

A nonviolent political approach can shorten the State of Emergency period: SG

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the SAC meeting 1/2024 in Nay Pyi Taw.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC meeting 1/2024 yesterday.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing said that if all issues were solved by political means without terror attacks, the State of Emergency period would not be extended like this.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the SAC meeting 1/2024 at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, the Senior General recounted that a further six-month term of the State of Emergency was extended at the National Defence and

Security Council meeting 1/2024 under Section 425 of the Constitution, adding that upon completion of the State responsibilities, Tatmadaw will hand over the duties to the National Defence and Security Council for convening the election.

He revealed that some hardliners from KNU, among NCA signatories, CNF and ABSDF, participated in the terrorism acts at a time when Tatmadaw took office. KIA from non-NCA signatories gave terrorism and mine explosive courses to those with different political doctrines and provided

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Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General in the SAC meeting 1/2024

- A further six-month term of the State of Emergency was extended at the NDSC meeting 1/2024 under Section 425 of the Constitution.
- Some hardliners from KNU, among NCA signatories, CNF and ABSDF, participated in the terrorism process.
- KIA and KNPP gave terrorism and mine explosive courses with arms and ammunition to those with different political doctrines.
- MNDAA attacked the Laukkai region with excessive strength and dropped bombs from drones on 27 October 2023.
- Region and state chief ministers have been instructed to serve the interests of regions and residents in exercising the authority.
- Efforts must be made for holding a dignified election and convening a dignified Hluttaw.

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Pure gold price rallies to approximately K3.9 mln per tical on global cues

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Shwedagon to host traditional Htamane-making contest, donation festival

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 17/2024

7th Waning of Pyatho 1385 ME
1 February 2024

Reconstitution of Union Government

IN order to more speedily and effectively implement the adopted five-point roadmap and nine objectives, the State Administration Council, exercising Section 419 of the Constitution, reconstituted the Union government as follows: -

1. Prime Minister	Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
2. Deputy Prime Minister	Vice-Senior General Soe Win
3. Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications	General Mya Tun Oo
4. Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence	Admiral Tin Aung San
5. Union Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs	Lt-Gen Yar Pyae
6. Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance	U Win Shein
7. Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs	U Than Swe
8. Union Minister, State Administration Council Chairman's Office Ministry 1	U Ko Ko Hlaing
9. Union Minister, State Administration Council Chairman's Office Ministry 2	U Aung Naing Oo
10. Union Minister, State Administration Council Chairman's Office Ministry 3	U Aung Kyaw Hoe
11. Union Minister, State Administration Council Chairman's Office Ministry 4	Admiral Moe Aung
12. Union Minister, Ministry of Border Affairs	Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung
13. Union Minister, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations	Dr Kan Zaw
14. Union Minister, Ministry of Legal Affairs	Dr Thi Da Oo
15. Union Minister, Ministry of Information	U Maung Maung Ohn
16. Union Minister, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture	U Tin Oo Lwin
17. Union Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	U Min Naung
18. Union Minister, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development	U Hla Moe
19. Union Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	U Khin Maung Yi
20. Union Minister, Ministry of Electric Power	U Nyan Tun
21. Union Minister, Ministry of Energy	U Ko Ko Lwin
22. Union Minister, Ministry of Industry	Dr Charlie Than
23. Union Minister, Ministry of Immigration and Population	U Myint Kyaing
24. Union Minister, Ministry of Labour	U Myint Naung
25. Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce	U Tun Ohn
26. Union Minister, Ministry of Education	Dr Nyunt Pe
27. Union Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology	Dr Myo Thein Kyaw
28. Union Minister, Ministry of Health	Dr Thet Khaing Win
29. Union Minister, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs	U Min Thein Zan
30. Union Minister, Ministry of Construction	U Myo Thant
31. Union Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Dr Soe Win
32. Union Minister, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism	Dr Thet Thet Khine
33. Union Minister, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs	Jeng Phang Naw Taung
34. Permanent Secretary, Union Government Office	U Zaw Than Thin

Sd/
Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

NATIONAL

A nonviolent political approach can shorten ...

FROM PAGE-1

arms and ammunition. KNPP gave terror training to PDF terrorists with the assistance of arms and ammunition in addition to applying tactics of attacks. These are acts of harming normal situations, he explained.

He retold that MNDAA attacked the Laukkai region with excessive strength and dropped bombs from drones on 27 October 2023, spending money obtained from illegal businesses, assistance from alliances and drug production. Their acts harmed the normal situations.

Currently, the Senior General explained that the government is implementing the

five-point roadmap based on political and national visions. For the first point of the roadmap, he continued that it is necessary to restore peace and stability and rule of law across the Union to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election. The second point will a focus on enhancing agriculture and livestock-based manufacturing industries and uplift the socioeconomic lives of the people and to boost the State economy. For the third point, an emphasis will be placed on stabilizing the result of internal peace under the NCA as much as possible.

As the fourth point, the process of strengthening the genuine, disciplined multiparty

democratic system and building the Union based on democracy and federalism will be elevated. The fifth point highlights to enable all eligible voters not to lose the right to cast votes and to hold the general election successfully.

The Senior General said that region and state chief ministers have been instructed to serve the interests of regions and residents by exercising authority without emphasizing the interests of minorities.

It is necessary to create situations to ensure the peace and stability of relevant regions and correct voter lists to hold the general election. Efforts must be made to have a dignified election and convene a

dignified Hluttaw.

With regard to amending provisions of the constitution, the Senior General stressed the need to arrange talks with political parties, NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations and non-signatories and then to discuss at the Hluttaw through the electoral processes.

Council members discussed systematic enumeration of the coming national census to have names of ethnics and correct and accurate data, systematic use of fertilizers for farmers, timely harvesting of paddy in Rakhine State, arrangements for students from conflict areas to take matriculation examination, the suffering of State service personnel under intim-

idation of armed organizations, and internal peace and stability as well as security measures.

In his concluding speech, the Senior General stressed the need to encourage the education sector and to achieve success in political and economic sectors. He noted that if individuals wish for a promising future, they must try to improve education. So, he urged council members to strive to boost the State economy and enhance the education sector.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and council members. — MNA/TTA

2023-2024 Inter-State/Region Basketball Championship concludes



The SAC member presents the championship trophy to the winners yesterday.

UNDER the supervision of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Basketball Federation, the final event and awarding ceremony of the 2023-2024 Inter-State/Region Basketball Championship (Men's and Women's events of 5 on 5) was held at the Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium C yesterday. The State Administration Council

members joined the event. The Sagaing Region team beat the Magway Region team in the women's 5 on 5 Basketball Championship final event, while the Mandalay Region team won over the Shan State team in the men's event. Next, an awarding ceremony was held, and the State Administration Council mem-

bers presented awards to the winning teams plus talented players. The basketball competition was held from 26 January to 1 February at the Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium C in Nay Pyi Taw. Three hundred and sixty-nine athletes from 12 male and 11 female teams participated in the competition. — MNA/KZL

Advocacy to inform public about prevention of respiratory diseases, including COVID-19

1. There were many cases of COVID-19 in the regional and some neighbouring countries due to the COVID-19 transgenic omicron virus JN.1. In Myanmar, the JN.1 infection has already been confirmed. Recently, we have seen a slight increase in the weekly number of COVID-19 infections.
2. Therefore, to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including COVID-19, the public is advised to follow the personal protection regulations issued by the Ministry of Health, which requires all people to wear face masks, especially in the following situations.
 - (A) When being in a densely populated area or in an enclosed area with poor ventilation (a condition where it is impossible to live three feet apart from one person) ;
 - (B) Travelling by vehicles such as public vehicles, trains, ships and aeroplanes;
 - (C) Visiting hospitals, health centres, and homes for the aged;
 - (D) Those who are at high risk of severe illness and death if infected with COVID-19 (older persons, people with hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, cancer, cerebrovascular disease, asthma, immunocompromised people, obese people, people who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 due to various reasons, people with general health problems);
 - (E) COVID-19 disease and respiratory symptoms such as fever, stuffy nose, sneezing, cough and sore throat;
3. In addition, the risk of severe COVID-19 disease and death can be reduced by receiving additional vaccination against COVID-19. People with chronic diseases and weakened immune systems should receive additional vaccinations against COVID-19. If you are suffering from any of the symptoms of COVID-19 and respiratory symptoms, people are urged to avoid crowded places and close places in order not to infect others, and if you do not feel better, get the necessary medical treatment at the nearest health centres.

