

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers an address at the Union government meeting 2/2024 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unveils that Tatmadaw members serve State defence duties, not for the government, and Myanmar Police Force members who emphasize the rule of law for the whole nation.

Hence, not only the government but the entire people have to honour them to enhance physical and mental willingness to serve their duties, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said at the meeting 2/2024 of the Union government at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

He continued that the capacity of Tatmadaw and MPF must be improved to have higher defence capability and power equipped with powerful arms, machinery and equipment.

On the other hand, he stressed the need to improve the capacity of police members and their number that must be conformed to the State for serving duties on the rule of law. **SEE PAGE-3**

Tatmadaw, police members serve State defence, rule of law duties

Salient points from the speech of the Senior General at the Union government meeting 2/2024

- The government and the entire people have to honour Tatmadaw members and MPF members to enhance their physical and mental willingness to serve their duties.
- The capacity of Tatmadaw and MPF must be improved to have higher defence capability and power.
- It is necessary to enhance the capacity of service personnel and supervise them under relevant disciplines while helping them enjoy the fruits of socioeconomic life.
- Relevant ministries and all residents and officials have to implement tourism services in order to provide healthy accommodations and food supplies to the guests.
- People should change their consumption type to ensure health and fitness and consume rice and wheat.
- Region and state chief ministers have to encourage successful manufacturing of products to increase export volumes in order to reduce trade deficit.

NATIONAL

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Thai, Myanmar delegates join technical workshop on Transboundary Haze Pollution Management

NATIONAL

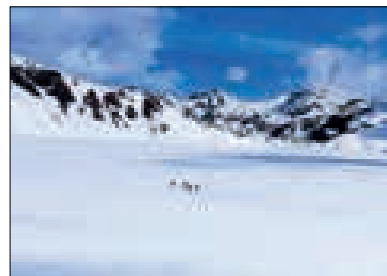
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Monsoon onion prices on downward trend

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Mount Phonkanrazi trail now cleared for trekkers' convenience

NATIONAL

National Objectives of 77th Union Day 2024

- To protect the perpetuity of the Union by the entire ethnic people through the Union spirit
- To join hands in harmony with the government, Tatmadaw, and the entire people to ensure the state stability and the rule of law
- To promote all-inclusive livestock breeding-based manufacturing industries and MSMEs, ensuring the socioeconomic development of the entire ethnic people
- To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food security which are the two national visions
- To strive to emerge a modern and developing country, as well as a Union based on democratic and federal systems, by all ethnic nationals

Mottos of 77th Union Day 2024

1. Unity is strength
Power of Union
2. Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float
Ethnic brethren of the land joining hand in hand
3. Marching towards with unity
Ensuring the destination of the Union
4. Let's firmly join hands among ethnic national brethren
of the Union
5. Let's go forward with unity of the ethnic nationals

Thai, Myanmar delegates join technical workshop on Transboundary Haze Pollution Management



Delegates visit Space Krenovation Park in Si Racha District, Chonburi Province, Thailand.

THE Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, in collaboration with the Pollution Control Department (PCD), organized “the Technical workshop and study visit on Transboundary Haze Pollution Management between Thailand and Myanmar” in Thailand, in which 20 officials from Myanmar participated.

This technical workshop held from 18 to 27 January 2024 aims to solve the problem of Transboundary Haze Pollution Management following the tripartite leadership meeting among Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand held on 7 April 2023, in which the collaborative approaches to address transboundary haze issues relating to the “CLEAR Sky Strategy” of the Royal Thai Government were discussed.

The key topics in the workshop curriculum were the source of PM 2.5 and its impact on the people, the methods of monitoring, inspecting, evaluating, and predicting air pollution by using satellite systems and air quality monitoring devices, the

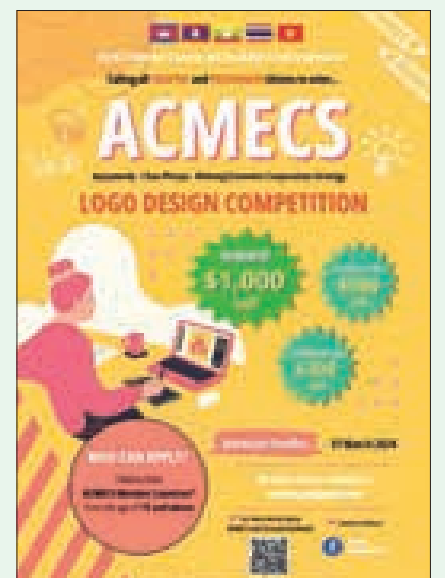
solution to burning problems by providing the communities with knowledge, the changing of the way of thinking, the recommendation on applying the sustainable farming and the utilization of technology as well as the setting of regulations and guidelines to prevent the problems caused by the incineration.

During the workshop, participants also discussed setting up the contact points of both countries and visited Space Krenovation Park in Si Racha District, Chonburi Province.

The certificate ceremony for the Myanmar participants of the said workshop was held on 26 January 2024, awarded by Ms Preeyaporn Suwannakes, Director-General of the Pollution Control Department, and witnessed by Mr Yordying Supasri, Minister Counsellor of the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon. The participants also evaluated the workshop satisfactorily and expressed their opinions, which the Embassy will use as a reference in organizing further workshops in the next phase. — GNLM

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.



NATIONAL

Tatmadaw, police members serve State defence, rule of law duties

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The Senior General pointed out that union ministries need to lead boosting production to develop the economic sector as the foreign exchange spending policy has been amended.

He underlined that a special emphasis must be placed on increased production of oil crops in all regions and states to meet the target production while efforts must be made to improve the production of dairy products at home.

He added that the first priority must be given to the development of agriculture and livestock farms to enhance the State economy.

As the second priority, the Senior General noted that MSME businesses need to use raw ma-

terials obtained from local agriculture and livestock farms to manufacture quality products with advanced technologies.

In the education sector, the learning opportunity is being created for the people to complete the KG+9 scheme to promote education standards and encourage education staff to assist and fulfil requirements. As staff members serve duties in remote areas, the government must fulfil their needs.

Likewise, he continued that the government fulfils the needs of health staff as well as health facilities with medications as much as possible.

The Senior General stressed the need to enhance the capacity of service personnel and supervise them under relevant disci-

plines while helping them enjoy the fruits of socioeconomic life. He added that it is necessary to manage rank promotion and transfer of postings fairly for service personnel under rules, regulations, and laws.

The Senior General urged all meeting participants to effectively apply the authority entrusted under the Constitution to serve the nation's interest.

He underscored that not only relevant ministries but also all residents and officials have to implement tourism services in order to provide healthy accommodation and food supplies to guests.

The Senior General stressed that although the development process of a country must be under the government's lead-

ership, the entire people must join hands with the government with collaborative efforts to have development momentum.

Union ministers discussed the year-wise budget conditions, GDP measures, issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards, preparations for enumeration of the national population and housing census, development of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors, annual inflow of foreign investments and citizen investments, measures for primary and higher education examinations, better healthcare services and development of sports sector.

In his response, the Senior General said that it is necessary to change people's consumption types to ensure health and fitness and that people need to consume

rice and wheat. He continued that the government is responsible for enumerating the population and housing census once every ten years and applying data from the census to future tasks of the State.

In conclusion, the Senior General urged state and region chief ministers to encourage the successful manufacturing of products to increase export volumes in order to reduce the trade deficit.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union ministers and officials together with the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, state and region chief ministers through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Nay Pyi Taw Zone team crowns in football event of Inter-Technological & Computer University Sports Competition



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the championship trophy to the Nay Pyi Taw Zone team yesterday.

NAY PYI TAW Zone team clinched a title with a 2-1 win over the Meiktila Zone team in the final football tournament match at the Inter-Technological and Computer University Sports Competition.

The final match took place at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

From the start of the match, both sides put pressure on football possession against each other. In the 44th minute, Nay Pyi Taw Zone led the game with an opening goal through a penalty kick. In the 62nd minute, the Meiktila Zone team took an equalizer, but the Nay Pyi Taw Zone team scored one more goal in the 65th minute to control the match till

the final whistle.

