

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes the booth displayed at the ceremony to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Corps of Military Engineers' Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Corps of military engineers serving nation-building tasks, infrastructures in border region: SG

Since 1988, those from the corps of military engineers have been participating in nation-building tasks of the State dutifully and carrying out construction of roads and bridges in border regions and essential infrastructures of the Tatmadaw, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Corps of Military Engineers' Day at Hsinbyushin Hall of the transit centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **SEE PAGE-3**

### Salient points in speech of the Senior General in marking 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Corps of Military Engineers' Day

- Corps of military engineers have been participating in nation-building tasks of the State dutifully and carrying out construction of roads and bridges in border regions.
- Corps of military engineers has been bravely serving supporting engineering duties and combatting in internal insurgency operations.
- EOD Squads of the battlefield engineering battalions carry out humanitarian demining duties and clearing landmines of the wars in towns and villages.

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CBM to sell eight million US dollar, 200 million Thai Baht on 26 Feb

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# NATIONAL

## Objectives of 79<sup>th</sup> 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.



Photo shows the Kanbawzathadi Palace.

## Historical Park to be built at Kanbawzathadi Palace, related land plot

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum has a plan to place a location of a historical park in the area of the Kanbawzathadi Palace and related land plot in Bago township, Bago Region while emphasizing the cultural heritage identification and preservation projects.

At present, the department is carrying out preservation of cultural heritages of Kanbawzathadi Palace and ancient Hanthawady city and maintenance of the eastern walls of ancient Hanthawady City and walls and moat on both sides of the Inwa Gate.

An emphasis is being placed on renova-

tion of the ground tier-roofed building and Bamayathana throne hall, carving of King Bayintnaung wooden statue, maintenance of teak posts found in excavation of the palace place. In addition, a plan is underway to build the historical park in the Kanbawzathadi Palace and related land plot meeting the international standard.

Similarly, the Bago Region Cultural Museum and Library will be opened in this Historical Park, and the Hanthawady Archeological Museum is also being upgraded to a digital museum.

— ASH/MKKS



AROUND 100 artworks by 35 esteemed late masters of art from Myanmar are currently on display at the Beikthano Gallery in Yangon, from 24 February to 16 March 2024. These pieces, spanning various mediums from oil to watercolour and encompassing diverse styles, depict places and peoples from all around the country's ethnic groups, offering a glimpse into Myanmar's bygone eras.

Spanning a diverse range of mediums, including oil and watercolour, the exhibition showcases the talent and vision of these revered artists. Each piece offers a unique perspective, capturing scenes and portraits that reflect the cultural richness and heritage of Myanmar.

"Among the highlights of the exhibition are the works of Bagyi Aung Soe (1923-1990) and U Aung Khin (1921-1996), whose art represents a pioneering era of modernistic painting in Myanmar. Their contributions serve as a testament to the evo-

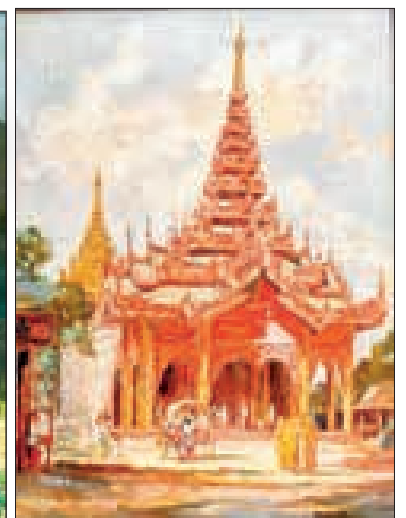


Ko Shwe Oung Thame (1935-1994).

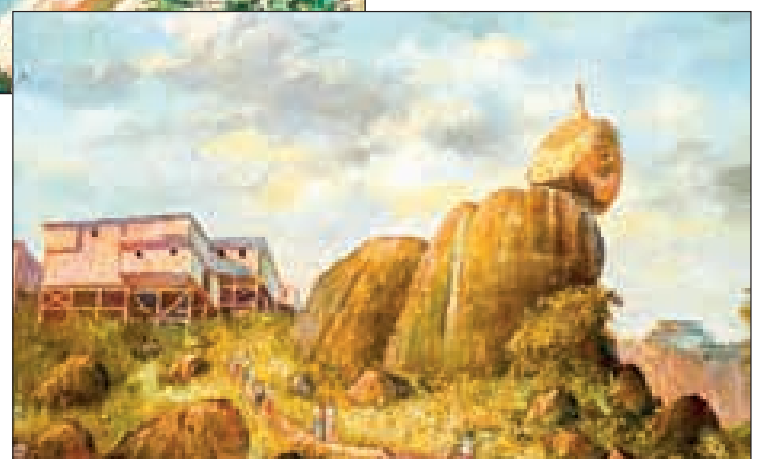
lution and innovation within the country's artistic landscape," said Tin Win (Beikthano) who organized the exhibition.

Admission to the gallery is open to all, providing an accessible opportunity for the public to engage with these

masterpieces. Located at 113/3 (B), Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan, Yangon, the Beikthano Gallery invites art enthusiasts and curious minds alike to experience the beauty and depth of Myanmar's artistic heritage firsthand. — GNLM/KZL



U Chit Mye (1903-1976) (Top),  
U Kyi (1913-1987) (bottom).



# NATIONAL

## Corps of military engineers serving nation-building tasks, infrastructures in border region: SG



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the ceremony to mark the commemorative day of Corps of Military Engineers in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

### FROM PAGE-1

In successive eras, the Senior General recounted that corps of military engineers has been bravely serving supporting engineering duties and combatting duties together with infantry battalions in the internal insurgency operations since the post-independence era, adding the corps serving fighting duties and battlefield engineering duties drove out colonialist invaders in the independence struggle.

He retold that KNDO insurgents occupied May Myo (now PyinOoLwin) on 21 February 1949. So, he continued that Tatmadaw members from the engineering training battalion in PyinOoLwin gathered the strengths and reoccupied Py-

inOoLwin on 24 February showing considerably dutiful efforts and loyalty to the State and the national. Hence, the day of 24 February was designated as the Corps of Military Engineers' Day, and now, the commemorative day turned 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Diamond Jubilee), he added.

The Senior General highlighted that EOD Squads of the battlefield engineering battalions carry out humanitarian demining duties and clearing landmines of the wars in towns and villages.

He noted that the Tatmadaw orders military engineering corps to participate in rescue and relief measures of natural disasters and rehabilitation measures with engineering

works.

As a significant endeavours of the military engineering corps, the Senior General underscored that members from the corps served assigned duties to build Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw in addition to other religious buildings in Maravijaya Buddha Park.

Due to excellent performances, he praised members of the corps, including Thura title winner Ma Chit Po for securing gallantry and honorary titles conferred by the government for many years.

The Senior General urged all members of the corps to study advanced engineering science for building the capable and powerful engineering corps on

which the government and the Tatmadaw rely.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Saw Than Hlaing and Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Zaw Naing Oo cut the ribbon to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Corps of Military Engineers' Day ceremony.

The Senior General unveiled the signboard of the Corps of Military Engineers' Day and enjoyed the song entertainment of academy Yan Aung and members of the military engineering corps.

The director of Military Engineers reported on a brief history of the corps and presented a

gift to mark the Corps of Military Engineers' Day to the Senior General.

The Senior General cordially greeted retired senior military engineer officers and visited the exhibition to mark the commemorative day.

The Senior General had lunch in honour of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Corps of Military Engineers' Day together with attendees.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, and officials. — MNA/TTA

## 2023-2024 Inter-State/Region Billiard and Snooker Championship opens



THE 2023-2024 Inter-State/Region Billiard and Snooker Championship commenced at the Billiard and Snooker Hall of the Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Members of the State Administration Council, Union Ministers, deputy ministers, officials, and athletes enjoyed the event.

Members of the State Administration Council warmly greet athletes competing at the 2023-2024 Inter-State/Region Billiard and Snooker Championship in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, also the chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, inaugurated the ceremony by expressing his desire for athletes to showcase their talents and strive to excel. He encouraged them to become exemplary athletes on whom the state can rely. Following his remarks, the athletes recited the Sports Oaths.