Ministry of Health

NATIONAL



The general view of MICC I.

Grandeur anticipated at 2023 Myanmar Academy Award Ceremony

PREPARATIONS are underway at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I), Nay Pyi Taw, to host the 2023 Myanmar Academy Award Ceremony more elaborately and impressively than in previous years. The Ministry of Information, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, and Forever Group jointly organized the event at the Jade Hall of MICC I.

Organizers are setting up the Academy Award stage with Curve LEDs, preparing the Golden Academy Award Statues, and arranging for international-standard lighting and sound systems. Rehearsals are underway, involving 'The Drive Band' from the Myanmar Music Association, renowned vocalists and artistes, and young individuals who will assist during the ceremony.

Additional arrangements include designated areas for media interviews with actors

and actresses, red carpet and photo booths for photography sessions, and interview booths for TV channels. The event will also feature Fashion Awards for the best clothing, and filming will be conducted using a variety of cameras, including Rail Cameras and Crane Cameras.

The ceremony will showcase photos of past Academy Award recipients, records of film awards from 1952 to 2022, outstanding artistes and technicians, and films staged in 2023. Award-winning performances will be presented in the Jade Hall under Curve LED lighting, with live broadcasts facilitated through TV channels using AR, crane, and PTZ cameras.

A total of 12 films have been nominated for Academy Awards, with 11 awards to be presented, including best film, best acting, and outstanding cinematographic awards, among others. — MNA/TMT

ACMECS Logo Design Competition Seeks Creative Citizens

1. Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will lead the Logo Design competition for the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS). The awards will be 1,000 US dollars for the first prize, 500 US dollars for the second prize and 300 US dollars for the third prize.
2. Myanmar citizens aged 15 and above can participate in the competition individually or in groups. The Theme of Logo Design is "ACMECS as an adaptive and forward-looking sub-regional cooperation framework and connector with other sub-regional and regional frameworks towards a prosperous and sustainable Mekong Sub-Region". The application forms can be submitted to acmeecs.sec@gmail.com of ACMECS Interim Secretariat from 1 February to 31 March.
3. The terms and conditions and technological information for those competing in the ACMECS Logo Design competition are as follows: -
 - (a) The contestant must be the designer of Logo Design. The Logo Design must be original. It must not include any dispute/objection. It must not infringe the intellectual property rights of the third party.
 - (b) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ACMECS Interim Secretariat are not responsible for any disputes that occur with other external organizations regarding the breaching of copyrights and intellectual property rights of Logo Design.
 - (c) The award-winning Logo Design is the intellectual property of the ACMECS Interim Secretariat, and the winner will not get further benefits for the Logo Design after receiving the prize.
 - (d) Contestants must submit logo designs in JPEG, PNG, or PDF formats. The logo must be high resolution and at least 300 DPI.
 - (e) The selected contestants must submit the logo design with a specification sheet, final design, theme synopsis and concept, and open file format that can remodify the logo design.
4. The contestants will be reviewed as follows: -
 - (a) ACMECS Interim Secretariat will accept the applications, and the award-selecting team of ACMECS countries representatives will analyze and select.
 - (b) The applications will be judged based on innovation, design, structure, technology quality, simplicity, arts, visuals and appropriateness with the Theme of Logo Design.
 - (c) ACMECS Interim Secretariat will not use applications that do not conform to the requirements. If some legal cases occur regarding the competition, application and winners, the processes will go under the judiciary of Thailand.
5. The application form, terms and conditions and detailed information are available at <https://shorturl.at/zAJOW> and attached QR Code starting from 1 February 2024.



Counter-argument to false information

DVB accused of intentionally spreading fake news

DVB malicious media outlet is intentionally spreading fake news claiming that Tatmadaw's air bombardment on Kangyi village in Pale township, Sagaing region, killed a woman, injuring fifteen residents and destroying residential houses on 31 January.

Regarding the on-ground situation, PDF terrorists committed the explosion unques-

tioningly by drone bombs since Kangyi villagers never supported PDF's acts, according to the officer from the territorial security forces. The malicious media outlets, especially DVB that support terrorist acts are covering up real situations and spreading fake news.

PDF terrorists are continuously committing terrorist acts targeting the villages

located in the Sagaing Region, destroying residential houses, dropping drone bombs, and explosions by bombs, launchers and attacks. The civilians have been struggling with those terrorist acts. — MNA/TKO

Screenshot validates misinformation.



Ads

Call 09251022355,
09974424848

FORESTS and natural parks worldwide are safeguarded to mitigate global warming and climate disruption. Myanmar also conserves eight ASEAN Heritage Parks.

Preserving these parks involves nurturing biodiversity, fostering harmony between humans and nature, and promoting environmental consciousness for the betterment of society and the planet. Ensuring the sustainability of these biodiverse ecosystems benefits not only the flora and fauna but also the economic, social, and ecological systems that support human life. Researchers estimate this impact directly affects over 250 million people globally.

Myanmar's conservation efforts encompass eight parks: Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, Khakaborazi National Park, Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Alaungtau Kathapha National Park, Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, Natma Taung National Park, the Lampi Marine National Park, and Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary. These ASEAN heritage parks can be conserved for posterity by upholding the national ethos of environmental stewardship, contributing to global climate regulation.

Conserving biodiversity is paramount, requiring sustainable environmental management practices. Rather than exploiting

Myanmar's conservation efforts to safeguard biodiversity, natural heritage



PHOTOS: KANU



natural resources, focusing on long-term conservation and responsible utilization is crucial. Myanmar aims to dedicate five

per cent to 10 per cent of its land area to sustainable conservation efforts for the benefit of future generations. The management

and conservation of these natural assets, including the ASEAN heritage parks, involve collaboration between government

agencies, international organizations, and civil society.

Myanmar leads ASEAN in natural conservation efforts, boasting diverse protected areas, including national parks, marine reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, and geologically significant regions. These areas cover 6.42 per cent of the country's land area and are subject to prudent management and ongoing research to ensure their ecological integrity and long-term sustainability. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TMT

Ancient Beikthano city, museum draws daily crowds of 30 to 100 visitors

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Pyay branch), between 30 and 100 people visit the ancient city of Beikthano and the Beikthano Museum daily.

Visitors wishing to observe the ancient buildings, artistic antique jewellery, and city gates and walls must visit the ancient Beikthano city and the museum some 12 miles west of Taungdwingyi, Magway Region.

On display at the museum are artefacts from the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age, as well as archaeological finds from the ancient city of Beikthano, such as gold coins, earthen and stone beads, copper containers, one



The photo depicts study tours of students at the Beikthano Museum.

small copper Buddha statue, and one copper bell.

The ancient city of Beikthano and Beikthano Museum, listed as a World Heritage Site, are open daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm except on Mondays and public

holidays. It is a place worth visiting, and domestic visitors can observe the ancient buildings, gold coins, beads, artistic antique jewellery, city entrance archways, and walls free of charge. — ASH/TMT

Rehabilitation materials transported to Sittway, Rakhine State

UNDER the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee and management of the Work Committee on Transport and Communications, rehabilitation materials are being sent to Rakhine State by air, water and land.

MV Royal Venus, carrying 2,455 tonnes of foodstuffs, edible oil, medical supplies and equipment, construction materials and five small vehicles donated by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Education

and the Ministry of Health, left the Myanmar Terminal (TMT) for Sittway yesterday evening.

From 16 May 2023 to date, 42 vessels, including military vessels, delivered a total of 64,676 tonnes of relief materials, including construction equipment, electrical equipment, medicine and health equipment, consumer goods and food, and 249,762 gallons of diesel, 199,886 gallons of 92 Octane have been delivered to Sittway, Rakhine State. — MNA/TKO

NATIONAL

University introduces online registration, payment for entrance, monthly fees



Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint chairs the educational meeting on 30 January 2024.

