

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

**SUNDAY
EDITION**



Export rice bags are pictured being arranged by diligent workers in the warehouse.

Myanmar rice exports surpass US\$712 mln in 11 months

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

Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports amounted to US\$712 million from over 1.42 million tonnes in the past 11 months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, comprising 1.343 million tonnes by seaborne trade and over 85,000 tonnes through land borders, as per the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The export volumes were registered at 87,648 tonnes worth \$36 million in April 2023, 110,706 tonnes worth \$48 million in May, 62,725 tonnes worth \$28 million in June, 58,334 tonnes worth \$26 million in July, 59,971 tonnes worth \$28 million in August, 84,773 tonnes worth \$42 million in September, 119,526 tonnes worth \$63 million in October, 175,990 tonnes worth

\$90 million in November, 195,829 tonnes worth \$99 million in December, 213,605 tonnes worth \$111 million in January 2024 and 262,116 tonnes worth \$139 million in February.

Therefore, the rice export volume recorded the highest in February, followed by January and December. The figures showed a drop in June, July and August.

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

The federation aims to achieve rice exports of 2.5 million tonnes in the current FY, generating earnings of US\$1 billion.

Thus, Myanmar's rice exports fall short of the target. The Central Bank of Myanmar's monetary policy to control export earnings impeded rice exports, hurting exporters financially. The El Nino weather condition also hampered rice export, the president of the Myanmar Rice Federation affirmed.

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

Myanmar bagged over \$809.135 million from approximately 2.164 million tonnes of rice export in the 2021-2022 FY (April-March). — NN/EM

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Eight museums set to go digital in March

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Korean airports to raise fines for prohibited items

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Supply of new chickpeas brings down prices

NATIONAL

Objectives of 79th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day 2024

- (A) To safeguard the State with the sacrifice of life by upholding Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy of Tatmadaw;
- (B) To actively participate in implementing the processes of two national visions of the State: the prosperity of the country and food security by Tatmadaw members together with the government and ethnic people in their respective sectors;
- (C) To steadfastly implement enhancement of three capabilities in accord with the work process of Tatmadaw, such as study, practise and obey in building a modern patriotic Tatmadaw with powerful strength and sharpening prowess;
- (D) To provide necessary assistance to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw to ensure peace and stability, solidarity and development, which are actual needs of the State and to emerge a Union based on democratic and federal systems.

ME to issue certificates of identity for undocumented migrant workers in Malaysia

THE Malaysian government has announced that undocumented migrant workers shall go back home by paying a 500 Ringgit fine between 1 March and the end of December, and the Myanmar Embassy to Malaysia said it would issue a certificate of identity (C of I) through verification.

Undocumented foreigners in Malaysia shall leave the country within 14 days by paying a 500 Ringgit fine at immigration offices along with a passport or C of I and return air ticket on a specified date from 1 March to 31 December 2024, announced the Malaysian government.

That is why Myanmar nationals who have no passport can apply for a C of I at the embassy in person so that they can

return to Myanmar within the deadline, and a C of I will be issued if they are verified Myanmar nationals, said the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

"At present, Malaysia has intensively cracked down on illegal workers. This announcement seems more arrests will follow after the deadline has expired. It makes workers anxious. They even don't want to live without legal documents, though. They came here because they want to work," said a Myanmar migrant worker in Malaysia.

Myanmar nationals can enquire about consular services by texting the embassy's WhatsApp No +60 1125105774, said the embassy. — MT/ZS

Promotional video-shooting tour highlights Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan



Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe and officials from the Sai Swe Company and the Thailand-based Best International Travel & Agency pose for the documentary group photo at the platform of the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNDER the management of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Sai Swe Company and the Thailand-based Best International Travel & Agency have arranged a video-shooting tour with Thai professionals in Nay Pyi Taw and Bagan to showcase Myanmar's travel destinations and promote them in Thailand.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe greeted the shooting crew who came to pay homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The deputy minister emphasized the significance of video tours in boosting the bilateral tourism industry and shared informative insights about the Maravijaya Buddha Image. He also requested that they include the Gandakuti chamber, stone plaques, Mucalinda Lake, archives, and religious buildings in the video.

Additionally, a member of the trustees of the Maravijaya pagoda explained the construction of the Buddha image and pagodas adorned with tablets.

The crew also had the opportunity to view a video presentation in the Thai language.

In addition to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, the team will also capture footage of the Uppatasanti Pagoda, white elephants, and the parliament building in Nay Pyi Taw, as well as the scenic beauty and sunrise views of Bagan. Their documentary will be aired on Channel 8 of Thai TV channels and social media networks to promote awareness of Myanmar tourism. — MNA/NT

Phase I of Shwedagon to Public Square underpass construction completed



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein views photos of the construction works of the underpass.

PHASE one of the construction of the underpass, which connects the Shwedagon Pagoda and the Public Square, has been completed, according to an official.

The underpass, which will

link the west entrance to Shwedagon Pagoda, the People's Square, and the People's Park in Dagon Township, is being constructed in three sections. The aim is to ensure safety for pedestrians and motorists, fa-

cilitate smooth traffic flow, and establish modern infrastructure for easy passage.

The Yangon Region chief minister visited the construction site on the night of 29 February and issued instructions to install iron fences to prevent pedestrians from crossing recklessly, maintain a clean and green environment, and ensure that the work proceeds without causing traffic congestion, adhering to established standards.

The underpass is 23 feet (7 metres) wide and includes four exits, four escalators, and two lifts for people with disabilities that can accommodate just ten passengers each at a time. The project period is about 14 months. — TWA/KZL

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

SAC member attends 62nd anniversary of Peasants' Day in Pathein

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung participated in the 62nd anniversary of Peasants' Day held at Wardu Village in Kangyidaunt Township of Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

After the ceremonial procedures, the SAC member read out the message sent by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing.

Then, the SAC member, the Ayeyawady Region chief minister and the deputy minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation made remarks, respectively.

They also presented

prizes and agricultural machinery for eight districts to the outstanding farmers and staff. They then observed the demonstration of sowing paddy seeds by using a Drum Seeder, six rows seeder and ten rows seeder.

Next, the SAC member and party viewed the galleries displayed in commemoration of the 62nd Peasants' Day.

The SAC member and party attended the real-life show on undertakings and experiences of prize-winning farmers. They also viewed the thriving of a SuperSun-41 sunflower plantation on the 10-acre croplands in Thebyu Village-tract of Thaboung Township. — MNA/KTZH



State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung observes harvested sunflower seed at the SuperSun-41 sunflower plantation on the 10-acre croplands in Thebyu Village-tract of Thaboung Township.



The opening ceremony of the electric vehicle charging station constructed by Myanmar Arr Thit Man Motor Co Ltd in progress yesterday at the Mandalay International Airport.

MoC Deputy Minister attends EV charging station opening ceremony, inspects toll gates

CHAIRMAN of the Operation of Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure Implementation Committee Deputy Minister for Construction U Win Pe attended the opening ceremony of the Electric Vehicle Charging Station built by Yar Zar Min Industry Co Ltd yesterday at the station (between 62nd and 120th streets), Pyigyidagun township, Mandalay region.

Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw

San, Minister for Transport U Aung Zaw Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Construction U Thaung Myint Tun, officials from the company and guests also attended the ceremony.

After the deputy minister had given the opening remark, an official from the Yar Zar Min Industry Co Ltd explained the electric vehicle charging station, which can provide a charging

facility to 14 vehicles at the same time.

Furthermore, the deputy minister and the team also attended another opening ceremony of the electric vehicle charging station constructed by Myanmar Arr Thit Man Motor Co Ltd. Additionally, the deputy minister and the team inspected toll gates on the Sakarinn-Oh htoketan road section. — MNA/TRKM

MoALI Union Minister meets Myanmar Apiculture Association to boost honey production

U MIN NAUNG, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MoALI), met officials from the Myanmar Apiculture Association, private beekeepers, and honey exporters who visited the Seed Exhibition (2024) being held at the Institute of Agriculture in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on the morning of 2 February and discussed the development of beekeeping and honey production.