SAC members awarded outstanding players in their respective positions.

SAC members Admiral Tin Aung San and General Mya Tun Oo presented individual medals and cash awards to the third prize-winning Magway Zone and second prize-winning Meiktila Zone. Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo gave individual medals to players from champion Nay Pyi Taw Zone.

The Senior General presented cash awards and a championship trophy to the first prize-winning Nay Pyi Taw Zone team and cordially greeted players.

The spectators were Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers and officials. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw ancient pagodas draw pilgrims, researchers



Ancient pagodas seen in Nyaungpingyisu Village, Pobbathiri Township.

PILGRIMS and historians have visited ancient pagodas and Buddha images in Nyaungpingyisu Village in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, according to the Nay Pyi Taw Nyaungpingyisu Ancient Heritage Trust (Interim).

“The experts and ar-

chitects who restored the quake-damaged pagodas in the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone also conducted maintenance on the cluster of 47 pagodas in Nyaungpingyisu back in 2013. The architectural features of these pagodas suggest they belong to the Konbaung and

Nyaungyan eras. Historians from the Department of Historical Research and National Library estimate their age to be between 200 and 300 years or probably even older,” a trustee said.

A monastery near the pagodas hosts a six-foot by four-foot jewel-laden regal bed and ancient gilded palm-leaves. The trust, led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Cakkinda, holds custodianship over the antiquities and pagodas.

The pagodas are accessible through the Tawwin Yadana Road connecting the Pynmana-Taungnyo and Yazahtani highways.

Since 2019, Nyaungpingyisu village and its ancient pagodas have captured the attention of pilgrims, attracting around 100 visitors per public holiday. — ASH/NT

Myanmar’s mineral exports earn US\$216.611 mln as of January

MYANMAR bagged US\$216.611 million from exporting mineral products in the 2023-2024 financial year (from 1 April to 12 January), according to Daw Cho Thet Mu, deputy director of the Trade Policy Division of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported finished industrial goods internationally during the above period, receiving \$166.309 million from sea-

borne exports and \$50.302 million from border trade, totalling \$216.611 million.

“In mineral exports, the ore grabbed \$89.112 million, and the second highest income of \$27.946 million came from the export of jade,” Daw Cho Thet Mu said. Myanmar’s mineral exports include gold, jade, gemstones, pearls, diamonds, lead, tin, sapphire, silver, copper, zinc, coal, and other minerals. — ASH/TKO



Jades are seen being displayed in the previous gems emporium.

Counter-argument to false information

Khit Thit media accuses security forces of capturing Sanghas as human shields

MALICIOUS Khit Thit media circulated fake news on social media accusing security forces of occupying the Nanpayote village monastery in Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region, for two days and capturing six Sanghas to use as human shields when they left it on Thursday.

A security force member clarified that they had never occupied the monastery or captured any Sangha.

Security forces and peace-loving residents cooperate to maintain law and order

in Palaw Township. Terrorists and malicious media outlets are spreading misinformation to incite violence. — MNA/NT



Screenshot validates misinformation.

Security forces falsely accused of burning and shelling four villages in Madaya Township

THE malicious media are circulating false news on online networks alleging Tatmadaw of burning and shelling four villages located east of Madaya Township, Mandalay Region and injuring two civilians. Regarding the news, PDF terrorists gathered in the above villages and ambushed the security forces. If they have no chance to attack, they burn the villages, according to the residents and officers from the security forces in the area.

The malicious media supporting PDF terrorists are spreading false news, covering up their terrorist acts and misleading the public. — MNA/TKO

Screenshot validates false claims.



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NATIONAL

Three Myanmar nationals repatriated from Iraq

THE Myanmar Embassy in Cairo made negotiations with Iraqi authorities to repatriate its citizens stranded in Baghdad, Iraq. On 1 February, three Myanmar citizens were repatriated on a Baghdad-Dubai flight under the government plan. They arrived in Myanmar by Bangkok-Yangon flight after the Dubai-Bangkok flight yesterday evening.

They were welcomed back by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Home Affairs, Myanmar Police Force and Arakan National Network at Yangon International Airport. The three returnees were Ma Honey Tun, Ma Myat Aye San (aka) Wai Wai and Ma Than Nwe Htay. — MNA/KTZH



Returnees from Baghdad, Iraq, are seen being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport.

Myanmar citizens stranded in Baghdad, Iraq, were repatriated. Some of them expressed their gratitude and shared their experiences with readers

THE government cares for its citizens abroad and assists them if they face hardships. It also rescued its citizens stranded in conflicts between Israel and Hamas in time. Similarly, the citizens stranded in Iraq were repatriated and arrived back in Yangon on a Baghdad-Dubai-Bangkok-Yangon flight yesterday evening.

to my country. While I was facing such challenges, the Myanmar Embassy and officials repatriated us bearing the costs. I would like to express my gratitude to the officials for repatriating us while we face hardships in foreign countries. I arrived back thanks to the government officials. I thank them.

Daw Wai Wai Latt (Assistant Director, Department of Rehabilitation)

Our department set five work plans, and the three returnees from Iraq are also our citizens. Therefore, the Department of Rehabilitation of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement welcomed them.

Ma Honey Tun (Sittway)

I am from Sittway. I went to Baghdad, Iraq, for job purposes. When I faced various difficulties, I wanted to return



Ma Honey Tun (Sittway). PHOTO: KANU



Ma Myat Aye San (Ponnagyun)

Ma Myat Aye San (Ponnagyun)

I am happy and sad simultaneously when the flight landed at Yangon International Airport. I did not think I would return to Myanmar and meet my parents and relatives again. I am in serious condition in Iraq. I want to thank all the governmental officials, other relevant embassy officials, and those who welcome us.

Ma Than Nwe Htay (MraukU)

I worked in Dubai and moved to Iraq. I faced hardships in Iraq as the people have no positive mindset like Myanmar. I arrive here as the government brings us bearing the costs. I thank the government officials, staff of the Myanmar Embassy, and those who help us for our return. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



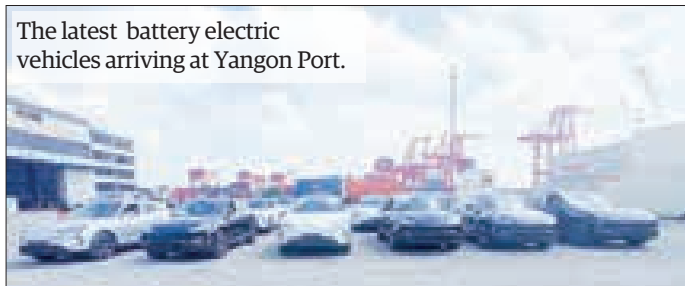
Ma Than Nwe Htay (MraukU)



Electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port

CHINA-MADE Honda ENS1 EVs, Dayun Yuehu S1 (VIP Edition) EVs, BYD D1 EVs, DFSK Seres-5 EVs and Faw Toyota bZ4X EVs, imported with the approval of the Steering Committee on National-Level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, arrived at Yangon Port. Golden Octopus Co Ltd, Amazing Auto Co Ltd, Earth Renewable Energy Co Ltd,

The latest battery electric vehicles arriving at Yangon Port.



Yaung Ni Oo Automobile Co Ltd and Dongfeng Motor Corporation Ltd imported these electric cars. They were claimed by the importers following the required procedures yesterday. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Monsoon onion prices on downward trend



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

THE prices of monsoon onions that are newly harvested have been on the downtick at the Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Market since 31 January 2024.

The high supply of onions surpassed demand, causing the prices to fall, Ko Thein Myint, a seller from Yetama Street, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The Bayintnaung market saw an influx of 240,000 visses of onion on 29 January, 150,000 on 31 January and 210,000 on 1 February. The prices dipped to K800-K2,700 per viss depending on the producing areas (Myingyan, Seikphyu, Taungdwin and Myittha areas) and sizes.

The prices moved between K1,300 and K2,250 per viss on 1 February 2023.