DEPUTY Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint stated at the educational meeting held on 30 January that measures are underway for university students to enrol and pay entrance and

monthly fees through an online system. Upon completion of the online registration system, it will reportedly save time for students to enrol and pay fees. The deputy minister added that

a school management system will also be developed to record students' progress in qualifications and their employment status after graduation. — TWA/TRKM

200,000-gallon underground water reservoir under construction in People's Square



The YCDC vice-chairman and party inspect the construction progress of the underground water reservoir on 1 February.

THE Yangon City Development Committee is constructing an underground water reservoir with a capacity of 200,000 gallons in the People's Square of Yangon Region's Dagon

Township to facilitate events to be held in the square and store water for backup.

The underground reservoir is 80 feet long and 40 feet wide, with a depth of 11 feet, and its pumping station, to be operated by four 30 HP (22 kW) pumps, is 40 feet long and 18 feet wide.

According to the Department of Engineering (Water and Sanitation), the underground water will be collected and stored in the reservoir, which is targeted to be finished before the upcoming Thingyan Water Festival so that it can supply water for the festival.

On 1 February, Vice Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee U Nyi Nyi and party inspected the concrete works for the water reservoir and water pumping plant floors before instructing service personnel to finish the project as scheduled in compliance with the established standards and fulfilling the needs. — TWA/TH

Myanmar's rubber must meet intl standards for premium pricing: Mon State CM

ONLY when Myanmar's rubber meets international standards for quality can it fetch a premium price, the Mon State Chief Minister highlighted at the workshop on Myanmar's rubber production and market promotion held on 30 January 2024.

Locally produced rubber can meet international standards and grasp a firm market share in the strong, competitive global market only if there are rubber factories that are successfully granted ISO. The rubber industry plays a key role in Myanmar's economy by creating job opportunities, generating export earnings, and contributing to the industrial growth and export sector. He emphasized that if Myanmar can export premium natural rubber, it can meet spot prices.

Mon State is the leading rubber producer in the country, accounting for 30.89 per cent of the overall rubber acreages. Mon State had 504,988 acres of rubber in the 2022-2023 financial year. Myanmar's rubber is mainly delivered to China and Thailand through border posts.

The Chief Minister also urged rubber farmers and entrepreneurs in the rubber industry to foster the techniques and learn the know-how of the experts through the workshop to meet the standard rubber. — TWA/EM



The rubber tapping process is seen at a farm in Mon State.

Yangon to host Mon Ethnic Literature Competition, Mon Traditional Dance Festival

ACCORDING to the Mon Ethnic Literature and Culture Association (Yangon Region), the Mon Ethnic Literature Competition and Mon Traditional Dance Festival will be held in Yangon to commemorate the 77th Mon National Day.

"Mon National Day, which falls on 16 February, marks the

77th Mon National Day. Plans are underway to hold a lively celebration at the Mon religious hall in Dagon Township, Yangon. The Mon ethnic literature competition will be convened, and Mon cultural dances will be included for younger generations to value and preserve Mon literature and cul-

ture," said a committee member from the Mon Ethnic Literature and Culture Association (Yangon Region).

Competitions in essays, poems, and quizzes will also be organized, and prizes will be awarded at the Mon National Day ceremony. — ASH/TKO



The photo shows the performance of Mon ethnic traditional dance.

Pure gold price rallies to approximately K3.9 mln per tical on global cues



The image depicts Myanmar's gold bars.

PURE gold price rocketed to almost K3.9 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) at the end of January in the unofficial market on global market shifts.

Tracking the spot gold price rebound and Kyat depreciation against the US dollar, the gold price hit K3.89 million per tical on 31 January. Meanwhile, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association set the reference price at K3.6612 million per tical, showing a notable price difference of over K220,000 per tical between the YGEA's price and the actual

market value.

Earlier, the YGEA used the interbank transaction rate set by the CBM in calculating the reference price for pure gold, indicating a big gap of K400,000-K500,000 per tical.

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 forces.

The Kyat-US dollar exchange rate is currently around K3,540 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 late August 2023.

Thus, the YGEA urged the members to deal in immediate transactions at instant payments to curb the volatile market. — NN/EM



Workers are seen in diligent actions at one of the CMP workplaces.

YRIC endorses eight foreign enterprises with over US\$6 mln

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) greenlit eight foreign enterprises with an estimated capital of US\$6.399 million at the meeting 1/2024 held on 30 January, creating more than 6,500 jobs for locals.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, chairperson of the YRIC, gave a remark that the committee is exerting continuous efforts to spur to

investments, support existing businesses, entice new investors, increase job opportunities in the region and enhance the socio-economy of the local community.

At the meeting, the committee gave the go-ahead for seven wholly foreign enterprises and one joint venture in the manufacturing sector. Those businesses will manufacture the wearing apparel on a cut-

ting-making and packaging basis, manufacturing plastic bags for domestic markets only, manufacturing rubber wood for export only and manufacturing carton boxes for packaging used in the CMP enterprises.

Seven companies also raised general matters at the meeting, and the officials concerned coordinated the issues. — NN/EM

Myanmar's rice exports to China exceed 180,000 tonnes in 9 months

CHINA is the top buyer of Myanmar rice, with around 180,000 tonnes in the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar's rice and broken rice were primarily exported to China with over 170,000 tonnes, followed by Indonesia with 176,000 tonnes and Belgium with 122,000 tonnes.

The volumes of rice exports were registered at over 98,900 tonnes to the Philippines, over 43,600 to the Netherlands, 32,500 to Malaysia, over 26,500 to Poland, over 22,500 to Spain, over 22,400 to Viet Nam and over 22,000 to Turkiye.

The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the current FY, bagging \$1 billion.

Myanmar shipped more than 950,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade



Export rice bags seen being loaded onto the overseas-going merchant vessel.

partners with an estimated value of US\$462 million in the past nine months.

Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), earning \$853.472 million.

Last FY, China was the leading buyer of Myanmar's rice and broken rice with over 775,000 tonnes, followed by Belgium with 323,000 tonnes, Bangladesh with over 239,000

tonnes and the Philippines with over 202,000 tonnes.

Myanmar has been endeavouring to attain a 10 per cent growth in rice exports. MRF stated that it prioritized premium rice exportation and bolstered export volume to increase foreign income.

Myanmar generated income of over \$809.135 million from approximately 2.164 million tonnes of rice export in the 2021-2022 FY (Apr-Mar). — NN/EM

CBM records sales of US\$68.33M, 313.5 mln Thai Baht, and 4.2M RMB in Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) made a record amount of liquidity injection into the financial market in January 2024, with US\$68.33 million, 313.5 million Thai baht, and 4.2 million Chinese yuan.

CBM sold \$12.93 million on 1 January, \$16 million on 5 January, 15 million on 15 January, 50 million baht on 19 January, nine million dollars and 200 million baht on 25 January, five million dollars and 50 million baht on 26 January, nine million dollars in the first time, \$1.4 million in the second time, 13.5 million baht and 4.2 million yuan on 29 January.

CBM injected \$1.4 million, 13.5 million baht and 4.2 million yuan into the consumer, pharmaceutical, power, agriculture and telecommunication sectors.

Additionally, CBM pumped \$22.15 million into the fuel oil

sector last year, selling \$9.72 million on 18 December and \$12.43 million on 21 December for fuel oil importing companies.

Nonetheless, CBM disclosed the exchange rate for those transactions. CBM currently set the reference exchange rate at K2,100, while the Kyat against the greenback weakened to K3,550 at the over-the-counter market. Meanwhile, the exchange rate is estimated at K101 per baht and K496 per yuan in the unauthorized forex market.

CBM liberalized forex trading for authorized dealers (private banks) as per the market rate determined by the supply and demand market forces on 5 December 2023.

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

OPINION

Sustain wetland conservation to attract local and foreign travellers

WETLANDS serve as crucial habitats for diverse wildlife, particularly migratory birds seeking refuge during hibernation. Encompassing a broad spectrum of both freshwater and seawater sources, wetlands include lakes, rivers, underground aquifers, swamps, marshes, tidal flats, mangroves, coastal areas, coral reefs, and man-made sites like fish farms, reservoirs, and dams, which are attractive to local and foreign travellers.

