

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets outstanding students for the 2023-2024 academic year to provide guidance in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Development of the State depends on the capability of the youths who will serve the State duties to keep abreast of other nations, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met outstanding students for the 2023-2024 academic year to give advice at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

First, the Senior General and outstanding students pressed the button to launch the Time of Glittering Stars programme and saluted the State flag by singing the national anthem in chorus.

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Youths urged to pursue education for enhanced skills

Youths are a strength of the State, and they are necessary human resources for nation-building tasks.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with outstanding students for 2023-24AY

- The development of the State depends on the capability of the youths who will serve the State's duties and keep abreast of other nations.
- Youths need to have a keenness for exploration, creation, rational consideration, and cultural, national spirit and patriotism in compliance with ethics and social responsibilities.
- Youths are nurtured to lend a helping hand to others and become well-versed human resources to build a better society.

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NATIONAL

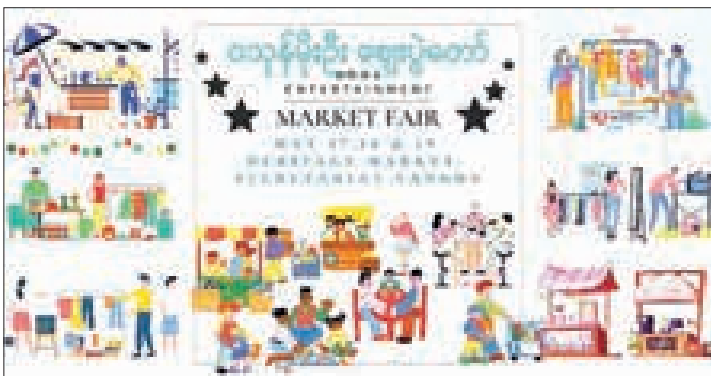
MYANMAR GAZETTE

Transfer and appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed the following persons to service organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Myo Min Director-General Administration and Human Resources Development Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Administration and Human Resources Development Department Central Bank of Myanmar
(2) U Min Han Soe Director-General Financial Institutions Supervision Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Financial Institutions Regulation and Supervision Department Central Bank of Myanmar
(3) Daw Khaing Shwe Wah Director-General Accounts Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Financial Market, Payment and Settlement Department Central Bank of Myanmar
(4) Daw Nwe Ni Htun Director-General Foreign Exchange Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Foreign Exchange Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar
(5) U Win Myint Director-General Currency Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Currency Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar

Yangon Secretariat to host early-monsoon market fair



An advert poster for the early-monsoon market fair.

AN early-monsoon market festival will be held from 17 to 19 May at the Secretariat Yangon, formerly the ministers' office, in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, according to Dora Entertainment, an organizer of

the event.

The festival to be held in the Secretariat Yangon Heritage Market Hall will feature more than 100 stalls.

"This place is easy to navigate, spacious, and has a large

parking area, as well as being beautiful; therefore, it hosts a seasonal market fair every year. Additionally, from 17 to 19 May, the early-monsoon market festival is planned to be hosted. Interested entrepreneurs are invited. The number of designated shops and stalls is about 150. Since there is enough time before the festival, the number of shops, stalls, and items to be sold may change," an organizer from Dora Entertainment said.

The Baby Talent Show will be included as an entertainment programme for festival attendees at the early-monsoon market fair, along with music performances by famous artists. — ASH/TKO



The image captures the beauties of Makyaysi Creek and a cowboy diving into the water.

Makyaysi Creek inspires new recreation site east of Mt Popa

MAKYAYSI Creek, located east of Mount Popa, has attracted people as a recreation site, said Ko Nay Myo Hlaing, who shared photos of the surroundings of the creek online.

The creek is located near Sin Sinn village, and it is a place where residents can relax and take a bath in the waterfall, he said.

"The stream comes from Mt Popa. It is well known among residents and is a good place for recreation. The water of the creek is cold and good for bathing. That is why many people enjoy going there. Now it is summer, and they are going there to take a bath," said Ko Nay Myo Hlaing.

During his vacation, he visited Makyaysi Creek along with his staff members in Thingyan. As an amateur photographer, he took pictures of the surroundings and shared them on social media. His photos were published in some groups and pages, and the creek became famous, he said.

"I've heard about Makyaysi Creek. It is good for taking a bath;

the water is pretty cold, and its surroundings are beautiful. That is why I arranged a trip there with my staff during Thingyan. As an amateur photographer, I took photos. Among them, pictures of cliff diving by little cowboys and goatherds caught a lot of attention among internet users and widely spread among people from nearby villages and towns in NyaungU and Popa," he said.

He requested potential visitors not to litter with bottles, plastic bags and disposable food packs in order to protect the environment.

"When a place becomes popular, its environment gets messed with bottles, plastics and disposable food packs, and I'm worried about that. I don't want the environment to get ruined because of litter.

That is why I want potential visitors to clean their waste properly. When we visited there, we re-packed our trash and threw them in the litter bin. I'm worried that the natural beauty will get ruined," he said. — MT/ZS

Statement

MYANMA Post, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, makes efforts to develop libraries across the nation and raise the reading rate of the public. Therefore, it is announced that those who want to donate books to community centres (libraries) established by the Ministry of Information can send books to the libraries free of charge by Myanma Post.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, dignitaries and outstanding students unite in singing a theme song at yesterday's event.

