

Myanmar-Russian armed forces exchange honorary medals for further cementing strategic partnership relations, military and civilian technological cooperation



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the group documentary photo alongside the Russian delegation led by Deputy Minister for Defence Colonel General Alexander Vasilievich Fomin at yesterday's event.

AIMED at enhancing military and civilian technological cooperation, including strategic partnership relations between Myanmar and the Russian Federation, a ceremony to bilaterally confer medals between the two armed forces of both countries took place at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Toe Yi read Notification No 64/2024 released on 27 March 2024 by the State Administration Council to

confer honorary medals on dignitaries from the Russian Federation for their excellent performances in international military cooperation measures in order to build modern Tatmadaw.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented the Thiri Thihakyaw medal and insignia to Colonel Kurchenko Sergei Semyonovich, Captain 2nd rank Yashin Dmitry Valerievich and Captain 2nd rank Shilkov Vit-

aly Vasilyevich and Thiri Thurakyaw title to Colonel (Rtd) Saratov Sergei Nikolaevich, respectively.

Captain 2nd rank Yashin Dmitry Valerievich from the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation read Notification No 77 issued by the Russian Ministry of Defence on 17 January 2024 for conferring the international military cooperation development prowess medal and the fighting esprit de corps enhancement medal on senior military officers from Myanmar Tat-

madaw for their excellent performance in international military cooperation measures.

Deputy Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation Colonel General Alexander Vasilievich Fomin presented the international military cooperation development prowess medal to the Senior General.

The Russian deputy minister also presented the international military cooperation development prowess

SEE PAGE-3

NATIONAL

PAGE-4



Commemorative ceremony marks 8th Anniversary of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC)

NATIONAL

PAGE-5



Chinese Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister

BUSINESS

PAGE-7



Manufacturing sector exports hit over US\$8.5B as of 15 March

NATIONAL

Chairman of SSMNC receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and party

CHAIRMAN of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Presiding Patron of Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Buddhist Learning Centre, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, on 26 March. Also present on the occasion were the Conunseller of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Mr Pan Feng, Pro-Rector of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University U Sein Maw, and Chairman of the Myanmar-China Buddhist Association U Kyaw Win.

Ambassador Mr Chen Hai presented a letter of appreciation from the Chinese Buddhist Association to the Presiding Patron of Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Buddhist Learning Centre for his service as the Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. Ambassador Mr Chen Hai noted the extensive border and historical exchange of



The Presiding Patron of Thanlyin's Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Buddhist Learning Centre and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and the delegation seen in commemorative photo session.

religious practices in Buddhism between China and Myanmar, emphasizing China's significant value placed on these interchanges between the two nations.

He highlighted collaboration between Myanmar and China in the renovation of the Thatbyin-

nyu Temple in Bagan, assistance in the installation of polycarbonate safety glass doors at the chamber that stored the sacred Buddha's hair relic at Yangon's Botahtaung Pagoda, the Chinese embassy to donation of anti-epidemic materials to Buddhist tem-

ples in Myanmar, and attendance at the fifth World Buddhist Forum by a delegation led by Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw.

Ambassador Mr Chen Hai also expressed his belief in steady progress in the exchange of religious practices in Buddhism

between China and Myanmar with the careful support of Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw and the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw expressed his gratitude for China's acknowledgement of his service, its active support in combating the epidemic, and fostering social development in Myanmar before sharing his experiences from numerous trips to China.

The abbot stated that Myanmar and China are good neighbours with strong kinship and a deep history of exchanging religious practices in Buddhism, serving as a vital bridge connecting the hearts of the people of both countries. He further pledged to actively participate in promoting friendly cooperation between Myanmar and China and preserving the millennia-old tradition of religious exchange between the two nations. — ASH/TH

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Deputy Police Chief (1) Police Maj-Gen Aung Aung of the Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs as Director-General of the Department of Consumer Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

59th Gems Emporium to feature pearls, gemstones, and jade sets

UNDER the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, the Myanmar Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee will hold the 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium 2024 from 3 to 12 May at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar jewellers who have obtained a permit in accordance with the Myanmar Gems Law and those who have received

a licence and are engaged in the business of trading gems will be allowed to attend and purchase in accordance with the requirements of the jewellery fair.

Those who wish to attend the exhibition can contact the Myanmar Gems Enterprise Head Office (Nay Pyi Taw) and the Myanmar Pearl Enterprise Head Office (Nay Pyi Taw) of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee. — MNA/KZL

Lacquerware Technology College prepares multifaceted welcome for foreign visitors

ACCORDING to Daw Nilar Myint, principal of the Lacquerware Technology College in Bagan, the institution not only provides education in lacquerware but also oversees a museum, craft demonstration room, and showroom designed explicitly for foreign visitors.

Daw Nilar Myint explained that foreign visitors have the opportunity to view ancient lacquerware exhibits in the muse-

um and learn about the crafting process in the demonstration room. They can also observe the college's students actively engaged in creating lacquerware pieces. Additionally, the showroom displays various types of lacquerware available for purchase.

Furthermore, the college teaches traditional Myanmar lacquerware techniques alongside methods from other

countries. In order to captivate international audiences, students incorporate contemporary designs into their crafted pieces, adhering to their traditional methods. The showroom features a range of lacquerware items, including wearable accessories like bracelets and necklaces, as well as household and decorative pieces such as bowls and curtains, all crafted from lacquer. — ASH/NT



The Lacquerware College (Bagan)

NATIONAL

Myanmar-Russian armed forces exchange honorary medals for further cementing strategic partnership ...