Myanmar possesses three Ramsar sites across the nation: Moeyungyi Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary, Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, and Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, a portion of the Gulf of Mottama earned the designation as Myanmar's fourth Ramsar site in May 2017. These sites play a crucial role in preserving

the natural environment, sustaining agriculture, and supporting rural livelihoods.

Myanmar needs to collaborate with the international community to develop and expand wetlands as vital habitats for various living beings. By fostering a collective commitment to wetland conservation, societies can ensure the long-term coexistence of humans and nature, promoting sustainable development for current and future generations.

In line with the theme for 2024 World Wetlands Day: Wetlands and human well-being, everybody needs to live in a society in harmony with the natural environment, including wildlife and wetlands, to adjust to the impacts of climate change. To break this cycle of wetland loss and its detrimental effects on livelihoods and poverty, it is essential to shift the mindset towards recognizing wetlands as life-giving sources of jobs, incomes, and vital ecosystem services.

Myanmar is blessed with wetlands to create livelihoods for local people for fishery and cultivation as well as hibernation for migratory birds. While wetlands cover only approximately six per cent of the Earth's land surface, they host 40 per cent of all plant and animal species, making them vital for biodiversity. Over a billion people worldwide depend on wetlands for their livelihoods, highlighting the critical connection between these ecosystems and human well-being.

To address this challenge, authorities and parents in society must prioritize educating future generations about wetland conservation. Myanmar people can foster a sense of responsibility towards these ecosystems and apply such nature to the motherland. Conserving wetlands becomes not only an act of protecting the environment but also a means of safeguarding the well-being of individuals and communities.

Myanmar needs to collaborate with the international community to develop and expand wetlands as vital habitats for various living beings. By fostering a collective commitment to wetland conservation, societies can ensure the long-term coexistence of humans and nature, promoting sustainable development for current and future generations.

Not only the existence of the natural environment but also the attractions of travellers are assets of the land of Myanmar. Everybody is responsible for ensuring natural wetlands to mitigate climate change impacts and sustain residents' livelihoods. If so, the society will be peaceful and prosper.

JOINTLY convened by WHO and UNICEF, a report on the historic Alma-Ata conference focused world attention on primary health care as the key to achieving an acceptable level of health throughout the world.

Primary Health Care (PHC) is usually associated with the declaration of the 1978 International Conference in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan (known as the "Alma Ata Declaration"). Alma-Ata put health equity on the international political agenda for the first time, and PHC became a core concept of the World Health Organization's (WHO) goal of Health for All. PHC is the community's first and main point of contact with the health system. It's about helping people live the healthiest lives possible and, when they need health care, providing the right care at the right time and in their communities.

Primary health care refers to delivering services over a person's life courses close to where they live. These services meet most people's health needs, including preventing and treating illness; delivering reproductive, maternal, newborn and child healthcare; managing chronic health conditions; rehabilitation; and palliative care.

PHC is a comprehensive approach to organizing and delivering services, which rests on three pillars: (1) primary care and essential public health functions as the core of integrated health services; (2) multi-sectorial policy and action; and (3) empowered people and communities. The PHC approach is often implemented in the health sector through primary care.

"PHC is a whole-of-society approach to health that aims at ensuring the highest possible level of health and well-being and their equitable distribution by focusing on people's needs and as early as possible along the continuum from health promotion and disease prevention to treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care, and as close as feasible to people's everyday environment."

(WHO and UNICEF. A vision for primary health care in the 21st century: Towards UHC and the SDGs)

PHC is rooted in a commitment to social justice, equity, solidarity and participation. It

is based on the recognition that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction.

For universal health coverage (UHC) to be truly universal, a shift is needed from health systems designed around diseases and institutions towards health systems designed for people, with people. PHC requires governments at all levels to underscore the importance of action beyond the health sector to pursue a whole-of-government approach to health, including health-in-all-policies, a strong focus on equity and interventions encompassing the entire life course.

PHC addresses the broader determinants of health and focuses on the comprehensive and interrelated aspects of physical, mental and social health and well-being. It provides whole-person care for health needs throughout the lifespan, not just for a set of specific diseases. Primary health care ensures people receive quality comprehensive care – from promotion and prevention to treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care – as close as feasible to people's everyday environment.

PHC is the most inclusive, equitable, cost-effective and efficient approach to enhancing people's physical and mental health as well as social well-being. Evidence of the wide-ranging impact of investment in PHC continues to grow around the world, particularly in times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Across the world, investments in PHC improve equity and access, healthcare performance, accountability of health systems, and health outcomes. While some of these factors are directly related to the health system and access to health services, the evidence is clear that a broad range of factors beyond health services play a critical role in shaping health and well-being. These include social protection, food systems, education, and environmental factors.

PHC is also critical to make health systems more resilient to crisis situations, more proactive in detecting early signs of epidemics and more prepared to act early in response to surges in

Rethinking Community Friendly Primary Health Care

Community-friendly primary health care prioritizes community needs, fostering collaboration between healthcare providers and residents for enhanced health and well-being.

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



Primary health care involves providing essential health services throughout a person's life, near their community. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK**

demand for services. Although the evidence is still evolving, there is widespread recognition that PHC is the "front door" of the health system and provides the foundation for strengthening the essential public health functions to confront public health crises such as COVID-19.

WHO has identified three strategic areas of work to strengthen PHC worldwide:

- ❖ It provides a 'one-stop' mechanism for PHC implementation support to Member States, tailored to the country's context and priorities. This includes putting into action the Opera-

tional Framework for PHC and capitalizing on investment opportunities from the COVID-19 response, building back better PHC-based health systems during recovery efforts. This core function is driven by and builds on existing work and experiences from countries and regions from across the world.

- ❖ They are producing PHC-oriented evidence and innovation with a sharper focus on people left behind. This work is based on existing implementation evi-

dence, best practice guidance and implementation solutions, expertise from successful countries, and literature published to drive innovative solutions. Key deliverables include monitoring and measurement guidance to assess PHC progress in countries and, subsequently, a Global report on PHC progress, as well as an innovative capacity-building effort as part of the WHO Academy.

- ❖ It promotes PHC renewal through policy leadership, advocacy and strategic part-

ners such as young health leaders, parliamentarians and civil society at large.

- ❖ Rethinking community-friendly primary health care is an approach to healthcare delivery that prioritizes the needs and preferences of the community it serves. It emphasizes collaboration between healthcare providers and community members to promote health and well-being. The following are some key principles and characteristics associated with community-friendly primary health care;

- **Community Engagement:** Involving the community in decision-making processes related to healthcare planning, implementation, and evaluation, seeking input from community members to understand their unique health needs and concerns.

- **Cultural Competence:** Recognizing and respecting the cultural diversity within the community. Adapting healthcare services to be culturally sensitive and responsive to the beliefs, values, and practices of different population groups.

- **Accessibility:** Ensuring that healthcare services are physically and financially accessible to all community members, considering the geographical, economic, and social factors that may impact access to healthcare.

- **Preventive Care:** Emphasizing preventive measures and health promotion to reduce the incidence of illnesses and providing education and resources to empower individuals and communities to take an active role in maintaining their health.

- **Collaboration:** Collaborating with various healthcare professionals, community organizations, and social services to address the diverse needs of the community. Fostering teamwork and communication among healthcare providers to deliver comprehensive and integrated care.

- **Community-Based Services:** Offering healthcare services within the community, reducing the need for individuals to travel long distances for care, and establishing local clinics, outreach programmes, and health education initiatives to engage with community members directly.

- **Holistic Approach:** Recognizing the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and social well-being. Addressing not only immediate health concerns but also the broader determinants of health, such as housing, education, and employment.

- **Flexible and Responsive Services:** Adapting healthcare services to changing community needs and demographics, being responsive to and proactively addressing emerging health issues.

- **Technology Integration:** Leveraging technology to enhance healthcare delivery, such as telemedicine for remote consultations and health information systems for better data management.