During the meeting, officials of the Myanmar Apiculture Association and private entrepreneurs discussed the necessary support from the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary to carry out bee disease prevention and treatment nationwide, to facilitate the transport of beehives from one place to another, to facilitate the process of exporting honey, and to be able to issue a certificate of approval from the Department of Agriculture's laboratory for the honey to be exported.

Then, the Union minister discussed that by cooperating with beekeeping to ensure good pollination for crops, including sunflower, to get two streams of income, as well as support for improved crop yields, to educate farmers to participate in a wide range of activities, to expand the production of honey, which is in demand in the foreign market, as well as being used locally as medicine and nutrition, to coordinate with the department and private cooperation opportunities, and to coordinate with relevant departments.

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is conducting education and service activities for the development of the bee industry in 31 townships in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Regions, and States. During the 2023–2024 financial year, 818 state-owned and private beekeeping businesses are operating, with nearly 209,021 beehives. More than 4,100 metric tons of honey have been produced, and about 2,000 metric tonnes have been exported to Japan, China, Thailand, Korea, and Germany. In the 2022–2023 financial year, about US\$3 million was earned from the export of honey abroad. — MNA/TKO

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NATIONAL

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, foodstuffs, personel goods, and vehicles



Confiscated illegal timbers in Bago Region and illegal Lactasoy soy milk in Yangon Region.

THE combined teams managed by the Customs Department confiscated 605.5 kilogrammes of Polyester 3D Air Mesh from China that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) worth K2.098 million at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint on 29 February. This enforce-

ment was carried out under Customs procedures.

On 29 February and 1 March, the combined teams supervised by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force nabbed a Higer truck (approximately K58 million) heading to

Yangon from Thamanya, carrying four kinds of goods worth K12.3 million, including 15,000 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk without official documents at the Ywathagyi Dry Port and a Toyota Dyna vehicle (estimated value of K15 million) carrying illegal timber weighing 29.213

tonnes valued at K4,382,010 near Tamatakaw village on Twantay-Hlinethaya road on 1 March. Actions were taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law. On 2 March, illegal teak weighing 2.160 tonnes and illegal timber weighing 6.528 tonnes worth K1,997,836 were seized in Bago and Toungoo districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Additionally, on the same day, the combined teams confiscated a Yar Zar Min bus (approximately K30 million) carrying 7,800 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk and 17,500 bottles of LipoVitan-D energy drink valued at K17.25 million near Kamawkasin village in Hpa-an Township. The action was taken under Customs procedures. The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that ten arrests were made on three consecutive days from 29 February to 2 March, with an estimated value of K141,027,846. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

Tatmadaw denies arresting over 100 Muslims; Recruitment from Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay



The screenshot validates misinformation.

MALICIOUS media outlets are spreading the false news claiming that Tatmadaw forcefully arrested 107 Muslims aged between 18-35 from the Kyauktalone IDP camp in Kyaukpyu Township of Rakhine State.

According to an official of Kyaukpyu township, there was no recruitment of soldiers or forcible abduction, and the news is just a fake one.

Similarly, Khit Thit media is also spreading misleading news, stating that the security forces abducted the citizens from Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay region to serve military service, and they foster to check the household lists.

Actually, the respective departments are just sharing knowledge of People's Military Service Law with the citizens, and the malicious media created fake news to cause misunderstanding among the citizens. The government media have already reportedly stated the contact numbers of the Central Committee on People's Military Servant Summoning to get a clear understanding and not to be afraid of the rumours. — MNA/TRKM

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

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Eight museums set to go digital in March

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum is digitizing eight museums as the first phase of a project to establish online digital museums, according to Daw Amy Nyan Win, Staff Officer of the department (Nay Pyi Taw).

The effort, initiated in 2023, aims to allow the public to explore digital museums and enhance information sharing for physical visitors.

Staff Officer Daw Amy Nyan Win said: "We have 32 museums under our management. We're digitizing the museum data into document files to provide visitors with more inclusive access to information. The eight museums

to be digitized in the first phase are National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), National Museum (Yangon), Mandalay Myanansankyaw Golden Palace Museum, Hanthawady Archaeological Museum, Salay (Yokesone) Archaeological Museum, Bagan Archaeological Museum, Sri Ksetra Museum, and Beikthano Archaeological Museum".

Digital documentation also includes three-dimensional visualization of ancient artefacts, creating an immersive online experience that simulates the feeling of being inside the museum itself. The artefacts with greater historical significance will be prioritized. Online visitors



The photo depicts the Yokesone Monastery.

can view the entire museum on the website.

The department will also

facilitate offline viewing of the museums' surrounding areas.

The website is scheduled to

launch early in March after the final touches are completed. — ASH/NT

De-oiled groundnut cake demand surges for animal feed, pickled foods

GROUNDNUT expeller cake, useful as animal feed or edible in pickled form, is well sold in the market, according to the interviews.

Primarily used as animal feed, defatted groundnut cake is the most suitable for feeding pigs, and its demand is on the rise.

"De-oiled groundnut cake is sold in viss, and here it is K2,600, K2,700 or K2,800. Demand is rising. But, due to transport issues, sellers and buyers face a few difficulties. You can see plenty of these cakes as this is the groundnut harvesting season, and there are



De-oiled groundnut cakes.

many groundnut farmers in our Kyuntaw area," said Ko Kyaw Thu Tun, a groundnut

oil merchant from Singu. Singu, Madaya (west) and Thabeikkyin town-

ships, where groundnut is the principal crop, are top among the producing areas of groundnut expeller cakes.

Amarapura buys most groundnut expeller cakes in the Mandalay Region, while other buyers are from Bayintnaung wholesale centre and Twantay in Yangon Region and Bago Region.

"Sales of these cakes can be said to be rising. They are mainly used as animal feed. The increased number of livestock breeders may be one of the reasons," said a groundnut expeller cake wholesaler. — Thit Taw/ZN

YGEA to issue smart cards with QR codes, including gold/cash permits

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) will issue smart cards to members, and they can view bullion and cash-carrying permits by scanning the QR code on the card.

YGEA informed Facebook on 1 March that it will issue membership cards with a QR Code (Smart Card) containing a bullion licence and gold/cash carrier permits.

When asked if they can be seen by scanning the QR code, YGEA chairman U Myo Myint replied, "Yes. That is the first time."

For members to handle their association-related matters smoothly, YGEA has arranged for them to pay annual fees for 2024 either in person at the office or through banks.

Member card renewals can also be done via UAB Pay and Onepay.

Anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing support training began on 1 March, with High Court lawyers U Kyaw Nyein and Daw Khin May Than giving lectures on the first day of the free gold training. — MT/ZN

Battery sales surge recently

AS the summer comes, battery sales have risen again recently as people have prepared for the ease of getting electricity.

"Supply increased again in this week. Sales have been quite slow in the past weeks due to high prices. But

now it has gradually increased again," said an official from the U Kyaw battery shop. Predictions say that sales will continue rising but gradually in the coming months.

"The market is likely to continue to stay at current sales in coming

months. But it will go on with gradual sale, neither sharp increase nor sharp decline," he said.

However, the market is likely to decline again in May, and battery prices will be high, battery traders predicted. — Thit Taw/ZS

NATIONAL



The photo shows some shrimp farms in Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region.

38 shrimp farmers in Taninthayi Region apply for licences on 8,000+ acres

ACCORDING to the Fisheries Department, 38 farmers in the Taninthayi Region have applied for permits to expand their saltwater shrimp farming operations on over 8,000 acres with the intention of exporting.

Currently, five entrepreneurs are implementing saltwater shrimp farming operations spanning over 1,800 acres, thereby increasing the total area of saltwater shrimp farming to approximately 10,051 acres.

The white shrimp (Vannamei) produced

by saltwater shrimp farms in Taninthayi Region are mainly exported abroad.

Grand Adman Co Ltd operates 18 shrimp breeding ponds in Kawthoung Township, 105 ponds by Pyae Phyo Tun Company, 53 ponds by Khine Zin Yaw Company in Kyunsu Township, 25 ponds by Shwe Kan Maw Company in Pulaw Township, and eight ponds by Best Myanmar Co Ltd in Yephyu Township. A total of 209 ponds are engaged in saltwater shrimp farming. — TWA/MKKS

Korean airports to raise fines for prohibited items

WITH regard to the increasing penalties for prohibited goods at the Korean airport, the EPS Centre in Myanmar has issued a report urging E-9 Myanmar workers not to bring prohibited items.