The championship will run from 24 February to 1 March, featuring 13 male teams and 10 female teams. Spectators interested in sports can attend the events free of charge. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

## SAC Chair Office Ministry 2 UM meets staff of One-Stop Service Centre at Thilawa SEZ

UNION Minister for the State Administration Council Chairman's Office Ministry-2 U Aung Naing Oo, in his capacity as Chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Committee, inspected the One-Stop Service Centre and met with the staff at Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon yesterday.

During his meeting with the staff of the One-Stop Service Centre, the Union Minister discussed the history of Thilawa SEZ, the role of SEZs in the state's economic growth, and the proper ways to address the current challenges.



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo warmly greets the employees of Thilawa SEZ Management Committee in Yangon yesterday.

He then emphasized the need for respective departments to offer better services to maintain the integrity of the SEZ, including expanding investments, conducting procedures by the management committee, and attracting new investments.

Following this, the Chairman of the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee and officials reported on administrative matters and addressing the challenges investors face, to the Union Minister who provided appropriate instructions.

— MNA/KTZH

## Ceremony honouring security forces held in Bago Region (East)

CHIEF Minister of Bago Region U Myo Swe Win, Commander of the Southern Command Brig-Gen Kyi Thaik, and members, along with local residents from Toungoo and Nyaunglebin districts, attended a ceremony honouring the security forces in Bago Region (East) yesterday morning.

Initially, the Chief Minister of Bago Region delivered an opening speech. Subsequently, he and other officials presented instant foodstuffs worth more than K73 million for the security forces. The Commander accepted the foods and expressed gratitude. — MNA/TRKM



Chief Minister of Bago Region U Myo Swe Win presents instant foodstuffs for the security forces to Commander of the Southern Command Brig-Gen Kyi Thaik yesterday.

## Counter-argument to false information

### Spreading fake news: Tatmadaw caused deaths by dropping with bombs in Kawkareik, Yanbye

IT has been known that RFA, a malicious media outlet, is disseminating false information alleging that the Tatmadaw destroyed around 100 local houses in two residential areas in Kawkareik of Kayin State by setting fire and dropping bombs via drone on 21 February. However, reports from the ground and local sources indicate that this news is unfounded. In reality, it was the KNLA and PDF terrorists who attacked the Tatmadaw security forces, using heavy weapons and firearms indiscriminately from a distance. These violent actions by the terrorists resulted in the destruction of local homes.

Similarly, the malicious Khit Thit media has propagated another item of misinformation on social media, claiming that a Taungup university student named Maung Phyo San Aung died in a Tatmadaw attack on Kyatthayay village in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State, using helicopter bombs. However, according to the statement from a security officer on duty in the area, the Tatmadaw did not launch any attack on Kyatthayay village. Instead, it was the AA terrorists



Screenshots of RFA and Khit Thit media which validate their fake news.

who carried out the attack, dropping bombs on the village under the mistaken belief that Tatmadaw members were present, resulting in casualties among the villagers.

These instances highlight the pattern of malicious media outlets spreading baseless information to fuel misunderstanding between the Tatmadaw and the people. — MNA/TRKM

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

## Deputy Minister for Commerce leaves for 15<sup>th</sup> VIFA EXPO in Vietnam



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min departs from Yangon for Vietnam to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Vietnam International Furniture and Home Accessories Fair yesterday.

A Myanmar delegation led by U Min Min, Deputy Minister for Commerce, left Yangon for Vietnam yesterday to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Vietnam International Furniture and Home Accessories Fair, planned to be held from 26 to 29 February at the SKY EXPO Vietnam International Exhibition Centre in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The exhibition will provide opportunities to cooperate among businessmen such as manufacturers, sellers, and buyers of international furniture and home decoration items, hold direct discussions between businessmen, and achieve opportunities for business cooperation to be able

to increase the export of Myanmar furniture products to the international market. The Myanmar delegation will attend the fair, study the conditions of coconut cultivation and exports in Vietnam, and discuss issues related to agricultural production technology.

The deputy minister was accompanied by the Deputy Director General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, the Vice-Chair of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP), the Chairman of the Myanmar Coconut Producers and Trader Association, and its members. — MNA/TKO

## More than K383M worth smuggled goods seized in 3 days

UNDER the leadership of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, special task forces filed 18 cases and confiscated more than K383 million worth of smuggled goods within three days.

The Customs Department officials seized 24 items not mentioned in the import declaration form including consumer goods, granite tiles, China-made evaporative condensers and compressors, reversing chain gear boxes, travelling cable ropes, and Lyco-tin-S ampoules worth more than K152 million from seven containers at the Asia World container terminal on 20 to 21 February.

On 21 February, authorities seized six cooling towers and pumps valued at K8.19 million,

which were not declared in the import documentation, at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The department is taking action against the cases in line with customs procedures.

Additionally, the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force apprehended commodities, equipment, and transportation vehicles totalling K222.48 million on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on 21 February. Action was conducted under Customs procedures.

On 23 February, the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force appropriated 1.7 tonnes of teak worth K0.86 million in Toungoo District and took action under the Forest Law.

— MNA/NT



Confiscated illegal items in Asia World container terminal.

## CRIME NEWS

### Drugs seized in some townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house of Kyaw Swa Win in Pyigyidagun Township at 6:30 am on 19 February. Police arrested Kyaw Swa Win, Aye Chan Thu and Myo Min Thein with 8.25 kilogrammes of heroin from a Nissan diesel truck.

Similarly, the police force examined a hotel room stayed by Chan Nyein Phyto in Aungmyaythazan township at 1 pm on 23 February and seized 1.752 kilogrammes of heroin.

They are charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Kyaw Swa Win, Aye Chan Thu and Myo Min Thein seen with seized heroin packages.

### K45.43 billion worth of Ice (Methamphetamine) seized in the sea of Kawthoung Township



Suspects seen with seized Ice (Methamphetamine).

ACTING on a tip-off, the Tatmadaw (Navy) conducted a search on a Min Htet Tha-3 motorboat in the sea, approx-

imately 193 nautical miles northwest of Kawthoung of Taninthayi Region, at 9 pm on 17 February.

Nyein Chan Lwin, Kyaw Lin Htun (aka) Kyaw Gyi, Hla Myint Htun and Ye Kyaw Thu (aka) Ko Ye were arrested by Tatmadaw (Navy), along with the seizures of 1.298 tonnes of Ice (methamphetamine) valued at K45.43 billion.

The arrestees admitted that the seized Ice (methamphetamine) will be transported from Shan State to Yangon Region and then sent to Malaysia's waters by sea through the mouth of the Yangon River.

Legal action has been taken against them, and officials are conducting ongoing investigations to identify the chain of crime. — MNA/MKKS

# NATIONAL

## Putao firefighters rescue 7 victims, including a child, from heavy torrential rain



Putao firefighters rescue seven people from heavy torrential rain 23 February 2024. **PHOTO-FSD**

**FIREFIGHTERS** in Putao, Kachin State, have rescued seven people, including a child, from a sandbank in the middle of a creek trapped by a heavy rain, according to the Fire Services Department. The incident occurred at around 3:00 am on 23 February when heavy rains on the mountain caused Mulashidi creek

to flood with a strong current. Acting on a report from a conscientious citizen that six workers and one child were stranded in a hut on the sandbank at the construction site of a retaining wall, a team of permanent firefighters from the Putao District/Township Fire Services Departments went on a search and res-

cue mission that morning. "There were also some cars. As the water level rose, the firefighters tied them up with ropes and carried them to a safe place. It was a very strong current. They were waiting for the rescuers at a high place," said a local from Putao, describing the incident. — MT/ZN

## Taking action against city taxis starts for railing to follow specified rules

**ACCORDING** to the drivers, action is being taken against the city taxis that failed to follow the specified rules.

The drivers have been notified of prescribed seven guidelines including keeping the taxi board on the car, and installation of the sideline yellow sticker. They have been warned that action will be taken against offenders after the educational campaign period. All city taxis

must also have registration of the red number plate at the Road Transport Administration Department, wheel tax, work licence part I and II issued by Transport Planning Department, driver photo, the logo of YCTA, and the taxi board of Traffic Police Force.

"We've started making arrests and conducting inspections ever since the educational session ended. The inspection

will be finished if the requirements are satisfied. An arrest would be made if anything is required," Ko Tayoke, a taxi driver, told the GNLN.