- **Advocacy and Empowerment:** Advocating for policies that support community health and well-being. Empowering individuals and communities to be active participants in their healthcare decision-making and management.

In addition, rethinking community-friendly primary health care aims to create a healthcare system that is not only effective in treating illnesses but also responsive to the unique needs and contexts of the communities it serves.

References;

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NATIONAL

Shwedagon to host traditional Htamane-making contest, donation festival



The photo shows Myanmar's traditional Htamane donation festival and Htamane-making contest in the previous year.

THE Myanmar traditional Htamane festival and Htamane-making competition will be held on a grand scale on 23 February at the Shwedagon Pagoda, said U Bo Thinn, a member of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Teams representing townships in Yangon region and religious associations of the Shwedagon Pagoda will join the 2024 Shwedagon Pagoda Htamane Festival as well as the ceremony of offering Htamane to the Buddha images and monks and providing Htamane to pilgrims from four corners.

“We are planning to hold the Htamane festival and the Htamane-making contest – a traditional cultural festival – at the

Shwedagon Pagoda. For the Htamane Festival, individuals can donate K65,000 for a pan of Htamane. Htamane will be donated to monasteries in the Shwedagon Pagoda precinct and devotees. The Board of Trustees has opened a donation centre for the Htamane festival. In addition, donors wishing to donate fruits, snacks, candles, and sticks of incense can send them to the Chanthagyi prayer hall on the evening of 23 February,” said U Bo Thinn. The Htamane-making competition will take place at 3 pm on 23 February. Htamane alms will be offered to the Shwedagon Pagoda at 5:30 am and 64 Sayadaws at 6:30 am on 24 February at the Shwedagon Pagoda platform. — ASH/MKKS

ICEP Envoy, featuring Beijing art school students, successfully held

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) reported that the Envoy of International Cultural Exchange Programme took place in Beijing, China, on 29 January, featuring students from Beijing Art Creative Art School.

The programme aimed to foster mutual exchanges between the people of Myanmar and China.

Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Maung Swe delivered a welcoming and introductory speech during the ceremony. A female student participating in the programme expressed gratitude, and a representative from the Myanmar Embassy provided insights into Myanmar.

Ambassador U Tin Maung Swe encouraged the students to continue enhancing the longstanding friendship

between Myanmar and China through educational collaboration and interpersonal exchanges.

The Envoy of the International Cultural Exchange Programme showcased performances by Myanmar students from the Myanmar Embassy and the

office of the Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air), featuring songs and dances. Chinese students also presented dancing performances. Following the entertainment, the Myanmar Embassy treated the guests to traditional Myanmar foods. — ASH/TKO



Group photo of students under the Envoy of International Cultural Exchange Programme.

MGMA trains 829 HR managers, supervisors on labour law compliance

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) conducted 28 Factory Applied Labour Law courses from August 2022 to December 2023 and has already trained 829 managers and supervisors from 464 factories, according to the MGMA.

With the objectives of strengthening awareness of labour law compliance in the garment industry and improving relations in the working environment, the MGMA offers these awareness courses to its member factories.

“The MGMA has achieved the task of spreading awareness training of labour laws and workplace commu-



The image shows one of the MGMA-conducted labour law compliance courses.

nication in the garment sector,” said an MGMA official.

In an intake, 30 trainees are invited from an HR manager and a supervisor each of 15 member factories.

The course is held twice a month, and 28 batches have been conducted between August 2022 and December 2023, with in-depth lectures and discussions on labour law compliance in factories, relations in the workplace and the significant role of supervisors. — MT/ZN



The Myanmar Embassy to Japan.

Japanese firms to hire over 1,300 Myanmar workers

MYANMAR Embassy to Japan said more than 400 Japanese companies have planned to employ up to 1,300 Myanmar workers.

The embassy's statement includes information about 416 demand letters that the embassy submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after carrying out the verification from 16 to 31 January 2024.

According to the statement, more than 400 Japanese companies would provide jobs for more than 400 men and more than 900 women, totalling 1,300 Myanmar workers.

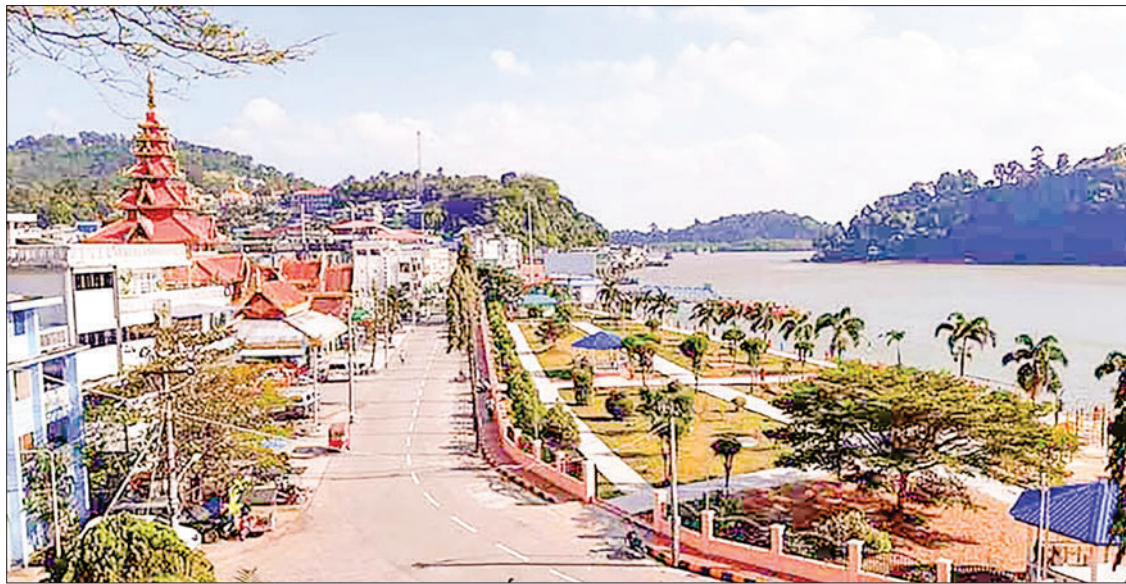
The embassy has carried out timely verifications of demand letters received from the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the statement.

It verifies whether labour supervisory companies, factories, or companies that offered jobs in Japan are officially established and re-submits its findings and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Of 190 verified demand letters conveyed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1 to 15 January 2023, about 600 male and female Myanmar workers would be recruited. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Security, peaceful trade priority at Ranong-Kawthoung Friendship Tourism Exhibition



The photo shows the venue to hold the Ranong-Kawthoung Friendship Tourism Exhibition.

U Aung Htay Lwin, who oversees the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Kawthoung Branch), emphasized the importance of security and peaceful trade during the Ranong-Kawthoung Friendship Tourism Exhibition to foster tourism development between Myanmar and Thailand.

“This marks the second Myanmar-Thailand Tourism Exhibition and Market Fair. The event aims to enhance tourism collaboration between the two nations, bolster trade, and offer entertainment programmes. We focus on ensuring secure trade, especially for our Thai visitors

attending the exhibition,” stated U Aung Htay Lwin.

The exhibition will feature over 40 booths showcasing hotels, tour packages from travel companies, various products and foods from Thailand, and approximately 40 galleries from Myanmar.