The EPS Centre in Myanmar recently announced that E-9 Myanmar workers are advised not to bring prohibited items since the fine has been increased from 100,000 won to five million won if authorities find prohibited agricultural produce and food products by workers at Korean airports.

Hrdk (Myanmar EPS Centre) and POEA (Labour Transport Department) have been reminding E-9 workers who will go to work in Korea every week during the pre-job training that “the luggage brought by the Korean immigration officials will be rechecked (whether or not they are bringing prohibited items) at once the workers arrive at Incheon Airport.”

The press release stated that despite repeated warnings, the import of prohibited agricultural produce and food products at Korean airports is detected every week. — TWA/TKO



The photo depicts arrival of Myanmar workers sent through the EPS system at Incheon International Airport in South Korea on 14 February 2024.

Foreign travellers must adhere to Public Health Dept guidelines from 1 March: MoHT

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has issued a notification that foreign travellers coming to Myanmar must strictly follow instructions of the relevant health department starting from 1 March 2024, and those who fail to follow the instructions will face legal action.

Travellers have to undergo body temperature and any required health examinations upon their arrival in Myanmar by health department personnel at the appropriate entry checkpoints.

Additionally, if any health-related problems, such as COVID-19, are discovered while they are still in Myanmar, they will be responsible for paying

the cost for charges for medical examinations. Individuals can consult the Myanmar Insurance Website (mminsurance.gov.mm) if they wish to purchase health insurance.

Meanwhile, in Myanmar, foreign visitors who suffer from symptoms of COVID-19 should notify relevant health units about their health conditions. The health guidelines for the public may change on time, and these will come into force on 1 March.

Officials from international flights, maritime voyages and border entries have to substitute newly released health guidelines instead of old ones dated 1 August 2023 for arrivals of travellers in Myanmar. — TWA/MKKS

Domestic coconut oil prices surge above palm oil



The photo shows a woman demonstrating the importance of coconut oil for hair.

IN early March, the price of domestic coconut oil stood at K130,000 per bucket, which contains ten visses of coconut oil. Therefore, it is much more expensive than palm oil, a coconut oil seller at Bayintnaung Market told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). The reference rate for the wholesale price

of palm oil is K5,180 per viss, while it is K6,700 per viss in the oil market.

Thus, the cost of coconut oil is higher than that of palm oil. In addition, buyers have to order coconut oil in advance at the Bayintnaung market despite the high price.

The demand for coconut oil is much lower than that of palm oil since coconut oil is less popular for hair treatment than it was before. The retail price of coconut in the market is K600-K700 per bottle. Coconut trees are abundantly grown in the delta region, and coconuts without husks are transported to Yangon, especially from Patheingyi, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung, and other coastal areas.

What is more, the copra (the meat of the coconut) is also transported to the coconut oil factories.

In the retail market, the coconut oils are sold in little bottles with prices ranging from K200 to K500. Generally, over 400 million coconuts are produced locally in a year. Among them, approximately 130 million are made in the Ayeyawady Region.

While the fluctuation of palm oil prices in the market is noticeable, the surge in coconut oil prices is less pronounced due to lower demand for coconut oils. Similar to palm oil, some volume of coconut oils are imported from abroad. — TWA/ TMT

Supply of new chickpeas brings down prices

A high influx of fresh chickpeas in the market pushed down the prices, Mandalay wholesale depot's figures showed.

At present, chickpeas produced from Thedaw, Wundwin, Kume, Sagaing, and Monywa areas flow into the Mandalay market. Subsequently, the prices continued declining.

The prices moved in the range between K235,000 and K246,000 per 56.25 viss on 2 March.

The prices peaked at K287,000-K315,000 per viss on 12 January as the demand by oil millers and growers who store the seeds for planting in the following season outstripped supply in the market.

The chickpea is commonly cultivated in October-November and harvested in January-April. It is primarily cultivated in Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second largest production is pulses and beans,



Farmers harvest chickpeas in a field in Nyaungsauk Village, Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region. PHOTO: HLAING WIN LAY (PWINTBYUMYAY)

accounting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans, including peanuts, chickpeas, soy-

beans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans, are also grown in the country.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy, and it significantly contributes to the Gross Domestic Product

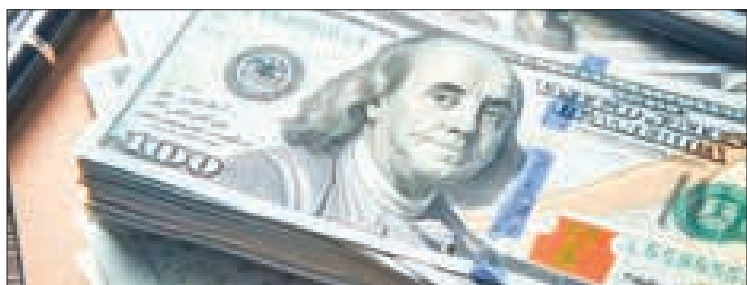
(GDP).

Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 3,500 kilogrammes worth US\$3.548 million were exported to foreign trade partners in the current financial year 2023-

2024 since 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics.

Myanmar exported over 18,000 kilos worth \$13.139 million in the last FY 2022-2023. — NN/EM

CBM to sell US\$10 mln, 200 mln Thai baht on 4 March



The photo shows one hundred US dollar notes at the exchange counter.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will pump US\$10 million and 200 million Thai baht into the financial market on 4 March.

CBM sold \$77.38 million and 850 million Thai baht in February and \$68.33 million, 313.5 million Thai baht and 4.2 million Chinese yuan in January 2024.

The exchange rate for Thai baht, Chinese yuan and US dollar settled in those transactions is not revealed. The reference exchange rate set by the CBM is K2,100 against a US dollar, while it is valued at some K3,630 at the

over-the-counter market at present. The exchange rates currently stand at K101 for a Thai baht and K493 for a Chinese yuan.

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

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

Monsoon onion prices head down in early March

THE Yangon market braced for rising onion prices despite high influx of onion. However, the prices started to move down on 2 March as onion traders informed The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The monsoon onion prices declined to K1,800-K3,100 per viss depending on producing areas (Seikphyu and Taungdwingyi) on 2 March. The price of premium onion from Myittha remained unchanged at K2,700-K3,800 per viss.

The prices of onions from the Seikphyu and Taungdwingyi areas fluctuated in February. They touched the lowest of K900 and the highest of K3,200 per viss.

With monsoon onion prices



Monsoon onions are seen flowing into markets on 2 March 2024.

decreasing, the early harvest of summer onions might happen.

Traders mostly purchase onions to hold a large num-

ber of stocks in their hands. Thus, it is hard to predict the onion price in March, trader U Thaw Gyi told the GNLM. — TWA/EM

OPINION

Acknowledge presence of wildlife globally

THE natural environment is an intricate tapestry woven with diverse life forms, encompassing animals, birds, and creatures, both terrestrial and aquatic, alongside the existence of human beings. Some species are on a gradual decline, facing various threats, while new ones continue to emerge, creating a delicate balance in the ecosystem.

In essence, all living entities coexist peacefully in the world. No creature holds a superior position to eliminate another. Despite the natural predation that occurs for sustenance, there is an inherent understanding that wiping out others is not an option. The distinction between wild and tame beings is drawn based on their physical behaviours or mental emotions, preventing any attempts at annihilation.

While technological advancements have undoubtedly enhanced various facets of wildlife conservation, including research, communication, tracking, and DNA analysis, challenges such as unequal access, environmental pollution, and unsustainable technology use hinder the achievement of universal digital inclusion by 2030. Balancing the scales and ensuring the well-being of the global ecosystem requires a harmonious blend of human ingenuity and digital innovation to safeguard the rich tapestry of life on Earth.

However, humans stand apart as the most potent force in the societal hierarchy of living beings. Their physical and mental prowess grants them the ability to categorize and define the characteristics of all living and non-living entities. Recognizing this, humans bear the responsibility of managing the conservation of biodiversity for long-term existence, ensuring the survival of various species.