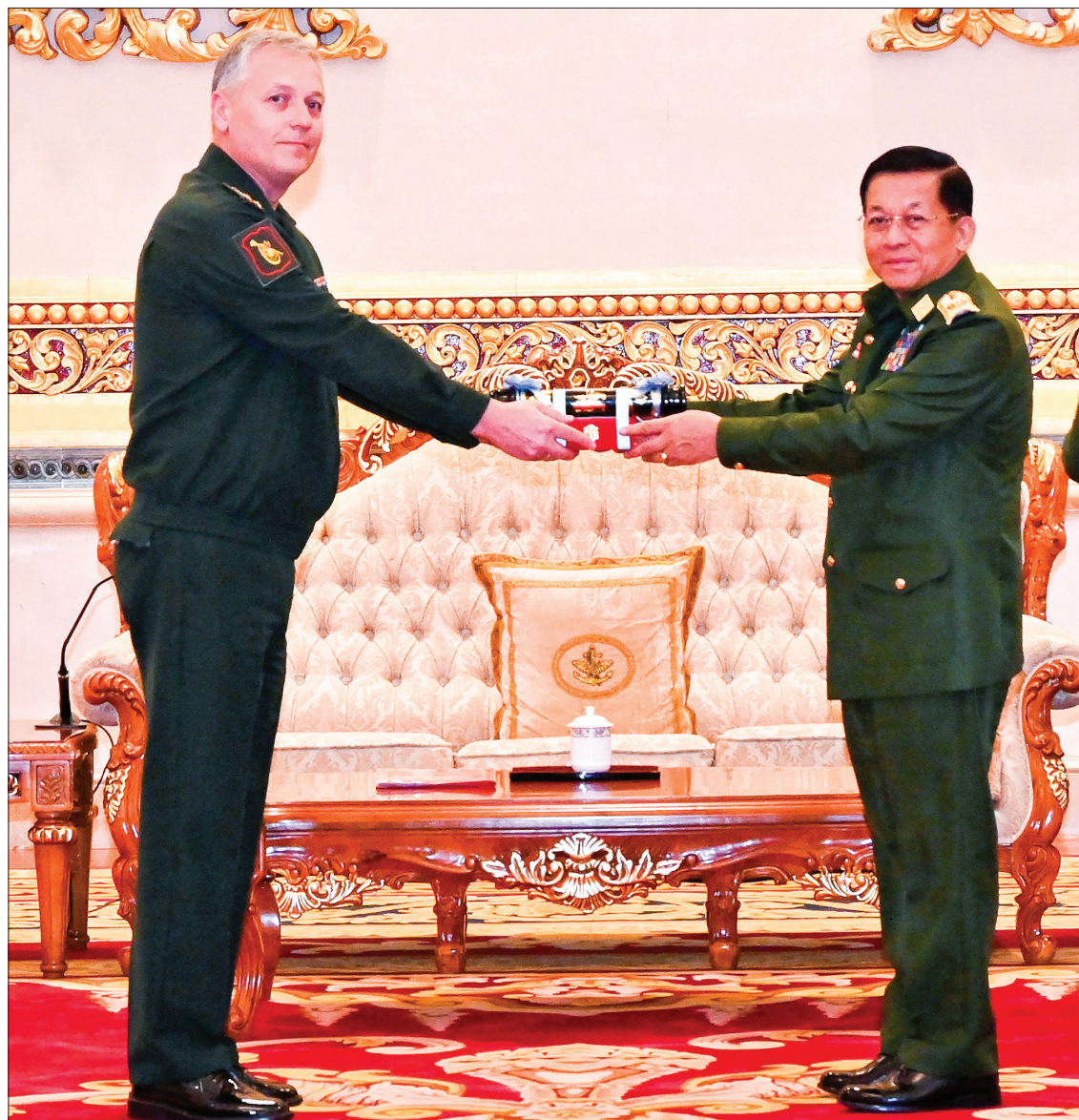
FROM PAGE-1

medal to SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, General Mya Tun Oo, General Maung Maung Aye, Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Admiral Moe Aung and senior military officers individually.

The Russian Deputy Minister also presented the fighting esprit de Corps enhancement medal to General Tun Aung and senior military officers individually.

The Senior General and the Russian Deputy Minister for Defence cordially greeted each other.

Also present at the ceremony were senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Chairman of the Defence Ministry's Public Council Mr Pavel Gusev of the Russian Federation, Military Attaché Colonel Kurchenko Sergei Semyonovich and Russian senior military officers. —MNA/TTA



The Senior General offers the Thiri Thihakyaw medal and insignia to Colonel Kurchenko Sergei Semyonovich, Military Attaché of the Russian Federation.

NSPNC meets representatives from seven NCA-signatory EAOs

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) convened a meeting with the delegation of the seven ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) that signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on the morning of 28 March at the NSPNC Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Border Affairs and Chairman of NSPNC Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, along with members of the committee, Patron of PNLO U Khun Okkar, ALP Chairperson Saw Mra Raza Lin, LDU Vice-Chairman Kya Phu, Saw Kyaw Than Htay of DKBA, Central Executive Committee member of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council Saw Maung Maung, and Central Executive Committee member of NMSP Nai Aung Ma Ngay, and Central Executive member of RCSS Sao Saung Han, attended



The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and seven NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations in progress yesterday.

the meeting.

During the meeting, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung delivered an opening speech and further discussed

the peace processes related to the NCA, matters related to ending armed conflicts, the six peace policies of Tatmadaw, and sustainable peace processes

which the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services announced at the 79th Armed Forces Day ceremony.

Following this, ALP Chair-

person Saw Mra Raza Lin delivered a greeting speech on behalf of the EAO attendees and discussed issues related to the continuous development of the peace process and issues concerning building a Union based on democracy and federalism, as well as the preparation and reconstitution of the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST).

Subsequently, they discussed humanitarian assistance issues and the conditions under which the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and an INGO would be able to implement the "project to provide necessary assistance for the peace process of Myanmar".

ALP Chairperson Saw Mra Raza Lin and Chairman of NSPNC Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung gave closing remarks, exchanged gifts, and concluded the meeting. — MNA/TKO

NATIONAL

Commemorative ceremony marks 8th Anniversary of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC)

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the commemorative ceremony of the eighth Anniversary of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) at KMA Nay Pyi Taw Hotel yesterday.

General Mya Tun Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications, U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Union Ministers from MLC Special Fund Projects Implementation Ministries, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, ambassadors and representatives from the embassies of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation member countries, deputy ministers and senior officials attended the commemorative event.

At the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe delivered a commemorative speech. In doing so, he cherished how the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was launched and expressed his profound gratitude to all the Member Countries, in particular to the People's Republic of China. He also expressed his appreciation to the relevant Ministries of Myanmar, which have contributed to the successful outcomes of MLC Cooperation.

On top of that, the Deputy Prime Minister also highlighted that the Mekong River is a transboundary river that provides benefits to six MLC countries equally and harmoniously as a major source of food and income for the people residing along the Mekong River. He added that while sharing the benefits, MLC countries are also responsible for protecting



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo poses for the group documentary photo together with the Chinese ambassador and dignitaries among others at the event yesterday.

and promoting the future of the Mekong River. He underscored that, nowadays, MLC can be considered the most successful one among many cooperation mechanisms in the Mekong region. The Deputy Prime Minister recalled that MLC was born on 23 March 2016, and he praised the wisdom of the MLC Leaders' decision to establish MLC, aiming for the peace and prosperity of the people from the Mekong Region. He expressed his thanks to China for setting up and contributing US\$300 million to the MLC Special Fund.

The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the significant contribution of Myanmar during MLC Co-Chairmanship, together with China, from August 2020 to December 2023, which includes jointly holding three Ministerial Meetings and the successful adoption of three important documents: "Nay Pyi Taw Declaration", "Five-Year Plan of Action on MLC (2023

to 2027)" and "Joint Initiatives on MLC Innovation Corridor Development" at the 4th MLC Leaders' Meeting. He also emphasized the importance of the MLC Special Fund provided by China, which resulted in the socio-economic development of Myanmar by supporting US\$31.6 million from the year 2017 to 2023 for the implementation of 106 Special Fund Projects.

The Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Myanmar's strong commitment to work closely with all MLC members further to strengthen the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation mechanism in the coming years. In addition, he congratulated Ambassador Mr Chen Hai of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar for contributing an article on MLC, which was published recently in Myanmar Daily Newspapers.

Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, also delivered a speech. In his speech, he

highlighted that LMC was first proposed at the ASEAN-China Summit in Nay Pyi Taw ten years ago, and it was officially launched in March 2016. The ambassador added that over the past eight years, the LMC Countries have made improvements in the region's railways, roads, airports, ports, pipelines, and power grids. He further pointed out that the closer connectivity has speeded up regional economic, trade and people-to-people exchanges. The ambassador emphasized that the LMC Special Fund has supported over 700 livelihood projects in the LMC region. He stressed that during the last year, the economy of China contributed one-third of global growth at a rate of 5.2 per cent. He also underscored that China's modernization will bring new opportunities for Myanmar and other Mekong countries and will also add greater impetus to cooperation.

Following this, the com-

memorative group photo was taken. During the dinner, the cultural troupe from the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture entertained the attendees with cultural performances. Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, together with ambassadors and representatives from MLC embassies, presented gifts to the cultural troupe.

Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was established for the peace, prosperity and sustainable development of peoples from the Mekong-Lancang sub-region, which includes Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. While tangible developments can be seen during the past eight years, Myanmar has also been reaping fruitful benefits from the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. — MNA

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Chinese Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on further enhancement of the existing "Pauk-Phaw" relations, the management of

border crossings, the maintenance of peace and stability along the border between Myanmar and China, Myanmar-China bilateral relations, accelerating the mutually beneficial cooperation and closer collaboration in both regional and international arena. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs receives Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China yesterday.

MoRAC DM-led delegation arrives back after 31st meeting of ASCC



Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan poses for the group documentary photo at the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community Council in Laos.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan attended the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council organized by the ASEAN rotating Chairmanship of Lao People's Democratic Republic held at Luang Prabang City from 23 to 26 March, and arrived back on 26 March evening.

The meeting was presided over by Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism of LPDR Mrs Suanesavanh Vignaket and attended by members of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council, Timor Leste and relevant officials from ASEAN member states, ASEAN Secretary-General and deputy Secretary-General and officials.

During the first session of the meeting, they discussed the matters on the priorities to

be implemented in 2024 by the host country of Lao PDR, the progress of drafting strategic plans of the ASEAN-Socio-Cultural Community post-2025, the documents to be submitted at 44th and 45th ASEAN Summit, reports of the meetings, statements and the approval for the summarized record of the 31st ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council.

During the second part of the meeting, the plenary ministerial meeting of the ASEAN social-cultural community was held, and relevant sectoral issues of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community were discussed.