The specific authorities instructed all sideline yellow sticker to install on the city taxi operating in Yangon Region by January 2024 and it has been announced that the inspection and action will be taken under Section 96 of the Vehicle Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law from 1 February.

According to the survey from 1 November to 23 December 2023, there are almost 42,000 city taxis have been installed the sideline yellow sticker on both sides. In Yangon Region, there are 58,481 city taxis registered at the Road Transport Administration Department and 55,227 city taxis registered at the YRTC. — TWA/MKKS



Photo shows a city taxi that has been installed sideline yellow sticker.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Earthquake of magnitude 4.2 reported near NyaungU

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology reported a 4.2 magnitude earthquake on the Richter scale, centred 10 kilometres near NyaungU. This is approximately seven miles north and northwest from the NyaungU Earthquake Observatory Centre in Mandalay Region. The earthquake struck at 05:06:16 Myanmar time on 24 February.

#### Jivatadana Sangha Hospital to offer medical treatment to general public

FROM mid-March onwards, the Jivatadana Sangha Hospital (Mandalay) will offer medical treatment to the public at reasonable rates. The hospital is currently seeking assistant surgeons, a matron, nurses of various ranks, and general health workers. Interested individuals for these roles should submit their applications, along with two photos and copies of their degrees, postgraduate qualifications, household registry, citizenship scrutiny cards, an endorsement from the ward administrator, and a police endorsement of criminal clearance letter. Applications must be submitted during office hours by 10 March.

#### MRF aims for 2 million tonnes of rice export in 2024-25 FY

THE Myanmar Rice Federation targets exporting almost two million tonnes of rice in the 2024-25 financial year, aiming to generate US\$1 billion in revenue. Plans include exporting rice to China, Indonesia, and the Philippines, as well as the European market. Additionally, there are initiatives to export value-added rice alongside broken rice, white rice, and parboiled rice.

#### Foreigners in Tak Province required to notify their visit

FOR the first time, immigration officials in Tak Province, a town on the Myanmar-Thailand border, are requiring foreigners to register their visits. Additionally, house owners, tenants, hotel and guesthouse managers must report their guest lists via email or phone (Titai Call Centre 1178) within 24 hours of arrival. Failure to comply may result in a maximum fine of 10,000 baht.

#### Media monitoring team to resolve disputes

DURING his meeting with officials from UMFCCI, Union Minister for Labour U Myint Naung stated that they have formed a team to monitor labour-related news in local and foreign media to resolve disputes.

#### Avocado prices decline due to weather and transport issues

ADVERSE weather and transport issues have led to a decline in the quality of avocados, resulting in a drop in prices. Thailand remains the only foreign market for the country's avocados. Prices have decreased from K3,500 per kilogramme this year to K2,500 last year, as reported by the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association. — Htun Htun/NT

## Kyukok garlic price moves up on low supply

THE imported Kyukok garlic price went up on 24 February 2024 due to low supply on borders when the new Shan garlic enters the market, Ko Thein Myint, a garlic seller on Yetama Street in Bayintnaung commodity depot area, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Kyukok garlic prices increased to K9,700-K9,800 per viss on 24 February from K9,000-K9,200 per viss on 19 February.

Meanwhile, the old Shan garlic hit K16,500-K17,800 per viss. The new garlic supplied by Shan State still has small moisture content. Yet, the appearance of old garlic is quite bad.

The new Shan garlic fetched K12,500-K14,000 per viss. The garlic is cultivated in Aungban and Taunggyi areas in Shan State in October-November. They start flowing into the market in February and March.

The price of single clove garlic reached approximately K30,000 per viss at Yangon's retail market. Yet, they are in low demand. Kyukok garlic prices touched the highest of K17,000 per viss in mid-2023 and K17,800 per viss in early 2024. Some Shan garlic is exported to Thailand through border posts. — TWA/KK

Kyukok garlic bags stored at a warehouse.



Trucks loaded with monsoon onions entering Seikphyu's commodity depot.

## Onion market sees robust demand, hiking up prices

THE onion prices have risen on robust demand by traders who buy and store them in large quantities. The figures indicated an increase of K900 per viss in the past two weeks.

The prices jumped to K2,900-K3,600 per viss on 24 February from K1,300-K2,700 per viss on 8 February.

Normally, the traders purchase onions in large quantities during Thingyan Festival in April in which summer onions are harvested. This year, they buy them one month earlier. Monsoon onion does not have a long shelf life. Therefore, they

might keep the stocks in hands for a short term only, the market observers pointed out.

The large onion price hit a record high of K5,100 per viss in December 2023. The prevailing price is two times of that recorded in the corresponding period last year. The highest price of onion was K1,300-K1,500 per viss on 24 February 2023, a trader Ko Phyo told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

There is uncertainty to predict the onion market in mid-2024, traders highlighted. — TWA/EM

## CBM to sell eight million US dollar, 200 million Thai Baht on 26 Feb

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) decided to sell eight million US dollars and 200 million Thai Baht on 26 February.

The CBM pumped US\$59.38 million and 650 million Thai Baht into the financial market in the past 20 days.

The CBM pumped in \$13 million on 1 February in the financial market, five million dollars and 50 million Thai Baht on an online trading platform for the exporters/importers on 2 February, \$11 million and 200 million Thai Baht on 5 Febru-

ary, eight million dollars on 8 February, \$5.38 million on 14 February, nine million dollars and 200 million Thai Baht on 15 February and eight million dollars and 200 million Thai Baht on 19 February.

The CBM sold \$68.33 million, 313.5 million Thai Baht and 4.2 million Chinese Yuan in January 2024.

The reference exchange rate set by the CBM is K2,100 against a US dollar, while it is valued at some K3,610 at the over-the-counter market at

present. The exchange rates currently stand at K101 per Thai Baht and K500 per Chinese Yuan.

The CBM allowed the authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online forex trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December.

Additionally, the outward remittance procedures must adhere to the rules and regulations specified by the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. — NN/EM



The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), Yangon Branch.

# OPINION

# ARTICLE BOOKRACK

## Beware of air pollution triggered by wildfire, crop burning

**B**EWARE of the looming threat of air pollution stemming from wildfires and crop burning, a concern that Myanmar and its neighbouring nations — China, Laos, and Thailand — are actively addressing along their shared borders. The primary objective is to curb the spread of smog and smoke, which emanate from various sources, including forest fires.

The detrimental effects of air pollution on the health of border residents have become increasingly evident. Bangkok, Thailand, for instance, recently grappled with perilous levels of air pollution. Consequently, the Thai government has been fervently exploring effective measures to mitigate this issue and protect the well-being of its citizens. In response, authorities encouraged people to adopt a work-from-home arrangement to shield themselves from the adverse effects of pollution on their health.

A recent Reuters news report highlighted the multifaceted origins of air pollution in Bangkok, attributing it to crop-related burning, industrial emissions, and heavy traffic. The Thai Prime Minister emphasized that crop burning constituted the major contributor to the surge in pollution, accounting for approximately a quarter of the total pollution, while vehicle emissions also played a significant role.

Addressing trans-boundary haze pollution requires coordinated efforts among Myanmar and its neighbouring countries. Effective communication channels for exchanging information about imminent air pollution threats are essential, allowing timely rescue operations in disaster-prone areas. The shared commitment to tackling this environmental challenge is crucial for safeguarding the well-being of communities in the region.

In recent days, the Myanmar-China Central Level Work Committee for Joint Forest Fire Protection convened to address the issue of air pollution resulting from forest fires along the Myanmar-China border. Myanmar has been actively working towards reducing fire hotspots and haze pollution since becoming a member of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) in 2003.

As part of the collaborative efforts, Myanmar and China have decided to jointly undertake forest fire extinguishing and rescue operations along their shared border. This includes collaborating on capacity building for fire disaster protection, providing technical training for fire prevention, and enhancing surveillance and control of transboundary haze pollution.

Addressing transboundary haze pollution requires coordinated efforts among Myanmar and its neighbouring countries. Effective communication channels for exchanging information about imminent air pollution threats are essential, allowing timely rescue operations in disaster-prone areas. The shared commitment to tackling this environmental challenge is crucial for safeguarding the well-being of communities in the region.

# Let's join military service for peace, stability, prosperity of nation

By Maung Thaung Win (Former Diplomat)

**T**HE basic mindset of every citizen anchored to patriotic spirit, love of nation and wishes to develop the country. However, only the stability and peace can bring growth to the country. Therefore, it needs powerful military might for public security. If a country boasts firm military might, they can curb the internal and external destructive elements and armed terrorists.