The depot owners involved in Yangon's market urged the traders to reduce the supply these days as around 200,000 visses of onions daily flow into the market. Nonetheless, the markets still witnessed the high inflows of onions. Housewives stressed that the retail price for large onions touched a high of K3,000 per viss at Nyaungpinlay market. — TWA/KK

Over 36,000 Myanmar workers find jobs in Thailand online

MORE than 36,000 Myanmar workers have received overseas jobs in Thailand through receiving and processing job offers via the online system, Union Minister for Labour U Myint Naung said in a meeting with the executive members of the Myanmar Overseas Employers Agencies Federation (MOEAF) in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 January.

The system started on 1 January and received 1,126 job offers until 31 January, which led to the employment of 36,422 Myanmar workers at companies in Thailand. The online system was conducted only with email, and the

email addresses were provided again so that the process is not complicated, avoiding delay.

The agencies are sending workers with their schedules, and arrangements have been in place by the ministry to ensure the workers arriving in Myawady face no delays in their struggles to travel to Thailand. In addition, since difficulties arose in the Myawady-Mae Sot route for sending labour to Thailand, the Union Minister for Labour negotiated with the Thai Labour Minister and agreed to transport workers via the Yangon-Don Mueang flight. — TWA/TKO



A glimpse of the Yangon-Don Mueang MAI flight.

Myanmar-Thailand border trade reaches over US\$45 mln in January



The photo shows a lorry laden with onions to transport them to Thailand at the Myawady Trade Zone.

MYANMAR'S border trade with neighbouring Thailand amounted to US\$45.20 million — \$10.452 million in exports and \$34.768 million in imports — through the Myawady border between 1 and 28 January.

Myanmar exported peanuts, onion, dried chilli, and fresh chilli to Thailand while it imported raw plastic materials, motorbike

parts, automobile parts, electrical goods, construction materials, detergents, foodstuffs, and machinery spare parts.

Furthermore, product inspections for perishable aquatic products and green items like onions and chillies at the border checkpoint are prioritized to facilitate and expedite exports. — TWA/MKKS

Garlic prices triple in Feb 2024

THE price of garlic from Shan State registered a threefold increase on 1 February 2024 compared to that of the corresponding period last year, benefiting the growers with good prices.

Some Shan garlic is sent to neighbouring countries at borders, yet Kyukok garlic imported by China has grasped a strong market share in the

domestic market for two decades.

The prices stood at K15,800-K17,000 per viss whereas Kyukok garlic fetched K9,000-K9,200 per viss in early February, according to the garlic store on Yetama Street at Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre.

The prices were recorded at K5,100-K6,300 per viss of

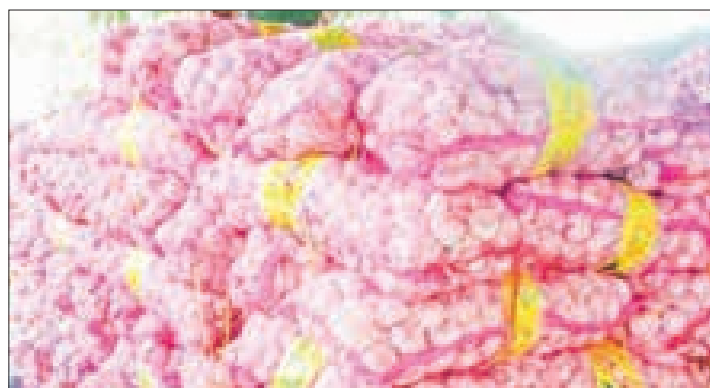
Shan garlic on 1 February 2023.

Low stocks in the market drive the price up when the harvest time nears. The cold weather causes weight loss of bulbs.

The large size of the garlic jumped to K17,000 per viss on 1 February from K16,000 per viss at the end of January 2024.

Garlic and potatoes, like palm oil, are imported to meet domestic demand. The record prices are K5,100 per viss of onion and K4,200 for potato only, whereas the garlic price peaked at K17,000 per viss.

Garlic is primarily cultivated in Shan State. It is also found in Mandalay and Pakokku areas, and garlic from those areas is rarely found in Yangon's market due to low yield, U Aung Myo, a trader, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). — TWA/EM



A pile of Kyukok garlic bags is found in the market on 2 February 2024.

Fuel oil prices indicate slight upward trend

THE fuel market sees an uptick of over K45-K105 per litre within one day.

The prices hit K2,705 per litre of Octane 92, K2,845 for Octane 95, K2,450 for diesel and K2,515 for premium diesel on 1 February 2024.

The prices increased slightly to K2,765 for Octane 92 and K2,890 for Octane 95, K2,555 for diesel and K2,600 for premium diesel on 2 February.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

In August 2022, the oil prices hit the highest of K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel.

Therefore, the petrol prices (Octane 92 and 95) broke the



A vehicle is seen being refuelled at a petrol station in Yangon.

previous record prices.

The committee is steering the market for price stability and fuel oil security in the domestic market.

Under the supervision of the committee, the Petroleum

Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see

whether they are overcharging. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the

set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than Myanmar's. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

Black gram price hit new high, driven by robust foreign demand



Black grams, which India primarily purchases, are cultivated only in Myanmar.

WITH the foreign demand surging, the black gram price hit a fresh new peak again to K3.4 million per tonne.

The price remained unchanged at around K3 million at the end of 2023. The market upswing has started from the last week of January 2024.

The price soared to K3.402 million per tonne on 2 February from K3.276 million on 1 February, reflecting a sharp rise of K126,000 per tonne.

Along with the Kyat depreciation against the US dollar, loading black gram onto a ship increased the price.

India, the primary buyer of Myanmar's pulses, is crucial in elevating the

prices. It also imports the black gram (urad) from Brazil and other countries. Nonetheless, they prefer Myanmar's black gram because of its better quality and easy access to ample supply. India extended the free import policy of black gram (urad) and pigeon pea (tur) until March 2025.

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

Myanmar shipped over 1.25 million tonnes of various pulses worth over US\$1 billion over the past nine months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

Black grams, which India primarily purchases, are cultivated only in Myanmar. In contrast, pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, as stated by the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM

15th VIFA Expo 2024 invites Myanmar business people

THE 15th VIFA Expo 2024, which will take place in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, from 26 to 29 February, invites Myanmar businesspeople to showcase a vast range of furniture, handicrafts and home accessories, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

This fair aims to provide a platform to discuss the industry trends between Myanmar buyers and Vietnamese businesspersons and explore business opportunities.

The opening ceremony of the fair will be held on 26 February. Participants can go on on-site tours to Ben Tre province, the heart of the coconut production industry, on 27 and 28 February, including meeting province officials.

Those enthusiasts can send their profiles to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through 067 3408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/EM

OPINION

Train primary students well under Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics

THE Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) is a regional initiative aimed at enhancing learning outcomes and capacity building in primary education across Southeast Asian countries, targeting students from Kindergarten to Grade 5. This comprehensive programme strives to standardize primary education internationally and is particularly significant for Myanmar, where it holds the potential to transform the landscape of primary education.

The SEA-PLM programme in Southeast Asian countries focuses on three pivotal aspects. Firstly, it seeks to generate comparative data, indicators, and analyses on learning outcomes and the context of basic education. This approach enables a deeper understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in educational systems, paving the way for targeted improvements.

Secondly, the program aims to strengthen collaboration and exchanges, fostering advancements in policy and practices at both system and school levels. Lastly, SEA-PLM endeavours to promote and enhance technical capacity and evidence-based educational decision-making.

Myanmar Ministry of Education initiated the research process for SEA-PLM 2024 on 23 February 2023, with the primary goal of elevating primary-level basic education. The programme particularly targets improving reading, writing, mathematics, and global citizenship skills among Grade 5 students.

A significant milestone in this endeavour was the field trial conducted on 28 September 2023, involving 1,744 Grade 5

students. The assessment utilized reading, mathematics, and global citizenship skills booklets alongside questionnaires for both parents and students, providing valuable insights into their qualifications.

Moving forward, the main survey for SEA-PLM 2024 is scheduled for November and December this year, aiming to collect comprehensive data on educational assessments. The subsequent adoption of relevant educational policies and action plans based on research findings will be instrumental in the overall development of the education sector.