At the meeting, the deputy minister expressed her recommendation for the priorities of social and cultural measures to be implemented by Lao while taking responsibility for rotating Chairmanship in 2024.

Together with the deputy

minister, Senior official of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Director-General of the Department of Historical Research and National Library and relevant officials attended the meeting.

The deputy minister and party also attended the launching ceremony of ADME (ASEAN Database for Monitoring and Evaluation System) in conjunction with the 31st meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council, a dinner hosted to commemorate the meeting and the Lao traditional songs and dances.

While they were in Luang Prabang City, the deputy minister and party, together with the representatives of ASEAN member countries, studied the alms-food offering event and visited Xieng Thong Temple, Luang Prabang National Museum and Tat Kuang Si Waterfall. —MNA/KTZH

Thai Ambassador calls on MoHT Union Minister

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine received Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump at the parlour of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed matters relating to Myanmar-Thailand tourism cooperation and tourism promotion, including marine tourism and cross-border tourism, easy and smooth access for tourists from the two countries, the signing of the memorandum of understanding on tourism cooperation between the tourism ministries of the two

countries, formation of tourism cooperation working group composed of Myanmar-Thailand government-private representatives, arrangement of familiarization trips, inviting investors from Thailand in Myanmar's hotels and tourism sector, mutual engagement of private entrepreneurs in the economic sector between the two countries, expansion of itineraries for foreign tourists visiting Thailand to visit Myanmar, facilitating the spending of Thai tourists visiting Myanmar and enhancing bilateral government-private cooperation. — MNA/TS



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine receives the Thai ambassador yesterday.

NATIONAL

MCDC approves pavilion construction for Maha Thingyan Festival in Mandalay



Locals enjoy throwing water during the Thingyan Festival in Mandalay.

ACCORDING to the Public Relations and Information Department of the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), a permission has been granted for the construction of 11 large pavilions and 14

small pavilions for the upcoming Maha Thingyan Festival in Mandalay.

Efforts are also underway to ensure that participants in the Thingyan festival can enjoy themselves in a joyous and

peaceful manner.

Individuals wishing to construct pavilions for water-throwing activities may apply for permission from the MCDC not later than 10 April. — TWA/ MKKS

Inspections aimed at preventing power loss, unauthorized usage in northern Yangon

THE inspections are conducted as a project to find instances of unofficial power consumption, according to the Ministry of Electricity.

The Eastern District Electricity Manager's Office is currently overseeing inspections across townships in the Eastern District to mitigate power loss and ensure compliance with electricity regulations, including pre-

venting unauthorized usage and addressing outstanding electricity bills.

In Shwepaukkan, 14 project teams, under the leadership of the district electrical manager and engineer, were deployed to conduct field inspections from 22 March onwards. Their primary objective is to identify instances of unofficial power consumption.

During these inspections,

the teams examined a total of 340 electric meters that were either malfunctioning, unfunctioned, or experiencing slow performance.

Similarly, on 20 and 21 March, 14 more field inspection teams were constituted, including district groups in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. There are reportedly 2,155 electricity users in the township. — TWA/ MKKS



The photo shows officials instructing to conduct field inspections.



A bustling trade at Pakokku's onion market on 28 March.

Onion prices continue to decline amid high supply

FOLLOWING 300,000 visses of onion supply from various regions on 28 March, the price plunge of onion persisted in Yangon's market.

The wholesale prices stood at K1,700-K3,100 per viss on that day, dropping from K1,900-K3,300 per viss on 21 March.

Yangon's Bayintnaung market saw an influx of 240,000 visses of onion on 25 March, 180,000 visses on 26 March and 300,000 visses on 28 March, respectively, totalling 720,000 visses in the past three days.

"There is a demand from traders only to resell them these days. The new onions are flooding the market for now. The prices vary depending on the moisture

content and maturity period. The prices have decreased compared with the opening price of the season," U Aung Tun, a trader, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prevailing prices are higher than those of the corresponding period last year. Prices were registered at K775-K2,000 per viss on 28 March 2023.

The prices hit a record high for onions in the last months of 2015, 2019, 2022, and 2023. The prices peaked at K5,100 per viss in 2022 and 2023. Traders who store the stocks rather than exporters mostly purchase them. The growers of summer onion are likely to receive around K1,500 per viss at present. — TWA/EM

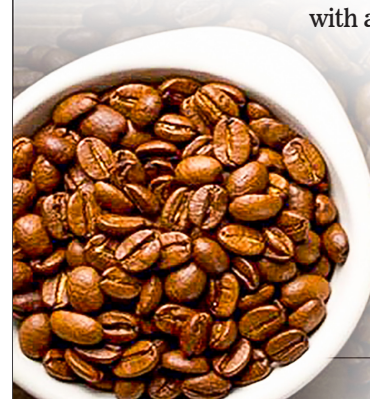
Myanmar Coffee Association aims to export 2,000 tonnes of coffee

THE Myanmar Coffee Association anticipates exporting approximately 2,000 tonnes of coffee this year. Last year, between 1,000 and 1,500 tonnes of coffee were exported to China and Thailand through the border trade, with an

additional 500 to 800 tonnes exported to European countries and other Asian nations, such as Japan and Korea.

It is noted that Myanmar has around 50,000 acres of coffee plantations consisting of 38,000 acres of Arabica coffee and 12,000 acres of Robusta.

Coffee cultivation is primarily concentrated in the Shan State, Chin State, and the PyinOoLwin area of the Mandalay Region. Annually, the country produces over 9,000 tonnes of coffee, with Arabica being the predominant variety exported. — TWA/TRKM



High-quality export Myanmar coffee.

Sugar mills hike up prices on high production cost

SUGAR mills raised sugar prices amid high production costs, sugar traders said.

The domestic sugar prices hit another peak of over K4,450 per viss on 28 March from K4,100 on 1 March, indicating an increase of K350 per viss in the past four weeks.

Meanwhile, the global sugar price has slightly risen to over US\$630 per tonne.

The sugar mills notified sugarcane growers that they raised the price of sugarcane to K150,000 per tonne for the 2023-2024 sugarcane season.

The company set the sugarcane floor price at K90,000-K100,000 per tonne last season, 2022-2023 FY. Sugarcane and sugar traders emphasized that the rise in the offering price is aimed at covering the high input cost of the growers amid the rise in sugar prices this year.

Additionally, sugar mills encouraged the growers to ramp up per-acre yield and expand the cultivation acres.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Viet Nam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Viet Nam only, as stated by the Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Association.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM



A vendor seen organizing sugar for sale at the market.

Gold price records another hike up to K4.4M per tical



Gold ornaments seen neatly arranged for sale at the jewellery outlet in Yangon.

WITH spot gold price climbing over US\$2,190 per ounce and Kyat depreciation to over K3,800 against the US dollar on 28 March 2024, domestic gold price

persistently surged to K4.4 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

Meanwhile, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the

reference price at K3.797 million per tical, showing a large gap of over K600,000 per tical with the actual market value.

The YGEA warned gold traders to halt business unless they make transactions below the YGEA's reference price, according to a notification released on 16 March.

Those unscrupulous dealers are manipulating the market by misleading information. Authorities concerned are inspecting the cause of price fluctuations, and legal proceedings against them are being undertaken, the notification stated.

As a result of this, the YGEA requested dealers to make gold transactions below the set reference price and avoid the spread of false news and price manipulation on 12 March.

The Kyat depreciation to K4,000 against the US dollar pushed up the gold price to a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023. — NN/EM

Manufacturing sector exports hit over US\$8.5B as of 15 March

THE export value from the manufacturing sector amounted to US\$8.589 billion as of 15 March in the current financial year 2023-2024, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The finished industrial goods export was valued at \$10.563 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Therefore, the figures reflected a drop of \$1.974 billion compared to that of the year-ago period.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials from CMP garment factories, and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES



This photo shows a view of the container terminal of Yangon Port. PHOTO: XINHUA

comprise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing

and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/EM

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



OPINION

Thoroughly understand crucial role of discipline for individuals

UNDERSTANDING the pivotal role of discipline is essential for the well-being of individuals and the entire society. It serves as the cornerstone of ethical conduct that shapes a peaceful and prosperous nation.