Across the globe, people heavily depend on wildlife and biodiversity-based resources to fulfil their daily necessities. Collaborative efforts are underway to sustain ecosystems and safeguard plant and animal species, ensuring their existence for future generations. As the most influential force in society, humans are tasked with orchestrating the conservation of diverse wildlife and non-wildlife species. Everybody needs to comprehensively understand that all living wild or tamed beings have a chance for their presence worldwide and that the

world is home to all without exemption for anyone. They all have to sympathize with the survival of others.

Aligned with the 2024 theme for World Wildlife Day, "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation," it is imperative for humanity to devise comprehensive plans that emphasize the compassionate conservation of flora and fauna using digital technology. Simultaneously, urgent attention must be directed towards combating wildlife crime and human-induced threats that have far-reaching economic, environmental, and social repercussions.

While technological advancements have undoubtedly enhanced various facets of wildlife conservation, including research, communication, tracking, and DNA analysis, challenges such as unequal access, environmental pollution, and unsustainable technology use hinder the achievement of universal digital inclusion by 2030. Balancing the scales and ensuring the well-being of the global ecosystem requires a harmonious blend of human ingenuity and digital innovation to safeguard the rich tapestry of life on Earth.

Report

By Pandora
Translated by Myint Zan



dinosaurs have become powder
rust covers the head of the princes
using their gills, the golden fishes
have flown

the zombies are active without
the need for oxygen

one's own doctrine has been
judged upon and ruled by one

'utterly necessary' is not an
existential fact

the little dragon tattoo on her
shoulder
has vaporized

အစီရင်ခံစာ

နိုင်နိုးဆော့တွေလည်း အမှုန့်ဖြစ်ပြီ
မင်းသားခေါင်းတွေလည်း
သံချေးတက်ပြီ

ဝါးဟက်နဲ့ ယပ်ခပ်ရင်း
ရွှေငါးတွေပျံသွားပြီ

အောက်ဆီဂျင်မလိုဘဲ
ဇွမ်ဘီတွေ ရှင်သန်နေပြီ

ငါတရားကို ငါတပါးက စီရင်တော်မူပြီ
'မရှိမဖြစ်' ဆိုတဲ့စကား
ဖြစ်တည်ခဲ့ခြင်း မရှိပြီ

သူမရဲ့ ကျောပြင်မှာ
မင်ကြောင်ထိုးထားတဲ့
နဂါးရင်လေးလည်း အငွေ့ပျံပြီ။ ။

Composed between 1 December 2012 and 10 January 2013
Translated on 10 February 2024



The Noble Place

By Mya Thae (Research)

Human beings' and creatures' lives
are short.
Very precious time is gradually lost.

We need to avoid evil sin.
Do good deeds, everything.

We all have attachments with each
other
It makes us worry and trouble

Loveliness and hatred treat us with
many circular lives
Without these two things, there is
nothing in life
That's the noble place of Nirvana
(Nei'ban)



POETIC ANALYSIS

Hats off to women!

By Chit Ko Pe

“BEHIND every successful man is a woman.” This is a common expression widely used by people to recognize the wives or mothers of successful men. Those women rightly deserve applause and appreciation for their selfless and supportive contributions towards their successful men.

On the other hand, there are many other women in society steadfastly supporting and encouraging their men who still struggle or fail or do not succeed. Those women's endeavours and supports are overlooked and unnoticed despite their standing and weathering together with their loved men in the face of adversity or tragedy. Women, naturally being sensitive and emotional, tend to burst into tears that turn into the inner strength to tackle the hurdles and troubles alone or along with their men. Every woman has beauty or strength, no matter how trivial or minor it is. No stone shall be left unturned. Instead, I prefer to say: “There is no man without a woman.”

Her age or beauty does not assess a woman's worth but the strength and uniqueness of who she is. It is vividly portrayed in a poem titled “A Woman's Worth”, composed by Ashanti Holliday from New York in her teenage years in 2008 to express her gratitude towards the women around her.

She gave life. She is a wife.
She is a mother, and she is a friend.
She is a sister, a survivor to the end.
Appreciate her, and we don't dare.
Ask her worries, and we don't care.
Wipe away her tears, and they are invisible as air.
She works, cooks and cleans.

She laughs, helps comfort, and hides her pain.
When you struggle, she pulls you through.
All this is she, and what do we do?



ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PIXABAY

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Book Title	- Buddha Bathawingaug Tayauk Phytpho So Yin
Translator	- Win Htut Zaw
Publishing House	- Nang Devi
Publication Date	- February 2024
Price	- K5,000

Buddha Bathawingaug Tayauk Phytpho So Yin (Good Question Good Answer)

By Ven S.Dhammika

THE book under review this week is a translated version of the book titled “Good Question Good Answer”, written by a Buddhist monk called Venerable S Dhammika. The translator is named Saya Win Htut Zaw.

The book contains 14 chapters: What is Buddhism?; Basic Buddhist Concepts; Buddhism and the God-Idea; The Five Precepts; Rebirth; Meditation; Wisdom and Compassion; Vegetarianism; Good Luck and Faith; Monks and Nuns; The Buddhist Scriptures; History and Development; Becoming a Buddhist; and Some Sayings of The Buddha. In the preface to the fourth revised edition, Ven S Dhammika said, “Some 18 years ago, a group of Buddhist students from Singapore University came to see me, complaining that they often found it difficult answering questions about Buddhism that people sometimes put to them. I asked them to give examples of some of these questions, and when they did, I was shocked that bright, well-educated young Buddhists should know so little about their religion and be so hesitant about explaining it to others. I took note of many of the questions and added some that I was often asked, and thus, Good Question Good Answer came into being. What was meant to be of use mainly to Singaporeans has, to my surprise and satisfaction, gone on to have an international readership.

Over 150,000 copies of the English edition have been printed, and it has been reprinted numerous times in the USA, Malaysia, India, Thailand and Sri Lanka. It has also been translated into 14 languages, most recently into Bahasa Indonesia and Spanish. In this fourth updated and enlarged edition, I have added some more questions and have provided, I hope, good answers to them. I have also added a chapter containing some sayings of the Buddha. May this little book continue to stimulate an interest in the Buddha's Dhamma.

When asked what Buddhism is, Sayadaw replied that the name

Buddhism comes from the word Buddhi, which means 'to wake up', and thus Buddhism can be said to be the philosophy of awakening, that this philosophy has its origin in the experience of the man Siddhattha Gotama, known as the Buddha, who was himself awakened at the age of 35, that Buddhism is now 2,500 years old and has about 300 million followers worldwide and that until a hundred years ago, Buddhism was mainly an Asian philosophy.

Still, it is increasingly gaining adherents in Europe, Australia, and America. When asked if Buddhism is just a philosophy, Ven S Dhammika replied that the word philosophy comes from two words: Philo, which means love and Sophia, which means wisdom. Both meanings describe Buddhism perfectly in that Buddhism teaches that we should try to develop our intellectual ability to the fullest so that we can understand clearly that it also teaches us to develop love and kindness so that we can be like true friends to all beings and that Buddhism is a philosophy but not just a philosophy; it is the supreme philosophy. What is interesting is that Albert Einstein quoted Buddhism as the most scientific religion when compared to all other religions.



Book Title	- Mingala Taya Hnint Naing Ngan Daw
Writer	- Oxford Sayadaw Dr K. Dhammasami
Publishing House	- Zalat Ni
Publication Date	- January 2024 (1 st Edition)
Price	- K4,500

Mingala Taya Hnint Naing Ngan Daw (Nation with Mingalas) (Welfares)

THIS book is published to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the founding of the Mingala Foundation. This book contains the sermons delivered by Oxford Sayadaw at the 13th-anniversary ceremony. Director San Myint Aung arranged the book.

This book deals with 38 blessings from Mangala Suttanta, which is famous for its usefulness in secular affairs. If a person follows the advice provided in this Suttanta, he will be blessed. Although almost all the Buddhist monks are delivering sermons enshrined in this world-famous sutta, they are bent more on spiritual values than on touching on the usefulness of this sutta in worldly affairs. Another point is that the way the Oxford Sayadaw presents this sutta is quite different from that of other lecturers.