Recognizing that a strong foundation is essential for improving the entire basic education sector, ensuring that students are well-qualified at the primary education level is imperative. This qualification serves as a stepping stone, enabling students to seamlessly progress to middle and high school education, ultimately paving the way for higher education.

Children, akin to malleable wax, can be shaped as desired. Providing effective training to primary students can significantly enhance their intellectual capacities. This, in turn, will empower them to pursue continuous education both inside and outside the formal school setting, transforming them into outstanding students who contribute positively to the state and society. The success of this vision relies on the concerted efforts of students, parents, teachers, and authorities in implementing the master plan for the education sector.

I WOULD like to raise a question for everyone. Generally, every adult desires to work for the purpose of income as well as for their prestige. They all seek jobs for their livelihoods when they are at a workable age. In Myanmar society, individuals who have turned 18 are recognized as adults at a workable age. So, they seek employment deserved for their life and to show off their qualification in society.

Actually, seeking employment is based on many factors. In this regard, everybody needs to learn about society and observe the behaviours of others in society, how to stand tall in society, how to earn income for deserved labour, how to follow prescribed disciplines and rules of bosses, why to avoid inappropriate physical and mental behaviours, how to forge willingness to work, why to notice behaviours of humans, why not to abuse social media platform.

To stand tall in society

First, when they are adult, they have to earn income for their daily life. Only when they can earn income can they pass difficulties and challenges in their daily routine. Everybody can understand most of the problems can be solved by money. As such, it is crucial to seek jobs as an essential part of adulthood.

Next, when individuals have suitable or appropriate jobs, they can be confident that their social standing within the community will improve, thanks to their incomes, through successfully navigating various processes. If so, a question needs to be raised. How many people are they grateful for their jobs? It is because they can take shelter from their jobs with high prestige in society. They can earn income from the jobs whenever they do work. They can enjoy the emulation of others due to their jobs and careers. As such, they should indeed be heartily grateful for their jobs. But such a question will emerge again. How many persons do they be thankful for their jobs?

To earn incomes for deserved labour

As one more thing, everybody can earn salaries or wages equal to efforts in their jobs. Such jobs may be in government services or private businesses. Whatever it may be, such incomes come to them because their efforts poured



A workplace shows the sharing of knowledge and experiences among partners. PHOTO: FREEPIK

Don't integrate societies or workplaces through disputes

salaries, they must pour out their utmost efforts and apply qualifications deserved for the wages. Regrettably, some persons have spent years on service terms, but their capacity and qualifications do not improve. So, no one can give them any chance. Only when they can show off high skills and qualifications in workplaces can they be recognized as deserved persons for higher ranks and salaries. If not, their attempts to get chances and money will go with the wind.

To forge a willingness to work

On the other hand, those workers must be willing to work. It is necessary to review their past lives so that some persons are eager to get jobs before the period of unemployment. When they have secured jobs, they de-

seniors. She neglects mistakes in her assignments. Her arguments make it difficult to leave her alone. No one dares to talk with her. For many years, her moves have become a tool to disintegrate workplace unity.

To notice the behaviours of humans

Indeed, all humans may make mistakes at any time. No man is perfect. So, all partners in society need to point out the errors of others with goodwill, and they all have to accept and follow advice easily to avoid mistakes from being caused again. If so, society, as well as any workplace, will be in unison. All work procedures will be smooth and secure.

Not to abuse social media platforms

Currently, social media networks are reachable for all. So, anyone should abuse such media platforms to attack others with opposite attitudes. They should not write down their dissatisfactions and complaints on social media network pages, although they never dare to disclose them in front of partners in the workplace or society. Actually, they need to solve the problems together with their opponents. Wicked ways of shouting aloud dissatisfaction through social media platforms are unfair to all. In fact, abusing the social media platform is an act of one-sided bullying against others.

As such, everybody needs to understand that workplaces are formed with experienced senior employees and junior ones. Generally, junior employees cannot stay alone in the workplace. Everybody should be in harmony to operate all work processes. If they do not lure anyone to their sides, they should not wedge investigations among partners of the society. It will be terribly guilty. They should not make attempts to commit lies in society or workplaces. They can leave if they are unsatisfied with the situation and the nature of the workplace. But, they will miss the opportunities to enjoy the deserved entitlements of employees under the disciplines of workplaces as they, on their part, start departing from workplaces. That is why every employee has to associate with everyone in a correct way. They have to sustain proper relations among partners in society.

grade their workplace efforts and evade assignments in any way. Actually, they are eager to get chances and entitlements but do not take any responsibilities. Although they shout aloud with policy affairs the bosses prefer, they do not have any workplace operating techniques. For example, an employee working at a media demanded his salary from the boss, but the boss refused his proposal. It is because the employee cannot show off his brilliant skills in the workplace. Moreover, the employee always makes many complaints whenever seniors guide him. Despite committing many mistakes in assignments, he always complains that he is always right. Whenever the boss talks about something, he responds to the talks with a lot of arguments. Finally, such an employee was set aside in the workplace, and no one gave him a helping hand whenever he faced any problems. With regard to one more female employee, she never stops his acts of refusing many things against the advice of

out in jobs. Although they make their efforts to operate the jobs, such a job is a benefactor for them as a source of income.

In this regard, everybody needs to notice that they should never insult their jobs in words or behaviours. These jobs give them mental shelter, physical safety, and strength while working. Generally, everybody can feel that they may be downhearted during the period when they are unemployed. They are worried about facing the underestimation of others and lack of income. Even though they cannot get salaries or any honorariums, they can stand tall in society as an employee. They can thumb up with confidence that they are employees and not useless persons. If so, they can win the trust of friends and others in society and have self-confidence in doing everything.

If they are juniors, they must follow seniors' advice in the workplace. If they are senior workers, they have an obligation to guide juniors in order to ensure a smooth job process. Whenever they are juniors in the workplace due to lack of experience, they have to follow the advice of seniors obediently. Only then will seniors be willing to share their precious experiences with them.

To follow prescribed disciplines and rules of bosses

Hence, everybody needs to analyze the following processes. They should follow the prescribed disciplines of relevant workplaces. Moreover, they must com-

prehensively understand that all employees have to abide by all rules given by bosses without fail. As workers, they should not argue anything over these rules and disciplines being exercised for many years, except for unfair measures. It is because all employees have agreed to follow the regulations and disciplines mentioned since they have joined such jobs. As such, they have to be loyal to their jobs. They must try to accomplish the assigned jobs without any complaints as much as possible.

Importantly, workers are responsible for uplifting their capacity. Some people do not try hard in the workplace without learning knowledge and techniques. Although they spend many years, their qualification cannot improve. Due to long service, they wish to get higher salaries, but it is not deserved for their qualification yet. If they want to get high

To avoid inappropriate physical and mental behaviors

Significantly, as they are members of the workplace, they have to avoid any inappropriate

This oil can be natural treatment for dry eye conditions

Current treatments with antibacterials and anti-inflammatories have limitations due to side effects and potential antimicrobial resistance, leaving patients feeling helpless.

FOLLOWING a successful pilot study, researchers at the University of Auckland are conducting a clinical trial of castor oil as a potentially safe and natural treatment for dry eye conditions.

It is estimated that dry-eye illness affects approximately 58 per cent of the population aged 50 and up in Australia.

Some risk factors for developing dry eye disease include advanced age, menopause, increased screen time, and contact lens wear.

Blepharitis is the leading cause of dry eye illness, accounting for more than 80 per cent of cases. It is a chronic disease with no known cure.

Symptoms of dryness

"Currently, patients are left grappling with symptoms of dryness, grittiness and, in some cases, watery eyes that feel uncomfortable impacting on their quality of life and work productivity," says doctoral candidate and lead clinical investigator Catherine Jennings.

Current treatments, such as antibacterials and anti-inflammatories, are generally unsuitable for long-term use, due to significant side effects and the potential for antimicrobial resistance.

"Often patients are left feeling helpless when attempting to manage a chronic condition," Jennings said.