The State Administration Council released the notification to set date for People's Military Service Law to come into force starting from 10 February 2024. Regarding the releasement, those want to deteriorate the State stability and malicious media have made various forms of criticism on social media, especially those do not want to serve duty of citizen, in other word, those with lack of patriotism mainly highlight to mislead the people. It is just na-

ture of malicious media. But, the people may have critical thinking to consider for it.

Currently, the powerful countries are launching attacks against the small nations with weak defence under the guise of human rights, democracy and anti-terrorist activities. Then, they remove the government they do not like from the office, and install puppet government to manipulate as they wish. Therefore, only the nation with powerful military might can effectively deter interference of local insurgents and external elements. The solid defence services require public participation.

### Exercise in international countries

In fact, the military service law is not existed only in Myanmar, but in many world countries. For example, the South-East Asian countries like Singapore, Malaysia,

Laos, Thailand, and the regional countries such as South Korea and Australia. Every citizen living in these countries have to report to their respective ward/village administrators when they turn 18. If they fail to report in time, the authorities inform their parents.

### Duty of every citizen

Section 385 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stipulates, "Every citizen has the duty to safeguard independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar." Section 386 mentions, "Every citizen has the duty to undergo military training in accord with the provisions of the law and to serve in the Armed Forces to defend the Union."

The introduction of People's Military Service Law mentions that "as every citizen is under a duty to safeguard the Our Three

Main National Causes such as non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, every citizen should undergo military training and to serve in the armed forces to defend the State."

### People's Military Service Law

There are eight chapters in People's Military Service Law. The Chapter (1) covers service term and age. All men aged 18-35 and

women aged 18-27 must serve for up to two years, while technicians aged 18-45 men and 18-35 women must serve for three years. Being a citizen, two-year period to defend the country is just a fraction of time. They can achieve valuable

experiences in their life by joining the services.

### Since the time of independence struggle

It is reported that the people served the military service to defend the country in their respective towns and villages. For exactly, every citizen with patriotism joined BIA (Burma Independence Army). At that time, the members of BIA reached over 50,000 within six months due to heavy public participation. The overnight power growth of BIA was a shock to the Japanese. In fact, the Tatmadaw became powerful and regained the independence from the invaders.

### Need to adopt militia strategy

After regaining the independence, Myanmar exercised militia strategy in fighting against local in-

surgents and Kuomintang troops. Therefore, the insurgents in delta region and Bago mountain range areas were eliminated.

Similarly, the PDFs and some EAOs are launching terrorist attacks to deteriorate the State stability in some regions and states including Sagaing Region and Kayah State. At that time, it needs to wipe out the terrorists with the participation of people, especially, the national military service is a must. In international countries, they mobilize rather than conscription if necessary.

### Needs of cooperation

The only way to gather all the mighty resources of the country is the National Service. The National Service is a Long Term Plan to ensure the proportionate development of State security and

SEE PAGE-11

“

*It is reported that the people served the military service to defend the country in their respective towns and villages. For exactly, every citizen with patriotism joined BIA (Burma Independence Army). At that time, the members of BIA reached over 50,000 within six months due to heavy public participation. The overnight power growth of BIA was a shock to the Japanese. In fact, the Tatmadaw became powerful and regained the independence from the invaders.*

”



Book Title	- Thameegaung Yadana Hnit Ahmyothamee Gonyi
Writer	- Hla Thamein
Publishing House	- Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	- 2024 February (3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition)
Price	- K7,500

## Thameegaung Yadana Hnit Ahmyothamee Gonyi

I would like to recommend a book of Saya Hla Thamein this week. This book is titled Thameegaung Yadana Hnit Ahmyothamee Gonyi. As known to you, Saya Hla Thamein is a prolific writer. He has written many articles on Myanmar literature. Additionally, he has also written books on personal development like tips for achieving success in life. Nonetheless, this book is a collection of articles aimed at women of all ages in the aspects of selection of a bridegroom and giving birth to babies etc.

Saya Hla Thamein started to

enter the literary field in 1946 not as a writer but as an editor. He has become an editor since 1946 with Shayhsaung Daily, Business Daily and Guidance Daily. He then worked with Democracy Journal, Yin Kyay Hmu Journal and Cho Tay Than Journal in his capacity as an editor. He has been in the government service for almost three decades with Burma Translation Society, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education. Upon retirement, he worked with Myanmar Sarpay Taik for four years as an editor. He has also been a freelance My-

anmar/English teacher in addition to writing.

While serving with the Ministry of Culture, he edited the ancient literature text, and when he was with Myanmar Language Commission, he compiled the Volume III and Volume IV of Concise Myanmar Dictionary.

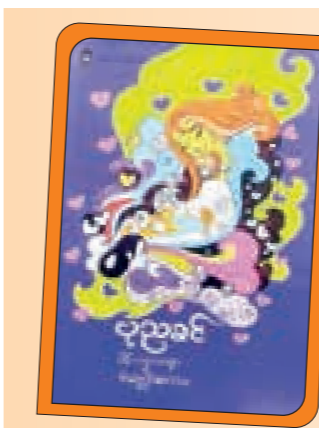
During his 47-year writing career, he has written 10 novels while more than 200 books on literature, culture, social, economic, personal development, history, biography and language were either edited or written.

Concerning this book, the

writer said that offspring are required to cultivate by their parents in order that they would become good and able persons and that they way the children are brought up will have great impact on their mentality and morality, which can shape their future. Matter-of-factly, the brilliant prospect of the children is highly dependent upon the proper upbringing of their parents.

In those days, those women who could not have children can be abandoned by their spouses, who were favoured by male chauvinism. The sterile women were ostracized. However, women of these days are enjoying much greater woman rights; they have the right to have or not to have children. Most families pursue family planning by which they can limit the number of children. Additionally, they practice birth spacing.

If people choose to have the children, they would need certain knowledge like the dos and donts for expectant mothers, the correct way of taking care of infants and proper upbringing of the children. This book is aimed at those parents who would choose to have the children. The book consists of 12 episodes dealing with the knowledge for the married women.



Book Title	- Meingalaymyarthoh Myitta Zagar
Writer	- Ponnya Khin
Publishing House	- Ponnya Khin
Publication Date	- 2023 October (3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition)
Price	- K7,500

## Meingalaymyarthoh Myitta Zagar

THIS book under review is written by Sayama Ponnya Khin, who mostly writes fictions. However, this book is a knowledge-giving one particularly aimed at the young girls. The book is composed of the letters providing tips for survival, enhancing the spirit, promoting the morale, and ways of social life. It is, therefore, recommended for the parents so that they can give this book to the children as a valuable present. This is a hard cover edition, containing 40 letters although the two previous editions had only 33 letters.

I would like to start my book review with a letter concerning the Valentine's Day, which says, "My beloved daughter. This time

I'd like to talk about the Valentine's Day, which is translated into Myanmar as the Lovers' day. True, there are different stories about the history of this day. But what matters are not the different versions of the commencement of this day. What I'd like to emphasize is what the lovers do on this special day when the couples wear the couple suits. They roam about the town, exchanging florals and toys. The most popular gift is the chocolates. Naturally, they would be happy, caressing each other. But if they cannot stop at that, there would arise the tragic events. If they go so far as to making love i.e. sexual union, there will be social problems. Certain girls

are looking forward to this special day, dreaming of sacrificing their virginity. As a consequence of indulgence, they will have unwanted children. My daughter, please don't let yourself swayed by your partner's sweetened words of persuasion. You must know how to deny cleverly in such a way as not to displease him. And you must be able to control yourself, restraining your feelings and emotions. Try your best to be rational rather than emotional. Please don't forget that Valentine's Day is the lovers' day, not a day of husband and wife. You can't behave towards your boy friend as a wife or a sex partner. I'm soory to have used the rude words. And please

don't forget that your parents are waiting for you returning home without losing your ass. I wish you could raise your head upon return on this day, saying "I've not losy my virginity." With love, mom.