Effective discipline must be reasonable and mutually agreed upon by both authorities and citizens. Extremism should be avoided when implementing the adopted discipline, and any imposed regulations should serve the collective good without oppressing any individual. Discipline should function as a tool to aid societal progress rather than hinder it.

It is imperative that disciplines are upheld by all members of society, from decision-makers to followers, without resistance or pessimism. They must be embraced as public ethics and social norms, binding upon all without exception. Violations cannot be tolerated, as they threaten the cohesion and stability of society.

In fact, discipline is not merely a set of rules but a guiding principle that sustains societal order and progress that entire people must abide by. It is the responsibility of every member of society to honour and uphold discipline, thereby ensuring a brighter future for all. If a society does not have any discipline, it will easily disappear.

By adhering to discipline, individuals uphold their integrity and contribute to a harmonious society. It is incumbent upon all, including authorities and citizens, to abide by these regulations in every aspect of life. This adherence not only enhances personal stature but also fosters a sense of responsibility and citizenship.

In Myanmar, as in any society, adherence to discipline is crucial for maintaining unity and dignity. Every individual must uphold these principles to safeguard societal harmony and collective well-being.

In fact, discipline is not merely a set of rules but a guiding principle that sustains societal order and progress that entire people must abide by. It is the responsibility of every member of society to honour and uphold discipline, thereby ensuring a brighter future for all. If a society does not have any discipline, it will easily disappear.

KYAIKTIYO Pagoda is situated in Mon State, Kyaikto Township, with nearly 5,000 pilgrims visiting the holy site daily. Besides its fame as a worldwide religious site, it attracts pilgrimage tourists so enthusiastically with its awesome attraction wonder of a pagoda perching lonely on a rock sitting on a prominent mountain thousands of feet deep below precariously. Not only the local religious devotees but also tourists from far away China, India, America and Britain, respectively, visit the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is so unique. The Golden Rock is sitting on the edge of the mountain stably. And the history of the pagoda makes you curious. A well-known Buddhist pilgrimage site in Mon State, it is a small pagoda 7.3 metres (24 feet) built on the top of a granite boulder covered with gold leaves pasted on by its male worshippers. According

to legend, the Golden Rock itself is precariously perched on a strand of Lord Buddha's hair, which would make it the oldest Buddhist stupa in the world. The pagoda was first built between the 6th and 10th centuries AD.

Buddha is the main draw, but another reason to make the journey is the panoramic 360-degree view of the surrounding Mon State mountains from the summit.

Kyaiktiyo is a pagoda atop a mountain named after it, meaning "pagoda on a hermit's head". The pagoda stands 20 feet tall and is constructed on a granite boulder covered with gold leaves by devotees of Buddha, giving it a golden appearance. It is located at the summit of Kyaiktiyo Mountain, close to Kinpun, Mon State. It is one of the most popular pilgrim sites among Buddhists and, most importantly, is getting a lot of attention among international travellers.

Kyaiktiyo Pagoda

What sets the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda apart is its unparalleled uniqueness. The Golden Rock, securely seated on the mountain's edge, is a symbol of stability and spirituality. Its intriguing history adds to its allure.

By U Win Sein

Myanmar, as the title of this post states, is the land of golden pagodas. And yes, you are correct in guessing that means Myanmar is filled with pagodas. During its golden age, around the 11th-13th century, its kings built a massive amount of graceful temples and pagodas. The pagoda is made of

marble and brick, and much of the brick is covered in gold. The various small stupas and icons are carved from marble and painted or covered in gold. The main stupa is completely covered in gold and contains priceless diamonds, rubies and emeralds at the top.



Renowned globally, it entices pilgrimage tourists with its awe-inspiring spectacle of a pagoda poised atop a solitary rock on a towering mountain, thousands of feet above ground. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

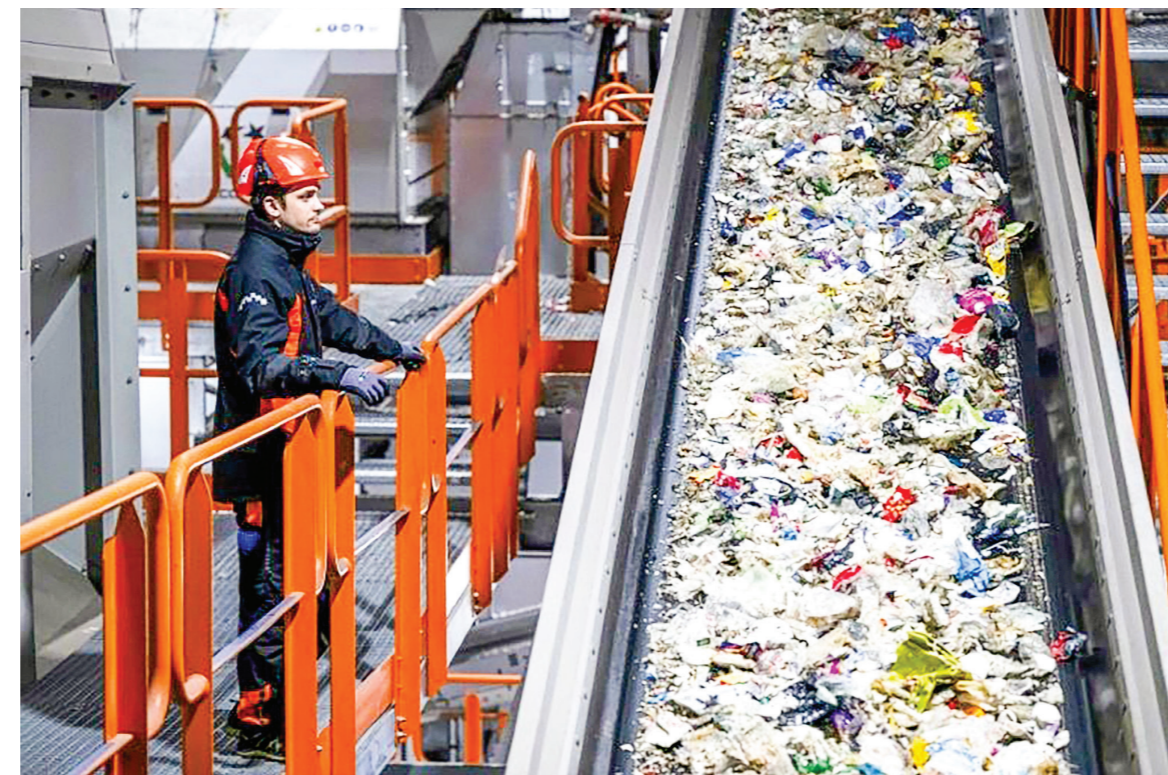
Sweden Debuts 'Site Zero': High-Tech Plastic Recycling Revolution

With the ability to process 200,000 tonnes of waste annually, the fully automated plant can isolate 12 different types of plastic, a significant improvement compared to conventional facilities, which typically handle only four types.

DISCARDED crisp bags, ketchup bottles and Tupperware containers speed along conveyer belts at a massive high-tech sorting plant dubbed "Site Zero", which Sweden hopes will revolutionise its plastic recycling.

Infrared lights, lasers, cameras and even artificial intelligence are used to sort the piles of plastic waste, Mattias Philipsson, CEO of Swedish Plastic Recycling, a non-profit organisation owned by the plastic industry, explains as he gives a tour of the plant.

Located outside the town of Motala, some 200 kilometres (124 miles) southwest of Stockholm, the site has been in operation since late 2023 and is described by the organisation as "the world's largest and most mod-



Site Zero can sort 12 different types of plastic waste. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ern facility for plastic recycling". Capable of processing 200,000 tonnes of waste a year, the fully automated plant can isolate 12 different types of plastic, compared to only four in conventional facilities.

Its operator hopes upcoming EU legislation requiring new packaging to include a certain amount of recycled plastic will give a boost to the recycling industry.

"We receive all the collected plastic packaging which people have sorted in Swedish households," Philipsson told AFP at the site, adding that they "have the capacity to handle the equivalent of all of Sweden's plastic waste".