The current trial is of a product containing cold-pressed castor oil enhanced with manuka and kanuka oils applied using a rollerball attached to a small glass bottle. "The previous pilot study, conducted by our research team, was unique in its use of castor oil in such an application on the eyelids, with the product not known to be used anywhere else in the world for treating blepharitis," said Jennings.

Castor oil comes from a flowering tropical or subtropical shrub from the species *Ricinus communis*. It has been used therapeutically for millennia, including more recently in eye cosmetics and eye makeup removers.

SOURCE: ANI



The ongoing trial involves a product with cold-pressed castor oil, enhanced with manuka and kanuka oils, applied using a rollerball for potential long-term relief. ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

NATIONAL

70-year-old woman wins K500M grand prize in Aungbarlay's first automated draw

AT the opening of Aungbarlay Lottery, which switched to an internationally used machine system for the first time, a 70-year-old woman from Magway Region won a K500 million grand prize.

The winning lottery number is Ga-716444 won by the old woman. In place of picking winning alphabets and number balls from wooden barrels by humans, an air blow digital machine was used for the first at the opening of the 59th Aungbarlay Lottery on 1 February.

The old woman, a native of Chauk township in Magway Region, bought two lottery tickets from Hein Dana lottery shop, and won the highest grand prize, said a person from Hein Dana lottery shop.

"K500 million prize is included in the prizes our customers won this week. Other

prizes include K50,000 prize and K100,000 prize. The winner is an old woman from Chauk township," he said.

The lottery shop announced the old woman won the prize on its Facebook page and internet users made cheerful comments for the winner. — MT/ZS



Hein Dana Lottery shop's Facebook page.



Captivating panorama: Trekkers against the backdrop of snow-capped mountains.

Mount Phonkanrazi trail now cleared for trekkers' convenience

THE trail to Mount Phonkanrazi in Kachin State, a popular destination for those interested in snow-capped mountain climbing, is arranged for travellers' convenience, according to an interview with local travel agencies.

It took about two weeks to clear the obstacles in the old trek from PutaO to Phonkan-

razi. "We cleared bushes along the trekking route to the mountain. We arranged ropes for the guests where needed in areas that were difficult to access. If the path was too narrow, we widened it. We aim for the guests to walk comfortably," said a local-based tour operator. Tourism officials also took

part in the clearing. "The old mountain path was difficult for both locals and the guests. Now, it has been arranged for their convenience. There are a few travellers because we only have one flight. But we expect it to pick up again. Then, everything will be fine," said a local. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Onepay launches application for buying pure gold

THE launching ceremony of Onepay's application for pure gold purchase, entitled "Growing Wealth by Investing in Gold", occurred at the Park Royal Hotel on the afternoon of 31 January. Gold can be purchased in re-

al-time via this application at the current market price of the shops.

"A better condition is that gold can be bought up to one tical in the form of savings. It is an advantage to be able to save

daily. This application also collects gold.

It is good since everyone can start buying with a small amount of money. After opening an account on a mobile phone, people in other cities can trade

gold. People can trade from home. They don't have to go to the shops. You can also sell back or buy back immediately," said U Myo Myint, chairman of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

Approved and recognized by the Central Bank of Myanmar, this application can be trusted and used safely, said a gold shop official. YGEA officials attended the launching ceremony of this application. — MT/ZN

CRIME NEWS

Confiscated illegal items: Industrial materials, consumer goods and vehicles

THE combined on-duty team under the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated a Hyundai tractor head with a trailer (approximately K55 million), travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon, carrying nine kinds of goods valued at K73,295,718 including 43 sets of Standa step-up transformer that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Ywathagyi Dry Port on 31 January. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the com-

combined teams supervised by the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force impounded a Toyota Surf car (worth approximately K6 million) that was parked near the detour of Lashio township, carrying ten kinds of goods worth K3.545 million, including 260 pairs of sports shoes without official documents. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

Similarly, the joint teams of the Customs Department seized 780 pairs of Walkaroo men's shoes valued at K6.24 million

from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and 57 kinds of goods worth K63,409,600 including six boxes of O-Ring auto parts that were not declared in the ID at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee stated that seven arrests were made on 31 January, with an estimated value of K207,490,318. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal items: Industrial materials, consumer goods and vehicles.

71% of musicians fear AI: French-German study

A survey of 15,000 industry professionals by Sacem and GEMA indicates that 71% fear financial challenges in the future.

MORE than two-thirds of musicians fear that artificial intelligence will make it impossible to make a living, according to a study by French and German music societies published Tuesday.

Based on a survey of more than 15,000 people in the industry, France's Society of Authors, Composers and Music Publishers (Sacem) and its German equivalent GEMA, said 71 per cent of respondents feared they would no longer make ends meet in the future. It found that 35 per cent were already using AI in a "large number of areas related to music creation".

But the report also carried out market analysis and expert interviews that estimated incomes would fall 27 per cent by 2028, equivalent to some 2.7 billion euros (\$2.9 billion).

Some 95 per cent demanded more transparency from companies developing AI tools, with a similar number saying they wanted politicians to pay greater attention to challenges linked to AI and copyright.

Cecile Rap-Veber, managing director of Sacem, said it was not a question of "slowing down" AI activity, "but of making it virtuous". — AFP



Many music producers already use Artificial Intelligence but 71 per cent of respondents in a French-German survey said they thought it would stop them making a living. PHOTO: AFP

Walking fitness can predict fracture risk in older adults: Study

RESEARCHERS from the Garvan Institute of Medical Research believe that being able to walk one kilometer comfortably can help predict fracture risk.

The findings, published today in JAMA Network Open, suggested that just asking a patient about walking limitations may assist clinicians in identifying those who require additional bone health assessment and prescribing therapies to prevent fractures.

"We've discovered that trouble walking even short distances appears closely tied to higher fracture risk over the following five years," said lead author of the study, Professor Jacqueline Centre, Head of Garvan's Clinical Studies and Epidemiology Lab.

"Just a few simple questions about how far someone can walk could give doctors an early warning sign to check bone health." — ANI



People run during a rain at the Giza Pyramids scenic spot in Giza, Egypt, 31 January 2024. PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA

Giza pyramid cladding project raises debate in Egypt

Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities plans to clad the Pyramid of Menkaure with granite blocks, sparking debate among archaeologists concerned about preserving the 4,500-year-old monument's originality.

THE plan of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) to clad the Pyramid of Menkaure, one of the famed three pyramids of Giza, with granite blocks raised debate in the country as some archeologists are concerned it would ruin the originality of the 4,500-year-old monument.

SCA Secretary General Mostafa Waziri posted a video

on 25 January at the pyramid announcing the project, which he referred to as the "Project of the Century" and "Egypt's Gift to the World". Waziri said the three-stage project will be carried out over at least three years by an Egyptian-Japanese mission, noting that Menkaure is the only one among Egypt's 124 pyramids whose outer cladding was made of granite

and has lost its original granite casting over the past centuries.

Following the announcement, some archeologists and experts opposed the idea. On Wednesday, a group of Egyptian archeologists and restorers issued a statement, expressing their rejection of the cladding project of the pyramid of ancient Egyptian King Menkaure. — Xinhua

For smoother skin, tap your face while applying beauty products

IF you see people on TikTok tapping their faces to apply beauty products, then they're probably practising "bone tapping". This technique, inspired by Chinese acupuncture, is said to improve the appearance of skin and even slow its ageing.

Bone tapping, also known as face tapping, involves tapping different areas of the face with your fingers, such as the cheekbones, forehead and jawline.

This technique supposedly helps smooth skin texture and reduce the appearance of wrinkles. And all without spending

a single penny.

At present, the technique is gathering a large following on TikTok under the "face tapping" hashtag, which has racked up some 50 million

views. Note that this trick should not be confused with face taping, another skincare hack that involves sticking pieces of adhesive tape on your face. — AFP



ECONOMY WORLD

Strikes over labour reform to paralyze Finland

Finland, known for its robust welfare model, is facing opposition from labour unions against Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's coalition government, which advocates for an "export-driven labour market model" to enhance long-term competitiveness.