Reverend Dhammasami could have made the listeners and readers of this sutta able to put the teachings of this sutta into practice, with the result that they are enjoying the benefits of abidance by the advice provided by Lord Buddha. He has employed an easy way regarding the approach to Mangalasuttanta.

The title of this book is “Mingala Taya Nnint Naing Ngan Daw”. In the introduction, Reverend Dhammasami said that this book is aimed at Buddhist lecturers, philosophers, public administrators, school teachers and parents.

Under the sermon titled, “The personal values of Prince Siddhattha, the Buddha-to-be, which we should imitate,” he said that according to the clause, “Putthassa Loka Dhammehi Cittam Yassa Na Kampati,” we should not be shaken in the face of eight vicissitudes — gain, loss, fame, disgrace, praise, blame, pleasure and pain. According to this sutta, we need not be agitated by the criticism, and we must not be depressed over the miseries. When we disagree over things, we must not be angry. You should know that being angry is a sign of fright. As long as you are worried about your ideas and opinions being dominated by those of other people, you can be said to be shaken by external factors. According to the Nakampati idea, people should not be panic-stricken. Another word is Virajam — non-annoyance.

When the Five Disciples abandoned the Buddha-to-be, thinking that the latter would not attain Buddhahood, he did not feel disheartened. There were only six persons in that forest, and when they left, the Buddha-to-be was left alone. However, he was not annoyed by their departure; he was not dissatisfied with them for abandoning him. He knew that they had left him because he had forsaken the extreme practice of Dukkaracariya. The Five Disciples no longer believed that the Gotama monk would not become Buddha because he had abandoned the extreme practice of Dukkaracariya. This kind of mentality or mental attitude is for us all to imitate.

For those wishing to read the English version, this book is recommended because it is written in three languages: Myanmar, Pali, and English.

NATIONAL Entertainment



Artist Maung Di

WELL-KNOWN artist Maung Di recovered from his illness and visited the exhibition commemorating the 35 late artists at Beik Thano Gallery on 27 February. The gallery captioned the photo of Maung Di as "Artist Maung Di admiring Bagyi Aung Soe's painting at the Late Masters exhibition, showcasing artworks of some of Myanmar's most important artists".



Hein Wai Yan

ACTOR Hein Wai Yan resumed his career by taking the leading role in "The Mask" movie. It was made by Marn Htet Chi Production and directed by director Thar Gyi. The cast is Hein Wai Yan, Tun Ko Ko, Soe Pyae Thazin, Hsaung Yoon Zan, and Ella Shwe Sin.



Saung Win Latt, Aung Shan Wine

SAYA Saung Win Latt and Saya Aung Shan Wine organized their Two Companions Art Exhibition at Anawrahta Art Gallery from 1 to 3 March. Saya Aung Shan Wine said they showcased about 45 paintings. They invited their friends and those on FB in person or

online. He also urged them to enjoy their paintings.



Win Htut Win

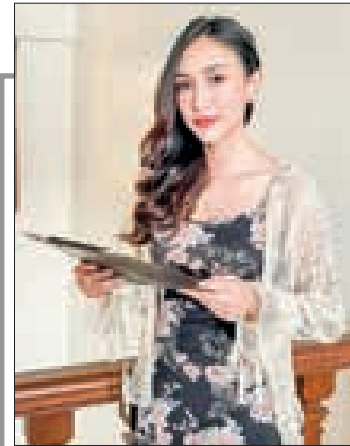
WIN HTUT WIN, son of great actress Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe, donated alms food to monks at Pyinsa Nikel Monastery to mark his 50th birthday on 27 February. Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe also donated alms food to 108 monks on 24 February and shared merits for her deceased husband, actor U Than Htut, and all the beings.

Celebrity Brief



Aye Wutyi Thaug

ACTRESS Aye Wutyi Thaug attended the opening ceremony of Sein Sabei Phoo at Junction City, Level (2) Promotion Area in Yangon on 24 February together with Wah Wah Win Shwe, Soe Myat Thuzar, Htet Htet Moe Oo, A linn Yaung, Mar Grace, Yair Yint Aung and Aye Chan Maung. She also talked about her marriage life in the media.



Hsaung Wutyee May

ACTRESS Hsaung Wutyee May, who completed a 12-year contract with Forever Group Company, did not renew it. She said, "Even though there is no more contract with me, I will never forget the gratitude. I worked with Forever for over 12 years, and we are like a family. I hardly made such a decision to end the contract. I want to keep on going

in this field independently, and so I end it." — Htun Htun/KTZH

Scriptwriter-cum-director Nadi Ayeya passes away

SCRIPTWRITER and director Nadi Ayeyar passed away on 26 February. The funeral occasion was held at Yayway Cemetery on 28 February.

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization Vice-Chairperson 1 U Aye Kyu Lay posted on his Facebook, saying that "Nadi Ayeya was a member of plot and script basic group member and eagerly donated for welfare activities of the group, respect-paying ceremonies and Kahtina ceremonies."

The deceased, Nadi Ayeya, was suffering from level-4 buccal cavity cancer and reached a critical point in January.

He created many movies as a scriptwriter and director before he died. — Htun Htun/KTZH



The photo of scriptwriter-cum-director Nadi Ayeya

ARTICLE/ENVIRON

African leaders call for strengthened multilateralism to tackle environmental crisis

The high-level segment of UNEA-6 commenced in Nairobi, with African leaders stressing the need for a strengthened multilateral system to address global challenges like climate change and pollution.



Ocean of Pollution: In this file photo, scuba divers deliver collected plastic waste and other items from a bay during a 'clean-up day' campaign of the ocean off the coast of the capital Dakar, Senegal.

PHOTO: AFP

THE high-level segment of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) opened Thursday in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, with African leaders renewing the call for a revitalized multilateral system to boost action on planetary threats, including climate change, habitat loss and pollution.

Kenyan President William Ruto, in his address to the assembly, said that given the existential threats facing the planet and its inhabitants, there was an urgency to forge a multilateral consensus that promised lasting solutions.

"Only collective action at the multilateral level that is effective, inclusive and sustainable will enable the international community to tackle climate change, biodiversity

loss and pollution," Ruto said.

African heads of state and government attended the two-day meeting, held under the theme of "effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution".

Ruto said that international solidarity was imperative to boost the response to the intersecting ecological crisis, geopolitical tensions, conflicts and global inflation that cast a dark cloud on Africa's sustainability agenda.

He added that marginalized African societies were staring at a precipice unless concerted efforts were made to arrest climate emergencies, marine pollution, overexploitation of species and depletion of the ozone layer. — Xinhua

Hats off to women!

>> FROM PAGE-9

Complain and create a mess.
Provide stress and leave her feeling depressed.
Push her away and ignore her advice.
Tell her she is nothing without thinking twice.
She was raped, tortured, and abused.
Told she was nothing and would always be used
just for pleasure, forget her pain.
She swallows her pride and puts her feelings aside.
Do as you need in order for you to be free.
Ignores your ignorance and tolerates your flaws.
You call her names, but she answers with pride, dignity, and a complete loss of self.
You call her nothing.
I call her Strong, Smart, Sensual, Caring, Giving, Surviving, Tolerant, and Powerful.
I call her WOMAN!

The poem is so powerful and inspirational that it is often narrated on many occasions, paying tribute to women worldwide. It depicts how much a woman struggles for others and how selfless she is. As a mother, a woman has a protective cocoon to soothe her children. As a wife, a woman dares to face any struggles for her husband. As a friend, a woman has shoulders for her buddy to lean on and cry. A

woman is where she gets instinctively ready in any capacity to lend a helping hand to all around.

It is unreservedly true to me. It is the women who have nurtured and inspired me from childhood till now. My inner circle's female ones - mother, aunts, wife and sisters have played a pivotal part in sharing weal and woe at all times to care for and support me.

Excellence in my study during my basic education high school days was the result of those female classmates who were the cream of the crop in the class. Feeling envious, I followed in their footsteps with hard work in study. It propelled me to be among them in no time. All in all, I managed to obtain a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the once-renowned Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT) and a Master's degree in safety, health and environmental technology from the National University of Singapore (NUS), Asia's top university.

