evacuated to Djibouti after one missile hit, causing water ingress. Second missile caused minor damage to the vessel’s deck.

A cargo ship abandoned in the Gulf of Aden after an attack by Yemeni rebels remains afloat and could be towed to Djibouti this week, its operator told AFP on Thursday.

Rubymar, a Belize-flagged, British-registered and Lebanese-operated cargo ship carrying combustible fertilizer, was damaged in Sunday’s missile strike claimed by the Iran-backed Huthi rebels.

Its crew was evacuated to Djibouti after one missile hit the side of the ship, causing water to enter the engine room and its stern to sag, said its operator, the Blue Fleet Group.

A second missile hit the vessel’s deck without causing major damage, Blue Fleet CEO Roy Khoury told AFP.



The Rubymar, carrying combustible fertilizer, sustained damage in the missile strike claimed by Huthi rebels. **PHOTO: AFP**

Yemen’s Iran-backed Huthi rebels had claimed on Monday the attack on the ship, saying it was “at risk of potential sinking in the Gulf of Aden” after receiving “extensive damage”.

Khoury said the ship was still afloat and shared an im-

age captured on Wednesday that showed its stern low in the water.

“She will be towed to Djibouti but the tugboat has not yet arrived,” Khoury said. “It should be there in two to three days.” — AFP

SPORTS

Games of the Future open in Kazan

The Games of the Future begin in Kazan on 21 February, coinciding with the Battle Tanks Simulator + Super Final tournament at the IT Park, lasting until 26 February.

THE official opening of the Games of the Future is taking place in Kazan on 21 February. On the same day, the Battle Tanks Simulator + Super Final tournament will kick off at the IT Park, running until 26 February.

Eight teams, featuring the best virtual tankers from Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, have become participants in the discipline.

According to the tournament rules, each team can register eight athletes, while matches are conducted in a 7x7 format.

Enemy, who clinched victory at the offline tournament The Legendary Seven: Voice of the Desert last fall, are contenders for the championship title at the Games of the Future.

They have arrived in Ka-



Russian President Vladimir Putin tours on 21 February the Kazan Expo international exhibition centre, the venue of the Games of the Future international multi-sports tournament in the phygital concept, outside Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

zan with their strongest lineup. Beyond, who were defeated by them in the November final,

will attempt to take their revenge. Equally ambitious are Solnce, the first to earn a spot

at the Games of the Future, and the experienced Scandal. — GOFUTURE.GAMES

Messi the creator as Miami win in MLS opener

LIONEL Messi created both goals as Inter Miami made a winning start to the new Major League Soccer season with a 2-0 victory over Real Salt Lake on Wednesday.

The Argentine World Cup winner, who played the entire game, put aside any concerns about his early season fitness with an excellent performance for the bookmakers' title favorites.

"He looked loose, fine and showed a lot of speed," coach Gerardo Martino said of Messi, who missed the back end of last season for Miami with injuries and was also sidelined for part of the pre-season.

The other three members of Miami's former Barcelona quartet, debutant Luis Suarez, midfielder Sergio Busquets and left-back Jordi Alba, all started in front of a capacity crowd.

Against a cautious Salt Lake side, Messi went close to opening the scoring in the 18th minute with a curling free-kick from 30 yards out which was headed off the line by Justen Glad.

He then brought huge cheers from the crowd when, on



Inter Miami's Argentine forward Lionel Messi controls the ball during the club's MLS season-opening victory over Real Salt Lake. **PHOTO: AFP**

the edge of the box, his route was blocked by a player down on the floor, but he chipped the ball over him and let loose a shot which was blocked.

But Miami got in front when Spaniard Sergio Busquets found Messi and the eight-times Ballon d'Or winner cleverly slipped the ball through to Finnish forward Robert Taylor, whose low shot beat RSL keeper Zac MacMath.

The goalkeeper should have kept the effort out but it was a goal which forced

the visitors to open up after the interval and their more aggressive approach caused Inter some problems.

Cristian Arango blasted a half-chance high over the bar for Salt Lake and then, after Busquets sloppily gave the ball away, Andres Gomez burst goalwards but the Colombian winger fired wide.

The Utah side should have made more of the space they found as Miami struggled in the early stages of the second half but paid the price for a lack of precision. — AFP

Man Utd's Shaw could miss rest of season

MANCHESTER United left-back Luke Shaw's season could be over after he suffered a significant hamstring injury.