Thousands of plastic items make their way through an intricate maze of different machines

which identify and separate the items into distinct categories, called "fractions".

On one of the conveyor belts, infrared light is used to scan the packaging as it zooms past, and a strong blast of air whooshes the pieces in different directions depending on the type of plastic.

Room for improvement

Among other things, the facility is able to sort out PVC and polystyrene, two fractions that have not previously been able to be reused in new products as such.

"The idea is to be part of a circular economy and to reduce the use of fossil fuels," Philipsson says.

"With our old sorting plant, over 50 per cent of the plastic packaging was eventually incinerated because it couldn't be sorted. Now it's less than five percent," he adds.

The Scandinavian country is not at the top of the class when it comes to plastic recycling.

In 2022, only 35 per cent of plastic waste was recycled, according to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the EU average of 40 percent.

The incineration of plastic waste, which is used to produce both heat and electricity,

accounts for about seven percent of Sweden's greenhouse gas emissions, according to the agency.

"Swedes are good at recycling in general — metals, paper and glass — because we have been doing this for a long time and have an industry that wants the paper for example," EPA expert Asa Stenmarck told AFP.

But "when it comes to plastics we are not so good," she added.

"A lot is not even sorted, which is a big problem and this goes for both households and businesses. So we really need to work on sorting."

More waste coming

Recycled plastic is still struggling to be widely adopted, as it is on average 35 per cent more expensive than newly produced plastic.

Stenmarck noted that some of the fractions sorted by Site Zero are still unusual on the recycling market.

"So in a sense, it's kind of brave since there probably aren't customers yet," she explained.

Stenmarck said one way of speeding up its adoption is to legislate, and noted this was underway in Europe with the new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR).

The 27 EU member states agreed on 4 March that plastic packaging must contain between 10 and 35 per cent recycled content, depending on whether it is used for food, by 2030.

"It will be a welcome game-changer for the market," Philipsson told AFP, adding that "the only way to achieve that is through efficient sorting".

Still, the OECD anticipates that the amount of plastic packaging will triple by 2060.

Some environmentalists argue that increased recycling does not address the root problem.

"We have the feeling that this talk of an improvement in the technical performance reinforces the idea that we can continue (making plastic), that there is nothing to worry about," Henri Bourgeois-Costa, a plastic waste expert at the Tara Ocean Foundation, told AFP.

"The challenge with these plastics is not to sort them better, to better recycle them... The challenge is to replace them and eliminate them," he added.

Other projects based on the Site Zero model are being designed elsewhere in Europe, with two in Germany and one in Norway.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

MoI implements measures to regulate televised movie broadcasting

A coordination meeting on broadcasting movies via telecommunication networks was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, the permanent secretary, departmental heads, representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the chairpersons of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) and the Myanmar Music Association (Central), along with their secretaries and members, as well as guests.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn highlighted the growing trend of movie distribution via online platforms such as social media, apps, Facebook, YouTube, Viber, and Telegram. He expressed concerns that many online films evade censorship and contain content that undermines the state's policies, religion, racial harmony, national unity, and



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presides over the coordination meeting on broadcasting movies via telecommunication networks yesterday.

cultural values. Additionally, he noted that some films promote illicit activities such as gambling and sexual services.

U Maung Maung Ohn stressed that such content could negatively influence young people, leading to misunderstandings and inappropriate behaviour. Furthermore, the state loses revenue due to the lack of regulation and licensing for online movies.

In response to these challenges, efforts are underway

to draft a new Myanmar Movie Law suitable for the digital era. Meanwhile, the ministry aims to regulate the production and distribution of movies using digital technology to safeguard traditional values and promote national unity.

To enforce these measures, the Ministry of Information issued three orders on 13 March: Order No 31/2024 designates broadcasting movies via telecommunication networks as

an essential service, Order No 32/2024 permits businesses to broadcast movies via telecommunication networks, and Order No 33/2024 grants authority to the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD).

These orders will come into effect one month after 13 March, with penalties under Section 5 of the Special Commodities and Services Law for non-compliance.

The orders classify business-

es into three categories: establishing cinemas using telecommunication networks, launching movie apps, and broadcasting movies via telecommunication networks.

The Union minister emphasized that laws and directives are issued for necessity rather than control. The ministry's objective is to ensure businesses operate systematically within the law and promote Myanmar's cultural values through scrutinized movie broadcasts using advanced technologies.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint discussed the transition of illegal businesses to lawful ones and safeguarding citizens' well-being and interests. Daw Aye Aye Win, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, addressed legal considerations.

Representatives from MMPO, MMA, Myanmar Police Force, and other stakeholders discussed legal measures to combat movies and films that undermine Myanmar's culture, traditions, and customs. — MNA/TMT

Nay Pyi Taw express buses reserve emergency travel seats for Thingyan Festival

ACCORDING to U Aung Kyaw Naing from the supervisory committee on express buses in Nay Pyi Taw, seats on express buses will be set aside for individuals and civil servants who need to travel in emergencies during the Thingyan festival.

"The committee ensures that seats are available for the public and civil servants who require express tickets for emergency trips during Thingyan. Although most express services are suspended during this period, some buses will still operate from Nay Pyi Taw to other major towns for those facing emergencies. We are compiling a list of these buses that will be in service during Thingyan. We have instructed them to reserve four seats if the bus has 33 seats or more and two seats if there are fewer than 33 seats," stated U Aung Kyaw Naing.

Currently, there are approximately 150 express buses based in Nay Pyi Taw, serving over 50 cities across states and regions. — ASH/TMT

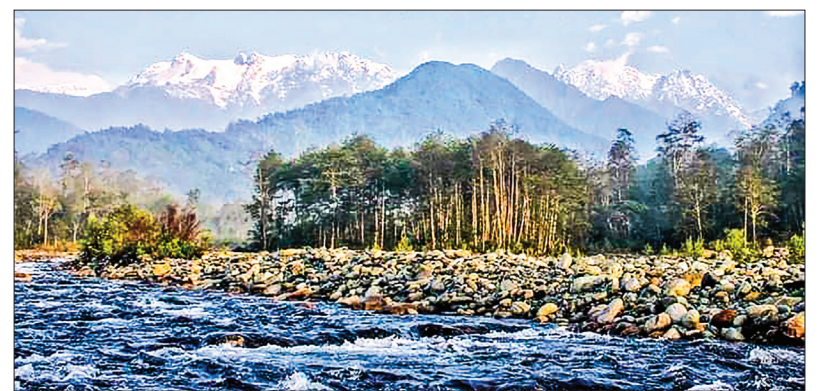
Putao to Mt Phonkanrazi climbing tour in April for snowy beauty

A mountaineering tour from Putao to Mt Phonkanrazi is under processing for April when the mountain is at its greatest beauty with the densest snow caps, said Ko Moe Min Thein from the Trekking in Myanmar.

A group tour to Mt Phonkanrazi will be organized from 14 to 19 April, and as the journey will start on 14 April, all participants need to arrive in Putao by 13 April (Saturday).

"April is the time when the mountain is the most beautiful with the thickest snow caps. Security will be arranged for amateurs like those who want to go on excursions and icy mountain observation travels who are not climbers. Even ordinary girls can join this trip," he said.

According to the schedule, the group will leave Putao for Ziyadam village by motorbike on 14 April, continue from Ziyadam village to



Mountaineers climbing Mt Phonkanrazi at the most wonderful time with the thickest snow last year. **PHOTO-MOE MIN THEIN (PUTAO)**

Chaungson-Thitpingyi on 15 April, and travel from Thitpingyi camp via Khanthaukmyit camp to the foot of the ice-capped mountain.

On 17 April, they will ascend and descend Mt Phonkanrazi from and to the base camp at the foot of the mountain and, after lunch, go down to Khanthaukmyit camp. On 18 April, they will travel from Khanthaukmyit camp to Ziyadam

village and on 19 April, they will return from Ziyadam village to Putao by motorbike.