While schooling in Grades 8 and 9 in Sittway, two female teachers - Daw Tin Yi and Daw Aye Tin - got me to take part in public speaking in the school. Since then, every debate and speaking skill competition in college and university has seen me as a successful contestant. To date, my public speaking skills have polished my profession whenever I deliver a speech or read a paper at conferences overseas. Kudos to them!

In a professional sphere, I have thus come to the extent of having the most prestigious note from Her Late Majesty the Queen, Elizabeth II from England, who was a patron of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). I received it along with the Guardian Angel award in 2016, the year that coincided with the centenary anniversary of RoSPA. The Queen is no more, but her supportive words in the note are still alive and encouraging to me.

When I was back in Myanmar some time ago, I glanced upon more Myanmar female engineers than male ones at the construction sites in Thilawa SEZ, Thanlyin. Amazing! Women have been empowered in the male-dominated industry in Myanmar, unlike in other countries. They were the ones supporting me with their enthusiastic participation in workplace safety and health activities, especially every morning's safety talk on site.

This article will be incomplete unless I mention the immeasurable support given by some Myanmar female teachers working in Thailand. With their kindness and guidance, I've managed to adjust myself to the academic field and assimilate with younger people like them. Though I am far away from home, I feel not lonely with their presence, which reflects the respected characteristics of mother, aunts, wife and sisters.

All other women do have their respective values - visible or invisible, on the men, near or far. When I reiterate: "There is no man without a woman", I take my hat off to all women! ■

Boiling water may help remove 90% of microplastics: Study

ACCORDING to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), plastic is the most prevalent type of marine debris found in our oceans.

A new study has found that boiling your drinking water could help reduce the amount of microplastics in it by nearly 90 per cent. The findings, published Wednesday in Environmental Research Letters, looked at the impacts of boiling on three compounds commonly found in drinking water: polystyrene, polyethylene and polypropylene.

Nanoplastics and microplastics (NMPs) are tiny bits of plastic that can be as small as one-thousandth of a millimetre in diameter, though the definition applies to any small plastic piece that is less than five millimetres long in length. — SPUTNIK

ECONOMY WORLD



A closing conference previously scheduled for 1300 GMT on Friday was pushed back by three hours, as trade ministers negotiated new draft texts on fisheries and agriculture after all-night talks. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Difficult discussions’ as WTO talks run beyond deadline

Trade ministers from around the world are facing a deadlock in negotiations at a major WTO conference in Abu Dhabi.

THE world’s trade ministers were locked in deadlocked negotiations Friday following overnight talks as a major WTO conference postponed its closing session for a fourth time with no deals in sight.

An Indian-led push for permanent rules governing public stockholding of food reserves has drawn deep objections from other members at the World Trade Organization’s 13th ministerial meeting in Abu Dhabi, according to sources close to the talks.

The standoff is imperiling a wider package of agreements on fisheries and an e-commerce moratorium only hours before the deadline, the sources added, speaking on condition of anonymity as they are not permitted to discuss ongoing negotiations.

The WTO meeting in the capital of the United Arab Emirates was initially scheduled to wrap up on Thursday. But it was extended beyond its scheduled deadline four times amid rifts between the body’s

164 members who must reach unanimous consensus to chalk up any deal as per WTO rules.

A closing conference previously scheduled for 1300 GMT on Friday was pushed back by three hours, as trade ministers negotiated new draft texts on fisheries and agriculture after all-night talks.

“Negotiations on key files are in full swing,” the European Union’s WTO mission said on X, formerly Twitter, noting that “challenges remain”. — AFP

Swiss central bank head steps down in surprise move

Switzerland’s central bank announced that Thomas Jordan, its head for 12 years, will step down in September, surprising many. The bank expressed gratitude for his commitment to stability-oriented monetary policy without giving a reason for his departure.



Chairman of the Swiss National Bank Thomas Jordan looks on during a general shareholders meeting of the Swiss central bank in Bern on 28 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE head of Switzerland’s central bank, Thomas Jordan, will step down in September after 12 years in charge, the bank said in a surprise statement Friday.

“The Bank Council and the Governing Board greatly regret Thomas Jordan’s decision, and express their sincere thanks for his many years of outstanding commitment in the interests of a stability-oriented monetary policy,” it said.

The statement did not provide a reason for the unexpected

move, just saying it wanted to “wish him all the best for the forthcoming new chapter in his life”.

Born in 1963, Jordan entered the bank in 1997 and joined the governing board in 2007, where he had to face the effects of the financial crisis on Swiss lenders.

In 2012 he became head of the board. Under his watch, the central bank abandoned its policy of systematically preventing the Swiss franc from rising too much against the euro. — AFP

Crime groups shifting to fraud schemes in EU: bloc’s prosecutor



Criminal groups are shifting from ‘very risky’ drug trafficking to lucrative fraud, the EU’s chief prosecutor Laura Kovesi says. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ORGANIZED criminal groups are switching from riskier drug rackets to fraud in the EU and many don’t hesitate to use violence to protect their activities, the bloc’s chief prosecutor told AFP in an interview.

Laura Kovesi said that value-added tax (VAT) fraud accounted for 59 per cent of the estimated 19 billion euros (\$21 billion) in damage to the EU budget arising from cases opened for investigation last year by her European Public Prosecutor’s

Office (EPPO). “Behind this fraud in general there are a few organized crime groups that operate everywhere in Europe. They are very flexible,” she said. “We have to deal with the most dangerous criminals,” she added.

“And our concern is that if we let them grow, if we let them have more financial power, of course they can become more violent and they can be a real threat to our security.”

Kovesi’s comments, made in a telephone interview with AFP

on Thursday, ahead of the release of its annual report on activities in 2023. Her relatively new office — it started operating in June 2021 — is tasked with investigating and prosecuting fraud involving European Union money.

“In the last period of time, criminal groups have reshuffled their activity,” Kovesi said, moving from “very risky” drug trafficking towards “easier” financial crimes — where both punishments and the level of detection are lower. — AFP

Supermarket Sainsbury's cuts 1,500 UK jobs on tech drive

This announcement follows the earlier disclosure of a £1 billion cost-saving plan without specifying the extent of job cuts.

BRITISH supermarket group Sainsbury's Thursday announced plans to cut about 1,500 jobs to slash costs as the sector increasingly automates its operations.

Britain's second biggest supermarket after Tesco had announced earlier this month cost savings of £1 billion (\$1.3 billion), without detailing the number of job losses.

Sainsbury's employs about 162,000 staff. The job cuts will be spread across head office, food-sorting centres and in-store

bakeries, Sainsbury's said in a statement Thursday.

It noted that "further investment in technology and automation" meant it needed fewer centres for sorting and packaging food.

Supermarkets, meanwhile, are increasingly installing self-service checkouts.

Elsewhere Thursday, the UK arm of The Body Shop cosmetics group confirmed the loss of nearly 500 jobs with the closure of about 75 shops following recent poor sales. — AFP



Sainsbury's employs about 162,000 staff. PHOTO: AFP

Spirit Aerosystems shares surge on possible Boeing buy

SHARES of Spirit AeroSystems surged Friday on news Boeing is in talks to potentially acquire the supplier as the aviation giant seeks to right itself amid its latest safety crisis.

Spirit finished Friday's session up more than 15 per cent following a Wall Street Journal report that it hired bankers and was holding preliminary talks to be bought by Boeing. Boeing confirmed the report after the stock market closed, describing the discussions as "preliminary", while adding that there was "no

assurance" a deal would be completed. "We believe that the reintegration of Boeing and Spirit AeroSystems' manufacturing operations would further strengthen aviation safety, improve quality and serve the interests of our customers, employees, and shareholders," said a statement from Boeing, which ended Friday's session down 1.8 per cent. Spirit, which manufactures fuselages and other large aerostructures, also confirmed the talks, echoing the caveat that there are "no assurances" of a deal. — AFP

New productive forces spurring revival of northeast China

In northeast China, once a "rust belt", efforts are underway to revitalize the region with new technologies and industries.