Another letter is concerned with honesty. The letter says, "My daughter. I'd like to talk about the mentality the people should have. This is nothing but honesty. If you want to be able to take pride in yourself, if you want to succeed, if you want to lead a happy and peaceful life, be honest. But be mindful of the fact that honesty is not synonymous with naivety. Be honest but don't be a gullible girl. People are impressed with honest and smart persons. Although they like the honest people, they don't think highly of the naive persons. The employers would give priority to honesty over their ability in selection and recruitment of the candidates. Another piece of advice I'd like to give you is to keep your claws hidden like as the cats do." With love, mom. The above mentioned two letters are provided as tasters. In fact, all the remaining letters are worth reading, for the readers can learn something from them be they parents or daughters.



# NATIONAL Entertainment



## Actor Nyi Nanda releases "Sabei" own tune MV

ACTOR Nyi Nanda released the music video for his song "Sabei" on 22 February to celebrate his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The song was composed by Nay Myo (Say) and Jet Mya Thaug, and the music video was directed by Director Mel Min Bon. The cast included Nyi Nanda, Wai Lar Yi, Zwe Gyi, Nyan Gyi, and Soe Gyi.

"I would like to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to the creation of the song 'Sabei' to commemorate my 47<sup>th</sup>

birthday and 30 years of experience in the industry. Additionally, I am thankful to the location sponsor Inya Lake Garden, beloved Ko Tin Myint for the costume design. I also extend my thanks to my fans for their unwavering support throughout my 30-year career. Lastly, I am grateful to everyone who sent me birthday wishes," he said. Actor Nyi Nanda is known for his roles in movies, dramas, and advertisements, particularly in the "Atta Sue" series in PyinOoLwin. — ASH/KTZH



### Director Wyne (Own Creator)

DIRECTOR Wyne addressed the public criticism surrounding the poster photo-shoot for the wall sheet, stating, "There may only be a 20-per-cent similarity in Mi Tin Sein. The remaining 80 per cent will be different. I chose Moe Hay Ko because I wanted an actress with skillful eyes. I searched for those with striking big eyes and talent, hence selecting Moe Hay Ko. Before criticizing, it's important to watch the movie. We have respect for the former actress. Therefore, people should watch our actress first and then voice their opinions. In the DVD movie 'Venus Of Love,' Thet Mon Myint portrayed the character Mi Tin Sein, starring alongside Hein Wai Yan. I also directed that DVD."



### Director Tin Nyein (Shumawa)

THE premiere of "Yauk Kyar Kaung Ataung Hna Sel" took place at The President Cinema on 20 February. This theatrical drama was produced with a budget of K300 million. Director Tin Nyein (Shumawa) expressed, "I created this despite facing financial losses. I aim to depict the essence of humanity within the theatrical community, emphasizing the importance of love and kindness among people." The script was adapted by Zaw Myint Oo from the original novel by author Saya Tin Than Oo.

Co-directors included G3, ART, and director Kaung Myat, with performances by Min Sett, Htoo Honey, and other artists.



### U San Moe (Comedian)

THE renowned comedian U San Moe, who has over 50 years of experience in the field, marked his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday at his residence in Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 23 February. He invited friends, colleagues, and other guests to join in the celebration.



### Baby Maung

ACTRESS Baby Maung celebrated her 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 22 February by donating meals to nuns at Zabu Thiri Nunnery in Mingaladon Township.

She expressed her intention to make the donation and shared the merits gained from performing charitable acts.

### Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi

THE recently married couple, Ko Naing Htoo Kyaw and Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, made a donation of a day's meals and a generator at the Myo Sett Thit Youth Development Parahita Centre in Yangon. Additionally, they contributed stationery, clothing, and other items. Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi is known for her frequent donations to this centre. — Htun Htun/KTZH



### Moe Hay Ko

Actress Moe Hay Ko, who narrowly missed out on an Academy Award at the 2023 Myanmar Academy Awards, despite her outstanding performance in "A Chain Lun Moe" has reimagined the DVD movie "Venus Of Love" into a new version. Her fans are eagerly anticipating another Academy Award nomination for her exceptional acting skills in this film. The new movie, "Mi Tin Sein", in which she stars alongside Alin Yaung, Tun Ko Ko, Khine Hnin Wai, and Su Htet Kaday, will be released on 24 May 2024.

**Celebrity Brief**

# NATIONAL

## MoHT Deputy Minister visits NyaungU for developing new tour destinations

DEPUTY Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe visited the ancient Yokesone Monastery, established 150 years ago in Thelpyintaw Village, and Shwenat Hill, NyaungU Township yesterday morning, to find out the opportunities for Community Based Tourism-CBT in the area.

After that, the deputy minister also visited the Zeeoh Village located in the south-east of NyaungU and saw the 900-year-old tamarind tree and the sal forest. Both places are attractive to domestic and foreign travellers, the report states. The deputy minister also instructed the locals and relevant authorities to conserve the tamarind tree which is the emblem of the village and the



Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe observes the 900-year-old tamarind tree in Zeeoh Village, NyaungU Township yesterday.

sal forest.

In afternoon, the deputy minister visited the Palinkan-

thaya elephant resort and inspected the implementations of developing the ecotourism

project, and arrangements for safety of the travellers.

At the elephant resort, the

domestic and foreign travellers can feed the elephants in a close range, take photos, wash and bathe the elephants in the river, study the books and documents related to elephants freely, enjoy sightseeing the Ayeyawady River by riding the elephant, enjoy the entertainment programmes by the elephants, and there is also a bridge used as a viewpoint and an elephant museum.

In the evening, the deputy minister visited the Aureum Palace Hotel and Resort in Bagan and observed the arrangements at the palace tower for the visitors, scenes of pagodas, stupas and temples in Bagan viewed from the palace tower, and gave the necessary instructions. — MNA/TMT

### Let's join military service ...

#### FROM PAGE-9

development procedures. The public participation is required for the harmony of Economic Might and Military Might.

#### Benefits

The militia strategy is a bridge between Tatmadaw and people. Therefore, the People's Military Service Law can strengthen the connection between Tatmadaw and people more. The People's Military Service Law can increase Deterrence Power against conflicts including traditional and non-traditional threats.

Moreover, it will be able to show off the abilities to defend the country and also for people protection and security measures. If so, the strategy to disrupt the enemy will be successful and it will also gain the ability to curb the fighting. Moreover, it can create a proper condition for State security, especially, all the citizens are eligible for military service and so it is sure that the military-civilian relations will be better. Moreover, it can balance the economic-building

and defence-building.

The enactment of People's Military Service Law is for the State security and all the citizens ...like a saying ...A wish to see the son carrying a pot of gold on way back home. Currently, the terrorists influence in some places due to the internal and external destructive elements. After all the citizens have completed the military training, those threatening the state peace and stability would be eliminated. Consequently, the people can stay peacefully and the children can study happily. The development programmes will be also implemented. Moreover, it can promote the patriotism and accelerate the desire to defend the country, especially, to establish national spirit and national unity among the young people. All the citizens are responsible to defend the country as only Tatmadaw is not responsible to do so. Therefore, all the citizens, who are responsible to safeguard the Our Three Main National Causes, should proudly join the military service to ensure the State stability.

### Matriculation exam cards to be issued on 27 February

THE exam cards for the matriculation exam of the 2024 academic year will be issued starting 27 February, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Education.

The ministry also announced that the matriculation exam will be held from 11 to 19

March and the students who will sit for the exam, can withdraw the exam cards with their photos and seat number from their school heads starting 27 February.

Similarly, external candidates must collect their exam cards from supervisors at their

designated exam centres. If there were some difficulties in withdrawing exam cards, direct inquiries can be conducted at the relevant school heads, examination centre supervisors, township education officers, and the Department of Myanmar Examinations. — TWA/TKO

### NUAC leads efforts to standardize ethnic costumes

NATIONAL University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) launched initiatives to standardize national costumes of various ethnic groups.

This move aims to preserve the authenticity of the original designs for relevant ethnic peoples, as additions and innovations could potentially alter their cultural significance.

Representatives from different ethnic literature and cultural groups, university faculty, and external experts have already engaged in discussions on this matter. Myanmar is home to 135 ethnic groups, with eight major groups. The initia-



Ethnic models with their respective costumes.

tive will prioritize the standardization of the national costumes of these major ethnicities. This effort will involve field studies and consultations with respective cultural organizations.