Those wishing to take part in the icy mountain climbing trip can register one month or two/three weeks in advance, and a package tour of Putao-Phonkanrazi-Phonkanrazi-Putao for five nights and six days will cost K 1.2 million per person. — MT/ZN

Sein Ngar Pwint yarn dyeing chemicals, natural yarn dye, yarn and cotton business, MSME in Pakokku Township

By San Yu Maw (IPRD)



Captivating photos showcase MSME business and products in Pakokku Township, Magway Region. **PHOTO BY SALAI KO KEE (MA)**

THE State Administration Council is endeavouring to improve productivity in agro-based industries for the economic development of the State. Moreover, the One Region-One Product policy is being implemented to promote the specific products of each region and state for grassroots economic growth, leveraging diversity for a competitive market and bringing about micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) development.

Pakokku Township in central Myanmar is also focused on bolstering MSME development with value addition and innovations to agricultural products. The following is the interview with the owner of Sein Ngar Pwint yarn dyeing chemicals, natural yarn dye, and the yarn and cotton business in Pakokku Township, Magway Region.

Q: Would you mind introducing your business and owner?

A: We conduct the MSME cotton-textile industry under the name of Sein Ngar Pwint yarn dyeing chemicals, natural yarn dye, yarn and cotton business. It is the family business, and ownership lies within the family of U Hla Khine, spouse Daw Khin San Win and children.

Q: When did you start this business?

A: I started to run this in 1980 with a couple of traditional weaving looms with wage workers.

Q: How did you get into this business?

A: When my father retired as a civil servant, we considered starting

our own business. Cotton is one of our regional products. This way, we got an idea of how to execute this business.

Q: Could you please tell me about your products?

A: We have a wide range of cotton products, including blankets, towels, tablecloths, pillowcases, different types of nether garments (longyi) and cloth. We offer about 50 different kinds of blankets and a dozen types of towels with innovative and trendy designs. In addition to the finished cotton products, we sell weaving yarn and yarn dyes as well.

Q: Would you mind explaining the condition of the cotton market and the best-selling product?

A: The majority of the people from Pakokku Township are interested in cotton. Our distribution network covers Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Aunglan, Thayet, Hpa-an, Gangaw, Monywa and Taunggyi cities, having sales representatives in each area. We focus on the right price for our wholesalers and retailers. The best-selling items are blankets, tablecloths, towels, longyi and cotton clothes. They are popular regional products of central arid Myanmar as souvenirs. We are committed to attracting more customers with our products.

Q: Please elaborate on raw materials sourcing.

A: We purchase raw materials from textile mills in Mandalay.

Q: Could you please explain the manufacturing process?

A: We do the yarn weaving, spin-

ning and dyeing the raw materials first. Then, we conduct yarn to the fabric manufacturing process step by step.

Q: How many labourers do your business hire? I would like to know the number of looms.

A: We run the business with three to ten looms in each nearby villages (Kyauksauk, Laytan, Gyi) in Pakokku City. The castes of people associated with this business are 50-100 labourers. Moreover, we also connect with those working in traditional weaving businesses on a manageable scale in Pakokku, Myitchay and Yesakyo areas for sourcing.

Q: Is there a State's contribution to this business? Do you connect to the departments concerned?

A: There is no State contribution to it, yet we have connected with the related departments.

Q: Have you had experiences in exhibiting your products at the national-level regional products expo?

A: We have yet to join the national-level expo amid the labour shortages and other difficulties. However, we showcase the diverse selection of our products as regional products during the visit of the heads of the State and officials of the Pakokku's departments.

Q: Please let me know if you have any difficulties running this business.

A: We did a roaring trade earlier. The circumstances in the region and the hike in the cost of raw materials sourcing triggered by transport disruption affect the manufacturing process. We continue to hire the workers even if

the demand has faltered. That is why we have to invest mainly in it to avoid involuntary job loss.

Q: Could you deliver some message to young entrepreneurs?

A: Prior to the step-ups, I would like to encourage young entrepreneurs to assess the market size and potential demand for their products and services and conduct thorough risk-benefit analysis in a structured and comprehensive way to take their business to the next level.

Q: What is the attraction of Pakokku cotton products?

A: Those cotton products can be worn throughout the year. They are suitable and most relaxed fabrics for summer and hot weather as they soak up sweat and help the heat escape the body. Naturally, cotton can sustain body warmth in winter. The cotton products have unique abilities to be effective in both warmer and chilly weather. I think that's why most people fall for them.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add to the discussion?

A: Pakokku's cotton fabrics are a regional product that is popular among locals as they can be worn in any season. It is lighter when packing for a trip. The product is suitable for souvenirs as well. We are committed to offering the right products to our customers. I'm so honoured to help create job opportunities for the locals.

Translation: EM



ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

Ecom delivery franchise launches innovative logistics solutions for e-commerce businesses in India

Leveraging state-of-the-art technology and automation, Ecom Delivery operates across 29 states and six union territories in India.



Established in 2014 by industry veterans Vanket Saye Shivaram and K Uttam Jana, Ecom Delivery offers a distinct advantage with its nationwide network. **PHOTO: ANI**

ECOM Delivery Logistics, a prominent provider of comprehensive logistics solutions for the Indian retail and e-commerce sectors, has unveiled innovative franchise services aimed at boosting business productivity in the digital era. Established in 2014

by industry veterans Vanket Saye Shivaram and K Uttam Jana, Ecom Delivery offers a distinct advantage with its nationwide network, facilitating both home delivery and convenient store pick-up and return options.

This approach enhances customer experience while optimizing costs. With cutting-edge technology and automation at its core, Ecom Delivery extends its reach across 29 states and six union territories in India. Its expansive network covers over 1100 cities and towns, serving over 18,600 pin codes nationwide. — ANI

US flags data gap as banks deploy AI in fraud prevention

The US Treasury Department highlighted a significant data gap between large and small banks in the financial sector regarding the deployment of AI to combat fraud.

THE US financial sector faces a “significant” data gap between big and small banks as they deploy AI to fight fraud, the Treasury Department said Wednesday, noting that smaller institutions are disadvantaged.

While big banks have more internal data to develop AI models to prevent fraud, this is not the case for smaller ones, the Treasury said.

There is a need to narrow this divide, the Treasury said, pointing out there is “insufficient

data sharing among firms.” The latest recommendations and report come after President Joe Biden unveiled an executive order in October on regulating AI, with the Treasury now taking steps to identify risks and challenges.

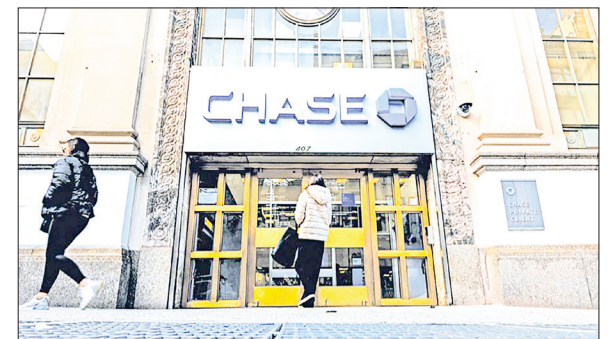
The order directed federal agencies to set new safety standards for AI systems, while requiring developers to share their safety test results and other critical information with the US government. — AFP

Spain takes stake in Telefonica after Saudi deal concerns

SPAIN'S government has acquired a three-per-cent stake in telecoms giant Telefonica following concerns over a Saudi firm taking a piece of a company that Madrid considers strategically important. Spanish state-owned holding company SEPI said in a filing with the stock market regulator late Monday that the move was “in line with a cabinet decision in December” to acquire 10 per cent of Telefonica's share capital. At the time, the government of Socialist Prime

Minister Pedro Sanchez said it was to safeguard the firm's “strategic capacities and essential importance” to Spain. It is the first time that the Spanish government has taken a stake in Telefonica since it was fully privatised in 1997.