MUCH of Finland will come to a standstill on Thursday and Friday as around 300,000 people walk off the job to protest against the government's proposed labour market reforms, including social benefit cuts.

Like its Nordic neighbours, Finland is known for its generous welfare model, which offers strong protection and benefits for employees.

But Conservative Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's co-

alition government has argued the country needs an "export-driven labour market model" in order to "boost Finland's long-term competitiveness".

The overhaul has infuriated labour unions, who have vowed to paralyze the country to force the government to back down.

Unions plan to shut down Finnish air traffic on February 1-2, leading national carrier Finnair to cancel 550 flights, affecting 60,000 passengers.

Trains across the country and metros, buses and trams in the capital will grind to a halt on Friday, while various unions have also called for work stoppages in the energy sector, schools and healthcare services. — AFP



Unions plan to shut down Finnish air traffic on 1-2 February, leading national carrier Finnair to cancel 550 flights, affecting 60,000 passengers. **PHOTO: AFP**

US announces to enforce IPEF Supply Chain Agreement on 24 February

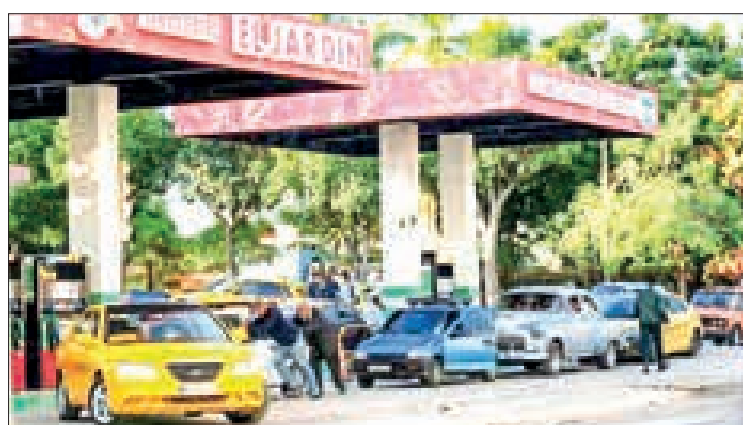
THE US Department of Commerce on Thursday announced that the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Supply Chain Agreement will be enforced on 24 February, further emphasizing that it will promote coordination among the

IPEF partners on building efficient, secure and fair supply chains.

The IPEF agreement, relating to supply chain resilience is also referred to as the Supply Chain Agreement.

"The US Department of Commerce today announced

that the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Agreement Relating to Supply Chain Resilience, generally referred to as the Supply Chain Agreement, will enter into force on 24 February 2024," the US Department of Commerce said. — ANI



Drivers queue to fill their tanks at a petrol station in Havana on 31 January 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cuba delays 500% fuel price hike over 'cybersecurity' incident

CUBA'S government on Wednesday delayed a planned 500 per cent surge in the fuel price after a "cybersecurity incident", an economy ministry official said.

The communist island's cash-strapped government had announced the five-fold increase with effect from 1 February, as

part of a series of measures seeking to cut its budget deficit.

Economy ministry official Mildrey Granadillo said there had been a "cybersecurity incident ... whose origin has been identified as a virus from abroad".

She did not give a new date

for the planned increase.

The cost of a liter of regular gasoline is to rise from 25 pesos (20 US cents) to 132 pesos, while the price of premium gasoline will jump from 30 to 156 pesos, the government said earlier this month.

— AFP

Egypt faces dollar crunch as debt explodes

Recent shocks, including the pandemic affecting tourism, the Ukraine war impacting import costs, and attacks by Yemen's Huthi rebels affecting Suez Canal fees, have significantly impacted Egypt's import-reliant economy.



The pandemic impacted its key tourism sector. A file picture shows tourists parasailing at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. **PHOTO: AFP**

EGYPT'S economic crisis is squeezing high-street brands such as Starbucks and The Body Shop as experts ask how the Arab world's most populous nation will repay its soaring debt.

Amid a severe foreign currency crunch, the US dollar has become hard to come by as the Egyptian pound is plunging and inflation is surging at 35 per cent.

Egypt's highly import-reliant economy has been hit hard by a series of recent shocks.

The pandemic impacted its key tourism sector. The Ukraine war raised the cost of wheat and other imports. And recent attacks by Yemen's Huthi rebels on Red Sea shipping have slashed vital Suez Canal fees.

Remittances from overseas Egyptian workers — the main source of foreign currency — slumped by as much as 30 per cent in July-September 2023 alone, according to Central Bank of Egypt data.

The Egyptian state, highly indebted after years of heavy borrowing, including for a new capital city in the desert east of Cairo, has struggled to service its ballooning debt.

The International Monetary Fund has stepped in with a \$3 billion loan facility but demanded painful austerity measures in the country of 106 million people, two-thirds of whom live on or below the poverty line. — AFP

Tesla sued by California counties over handling of hazardous waste

US electric vehicle maker Tesla has been sued by a group of 25 counties in California for allegedly mishandling hazardous waste materials at facilities throughout the western US state for years.

Tesla, previously headquartered in Palo

Alto, California, moved its corporate headquarters to Austin, Texas in 2021, but maintains its engineering headquarters and the high-volume electric vehicle factory in California.

The company has been improperly labelled

and disposed of hazardous materials at its production and service facilities and at landfills that can't accept hazardous waste, said the district attorneys representing those counties in the complaint filed in San Joaquin County Superior Court on Tuesday.

The hazardous materials include lead acid lubricating oils, brake fluid, lead acid batteries, aerosols, antifreeze, cleaning fluids, propane, paint, acetone, liquefied petroleum gas and diesel fuel, according to the 22-page document. — Xinhua



Tesla, the US electric vehicle maker, is facing a lawsuit from 25 California counties for allegedly mishandling hazardous waste at facilities across the state. **PHOTO: AFP**

China's Yunnan sees blooming flower export in 2023

Due to their short shelf life, flowers are categorized as "fresh and perishable" goods, requiring temperature-controlled preservation during transportation.



A child takes selfies with flowers at Dounan Flower Market in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province, 13 July 2023. **PHOTO: CHEN XINBO/XINHUA**

YUNNAN Province, the main supplier of flowers in southwest China, exported fresh-cut flowers worth 570 million yuan (about 80 million US dollars) in 2023, ranking first in the country for the fifth straight year.

Mohan, the most convenient land port of China to Laos, as well as Southeast Asia, saw the export value of fresh-cut flowers surge by 39.3 per cent to 150 million yuan in 2023, according to customs authorities in the provincial capital Kunming.

Flowers fall under the category of "fresh and perishable" goods due to their short shelf

life and the need for temperature-controlled preservation during transportation.

To ensure the timely export of these special goods, Mengla Customs, which is under the administration of Kunming Customs, has opened a "green channel", together with a slew of measures such as declaration in advance and inspection on demand, said Zhang Peiran, an official with the Mengla Customs.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has helped further facilitate the exports and lower the tariffs. — Xinhua

Notice for Change of Trade Name

Notice is hereby given that official trade name have been changed for the following pesticides distributed by Aung Linn Animal Health Ltd.

No.	Trade Name		Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
	Previous	New			
1	Foison Fendi 5 EC	ငွေရောင်	Emamectictin Benzoate 5% EC	Full	F2023-4256
2	Guang Cyper	အယ်ဗာစတား	Alpha-Cypermethrin 100 g/l EC	Provisional	P2021-5245

Aung Linn Animal Health Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice.

Aung Linn Aniamla Health Ltd. Tel: 09-955006789

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (415N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (415N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (809N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (809N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-2-2024** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2402S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2402S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-2-2024** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC ONYX VOY.NO. (1270037)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC ONYX VOY.NO. (1270037)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-2-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Kim inspects warships as North Korea prepares for conflict

Kim's recent declarations, labelling South Korea as the "principal enemy" and disbanding agencies for reunification, coupled with threats of war over minor territorial infringements, reflect an escalating tension in the region.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (C) inspects warships at the Nampho Dockyard. **PHOTO: KCNA VIA KNS/AFP**

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected warships at a shipyard in a renewed drive to bolster his naval forces as his country ramps up "war preparations", state media said Friday.