National costumes serve

as poignant reflections of the historical backgrounds and identities of ethnic groups. Some national costumes are subjected to modifications, causing their original appearance to vanish. — ASH/NT

# ECONOMY WORLD

## China establishes real estate financing coordination mechanisms in 214 cities



This aerial photo taken on 7 June 2023 shows a view of downtown Changsha, central China's Hunan Province. **PHOTO: CHEN SIHAN/XINHUA**

*The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development issued "white lists" for 5,349 eligible projects, leading to bank financing totalling 29.43 billion yuan for 162 projects in 57 cities.*

A total of 214 cities in 29 provinces across China had established real estate financing coordination mechanisms as of 20 February, forming part of the country's efforts to promote the sound development of the property market.

China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development said Tuesday that it had issued batches of "white lists" involving 5,349 real estate projects eligible for financing

support and forwarded them to commercial banks.

Up to now, some 162 projects in 57 cities have received bank financing totalling 29.43 billion yuan (about 4.14 billion US dollars), according to the ministry.

Local governments and financial institutions have been actively implementing such coordination mechanisms, with loans of 123.6 billion yuan approved for projects on the lists, according to

data from the Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Agricultural Bank of China, Postal Savings Bank of China and some joint-stock banks.

China in January announced a plan to establish a financing coordination mechanism for the real estate sector with the aim of satisfying the legitimate financing needs of real estate projects and supporting the stable and sound growth of the country's real estate market. — Xinhua

## UAE: Health, organic farming experts share inspirational success stories in 'Sharjah Talks'

LEADING experts in organic agriculture, wellness and nutrition asserted that organic farming is the agriculture of our forefathers, debunking the notion of it being a foreign concept.

The discussion centred around the positive impact of home mini-farms on psychological well-being and family unity, and how to achieve a state of balance and harmony among all elements of the human entity, including body, mind, spirit, and emotions.

This came during the second Sharjah Talks, a collabo-



During the second Sharjah Talks, experts emphasized organic farming as a traditional practice, promoting psychological well-being and family unity. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ DEENA FARMS**

rative initiative organized by the Department of Statistics and Community Development

(DSCD) in partnership with the Sharjah Government Employees Club (SGEC). — ANI

## Tech titans yield to new EU rules before March deadline

*The Digital Markets Act (DMA) aims to prevent tech giants like Google, Amazon, and Meta from dominating the market, representing a major intervention in daily life, according to experts.*

2024 will be a year of change for the world's biggest tech companies as they bow to EU rules that come into force next month, shaking up how Europeans use vastly popular platforms from Google to Instagram.

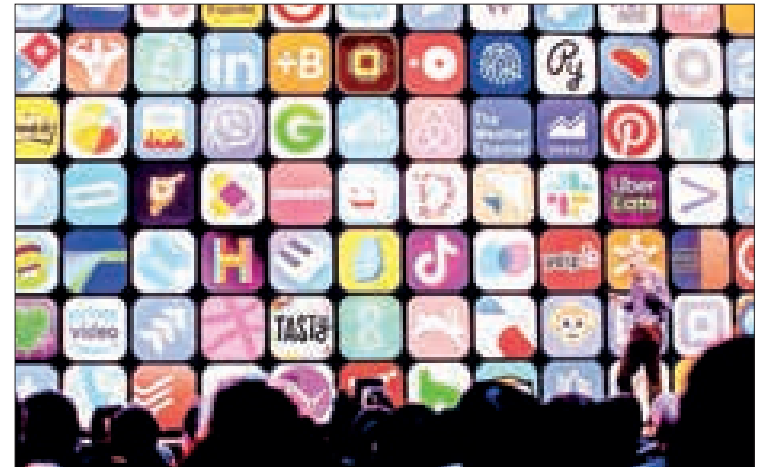
The European Union long ago set its sights on big tech, aiming to rein in globally dominant companies like Apple, Google and Microsoft.

The landmark law known as the Digital Markets Act (DMA) breaks new ground because,

rather than acting after the fact, it seeks to prevent companies from becoming powerful enough to edge out rivals.

"This is really a big, big intervention in markets that affect people's lives every day," said Fiona Scott Morton, senior fellow at think tank Bruegel.

Brussels in September named six so-called "gatekeepers" that face tougher curbs: Google's Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, TikTok parent ByteDance, Meta and Microsoft. — AFP



In 2024, major tech firms will face significant changes due to EU rules taking effect next month. **PHOTO: BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL/AFP**

## EU's new anti-money laundering authority to be based in Frankfurt

THE European Union's (EU) new anti-money laundering agency (AMLA) will be based in Frankfurt, representatives from the EU member states and the European Parliament agreed on Thursday in Brussels.

As the centrepiece of the reform of the EU's anti-money laundering framework, AMLA will "have direct and indirect supervisory powers over obliged entities and the power to impose sanctions and measures", the European Council said in a press release.

Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for financial services, said at a press conference that the EU is lowering the

risks that come with handling large sum of cash, and at the same time is "addressing risks posed by crypto and the anonymity it enables".

On 20 July, 2021, the European Commission presented a package of legislative proposals to strengthen the EU's rules on anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing.

This package includes a regulation establishing a new EU anti-money laundering authority.

The new authority in Frankfurt, also home to the European Central Bank, will begin operations in mid-2025 with over 400 staff members. — Xinhua

## Swiss-Italian chocolate war set to end with sweet truce

*The little gianduiotto chocolate of Turin ended up at the centre of a big dispute between artisan and industrial chocolatiers.*

SWISS giant Lindt said Thursday a deal may soon be reached with group of Italian artisan chocolatiers that will allow for the creation of a protected status for Turin's famed gianduiotto.

The small, creamy mixture of grilled Piedmont hazelnuts, cocoa and sugar that melts in the mouth has been at the centre of a dispute for months.

Lindt has been the owner since 1997 of Italian producer Caffarel, which claims to have invented the gianduiotto, and has blocked a move by a group of local Italian artisan chocolatiers to seek the creation of a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) for the confection in the European Union.

"We are convinced that we can soon reach an agreement on the promotion of the gianduiotto in Italy and in the world," the head of Lindt and Sprungli Italy, Benedict Riccabona said in a statement.

A group of around 40 artisan chocolatiers, as well as companies such as Ferrero, Venchi and Domori, are seeking to obtain a PGI Gianduiotto of Turin to raise the profile of the chocolate, increase sales — already estimated at around 200 million euros (\$216 million) a year.

The dispute centred around the recipe, with those seeking the PGI seeking a return to the original recipe of 30 to 45 per cent roasted hazelnuts from Piedmont, at least 25 per cent cocoa, plus sugar.

But Lindt's Caffarel adds powdered milk and uses less hazelnuts. — AFP



A picture shows chocolate treats 'Giunott', the 'Gianduiotto' version made by Guido Castagna in his laboratory, on 12 December 2023 in Gavieno near Turin, Northwestern Italy. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Panasonic starts expansion of SMT machine factory in east China

*The expansion, covering approximately 3.54 hectares, will double the Suzhou company's capacity and enhance its product offerings.*



This aerial photo taken on 3 July, 2023 shows a view of an industrial park in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: LI BO/XINHUA**

PANASONIC has started its factory expansion project on SMT (surface mount technology) machines in Suzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, said the provincial commerce authorities on Friday.

Founded in 2003 and

located in the Suzhou Industrial Park, Panasonic Factory Solutions Suzhou Co, Ltd (PFSS), which specializes in the development and production of SMT machines, belongs to Panasonic, the Japan-based multinational.

The factory expansion

project is expected to cover about 3.54 hectares, doubling the capacity of the Suzhou company and upgrading its products. Relevant building construction will adhere to the design philosophy of energy-saving, eco-friendly and sustainable development,

said PFSS.

Panasonic is a world-leading producer of SMT machines, and PFSS is the group's only research and development (R&D) and production base of such products in China. — Xinhua

## Reddit files to go public as 'RDDT' on NYSE

REDDIT on Thursday told US stock regulators that it plans to go public on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "RDDT."

Reddit did not provide details regarding the number or price of shares nor when the initial public offering would occur. This will be the first stock market debut of an online social

network since Pinterest went public in 2019.

Founded in 2005, the platform is home to more than 100,000 online communities devoted to a sweeping range of topics and was visited by an average of 76 million people daily in December, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"They come to Reddit to participate in a vibrant community, a constantly evolving place where anyone, anywhere, can connect with like-minded people and dive into any topic," co-founder and chief executive Steve Huffman said in the letter.