In September, Saudi Telecom (STC) said it had paid 2.1 billion euros (\$2.3 billion) for a 9.9 per cent share in Telefonica, causing concern in Madrid, which only learned of the transaction at the last minute.— AFP



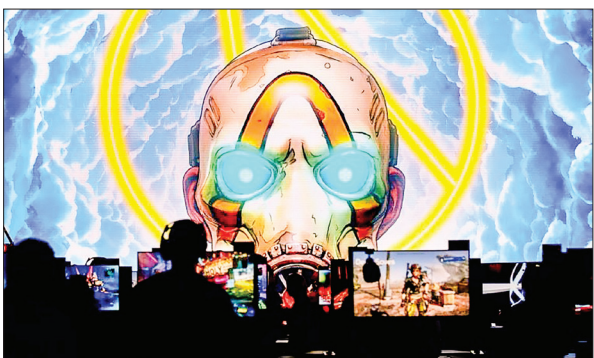
A Chase bank branch stands in lower Manhattan in New York City. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP**

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (173N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (173N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-3-2024 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3408S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3408S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-3-2024 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V JACOB H VOY.NO. (104659)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V JACOB H VOY.NO. (104659) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-3-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301928</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD</p>
---	--	---

Video game giant Embracer sells 'Borderlands' maker to Take-Two

SWEDISH video game group Embracer said Thursday it was selling Gearbox Entertainment, the developer of the popular first-person shooter franchise "Borderlands", to US company Take-Two for \$460 million. Embracer chief executive Lars Wingefors said the sale, to be completed by the end of June, was "an important step in transforming Embracer into the future with notably lower net debt and improved free cash flow".

The sale would reduce the company's net debt by around \$300-\$327 million, the group said in a statement. Gearbox will join a Take-Two line-up that includes the likes of "Grand Theft Auto" maker



'Borderlands' is a first-person shooter game set in a space Western. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Rockstar Games and 2K, the studio behind "NBA 2K". Embracer, which also owns the "Tomb Raider" licence, acquired Gearbox in February 2021 in a deal potentially worth up to \$1.4 billion as part of an acquisition spree that lasted several years.

The Swedish firm

said it was now divesting Gearbox Software, Gearbox Montreal, Gearbox Studio Quebec and game titles including the space Western "Borderlands", "Tiny Tina's Wonderlands", "Homeworld", "Risk of Rain", "Brothers in Arms", and "Duke Nukem". — AFP

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium The Information about 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium 2024

1. The significant **59th Myanmar Gems Emporium 2024**, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held from May 3 to 12, 2024 at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl, gems and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.
2. The local gems entrepreneurs who got the permit and the local gems merchants who got the license to operate in the finished gemstone making and dealing under the Myanmar Gem Law, will be allowed to attend and purchase the lots at **59th Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2024**, according to the terms and conditions.
3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at **59th Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2024**, any merchants can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Emporium Central Committee

Myanma Port Authority

Open Tender Invitation for Dredging Work in Yangon River for the Purpose of Channel Improvement

1. For the purpose of Channel Improvement, especially dredging work in the Yangon River, the Myanma Port Authority is planning to contract with a preferred bidder (local or international company), which has strong experience and technology in channel dredging (intensive and maintenance) and adequate equipment for dredging. The tender process will be conducted according to paragraphs 26/27/28/29/30 of Directive No. (1/2017) for Government Procurement. The term for the Dredging Work is for 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.
2. The companies interested therefore are invited to enter the tender. The tender applications and forms can be purchased and submitted in accordance with the following date, time, and place:
 - a) Address (to purchase): Store Department, Botataung township
 - b) Date & Time (to purchase): 1-4-2024 to 22-4-2024 (formal day & time)
 - c) Address (to submit): Myanmar Port Authority
 - d) Date & time (to submit): 30- 4- 2024(13:00)
 - e) Date & Time (Tender opening): 30-4-2024 (14:00)
3. For detailed information, please contact the following contact points:
 - a) Marine Department - 018246380, 018387117 (ex) 211
 - b) Store Department - 018610230

Myanma Port Authority
Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

Advertise with us/

Hot Line:
09255597511
09251022355

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 11 VOY.NO. (03)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 11 VOY. NO. (03)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-3-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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 UNIVERSE LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA TAMPAN VOY.NO. (KTPN 0010W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA TAMPAN VOY.NO. (KTPN 0010W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-3-2024** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2412E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (2412E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-3-2024** 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 T12 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB411A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB411A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-3-2024** 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

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

South Korea kicks off campaigning ahead of April election

The leaders of the major parties held competing events in Seoul, launching nearly two weeks of campaigning before the 10 April vote.



South Korea's ruling People Power Party leader Han Dong-hoon (R) attends a rally in Seoul ahead of parliamentary elections on 28 March 2024. PHOTO: AFP

OFFICIAL campaigning for South Korea's upcoming general election kicked off Thursday, with President Yoon Suk Yeol's ruling party fighting to win back a parliamentary majority and thwart opposition attempts to derail his conservative agenda.

Surrounded by cheering supporters, the leaders of the country's two major parties staged rival events in the capital Seoul to begin just under two weeks of campaigning before the 10 April vote.

Experts say the poll is cru-

cial for Yoon's People Power Party (PPP), since the president could end up a lame duck for the final three years of his term if the opposition wins a super-majority.

Some forecasts cited by the Yonhap News Agency suggest opposition parties could win over 200 seats in the 300-member Assembly, giving them the ability to impeach the president or override his veto power.

"We have entered this election with the resolve to reform politics, improve public wel-

fare," PPP leader Han Dong-hoon said during a campaign event in Seoul. Analysts say the election is a continuation of the 2022 presidential race, when Yoon narrowly beat the opposition Democratic Party's (DP) current leader Lee Jae-myung by a margin of only 0.73 per cent. Lee is currently under investigation in a slew of cases, including for alleged bribery in connection with a firm that is suspected of illicitly transferring \$8 million to North Korea. He denies all charges. — AFP

New Zealand's Maori King calls for whales to be given personhood

New Zealand has previously enacted laws recognizing natural entities such as rivers and mountains as having legal personhood, a move aimed at acknowledging their significance to the Maori people.

THE King of New Zealand's Indigenous Maori people made an impassioned call Thursday for whales to be granted the same legal rights as people in a bid to protect the hallowed yet vulnerable species.

Kiingi Tuheitia Potatau te Wherowhero VII said that majestic marine mammals should be given inherent human rights, such as having a healthy environment, to allow the restoration of their populations.

"The sound of our ancestor's song has grown weaker, and her habitat is under threat, which is why we must act now," King Tuheitia said in a rare public statement.

New Zealand has previously passed laws granting legal status to natural features such as rivers and mountains that are important to the Maori people.

The Mount Taranaki volcano and Whanganui River, both in New Zealand's North Island, are seen by the Maori as both ancestors and of spiritual importance. They were both granted personhood in 2017.

The status has since been



New Maori King Tuheitia Paki sits on the throne at his coronation at Turangawaeware Marae on 21 August 2006 in Ngaruawahia, New Zealand. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

invoked to slow or overturn development projects and to force consultation with local groups.

King Tuheitia said granting whales the same status would act as "a cloak of protection for our taonga (treasure), our ancestor — the whales". — AFP



Anthrax, which spreads through bacteria in soil, commonly infects grazing livestock and wild animals but can infect humans. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ISTOCK

Thailand sounds alarm after anthrax outbreak in Laos

THAILAND ordered a close watch on livestock on Thursday after an outbreak of anthrax in neighbouring Laos, where more than 50 suspected human cases have been reported.

Anthrax, which spreads through bacteria in soil, commonly infects grazing livestock and wild animals but can infect humans and be deadly in some cases.

Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has ordered officials to closely monitor the disease and to "protect the public".

Humans can become infected by breathing in the spores, eating contaminated food or touching bacteria with broken skin, for instance when handling diseased animals.

Media in secretive, communist Laos have reported 65

suspected cases, including 54 in southern Champasak province, which borders Thailand.

A Thai government statement referred to 54 cases reported this month.

"The PM has ordered the public health minister to closely monitor, especially near the borders," spokesman Chai Watcharong said in the statement. — AFP

SPORTS

Chelsea march into Women's Champions League semis, Lyon power past Benfica

Chelsea midfielder Erin Cuthbert praised Ajax's performance and acknowledged the importance of their first-leg victory in sealing their spot in the next round.



Colombian striker Mayra Ramirez (R) celebrates after scoring for Chelsea against Ajax. PHOTO: AFP

CHELSEA reached the semi-finals of the Women's Champions League on Wednesday despite a 1-1 draw at home to Ajax, while Lyon also progressed after brushing aside Benfica in France.