Visitors watch a new-energy car displayed by FAW Hongqi during the 14th China-Northeast Asia Expo in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, 23 August 2023. PHOTO: ZHANG NAN/XINHUA

NORTHEAST China is a traditional old industrial base once known as China's "rust belt". Today, the region is sending out strong signals promoting the development of new productive forces to fuel its revival.

In Luobei, a graphite-rich

county in Heilongjiang Province, drones with three-dimensional laser technology measure the open-pit mine, electric trucks carry ores down the mountain, and photovoltaic panels produced there help convert solar energy into green electricity.

Wang Jionghui, chairman of a graphite subsidiary of China Minmetals in Heilongjiang, said the company has for the first time applied industrial internet in building a green, intelligent and low-carbon mine with an annual output of six million tonnes. — Xinhua

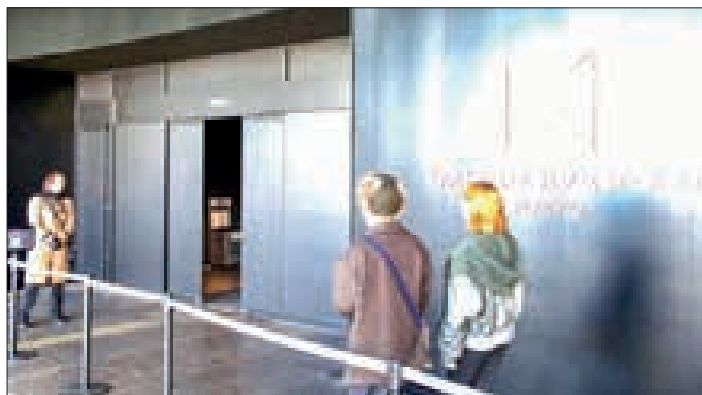
"World's 1st" immersive theme park opens in Tokyo

Operated by Katana Inc, the park offers 11 attractions where visitors can step into the worlds of famous characters like Sherlock Holmes and J-pop idols from "Oshi no Ko".

A theme park claiming to be the world's first to offer exclusively

immersive experiences opened to the public Friday in Tokyo's

popular commercial district, Odaiba, its operator said.



Visitors enter "the world's first" immersive theme park, Immersive Fort Tokyo, on its opening day on 1 March 2024 in Tokyo's popular commercial district, Odaiba. PHOTO: KYODO

Immersive Fort Tokyo boasts 11 attractions allowing visitors to enter recreated fictional worlds of characters from popular novels and anime, including those of British detective Sherlock Holmes and J-pop idol series "Oshi no Ko", operator Katana Inc said.

Before opening, visitors waiting to enter the park clapped and cheered as operators announced they would open 15 minutes earlier than scheduled. — Kyodo

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Bill Gates visits Statue of Unity, calls it “engineering marvel”; PM Modi appreciates

Bill Gates thanked PM Narendra Modi for the invitation to visit the monument and praised its economic benefits for local tribal communities, especially women.

MICROSOFT co-founder and leading philanthropist, Bill Gates heaped praise on the Statue of Unity in Gujarat, calling it an “engineering marvel” and a great tribute to Sardar Patel.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inviting him at the monument. He also appreciated the economic opportunity for local tribal communities arising out of it.

“Thank you Narendra Modi for the invitation to visit the impressive Statue of Unity. It is an engineering marvel and a great tribute to Sardar Patel. Also great to see it is creating economic opportunity for local tribal communities, especially women,” Gates posted on social media platform X. Reacting to his post, PM Modi said that he is ‘glad’ on Gates enjoying the experience. He also urged people from across the globe to visit the world’s tallest statue in Gujarat.



During his visit to Gujarat, Bill Gates expressed admiration for the Statue of Unity, emphasizing its status as an engineering marvel. **PHOTO: ANI**

“Happy to see this! Glad that you enjoyed your experience at the ‘Statue of Unity.’ I also urge people from all over the world to visit it in the coming times,” PM Modi stated on X.

Earlier on Friday, the Mi-

crosoft co-founder met Union Minister for IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw and discussed how India’s AI ecosystem could be used to improve health, agriculture, and education in the country. — ANI

Facebook parent Meta to stop paying Australian news media



Meta said it would scrap the Facebook News tab in Australia and would not renew deals with news publishers worth hundreds of millions of dollars. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WILLIAM WEST / AFP/ FILE**

FACEBOOK parent Meta announced Friday it would no longer pay Australian media companies for news, prompting a government warning that the

firm was in “dereliction” of past promises.

Extending a global retreat from news content, Meta said it would scrap the Facebook News

tab in Australia and would not renew deals with news publishers worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

“People don’t come to Facebook for news and political content,” the firm said, explaining the move.

The decision had been on the cards, but will come as a hammer blow for Australian news outlets already struggling to stay afloat.

Meta had previously announced it would not renew content deals with news publishers in the United States, Britain, France and Germany.

The social media giant had been pushed into paying for news by governments hoping to level the media playing field and support struggling news firms. — AFP

Cargo ship damaged by Huthi strike sinks: Yemen government

A cargo ship loaded with fertilizer has sunk in the Gulf of Aden less than two weeks after it was damaged by missiles from Yemen’s Huthi rebels, Yemen’s government said Saturday.

The Huthis claimed the 19 February attack against the Rubymar, a cargo ship flying a Belizean flag and operated by a Lebanese firm, which transported combustible fertilizers.

The crew abandoned the ship and evacuated to safety after it was hit by two missiles.

The vessel had departed the United Arab Emirates and was bound for the Bulgarian port of Varna.

“The MV Rubymar sank last night, coinciding with weather factors and strong winds at sea,” said a crisis cell of Yemen’s internationally recognized government in charge of the case.

Roy Khoury, chief executive of the ship’s operator Blue Fleet, said he was unaware of the sinking.

“We have nobody on board to check if it’s true or not,” he told AFP.

Fuel oil appeared to be leaking from the vessel in satellite images shared by Maxar Technologies and published by AFP.

The TankerTrackers website said the sinking would “cause an environmental catastrophe in the (Yemeni) territorial waters and in the Red Sea”. — AFP



This picture taken on 27 February 2024 shows the Rubymar cargo ship sinking off the coast of Yemen. Rubymar, a Belize-flagged, British-registered and Lebanese-operated cargo ship carrying combustible fertilizer, was damaged in a missile strike on 25 February claimed by the Iran-backed Huthi rebels. **PHOTO: AFP**

Armenia, Azerbaijan to continue peace talks after Berlin meet

ARMENIA and Azerbaijan have agreed to continue peace talks after a new push in Berlin this week to resolve their decades-long conflict, the German foreign ministry said on Friday.

Armenia’s Ararat Mirzoyan and Azerbaijan’s Jeyhun Bayramov held two days of talks in Berlin hosted by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who hailed their “courageous steps” towards a

peace agreement.

A German foreign ministry spokeswoman on Friday said the two countries had “a great interest in continuing to clarify outstanding issues together and to meet again for this purpose”.

The foreign ministries of Armenia and Azerbaijan had also said in a statement on Thursday that they wished to “continue negotiations on the open issues”. — AFP

SPORTS



Dagon Port FC's goalie clears the attack of the Dagon Star at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon on 2 March 2024. **PHOTO: MFF**

Hanthawady, Dagon Star grab victories in MNL tourney

HANTHAWADY United and Dagon Star FC secured wins in the Myanmar National League matches held in Yangon yesterday.

Hanthawady United secured full points after beating Silver Stars FC 7-1 at the University Stadium in Yangon. Lardin Mawra scored the win-

ning goals for Hanthawady at 19 minutes, Nay Moe Naing at 32 minutes, Han Win Aung at 43 minutes, Soe Kyaw Kyaw at 45 minutes, Chit Hla Aung at 51 minutes, Aung Myat Thu at 55 minutes and Latt Wai Bhone at 59 minutes. Kyaw Phyo Oo scored the single or consolation goal for Silver Star FC at 53

minutes.

Next, Dagon Star FC beat Dagon Port FC 1-0 at Padonma Stadium. Wai Yan Phyo produced the winning goal for the Dagon Star at 84 minutes.