Scheduled to run from 4 to 8 February for five days at the 3rd-mile People’s Square in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region, the Ranong-Kawthoung Friendship Tourism Exhibition seeks to promote tourism between Myanmar and Thailand, featuring performances by renowned artists. — ASH/MKKS

CRIME NEWS

Confiscated illegal items: Timbers, consumer goods, industrial materials, medications, fuel oil, foodstuffs, motorbikes and vehicles

THE combined on-duty team under the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force made inspections on 30 January. It seized a total of 2.875 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K803,495 in Maubin township and 0.199 tonne of illegal teak, and 1.015 tonnes of illegal other timbers worth K169,288 in Kyangin township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 30 January, the combined teams supervised by the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force captured nine unregistered vehicles, including seven Toyota Wish cars, a Toyota Noah car and a KIA Bongo pick-up vehicle, heading to Mandalay from Muse, carrying 43 kinds of goods worth K40.887 million, including 150 kilogrammes of Pipette Tips and 140 pairs of baby shoes without official documents, near the detour of Lashio township. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

During inspections on 30 and 31 January, the on-duty teams of the Customs Department nabbed 91 rolls of woven

fabric worth K37.677 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port and nine kinds of medicines worth K167.792 million, including 10,000 boxes of Cefoperazone & Sulbaetamn for injection and 31,500 boxes of Frusemide injection without official documents, from luggage at the Mandalay International Airport. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

On 31 January, the on-duty teams impounded an unregistered Honda Dream 125 motorbike worth K800,000 in Myeik township and 500 gallons of illegal diesel worth K6 million at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing. These actions were taken under the Export and Import Law and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 29 arrests were made on 30 and 31 January, with an estimated value of K343.129 million. — MNA/MKKS

Over K7.52 bln worth of drugs seized in Yangon Region

A total of 3.82 million stimulant tablets, 48 kilogrammes of Ice (methamphetamine) and 50 kilogrammes of ketamine valued at over K7.52 billion were seized in Yangon Region, as reported by the Myanmar Police Force.



Offenders seen alongside seized narcotic drugs.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Ford Everest driven by Tint Zaw accompanied by Moe Naing Soe (aka) Shwe Thee and Ma Nawarat Htun on the Waizayanta road in South Okkalapa township at noon on 24 January. Police seized 38 kilogrammes of Ice (Methamphetamine).

Additionally, Police Force captured 15 grammes of Ice and 400 stimulant tablets from the house of Tint Zaw and Nawarat Htun in ward 49 of Dagon Myothit (North) township and 3.82 million stimulant tablets, 50 kilogrammes of ketamine and 10 kilogrammes of Ice from a Toyota Alphard car and a container box in a compound rent by Tint Zaw in Ward 42 of Dagon Myothit (North) township.

Similarly, the police arrested Kyaw Zayar Nyunt (aka) Kyaw Zaya (aka) Kyaungpu, who was involved in drug trafficking, at a hotel in Tachilek township at 12:30 pm on 29 January.

Offenders admitted that the seized drugs were to be transported from Shan State to Kayin State and were temporarily stored in Yangon.

Legal action has been taken against the offenders, and an investigation is underway to identify others involved in the criminal chain.

— MNA/MKKS

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.

ECONOMY WORLD

Tel Aviv power plant switches to green only energy production



The Reading power plant in Tel Aviv. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA/FILE

The Reading power plant in Tel Aviv is ditching natural gas for electricity production. Israel's Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure announced that the plant will now serve green and innovative purposes, such as storing and connecting a marine power transmission cable.

THE Reading power plant in Tel Aviv will no longer use natural gas to produce electricity. Israel's Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure said the plant will now be used by the energy sector for green and innovative needs: among other things, storage and connection of a marine power transmission cable.

The ministry said that this decision is expected to bring

many benefits to the electricity sector, the general public and the quality of the environment.

The decision will save electricity consumers hundreds of millions of shekels following the cancellation of the establishment of temporary production units at the reading site, which were planned and are no longer needed. The investment savings, said the ministry, will translate into

savings in the electricity tariff for all electricity consumers in Israel. Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Eli Cohen: "This is important news for the residents of Gush Dan (the Tel Aviv area), the citizens of Israel and the environment. We are making electricity production in Israel more efficient and cleaner and returning the coast to the residents." — ANI

Hotel stays in Japan back to pre-pandemic level at 594 million

Average stays for foreign visitors extended to 10.2 nights, indicating a preference for longer-term travel.

OVERNIGHT stays at accommodation facilities in Japan by Japanese and foreign travellers rose 31.8 per cent in 2023 from the previous year to 593.51 million, nearly the same as pre-COVID-19 levels from 2019, government data showed Wednesday.

Looking at the data only for foreigners, stays at hotels and Japanese inns, among others, increased about seven-fold amid a revived tourism boom helped by a weaker yen and the lifting of coronavirus restrictions.

The overall result com-

pares with 595.92 million recorded in 2019, according to the Japan Tourism Association.

The preliminary data also showed a tendency for longer-term stays by foreign visitors at 10.2 nights on average. — Kyodo



Tourists walk near Osaka Castle in the western Japan city of Osaka on 10 June 2023, as the number of travelers to Japan has been recovering sharply following the lifting of COVID-19 measures. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE



A view from a boron manufacturing plant in Kutahya, Türkiye, on 28 January 2024. PHOTO: MUSTAFA KAYA/XINHUA

Türkiye seeks to raise boron export to boom economy

BOASTING the world's most boron reserves, Türkiye seeks to turn the rare mineral resource into profit as facing economic woes. Türkiye possesses 73.2 per cent of the world's boron reserves and had 63 per cent of the global market share in 2023, said the country's Energy and Natural Resources Ministry this month.

Boron carbide, one of the hardest synthetic materials known, is widely used in industrial applications, such as abrasives and refractory materials, and as a neutron absorber in nuclear power plants.

Ayhan Yuksel, chairman of the Turkish Chamber Of Mining Engineers, told Xinhua that Tür-

kiye should consider boron as a strategic rare earth element.

State-owned mining company Eti Maden said its refined boron foreign sales of 2.6 million tonnes made 1.3 billion US dollars in 2022, breaking a record.

In 2024, foreign sales have increased due to strong demand and rising production capabilities, an official source familiar with the matter told Xinhua on the condition of anonymity.

"Boron exports have reached a level contributing to alleviate Türkiye's economic troubles, and we expect figures to rise in the next five years with new investments," noted the source. — Xinhua

Vietnamese agri export to China forecast to increase sharply in 2024

VIET NAM's agricultural export value to China is expected to increase sharply this year, the Vietnam News reported Wednesday, citing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The prediction was made as China agrees to review regulations permitting exports of poultry meat from Viet Nam to the market, according to the report.

The newspaper cited Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Tran Thanh Nam as saying that potential

for exporting meat from Viet Nam to China is many times higher than that of vegetables and fruits. With a market of 1.4 billion people, China's consumer demand for meat products is up to about 400 billion US dollars per year, he said.

He said in the future, Viet Nam expected livestock products to join the list of products gaining export value worth billions of dollars, if the country can sign a protocol on poultry meat export with China, and continue to negotiate a protocol on pork export to the market. — Xinhua

Japan's auto exports rise 16% to exceed 4.42 mln 2023: JAMA

Japanese media highlighted that, with China exporting 4.91 million units, Japan has relinquished its top position in global car exports for the first time in seven years.



A cargo vessel loads cars at a port in Imizu, Toyama Prefecture on 17 August 2022. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

JAPAN'S exports of automobiles in 2023 came in at more than 4.42 million units, up 15.98 per cent from a year earlier, industry data showed on Wednesday.

According to the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA), a total of 4,422,682 vehicles were exported, among which 3,978,141 were passenger cars. Citing China's auto exports of 4.91 million units in 2023, Japanese media reported that Japan, for the first time in seven years, has slipped from the top spot in global car exports. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB403A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB403A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (2407E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (2407E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

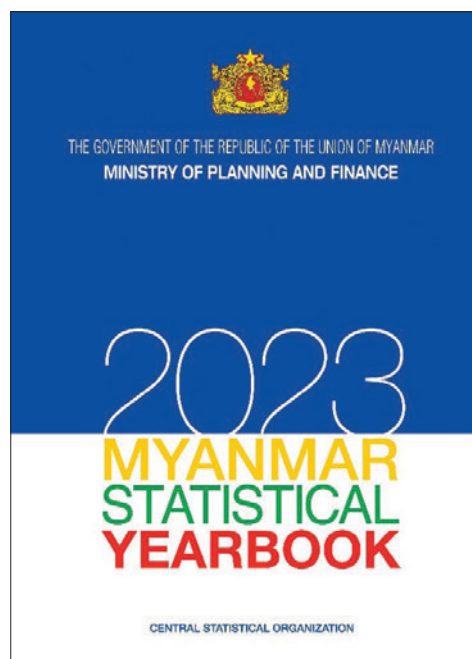
Changing Trade Name for Registered Pesticide

Trade name of pesticide registered by **Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd** is changing from current trade name into new trade name. Any objection regarding to this change can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Original Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type and No
1.	Daung That Bayin	Ricesaver 180 EC	Cyhalofop-butyl 180 g/l EC	Provisional 2023-6093
2.	Power 9	Kobermec 20 EC	Emamectin benzoate 20g/l EC	Provisional 2023-6097

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Address: Kyundaw Street (between Narnattaw Street and Hanthawaddy Street), No-1802(a), 18th floor, Office Tower-3, Time City Complex, Kamaryut Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.
09456060160, 09441170170



Myanmar Statistical Yearbook 2023 has been published, just as international statistical bulletins, which includes 16 chapters and over 313 tables with an updated compendium of statistics, technical notes, glossary and the data from many surveys conducted by the Central Statistical Organization.