Mayra Ramirez put Chelsea into a first-half lead on her European club debut before Chasity Grant equalized for Ajax in the second half.

Chelsea prevailed 4-1 on aggregate following a 3-0 win in the first leg in Amsterdam.

"Ajax did really well, they came out as we expected them to," said Chelsea midfielder Erin Cuthbert. "Small margins in football, we could have put a little bit more away, give ourselves a bit more breathing room, but the job was really done in the first leg".

Ajax nearly took the lead in the opening 20 minutes when goalkeeper Zecira Musovic had her clearance charged down by Tiny Hoekstra, but the ball rolled against the post and went

agonizingly wide. Just after the half-hour mark, Ramirez opened her Champions League account with a composed finish after being set free by Guro Reiten.

Now four goals to the good, Emma Hayes' side looked set to cruise into the final four.

Grant put a dampener on the night for Chelsea when she ran on to Hoekstra's through ball and her slightly scuffed finish squirmed its way through Musovic. — AFP

ONE LUMPINEE 57
MEGA
ศุกร์ 29 มี.ค. · 19:30 น.
สนามมวยเวทีลุมพินี · กรุงเทพฯ

มวยไทย แคนดย์เวด (140 ป.)
พินฤทธิ์ ลูกเจ้าแม่สายวารี
VS อเล็กเซย์ บาลิโก

มวยไทย แคนดย์เวด (136 ป.)
โท สจ.เบ็ญกุกภัย
VS รานท์ ซิน

มวยไทย แคนดย์เวด (140 ป.)
หม่อมพองงา อภิเษกมวยไทย
VS ชาริธรียอร์ ยูรายาฟ

มวยไทย แคนดย์เวด (132 ป.)
ฉลองศึก แจ็คสันมวยไทย
VS ดอนคิงส์ โยธารักษ์มวยไทย

มวยไทย แคนดย์เวด (126 ป.)
สองแผ่นดิน ช.แก้ววิเศษ
VS วันชัย แก้วลัมฤทธิ์

มวยไทย แคนดย์เวด (112 ป.)
สิงปราบ ลูกพิชิต
VS ยอดนำเหนือ เอ็นแอนดีฟพิชิต

มวยไทย รุ่นแบนตั้มเวด
ฟาโอ เร็ส
VS ชอ ลิน อู

มวยไทย รุ่นแบนตั้มเวด
ไอทอป อ.ขวัญเมือง
VS พาร์แอม ภัราดี

มวยไทย แคนดย์เวด (140 ป.)
โม เทด ออง
VS ไตโมยะ มารูยามา

มวยไทย แคนดย์เวด (152 ป.)
ตวน ตรีน
VS ยูยะ โจนิชิ

MMA แคนดย์เวด (163 ป.)
มีคาอิล กริตซานนโก
VS เซอียะ มัตซึดะ

MMA แคนดย์เวด (163 ป.)
โคชิโตะ ไทมอลติโนวา
VS อากาชิ โทคาตะ

One Championship match advertisement featuring three Myanmar Lethwei fighters. PHOTO: ONE

3 Myanmar fighters to feature at ONE Championship event

THREE Myanmar top fighters, Soe Lin Oo, Thant Zin and Moe Htet Aung, will participate in the One Friday Fight 57 event of the ONE Championship on 29 March.

The event will be streamed live on ONE Championship Facebook Page and ONE YouTube Channel starting at 7 pm.

Myanmar's Steel Man Soe Lin Oo will take on Portuguese fighter Fabio, who has fought against famous

Thai fighters and is an open player.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's Lethwei fighter Thant Zin will face Muay Thai epic fighter Tai Sor Jor in the Co-main event. Tai Sor Jor has also competed against famous fighters in One.

Similarly, Myanmar's Moe Htet Aung will fight against Japanese fighter Tomoya Maruyama in the first bout of the event. The Japanese fighter is a good kickboxer and high kicker. — TWA/KZL

WORLD number three Jannik Sinner will face defending champion Daniil Medvedev in the semi-finals of the Miami Open — a rematch of the Australian Open final won by Sinner and last year's Miami title match.

Sinner moved into the last four in emphatic style on Wednesday, beating Czech Tomas Machac 6-4, 6-2 before Medvedev overcame a stern test against Chilean Nicolas Jarry before emerging with a 6-2, 7-6 (9/7) win.

Italy's Sinner, who rallied from two sets down to beat Medvedev and claim his first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, will play in his fourth semi of the season after dealing with

Sinner and Medvedev book Miami Open



Jannik Sinner of Italy serves against Tomas Machac of the Czech Republic during their Miami Open quarter-final on Wednesday. PHOTO: /AFP

lively Machac in 91 minutes.

Sinner broke the opening game serve from the Czech but Machac responded immediately to make it 1-1.

The crowd were on their feet to appreciate some brilliant defensive play from Sinner who eventually took charge of the set, breaking to go 4-3 up and then closing out.

The second set was more straightforward with Sinner breaking in the third game and never looking back.

Despite the comfortable margin of the win, Sinner said Machac deserved praise for his energetic and aggressive performance. — AFP



Putin dismisses 'nonsense' claims of alleged Russian plan to attack Europe after Ukraine

Putin emphasized that Russia has no aggressive intentions towards countries like Poland, the Baltic States, or the Czech Republic, asserting confidence in the Russian Armed Forces' ability to fulfil their duties.

STATEMENTS about alleged plans of Russia to attack Europe after Ukraine are nonsense, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said. During a working visit to the Russian town of Torzhok in the Tver Re-

gion on Wednesday, Putin met military pilots.

"This is utter nonsense — the possibility of attacking other countries such as Poland, the Baltic States, and the Czech Republic is being used to instil fear," Putin said.

"It is total nonsense and simply a way to dupe the population and squeeze more sums of money out of them, burdening them with this unnecessary threat."

The president added that satellites of the United States are "afraid of big and strong Russia," but they do it for nothing as Russia has "no aggressive intentions against these states".

"This is utter nonsense — the possibility of attacking some other countries, Poland, the Baltic States, the Czechs are being frightened. It is just nonsense and another way to deceive their population and to extract additional expenses from people, to make them bear this burden on their shoulders, and that is it," Putin said.

Putin stressed that he was certain that the Russian Armed Forces would fulfill their assigned objectives.

The head of state spoke with military pilots during his working trip. One of them told Putin that the Russian Armed Forces would fulfil any assigned task. — SPUTNIK



Russian President Vladimir Putin with military leaders Sergei Shoigu, in foreground, and Valery Gerasimov in 2022. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ MIKHAEL KLIMENTYEV/SPUTNIK

CAUSING HEALTH CONCERNS

Athens chokes in clouds of Sahara dust

ATHENIANS are choking in clouds of thick dust blown in from the Sahara along with unseasonably warm weather, weather forecasters and doctors warned on Thursday.

The haze covering the Greek capital comes from southerly winds that blow dust from North Africa across the eastern Mediterranean from March to April, the head of the Greek meteorological service Theodoros Kolydas said on X, formerly Twitter.

"A typical sandstorm with a range of 200 kilometres (about 120 miles) carries 20 to 30 million tonnes of dust and sometimes as much as 100 million," he wrote. The city regularly experiences such sandstorms but the current one is accompanied by unusually high spring temperatures, heightening the choking effect. — AFP

Israel and Cyprus move forward on underwater electric cable plan

ISRAEL'S Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Eli Cohen, met Wednesday with the Minister of Energy, Trade and Industry of Cyprus, George Papenastasio. During the meeting, it was agreed that the construction of the underwater electric cable that will connect Israel to Cyprus and from there, reach Europe, will be promoted as a high priority.

The ministers toured the Reading Power Station in Tel Aviv together with the Director General of the Ministry of Energy Yossi Dayan, the Chairman of the Electricity Authority, Amir Shavit and other professionals from the Ministry and the Electricity Authority, in order to examine the possibility of establishing the underwater connection at the site. In addition, they agreed to strengthen the regional alliance between the countries and to continue and promote joint projects in the fields of energy.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the issue of cooperation in the field of energy, which holds great potential for both countries. — ANI



Reading Power Station is a thermal power plant located at the mouth of the Yarkon River in the northwestern part of Tel Aviv, Israel. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/FILE