The second-day matches of the tourney will continue on 5 and 6 March. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

MFF Futsal League I continues with colourful matches

THE Week-17 matches of the MFF Futsal League I started at the Futsal Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Dream Team beat Winner Soccer 3-2, MIU crushed Futsal Lover 13-2, M2K defeated Letwel Thondara 9-6, Lin Latt FC smashed Futsal-19 4-2 while defending champion VUC played a 1-1 tie against Generations Team. Current champion VUC's winning streak was stopped at 17 games, and Gen-

erations Team, who were able to draw, ensured a place in the playoff for the championship. After Week 17, the VUC team garnered 49 points, MIU bagged 37 points, and the Generations team grabbed 33. Letwel Thondara still stays at the bottom with just seven points.

With one game to go before the end of the second round, the top three teams, VUC, MIU, and Generations, will vie for the playoffs. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Players vie for the ball during the Week-17 matches of the MFF Futsal League I at the Futsal Stadium in Yangon on 2 March 2024. **PHOTO: MFF**

We are making Messi work too hard, Martino tells Miami

INTER Miami are expecting too much work from their Argentine star Lionel Messi, coach Gerardo Martino said on Friday, ahead of the team's Florida derby clash with Orlando City.

Miami are unbeaten in their opening two games, with a home win over Real Salt Lake followed by a draw at the Los Angeles Galaxy on Sunday.

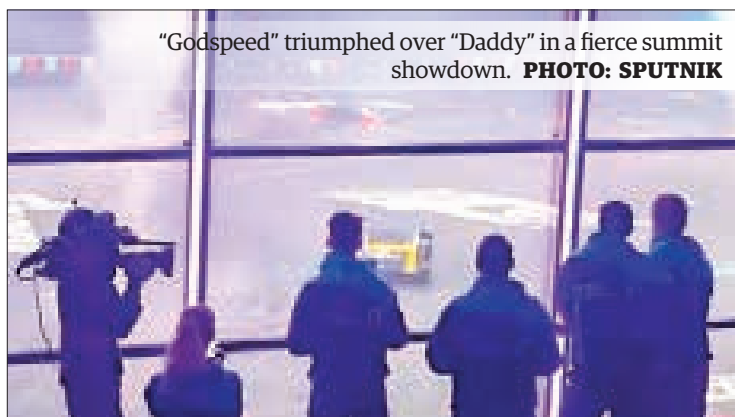
But with a busy run of fixtures for club and country coming up for Messi this month, Martino says the team need to find a way to reduce the eight-times Ballon d'Or winner's workload. "I feel that in these last two matches, he has expended too much energy, and that is also my responsibility to make sure the team operates in a way that we can use him in the best way," Martino told reporters.

Messi has been playing in a relatively free role, behind former Barcelona team-mate Luis Suarez, often floating deep to find the ball and then seeking to drive his team up the field.

It was Messi's stoppage time goal that earned Miami a point at the Galaxy but Martino says the performance took a lot out of the 36-year-old. "I've been discussing some things with him and what concerns me the most is the day-to-day and how he is recovering game by game. I feel that in these first two matches, we have relied on him too much, which has caused him significant fatigue in both games," he said.

The former Argentina and Mexico national team coach said the team have to re-find a way to provide Messi service closer to goal. — AFP

Tamil Nadu-based DS Robotics triumphs At Kazan's Games of the Future



"Godspeed" triumphed over "Daddy" in a fierce summit showdown. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

AT the Games of the Future event held in Kazan, India showcased its prowess in robotics with a notable victory by DS Robotics, a team hailing from Tamil Nadu.

Their creation, "Godspeed", emerged triumphant in a fierce battle against a Russian team's robot, "Daddy", during the summit showdown. Demon-

strating remarkable speed and agility from the onset, the Indian robot lived up to its name, securing a significant win in the tech arena. Godspeed weighs 110 kilogrammes and can sprint at a speed of 20 kilometres per hour. Having dimensions of 850x950x255, the machinery masterpiece boasts a vertical spinner as its primary weapon

In a decisive summit showdown, the Indian robot "Godspeed" defeated the Russian team's "Daddy", showcasing impressive speed and agility, and securing a notable victory in the tech arena.

that can clock 8000 RPM. Its power and strength undoubtedly stole the show at Kazan's Games of the Future where some top-level engineers came up with stunning inventions to compete in the Robot Battle. A total of 16 teams hailing from different countries featured at the event. — GO FUTURE GAMES

World Wildlife Day: Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation

On 3 March the world observes United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD), an annual event dedicated to honouring the significance of wild animals and plants. Each year, this occasion serves as a reminder of the invaluable roles and contributions of wildlife to both humanity and the environment.

UNDER THE THEME “Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation”, the World Wildlife Day 2024 celebrations will aim to raise awareness on the latest applications of digital technologies in wildlife conservation and trade and the impact on ecosystems and communities around the world of certain digital interventions. The Day promises to feature

new tools for enhancing our efforts to safeguard biodiversity and the benefits we derive from wild animals and plants. It will offer a platform to engage in a balanced discussion around inclusive and responsible digital innovation, in line with the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

World Wildlife Day should connect people with our natural world and inspire



Camera traps are a type of remote cameras used to capture images of wildlife with as little human interference as possible. **PHOTO: © J.A. / ADOBE STOCK**

continued learning and action beyond the event. For WWD 2024, we hope to provide a jumping off point for exploring what digital innovations are available

now, what discrepancies we are facing and how we want our digital connectivity to evolve for people and planet. — WEB TV/UN.ORG



Sindhhis are an Indo-Aryan ethnolinguistic group who speak the Sindhi language and are native to the Sindh province of Pakistan. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WIKIPEDIA**

Parliament of Canada commemorates ‘International Mother Language Day’

MP Jeremy Patzer presented a petition about the Sindhi language to the House of Commons and the Government of Canada.

CANADIAN parliamentarian Jeremy Patzer hosted a Sindhi Round Table on Thursday to celebrate ‘International Mother Language Day’ at the Parliament of Canada, where he offered a very warm welcome to the Sindhi community and members of the Sindhi Foundation, a press release from the Sindhi Foundation stated. Other participating Canadian parliaments at the event included Cathy Wagantall, Tom Kmiec, as well as Canadi-

an Senator, Salma Attaullahjan, along with the Sindhi-Canadian and Sindhi-American diaspora. The same press statement also stated that “MP Jeremy Patzer presented a petition to the House of Commons and the Government of Canada about the Sindhi language.”

The petition filed by the Canadian parliamentarian stated that “60 million Sindhi language speakers live in the province of Sindh, as well as in other regions

of Pakistan and in the diaspora.

Sindhi is recognized as an official language by the province of Sindh, but not by the Canadian Consulate in Karachi or the High Commission in Islamabad.” In the petition, he further noted, “The lack of recognition of a prominent regional language may inhibit communication between the Canadian Consulate, the High Commission and the Sindhi peoples.” We, the undersigned citizens of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to work with the Canadian Consulate in Karachi and the High Commission in Islamabad to recognize Sindhi as an official language and to provide its services in the Sindhi language. — ANI

Singapore’s total fertility rate falls to record low

PRELIMINARY estimates indicated that the total fertility rate in Singapore dropped to 0.97 in 2023, the first time it has dropped below one, Indranee Rajah, minister in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), told the Parliament on Wednesday.

The city-state recorded 26,500 resident marriages and 30,500 resident births during the year, said Indranee, who oversees the National Population and Talent Division in the PMO. Indranee noted that fewer Singaporeans married and gave birth to babies annually on average over the last five years compared to the preceding five-year period. She gave multiple reasons for the falling fertility rate, such as the COVID-19 delaying some couples’ marriage and parenthood plans, the financial cost pressure to raise children, work-life balance worries, and generational change in priorities.

“The young people may not even see marriage or parenthood as important life goals,” the minister added. The falling births have some serious implications, including an ageing society and economic slowdown. Citizens aged 65 and above made up almost one-fifth of Singapore’s population by mid-2023. — Xinhua



A child touches a lantern installation during celebrations for the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival in Singapore, 14 September 2020. **PHOTO: THEN CHIH WEY/XINHUA**