In recent weeks, Kim has declared South Korea his country's "principal enemy",

jettisoned agencies dedicated to reunification and outreach, and threatened war over "even 0.001 mm" of territorial infringement. He also recently hailed the test launch of a new strategic cruise missile from a submarine, calling it a key moment in the development of the North's naval power.

"The strengthening of the naval force presents itself as the most important issue in reliably defending the maritime sovereignty of the country and stepping up the war preparations at present," Kim said at the Nampho Dockyard, according to the Korean Central News Agency. — AFP

Red Sea crisis strands thousands of Australian sheep, cows

The animals, mostly sheep, have been aboard for about four weeks, as the ship's journey to the Middle East was diverted due to Huthi rebel attacks in the Red Sea.



Australia's live animal export, a major economic industry, shipped over 670,000 cows and 590,000 sheep overseas by sea last year. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ UNSPLASH**

AUSTRALIAN welfare groups are demanding the release of thousands of sheep and cattle stuck aboard a ship after their trip to the Middle East was diverted by Yemen's Huthi rebel attacks in the Red Sea.

The livestock — reportedly more than 15,000 animals, mostly sheep — have spent about four weeks aboard the MV Bahijah since setting sail from Fremantle, Perth in Western Australia on 5 January. — AFP

TOP NEWS

Nearly 140 people sickened with gastrointestinal illness on cruise ship: US CDC

A total of 139 people aboard a cruise ship in the United States have fallen sick with gastrointestinal illness, according to a report from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Thursday.

The "Queen Victoria" cruise ship from Cunard Cruise Line departed from Florida on 22 January and is set to arrive in Hawaii on 12 February. Among the ship's 1,824 passengers, 123 reported feeling sick during the voyage. Meanwhile, 16 among the 967 crew members have also fallen ill. — Xinhua

Nearly 60,000 killed in 2023 Türkiye, Syria quake: new toll

Last year's massive earthquake in southeastern Türkiye killed 53,537 people in the country, the interior minister said Friday, bringing the overall death toll to nearly 60,000.

The government in neighbouring Syria has said 1,414 people died in areas under its control in the predawn disaster on 6 February 2023.

Turkish-backed officials in northern Syria have put the toll in rebel-held regions at 4,537. — AFP

El Salvador goes to polls with gang-busting Bukele miles ahead



El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele enjoys approval ratings hovering around 90 per cent. **PHOTO: AFP**

EL Salvador's President Nayib Bukele is all but guaranteed a resounding victory in elections Sunday, with his no-holds-barred war on gangs having earned him approval ratings hovering around 90 per cent.

Despite concerns about rights violations, authoritarianism and the economy, 42-year-old Bukele enjoys widespread support for slashing the country's homicide rate and restoring a semblance of normality to a population sick of violence.

"Everything has changed," Uber driver Alberto Serrano, 40,

told AFP in the capital San Salvador, where large groups of armed soldiers patrolled the streets in the days leading up to the vote.

"I could not see my mother for seven years because she lived in an area under the control of a different gang than where I lived. If I went there, I would not leave again," he said.

"Danger was everywhere. You could not have a tattoo, even an artistic one, because they would think you belonged to another gang. Now... you can move freely anywhere you like. Without fear." — AFP

SPORTS

FIFA Museum embraces record visitors in 2023

Managing Director Marco Fazzone expressed delight in connecting with a vast community of football and culture enthusiasts, fulfilling the museum's mission to share the magic of football globally.

THE FIFA Museum, the home of international football history and culture, reached a new milestone in 2023 by welcoming 273,000 visitors, the highest number since its opening in Zurich eight years ago.

A further 350,000 online visitors explored the museum's digital exhibitions, while six million fans around the world engaged

with the museum's cultural and educational content over the course of the year, the museum announced on Thursday.

"We are delighted to have connected with a vast community of football and culture lovers, both in person and through our digital platforms. The year 2023 was highly successful in carrying out the FIFA Museum's mis-



PHOTO: FIFA MUSEUM

sion and responsibility to share the magic of football with the entire world," said Managing Director Marco Fazzone.

The museum's diverse programme began in February 2023, with the guest exhibition "Paolo Rossi, un Ragazzo d'oro", in collaboration with the Paolo Rossi Foundation, offering an

intimate portrayal of the life and illustrious career of the Italian football legend.

The special exhibition "211 Cultures. One Game", which explored the unique football cultures of each of FIFA's 211 member associations, concluded in August.

This was followed by "De-

signing the Beautiful Game", a collaboration with the prestigious The Design Museum in London, offering visitors a fresh and inspiring perspective that examines the relationship between football and design throughout history and illuminating how the sport has evolved. — Xinhua



A junk with the face of Lionel Messi on its sail in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour. PHOTO: AFP

Messi expected to play in Hong Kong despite injury worry: coach

LIONEL Messi should be able to take the field for Inter Miami's pre-season friendly in Hong Kong at the weekend despite an injury niggle, coach Gerardo Martino said Friday, to the relief of thousands of football fans in the city.

The World Cup-winning Argentina star is carrying a hamstring injury and came on only for the last few minutes of a 6-0 friendly defeat to Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia on Thursday night.

Martino said he will assess Messi's fitness in training on Saturday before deciding whether

the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner will be able to start against a Hong Kong XI the next day, a match that sold out in minutes.

"We had two very intense games (in Saudi Arabia this week), two more we have played in El Salvador and in Dallas."

Messi's Miami side lost 4-3 against Saudi's Al Hilal in Riyadh on Monday after games against El Salvador and Dallas FC.

They will head to Japan for a match against Vissel Kobe on Tuesday to conclude a globe-trotting pre-season tour for the MLS side. — AFP

Nunez a doubt as Liverpool aim to end Arsenal's title aspirations

With Mohamed Salah still sidelined due to a hamstring injury, Nunez's potential absence would be a significant loss for Klopp's side as they aim to extend their lead in the Premier League title race.

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp said Darwin Nunez is a major doubt for his side's trip to Arsenal on Sunday as the visitors look to open up an eight-point lead in the Premier League title race.

Nunez set a Premier League record by hitting the woodwork four times during Wednesday's 4-1 win over Chelsea, but has been a key player in the Reds' rise to the top of the table with 11 goals and 11 assists in all competitions this season.

The Uruguayan has suffered a foot problem and would be a big miss for Klopp with

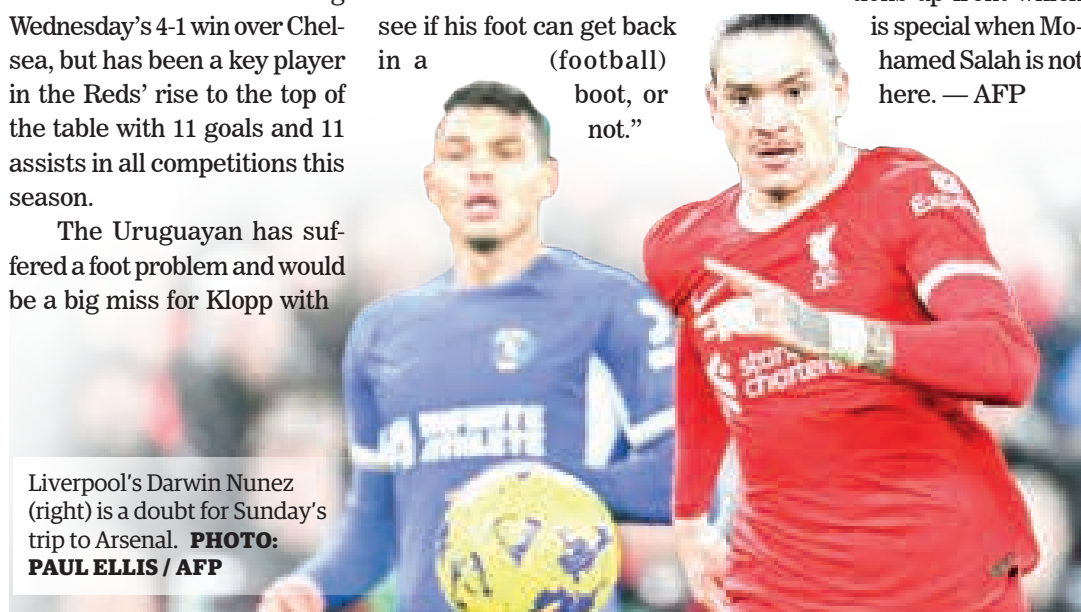
Mohamed Salah still sidelined by a hamstring injury.