The England international hobbled off just before half-time in Sunday's 2-1 Premier League victory at Luton.

The 28-year-old now faces a race against time to prove his fitness to make the England squad for Euro 2024.

"Luke Shaw has sustained a muscle injury and will be out for an extended period," United said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Further assessment is still required to determine the severity but we expect him to be absent for a few months."

Shaw, who has made just 15 appearances in all competitions in an injury-interrupted season, had only returned to action in January after a month out.

United are short on cover at left-back as Tyrell Malacia has been sidelined all season and the club opted to cut short Sergio Reguilon's loan from Tottenham in January. —AFP



Manchester United Luke Shaw (centre) could miss the rest of the season due to a hamstring injury. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia always against deployment of nuclear weapons in space: Putin

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WORLD

**RECORD REVENUE
MILESTONE ACHIEVED**

Greece posts new tourism record in 2023 despite fires

GREECE in 2023 posted a new record for tourism, the central bank said Wednesday, despite a prolonged heatwave and a series of destructive wildfires that necessitated thousands of evacuations.

Over 32.7 million people visited the country last year, the Bank of Greece said in releasing preliminary figures, despite the wave of wildfires around the country that left at least 26 dead.

In some areas, temperatures exceeded 46 degrees Celsius (114.8 Fahrenheit).

Tens of thousands of visitors had to be evacuated on the islands of Rhodes and Corfu in July. A month later, fires devastated a key national park near the border with Turkey.

Massive floods then struck central Greece in September.

In 2019, the year before the Covid-19 pandemic, foreign arrivals were at a then record of 31.3 million.

Revenue also set a new milestone with nearly 20.5 billion euros (\$22.1 billion) compared to 18.15 billion in 2019.

Compared to 2022, EU traveller flows rose 15.6 per cent while non-EU arrivals were also up by 20.8 per cent.

The bank is to release final figures in April. — AFP



Lord Buddha's relics will be displayed in Thailand as part of a 26-day exposition starting 22 February. **PHOTO: ANI**

Lord Buddha's holy relics make sacred journey to Thailand from India

In a historic event resonating deeply with Buddhist communities worldwide, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) announced the sacred journey of revered relics.

IN a historic event that resonates deeply with Buddhist communities worldwide, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) announced the commencement of a sacred journey.

The revered relics of the Lord Buddha and those of his disciples, Arhant Sariputta and Arhant Mahamogallana, are on a sacred journey from India to Thailand, where an exposition of the relics has been organised.

In a post on X, the International

Buddhist Confederation (IBC) stated, "A momentous occasion unfolds as the Holy Buddha relics, along with the relics of his first two disciples, Arhant Sariputta and Arhant Mahamogallana, embark on a sacred journey.

The holy relics departed from New Delhi bound for Bangkok, where they will be displayed for the public to pray."

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), a global organisation dedicated to promoting Buddhist values

and fostering interfaith dialogue, facilitated this momentous occasion.

With a mission to nurture the rich heritage of Buddhism and propagate its teachings, the IBC serves as a unifying force for Buddhist communities across the globe.

These relics, revered as sacred artifacts embodying the spiritual essence of the Buddha and his enlightened disciples, evoke reverence and devotion among devotees. — ANI

Saudi Arabia unveils AI Centre for Media and Future AI Camp



People visit the Future of Media Exhibition in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 19 February 2024. **PHOTO: WANG HAIZHOU/XINHUA**

Launched at the Saudi Media Forum, these initiatives aim to advance AI's role in media, aligning with the kingdom's aspiration to lead in this sector and enhance the capabilities of Saudi media.

SAUDI Arabia launched on Tuesday the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre for Media and the Future Camp of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Media.

They were launched by Saudi Minister of Media Salman bin Yousef Al-Dosari and President of Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority Abdullah bin

Sharaf Alghamdi during the opening of the Saudi Media Forum.

The launches aim to foresee the future development of AI and its applications in media to serve the kingdom's goal of becoming a leading country in the field and to provide high-tech support for strengthening Saudi media's capabilities.

The Saudi media industry contributed 3.87 billion U.S. dollars to the kingdom's GDP in 2023, according to the minister during the forum.

He emphasized the industry's investment in human capital, which generated 56,000 employment opportunities last year and is expected to reach 67,000 in 2024. — Xinhua