It can be purchased at 100,000/- Kyats for both Hard Copy & CD-Rom, and at 10,000/- Kyats for only CD-Rom. Myanmar Statistical Yearbook 2023 is available at Central Statistical Organization, Office No(32), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Central Statistical Organization Yangon Branch, No(4/6), 3rd Floor (Right), Byamaso Road, Corner of Thila Street, Su Paung Office Compound, Ward (4), South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Eastern District, Yangon Region, and SarPayBeikMan Store (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon) respectively.

Phone : +95 673 406328, 673 406329, 673 406468, 01 8500887

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

TOP NEWS

Mexico president rejects drug cartel funding claims

MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Wednesday vehemently rejected claims that drug traffickers helped to fund his first presidential campaign in 2006, describing the allegations as “completely false”.

Lopez Obrador also criticized US authorities for violating “political ethics” after the claims appeared in an article published on the ProPublica news site, which cited American officials.

According to the report by investigative journalist Tim Golden, US drug enforcement agents uncovered “substantial evidence” that cocaine traffickers had funneled around \$2 million to Lopez Obrador’s campaign. “It’s slander... there’s no evidence” of illegal financing, the Mexican president said at his regular morning news conference.

“I denounce the US government for allowing these immoral practices contrary to the political ethics that should prevail in all governments in the world,” he added. — AFP

UK govt publishes N Ireland deal aimed at ending deadlock

London released details of the agreement with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), potentially leading to the restoration of the devolved government in Northern Ireland in the coming days.



Northern Ireland’s devolved assembly has been suspended for nearly two years. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE United Kingdom government on Wednesday outlined its proposals to get the Northern Ireland assembly back up and running after a political deadlock of nearly two years caused by divisions over post-Brexit trade rules.

London published the deal it has struck with the pro-UK Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) that could see the devolved government in the British province restored in the coming days.

“This is the right deal for Northern Ireland and the right deal for the union,” Chris Heaton-Harris, Northern Ireland Secretary in the UK government, told reporters as he visited Belfast.

The DUP walked out of the power-sharing government at Stormont in February 2022 to protest post-Brexit trade arrangements for Northern Ireland, which has the UK’s only land border with the European Union. The agreement would notably remove checks on goods shipped from mainland Great Britain — England, Scotland and Wales — to final destinations in Northern Ireland.

That would effectively scrap the contentious so-called Irish Sea border that had angered unionists who feared it would cut Northern Ireland adrift from the three other UK nations and make a united Ireland more likely. — AFP

Israel’s PM calls for closure of UN Palestinian refugee agency

Netanyahu conveyed this message to UN ambassadors from eight countries during their visit to Jerusalem, emphasizing the need to end UNRWA’s mission.



UNRWA has long been under scrutiny by Israel, which accuses it of systematically going against the country’s interests. **PHOTO: JAAFAR ASHTIYEH / AFP**

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Wednesday for the closure of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), amid allegations of some UNRWA employees’ involvement in the deadly Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October 2023.

“The time has come for the international community and the UN itself to understand that UNRWA’s mission must be ended,” Netanyahu told UN ambassadors from eight countries who were visiting Jerusalem.

The United States and at least 10 other countries have suspended funding to UNRWA

after Israel accused about “a dozen of its workers of participating in the 7 October attack” that killed around 1,200 in Israel. UNRWA employs about 13,000 people in the Palestinian Gaza Strip which has faced a humanitarian crisis since Israel’s massive airstrikes in response to the Hamas attack. — Xinhua

Tokyo Metropolitan Government completes construction of underground water reservoir

THE Tokyo Metropolitan Government focuses on creating a city that is safe and secure.

In particular, to shield locals from the disastrous water and flood Tokyo Met created a water reservoir pond and widened the river.

Concrete pavement began to cover modern cities in the 1980s. It sparked regular water disasters in the city.

Large-scale treatment was initiated as a result of unpleasant past experiences.

Typhoon strikes Japan in the summer. It brings with river flooding and residential inundation.



Summer typhoons in Japan result in river flooding and residential inundation. **PHOTO: ANI**

After the construction of the underground big water reservoir pond, water flood damage decreased distinctly.

Out of 28 underground water reservoir ponds, more than 20 reservoirs worked to absorb flood water and prevent disaster. — ANI

SPORTS

GA Tour makes deal worth up to \$3 bln to create for-profit entity

THE US PGA Tour announced a deal worth up to \$3 billion with a group of billionaire sports team owners on Wednesday to create a for-profit entity, PGA Tour Enterprises.

The commercial venture partnership with Strategic Sports Group (SSG), under the PGA Tour's control, offers nearly 200 PGA Tour players the chance to become equity holders in the new company launched Wednesday. SSG includes Fenway Sports Group, owners of English football's Liverpool FC, MLB's Boston Red Sox and the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins, plus MLB New York Mets owner Steven

Cohen and NFL Atlanta Falcons and MLS Atlanta United owner Arthur Blank.

Under the program, players would collectively access more than \$1.5 billion in grants that vest over time with SSG investing an initial \$1.5 billion and the possibility of investing another \$1.5 billion later.

The money would maximize revenue to benefit players as well as enhance worldwide golf growth opportunities, said three-time major winner Jordan Spieth, among the PGA Policy Board player members who unanimously backed the deal. — AFP



The PGA Tour announced a deal with Strategic Sports Group to create a for-profit entity worth up to \$3 billion to benefit players and help grow golf worldwide. PHOTO: AFP

Klinsmann says S Korea 'ready to suffer' in Asian Cup last eight

JURGEN Klinsmann said South Korea "have to be ready to suffer" when they face Australia in the Asian Cup quarter-finals on Friday, 72 hours after beating Saudi Arabia on penalties.

Klinsmann's side came through an epic last-16 game in Doha and must now recover in time to take on an Australia side that had two days more to recover.

The German legend said his players are "ready for a battle" as they look to book a semi-final place against either Jordan or Tajikistan.

"If you want to go through to the knockout phase of a big tournament you have to suffer,"

said Klinsmann on Thursday.

"You have to be ready to suffer, you have to deal with pain."

South Korea had to come back from the dead to see off Roberto Mancini's Saudis, scoring a 99th-minute equalizer to take the game into extra time.

Led by Son Heung-min, the Koreans started slowly but found their attacking spark and had several chances to win the game before the shootout.

They are looking to win the Asian Cup for the first time since 1960. Klinsmann won the World Cup and European Championship as a player and is keen to share his tournament experience with his players. — AFP

IOC: Next Winter Youth Olympic hosts to be announced by early 2025

Bach explained that the decision on the next hosts would come either later in the current year or, at the latest, early the following year, as the IOC commission requires additional time to evaluate various projects for the 2028 destination.

THE next hosts for the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) will be announced no later than early 2025, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said on Thursday.

"There will be no flag handover ceremony tonight because we will decide the next hosts at a later stage," said Bach, hours before the closing ceremony of the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympics.

"You can expect their announcement either later this year or at the latest early next year," the IOC chief noted.