"It was very painful after the game," said Klopp at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"He left the stadium in a boot, and it was not a football boot. So nothing broken, x-ray clear. But swollen. We have to see if his foot can get back in a (football) boot, or not."

Diogo Jota has also stepped up in Salah's absence with the Portuguese netting four times in his last four games to take his tally for the season to 13.

"He's a complete package," added Klopp on Jota's form. "Can play all three positions up front which is special when Mohamed Salah is not here. — AFP

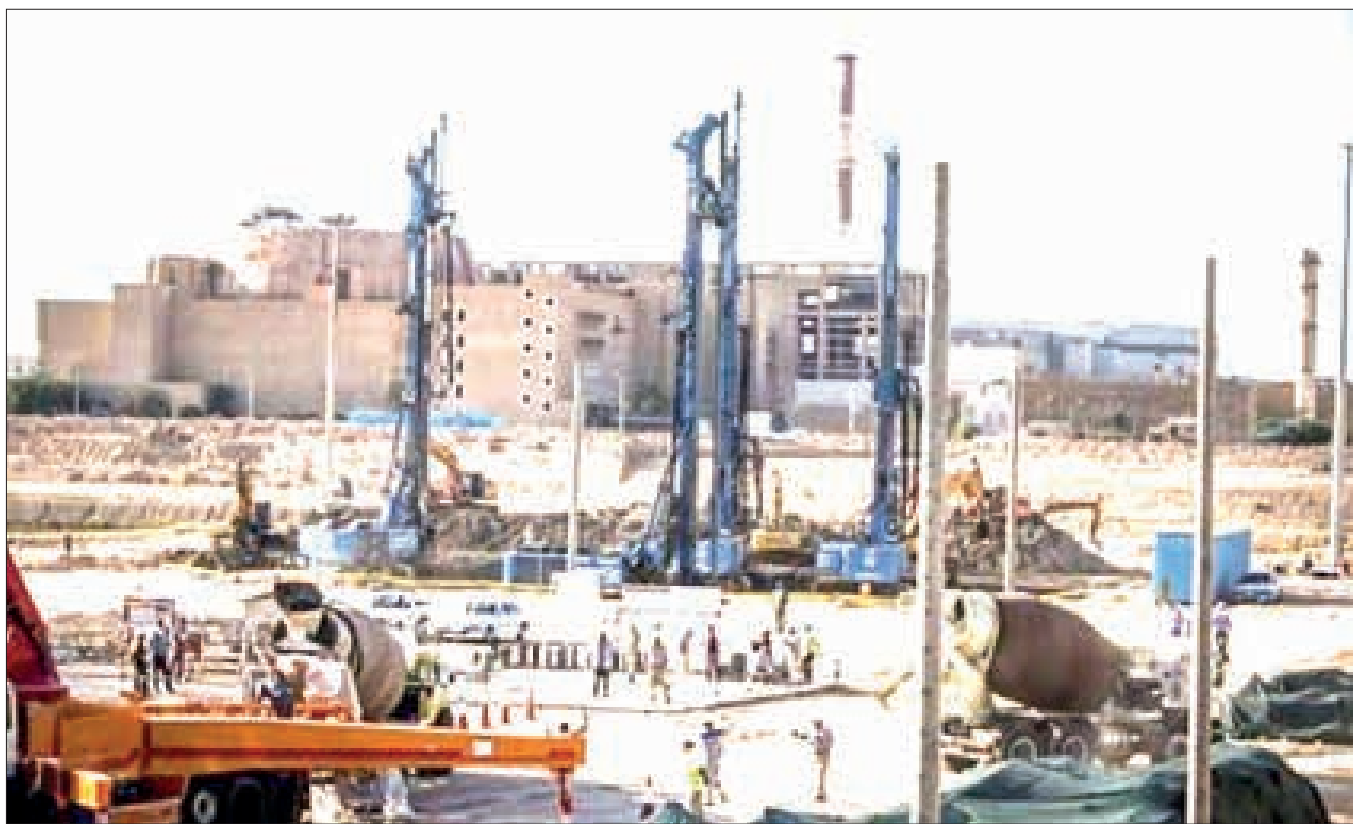


Liverpool's Darwin Nunez (right) is a doubt for Sunday's trip to Arsenal. PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS / AFP



Iran begins construction of new nuclear power plant - Reports

This initiative, approved by President Ebrahim Raisi, is part of a broader set of 157 projects in industry and energy, while Russia simultaneously advances the second unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in southeastern Iran.



Labourers work at the construction site of the second phase of Iran's Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in Bushehr, southern Iran, on 10 November 2019. **PHOTO: AHMAD HALABISAZ/XINHUA/FILE**

THE head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, announced the start of construction of a new nuclear power plant (NPP), which is in line with the country's initiative to upgrade nuclear energy generative capacity to 20,000 megawatts, Iranian state-run news agency IRNA reported on Thursday.

The Iran-Hormoz NPP with a ca-

capacity of 5,000 megawatts, will be built in Sirik city, located in the southern coastal province of Hormozgan, Eslami was cited as saying.

The project was given the green light by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi along with 157 other initiatives in the field of industry and energy.

Russia is currently building the second power unit of the Bushehr nuclear

power plant — the largest joint Russian-Iranian project — which is located in southeastern Iran along the Persian Gulf coast.

The first NPP unit, completed in cooperation with Russia, was connected to Iran's national power grid in September 2011, while a contract for the construction of the third power unit has already been signed. — SPUTNIK

THE LARGEST DATA BREACH IN THE HISTORY OF THE CIA

40 years in prison for ex-CIA coder who leaked hacking tools to WikiLeaks

A former CIA programmer was sentenced to 40 years in prison on Thursday for leaking the US spy agency's most valuable hacking tools to WikiLeaks.

Joshua Schulte, 35, was found guilty in 2022 of espionage and other charges in what the CIA called a "digital Pearl Harbour" — the largest data breach in the history of the intelligence agency.

"Schulte betrayed his country by committing some of the most brazen, heinous crimes of espionage in American history," US Attorney Damian Williams said in a statement.

"He caused untold damage to our national security in his quest for revenge against the CIA for its response to Schulte's security breaches while employed there."

US District Judge Jesse Furman sentenced Schulte to 40 years in prison for espionage, computer hacking, contempt of court, making false statements to the FBI and child pornography.

Schulte worked for the CIA's elite hacking unit from 2012 to 2016 when he quietly took cyber tools used to break into computer and technology systems, according to court documents.

After quitting his job, he sent them to WikiLeaks, which began publishing the classified data in March 2017. — AFP

Israel agrees to ceasefire in Gaza Strip - Report

ISRAEL has agreed to the proposal for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, and a positive reaction has also been received from the Palestinian movement Hamas, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Ansari said on Thursday.

"Israel agreed to the ceasefire proposal, and we received an initial positive reaction from Hamas," Ansari told Al Jazeera.

On 7 October 2023, Palestinian movement Hamas launched a large-scale rocket attack against Israel from Gaza and breached the border, killing 1,200 people and abducting around 240 others.

Israel launched retaliatory strikes, ordered a complete blockade of Gaza, and started a ground incursion into the Palestinian enclave with the declared goal of

eliminating Hamas fighters and rescuing the hostages. Over 26,000 people have been killed so far in the Gaza Strip, local authorities said. On November 24, Qatar mediated a deal between Israel and Hamas on a temporary truce and the exchange of some of the prisoners and hostages, as well as the delivery of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip. — SPUTNIK



People leave their homes after receiving evacuation orders from Israel in the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis, on 29 January 2024. **PHOTO: RIZEK ABDELJAWAD/XINHUA**