Communities on the platform are referred to

as "subreddits", and one devoted to music star Taylor Swift eclipsed a million members last year, according to the filing. Reddit is known for "Ask Me Anything" sessions during which influential people ranging from tech titans and athletes to celebrities and politicians field questions from users. — AFP

## Boeing, Airbus struggle to deliver planes as supply chain woes persist

BOEING and Airbus struck deals to sell billions of dollars' worth of planes at this week's airshow in Singapore, but supply chain disruptions mean they may struggle to deliver them on time,

analysts said.

Plane makers are already behind in their current orders due to parts shortages and lack of skilled labour, as the travel sector recovers from the havoc caused by the

Covid-19 pandemic. From engines and seatbelts to wiring and screws, a single plane needs millions of parts from suppliers across the world, making them vulnerable to supply chain hiccups. — AFP

### PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following pesticide distributed by **Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. **Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd** Tel:09-250040800

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Our Bifen 10 EC	Bifen 10 EC	Bifenthrin 10% EC	F2023-4077

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Japan Defence Ministry hosts Singapore Airshow display for 1<sup>st</sup> time

JAPAN'S Defence Ministry is participating for the first time in the Singapore Airshow, one of the largest aviation exhibitions in Asia, in a bid to showcase products made by Japanese companies that are now available for export.

A total of 14 Japanese firms have put their products on display at the six-day exhibition that runs until Sunday, ranging from Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd.'s C-2 transport aircraft and P-1 maritime patrol aircraft, and UH-2 multi-purpose helicopters built by Subaru Corp to NEC Corp's mobile surveillance radars.

*Fourteen firms are displaying their offerings, including aircraft, helicopters, and surveillance radars.*



Japan-made defence products are on display at the Singapore Airshow in the Changi area of Singapore on 23 February 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Hideki Fukawa, director of the Defence Equipment Cooperation Planning Office of the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency, said he hopes opportunities for the Japanese defence industry can be explored "for future defence equipment and technological cooperation", especially now that Japan has liberalized its weapons export policy.

Japan began conditional arms exports after removing in 2014 an embargo that was long seen as a symbol of the country's pacifism under the war-renouncing Constitution. — Kyodo

## Austrian ex-chancellor Kurz found guilty in false testimony trial

*Austrian court convicts former Chancellor Sebastian Kurz of false testimony, issuing an eight-month suspended jail sentence.*



I am very optimistic' for the appeal, he told reporters outside the court. **PHOTO: AFP**

AN Austrian court on Friday found former chancellor Sebastian Kurz guilty of giving false testimony to a parliamentary inquiry, handing him an eight-month suspended jail sentence.

The verdict came at the end of a months-long trial for the former politician once hailed the "wunderkind" of Europe's conservatives.

Kurz, 37, said he would ap-

peal the verdict, calling it "surprising" and "not fair".

"I am very optimistic" for the appeal, he told reporters outside the court.

Kurz was sentenced for having misled a parliamentary inquiry probing wide-ranging corruption scandals that brought down his first coalition government with the far-right in 2019. The charismatic hardliner, who left politics in 2021, still faces another corruption investigation.

Prosecutors in this case had insisted there was "no doubt" Kurz — who headed the ruling conservative People's Party (OeVP) until 2021 — deliberately gave wrong testimony for "political reasons". — AFP

## Growing rift over further arming Ukraine 'jeopardizes EU unity': Report

EARLIER, amid growing signs of waning support for funding Ukraine in several cash-strapped European capitals, Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas used the platform of the Munich Security Conference to urge EU countries to sup-

ply Ukraine with weapons, no matter how depleted their own stockpiles might be.

There is a growing rift in Europe between the east and the west over continuing to aid the regime in Kyiv, Bloomberg reported.

Germany, Spain, Italy, and others are being pressured to dip deeper into their own stocks of arms, regardless of the fact that propping up Ukraine has been exhausting their own defence capabilities. — SPUTNIK

## Spanish apartment block inferno leaves at least 9 dead



Fire crews on Friday entered the blackened ruin of the residential block. **PHOTO: AFP**

AT least four people died in a huge fire that ripped through a 14-storey apartment block in Valencia, eastern Spain, and at least 14 were reported missing, with officials warning on Friday that the death toll could rise.

Spanish fire crews on Friday picked through a smouldering 14-storey apartment block in Valencia, searching for bodies and clues, after an inferno ripped through the building killing at least nine people.

Authorities, who declared three days of mourning, said it was unclear if more people were missing and gave no immediate indication for the cause.

Experts said however the building was covered with highly flammable cladding, which could account for the rapid spread of the blaze after

it broke out on the fourth floor on Thursday afternoon.

Black smoke rose high in the sky as flames quickly consumed the high-rise of 138 flats in the Campanar district of the Mediterranean port city in eastern Spain, film footage of the horrific blaze showed.

Police have so far found nine bodies, said Pilar Bernabe, the central government's representative in the region, revising down a toll of 10 announced earlier on Friday.

Amid uncertainty over the missing, officials have not ruled out the death toll rising however.

Fifteen people were treated for injuries of varying degrees, including a seven-year-old child and seven firefighters, but their lives were not in danger. — AFP

# SPORTS



The futsal players are seen in action during the Week-15 matches of the MFF Futsal League-1. **PHOTO: MFF**

## VUC team keeps winning streak in MFF-Futsal League

THE Week-15 matches of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal League-1 tournament continued yesterday at the MFF Futsal Stadium, and VUC team, which is standing atop the standing table, secured the consecutive wins.

As the Week-15 matches, M2K team beat Futsal-19 team, 3-1, VUC team trounced Dream Team 4-1, Generations team crushed MIU team 6-3 while Winner Soccer team smashed Lethwel Thondara team 3-1 and Linn Lett team played 1-1 tie against Futsal Lover team.

The VUC team at the top of the table has won 15 games in a row, and with 45 points, they still need three games to go, but they are sure to stay at the top. As for the MIU team, they were eliminated from second place due to their defeat, and three teams will have to compete for the remaining two play-off spots.

After the Week-15 matches, VUC team has earned 45 points while Generations team collected 32 points and MIU teams garnered 31 points. Letwel Thondara team has the smallest point of seven. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Myanmar's fighter Vero Nika to fight against Thai fighter Fahsai today



Myanmar's star fighter Vero Nika (leftmost) and Thai Fighter Fahsai (rightmost) are seen during the faceoff for the Thai Fight.

MYANMAR'S fighter, Champion Vero Nika, is set to face Thai fighter Fahsai today, according to the Thai Fight.

Thai Fight has confirmed that Vero Nika successfully made weight for the bout. Speaking about the event, she said, "I am prepared for

tomorrow. I will give my best, so please do not forget to support me. I appreciate all of you," Vero Nika conveyed to her audience.

The champion, Vero Nika, holds the title of double champion of the Royal Thai King's Cup. She joined the re-

nowned Thai Muay Thai club in late 2022, and within just over a year, she has emerged as a prominent figure in the Muay Thai community. Vero Nika has also secured victory in 17 consecutive fights in the Thai Fight. — Htun Htun/KZL

## Russian Post unveils stamp commemorating Games of the Future

THE solemn ceremony of the artistic postage stamp cancellation was held on 22 February in the City of Games of the Future, which on the same day opened to the public at the Kazan Expo IEC.

The stamp was manufactured in a circulation of 80 thousand copies. It depicts a phygital flame, a symbol of Games of the Future, the embodiment of harmony between the real and virtual worlds. An NFT version of the stamp has also been released with the support of VK NFT.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Chernyshenko, General Director of AO Russian Post Mikhail Volkov, President of the All-Russian Federation of Phygital Sports, Olympic champion in gymnastics

*The stamp, produced in a limited run of 80,000 copies, features a phygital flame symbolizing harmony between real and virtual worlds.*



A ceremonial stamp cancellation event took place on 22 February in the City of Games of the Future, coinciding with the public opening of the venue at the Kazan Expo IEC. **PHOTO: GOFUTURE.GAMES**

Nikita Nagorny and cosmonaut, Hero of the Soviet Union, Hero of Russia, Special Representative of the President of Russia for International Cooperation in the Field

of Space, Executive Director for Human Space Programs of the Roscosmos State Space Corporation Sergey Krikalev. — GOFUTURE.GAMES

## Redondo teams up with Messi at Inter Miami

INTER Miami have signed midfielder Federico Redondo from Argentinos Juniors, adding another South American talent to Lionel Messi's squad.