"Our commission, which is responsible for this, needs a little bit more time to evaluate different projects and then conclude which would be the most appropriate destination for 2028." Gangwon 2024, which



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach addresses during a press conference held in the Main Media Center at the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangneung, South Korea, 1 February 2024. PHOTO: LI MIN/XINHUA

opened on 19 January, will end with a closing ceremony on Thursday evening. This is the first time that there will be no flag handover in YOG history. — Xinhua

AFC Asian Cup: Japan cruise past Bahrain, Iran edge Syria on penalties

Japan secured a spot in the AFC Asian Cup quarterfinals with a 3-1 victory over Bahrain, highlighted by goals from Ritsu Doan, Takefusa Kubo, and Ayase Ueda.

JAPAN advanced to the AFC Asian Cup quarterfinals with a 3-1 win over Bahrain here on Wednesday, while Iran edged Syria 5-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Goals from Ritsu Doan, Takefusa Kubo and Ayase Ueda helped Hajime Moriyasu's side outclass Bahrain, who had almost no chances except Ueda's own goal after a goalline scramble.

Japan took the lead in the 31st minute when Seiya Maikuma's shot from 25 yards hit the post and deflected to Doan, who stroke



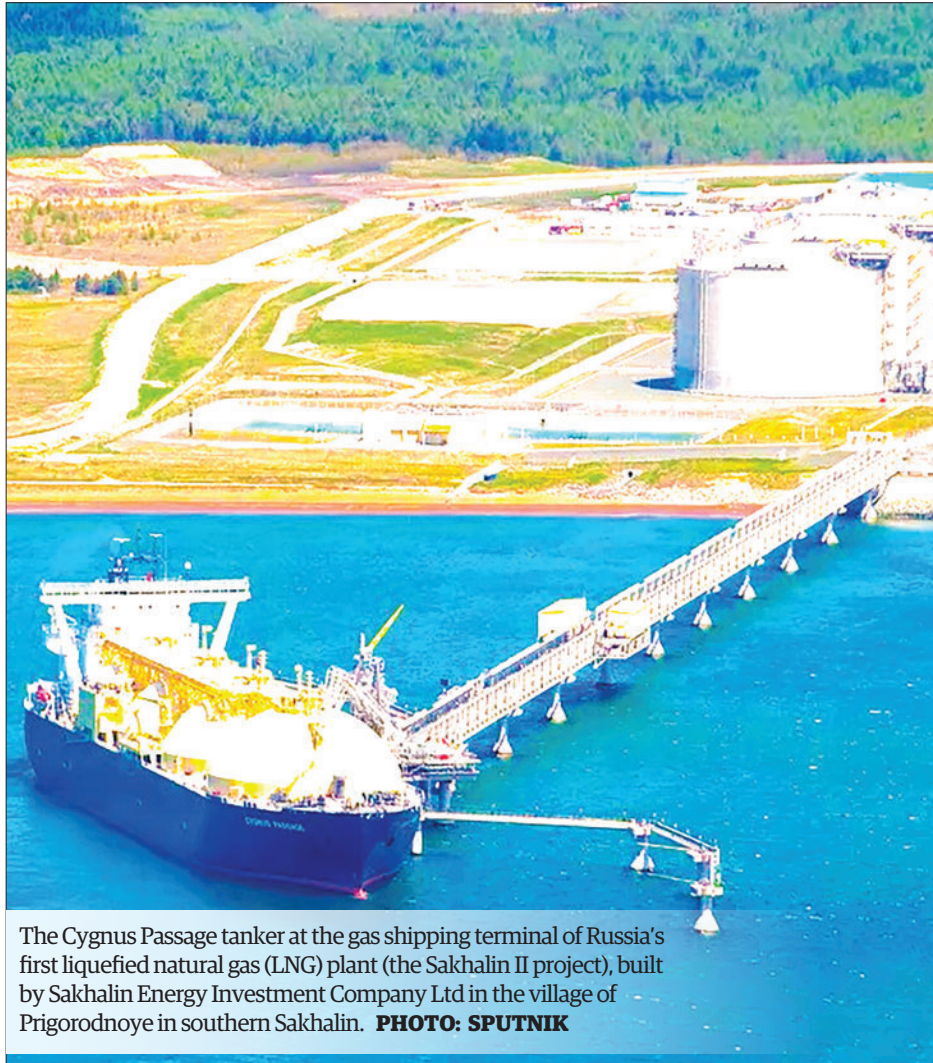
pan's goal, but Ueda and Suzuki's collision caused an own goal when the striker attempted to head the ball off the goalline in the 64th minute. Kaoru Mitoma came off the bench along with Takumi Minamino four minutes later to make his debut in Doha. — Xinhua

Ehsan Hajisafi of Iran shoots in the penalty shootout at the end of the round of 16 match between Iran and Syria at AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 in Doha, Qatar, 31 January 2024.

PHOTO: JIANG HAN/XINHUA



How Biden's LNG export suspension could help Russia's energy trade with EU & China



The Cygnus Passage tanker at the gas shipping terminal of Russia's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant (the Sakhalin II project), built by Sakhalin Energy Investment Company Ltd in the village of Prigorodnoye in southern Sakhalin. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Critics caution that this "impulsive" decision may disrupt supply chains and adversely affect Washington's European allies, who have grown reliant on US gas due to tensions with Moscow and events surrounding the Nord Stream pipelines in 2022.

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has temporarily paused new export approvals for liquefied natural gas (LNG). How could Washington's move backfire on energy trade?

It appears that Joe Biden has given in to pressure from environmentalists ahead of the 2024 presidential elections, as he hit the pause button on LNG exports.

According to the Biden administration, the Department of Energy (DOE) will now review applications to export the commodity through the lens of the climate change agenda.

Critics warn that Biden's "impulsive" decision to restrict the sale of LNG abroad would give the supply chains the shivers and would backfire on Washington's European allies.

They have become increasingly re-

liant on US gas following their energy decoupling with Moscow over the Ukraine conflict and subsequent sabotage attack on Russia's Nord Stream pipelines in September 2022 by unknown perpetrators — believed to be the US and Norway, as per Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Seymour Hersh.

"American entrepreneurs think that this will all be such a temporary phenomenon," Stanislav Mitrakhovich, leading expert of the National Energy Security Foundation and the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, told Sputnik.

"They believe that when the election campaign is over — the elections will be in November — it will again be possible to obtain new permits for gas exports," Mitrakhovich said. — SPUTNIK

ABOUT 62.3% OF HUMANITY

Social media's population breaks through 5 billion: study

THE number of active social media users has risen to more than five billion, or about 62.3 per cent of humanity, according to a study published Wednesday.

The number rose 5.6 per cent last year, outpacing the 0.9 per cent increase in the world's population, said the report by media monitoring company Meltwater and social media agency We are Social.

The social network with the most users was Meta's Facebook with 2.19 billion. Meta's Instagram was next with 1.65 billion, narrowly trailed by TikTok at 1.56 billion.

The report warns that precise numbers are hard to come by because of automated accounts or people using different identities.

The most searched entry on Wikipedia was "ChatGPT", the AI language model developed by OpenAI, underscoring the exploding interest in artificial intelligence.

The report was based on figures compiled by digital consultancy company Kepios. — AFP

China's electric SUV enters Greek market

The design of SERES 5 has incorporated some Greek characteristics with its daytime running lights inspired by a Greek letter and the window frames by an olive tree leaf.

CHINESE vehicle manufacturer Seres Group officially launched its electric premium sport SUV, the SERES 5, in Athens on Wednesday, marking the entry of the first Chinese electric SUV into the Greek market.

The launch also marks the start of cooperation between Seres and Spanos Group, one of the largest importers and dealers of vehicles in Greece, according to Seres Group.

"The Greek government has set up a clear route to electrify the fleet, mobility and we are very excited to play a part together with our local partner Spanos Group in this journey," said Kush Gu, Seres Europe sales director. The design



People experience a Seres 5 electric car during a media preview of the 100th Brussels Motor Show in Brussels, Belgium, 13 January 2023.

PHOTO: ZHENG HUANSONG/XINHUA

of SERES 5 incorporated some Greek characteristics, Gu said. The model's daytime running

lights were inspired by a Greek letter and the window frames by an olive tree leaf. — Xinhua