Defensive midfielder Redondo has signed a three-year deal with the club with a further team option for the 2028 season. The 21-year-old is the son of former Real Madrid and Argentina midfielder Fernando Redondo and is expected to play alongside Spaniard Sergio Busquets in the center of midfield.

"I'm very happy to join a club that is growing so much. It's a great opportunity to share the pitch with top players," said Redondo. "I'm looking forward to integrating in the group with my teammates. We have to go step by step but always dream big."

Redondo has represented the Argentine national team at Under-20 and Under-23 level and is part of the team that has qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

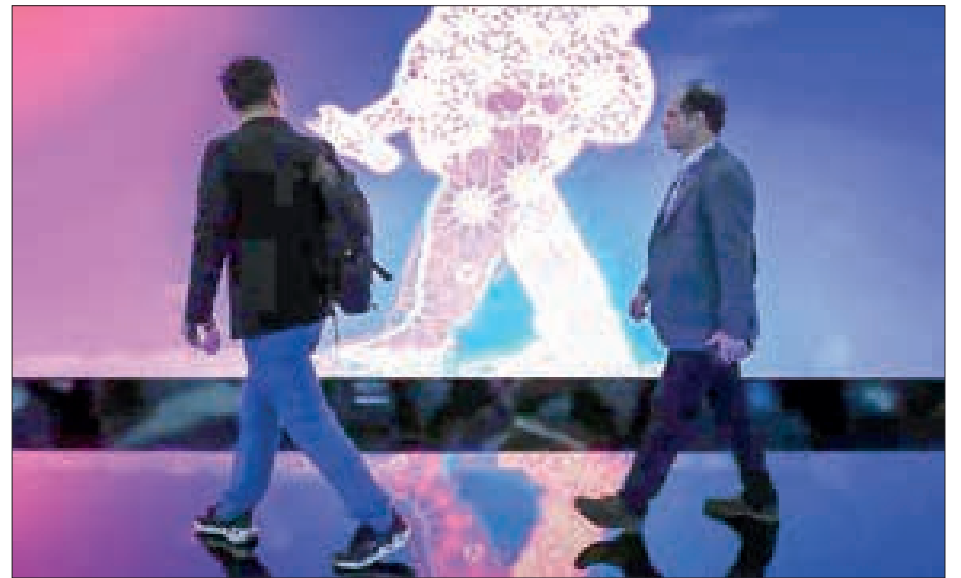
Redondo will replace another young Argentine on Miami's roster, Facundo Farias, who suffered a season-ending knee ligament injury last month. Since Messi's arrival in July, Miami brought in young Argentine central defender Tomas Aviles and 20-year-old Paraguayan international midfielder Diego Gomez. — AFP

## AI in focus at world's top mobile fair in Spain

*The world's largest mobile phone fair, the Mobile World Congress, begins in Barcelona with a focus on AI to combat declining sales. Phone makers will showcase AI-powered features, while telecom operators explore AI's potential to enhance operations.*

**T**he world's biggest mobile phone fair throws open its doors in Barcelona Monday with the sector looking to artificial intelligence to try and reverse declining sales. Phone makers are expected to focus on the unique AI-powered tools of their latest handsets at the four-day Mobile World Congress in Barcelona where 95,000 attendees and 2,400 exhibitors from around the world are awaited for an event that lasts until Thursday.

Telecoms operators will use the event to explore how AI can help improve their operations, from boosting security to providing better customer service. AI "is clearly democratising and is now embedded everywhere: in phones, in devices, in networks", said Thomas Husson, principal analyst at Forrester who sees it reviving innovation in the sector. The event comes as global smartphone shipments declined 3.2 per cent to 1.17 billion units in 2023. It was the second consecu-



Analysts anticipate AI to spur innovation in the industry, amid a recent decline in global smartphone shipments. However, a fourth-quarter rise suggests a potential recovery trend. **PHOTO: AFP**

tive yearly decline, according to the IDC consultancy, as consumers took longer to upgrade their devices due to a lack of innovations, high inflation and economic uncertainties. But shipments rose 8.5 per cent in the fourth quarter to 326.1 million units which suggests "momentum is moving quickly toward recovery".

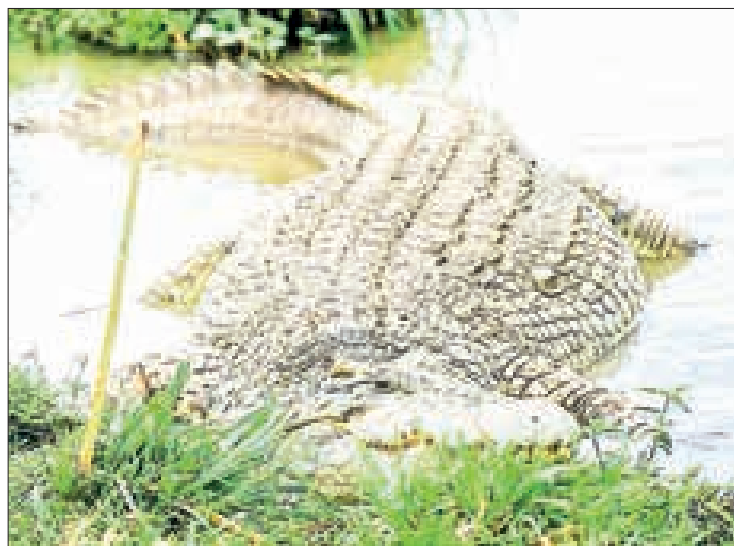
Google and South Korean giant Samsung have both recently unveiled new flagship handsets with flashy AI-power tools such as advanced photo editing and easier online search which they are expected to highlight. Other smaller handset makers such as China's Honor are set to unveil new devices at the event. — AFP

## Man Utd's Ratcliffe unveils electric Ineos car

*Manchester United's new co-owner, Jim Ratcliffe, unveiled Ineos group's latest electric 4x4 vehicle, the Ineos Fusilier. Production is slated for 2027 in Austria.*

MANCHESTER United's new co-owner Jim Ratcliffe unveiled Friday his Ineos group's latest 4x4 vehicle, which will come in two electric versions as the British billionaire criticised range limits on 'green' cars. The Ineos Fusilier, whose production should start at a facility in Austria in 2027, rather than 2026 as earlier planned, will be a slightly smaller version of the Ineos Grenadier. It comes as the group works on a second model also with a military name — the Grenadier Quartermaster pickup truck.

Ratcliffe, 71, earlier this week completed a deal to become co-owner of Manchester United, with a pledge to drive the English football giants to renewed success. Asked by AFP at Friday's launch about his off-pitch plans at United, including a stadium rebuild, Ratcliffe replied: "The focus with Manchester United is really simple, that's performance on the field." One of Britain's richest men thanks to Ineos' core chemicals business, Ratcliffe has in recent years turned the group into a conglomerate, with ownership of football and cycling teams — and production of vehicles. — AFP



This photo taken on 15 October 2023 shows a crocodile at Nairobi National Park in Nairobi, Kenya. **PHOTO: LI YAHUI/XINHUA**

communities to understand the causes of human-wildlife conflict and the role they can play in reducing it," Musyoki said, adding that elephants, monkeys, lions, hyenas, and crocodiles are the most common animals involved in human-wildlife conflict.

Musyoki said the KWS has already mapped the human-wildlife hotspots so that a rapid response team can be deployed to reduce the incidence of human and livestock deaths as well as crop destruction by wildlife in the country. Kenya is experiencing an increase in

KENYA on Tuesday launched a campaign to reduce human-wildlife conflict in the country.

Charles Musyoki, director of wildlife and community service at the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), told Xinhua in the national capital of Nairobi that the campaign involves educating and informing communities living along wildlife corridors

## Kenya launches campaign to reduce human-wildlife conflict

on the use of lighting devices and predator-proof fences to promote peaceful co-existence between humans and wildlife.

"We will also empower

human-wildlife conflict as the growing human population establishes settlements in wildlife habitats, according to the KWS.

— Xinhua



A model of the Ineos Fusilier 4x4 electric vehicle. **PHOTO: DANIEL LEAL / AFP**

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