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General and attendees enjoyed the song of the Outstanding Students for Life sung by artistes from the Fine Arts Department and a video clip on reliable outstanding students for the future State.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General stressed the need to teach youths to have a keenness for exploration, creation, and rational consideration, as well as cultural and national spirit and patriotism in compliance with ethics and social responsibilities.

He urged those youths to adorably preserve cultural heritages, safeguard the sovereignty of the State, benefit the society with good morality and become qualified, responsible citizens so as to build a peaceful society.

In recounting the history, the Senior General said that the outstanding student project was implemented from 1964 to 1988 to mark the silver jubilee anniversary. Then, he continued that the project was temporarily suspended after 1998, and it resumed in 2013 as the overall outstanding student project. The Senior General added that the outstanding student project was initiated in 2018 and then suspended in the 2019-2020 academic year due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The project has started in 2022-23 AY.

Youths urged to pursue education for enhanced skills



Students look into the display of the ministries yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Senior General stated that a total of 140 grade-9 students, 140 grade-10 students, 137 grade-11 students and 137 grade-12 students were selected from regions and states in 2023-24 AY.

According to the schedules, he revealed that grade-9 students would be sent to Bagan on their

excursion, grade-10 students to Taunggyi, grade-11 students to Ngwehsaung Beach and grade-12 students to Chaungtha Beach to raise fraternity among them, exchanging experiences, accumulating regional knowledge and forging traditional culture.

He outlined that youths are nurtured to lend a helping hand

to others and become well-versed in human resources to build a better society.

He highlighted that if the youths do not have educational knowledge, they will not be able to develop themselves, their families, society, nation and nationals, urging officials, parents and teachers to manage the lives of

students not to drop out of school for various reasons.

The Senior General presented commemorative pennants to outstanding students from relevant camps for 2024, and the students returned commemorative gifts.

On behalf of all outstanding students for 2023-24 AY, Tripple Outstanding Student Award winner Maung Aung Kaung Pyae from Kamayut Practising High School spoke words of thanks.

Artistes from the Fine Arts Department and MRTV sang the songs honouring the outstanding students.

The Senior General, party, and students visited the exhibition and had lunch together with outstanding students, youth scouts, Red Cross youths, and youths from maritime and aviation courses.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San and other SAC members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, and officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Union Home Affairs Minister visits Beijing People's Police College, attends Myanmar-China Ministerial Meeting



Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae (C) is seen during his working tours in Beijing, China.

LT-GEN Yar Pyae, a member of the State Administration Council and Union Minister

for Home Affairs, has been on a working visit to the People's Republic of China from 24 to 29

April to discuss law enforcement and security cooperation between Myanmar and China.

The Myanmar delegation, led by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, arrived in Guangzhou on 24 April and continued to Beijing, where Vice-Minister of Public Security Mr Xu Datong, Ambassador U Tin Maung Swe, and Military Attache Brig-Gen Zaw Zaw Nang welcomed them.

During the visit on 25 April, the Myanmar delegation visited Beijing People's Police College. In the evening, they participated in a bilateral ministerial meeting at the Beijing Rui An Hotel, discussing security matters, the rule of law, border peace and stability, eradication of online fraud and human trafficking, and joint efforts against transnational crime.

The ministers signed and

exchanged a letter of assistance worth RMB 5 million to the Myanmar Police Force.

Additionally, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae received the Golden Great Wall Commemorative Medal, the highest honour awarded by the Ministry of Public Security of China, expressing gratitude for the recognition.

There was also a friendly exchange of views on bilateral cooperation issues between Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Minister Wang Xiao Hong of China's Ministry of Public Security.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation attended an honorary dinner hosted by Minister Wang Xiao Hong. — MNA/TS

Counter-argument to false information

Khit Thit fabricates story, falsely accusing security forces of conscripting 10 people in Yenangyoung

SUBVERSIVE media Khit Thit is spreading fake news that ten young residents riding motorcycles were stopped and arrested by security forces to serve in the military in Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region, on 25 April.

Malicious media and terrorist groups are purposefully circulating information that will mislead the public.

In this process, the relevant officials and security forces are processing necessary security activities to ensure peace and tranquillity in the towns and villages.

Subversive media is spreading false information. Regarding



The screenshot validates misinformation.

the news, the security forces are not arresting any passers-by to serve in the military. — MNA/TKO

UEC Chairman receives Chinese Ambassador



Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai calls on Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko yesterday.

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai and his delegation yesterday at the Union Election Commission office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Chinese ambassador discussed the ongoing work progress of the Union Election Commission for the general election, proceedings in relation political parties,

and the situation in which they can assist in the election.

The Union Election Commission chairman also clarified the current status of the Union Election Commission, the regulations for holding elections, preparations for voter lists, the registration of political parties, and cooperation in electoral activities. — MNA/KZL

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2023-2024AY outstanding students honoured

THE entertaining event to honour the 2023-2024 Academic Year outstanding students was organized at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, and relevant officials.

Artistes from MRTV and the Myawady band sang the songs to stimulate the national spirit and patriotism, and comedian Dein Daung and the troupe presented humorous entertainment.

Outstanding students also participated in the entertainment programmes individually or in groups.

Outstanding students watched video clips presented by the Ministry of Information about the “Prevention of Toxic Media” and “State Building and Media Role” at MICC II on 25 April. The Union minister and deputy minister offered 30 MRTV DTH receivers and 150 DVB T2 Set Top Boxes to outstanding students, trainees of maritime and aviation training courses, scouts and young Red Cross members through the lot-drawing system. — MNA/KTZH

The entertaining event to honour the 2023-2024AY outstanding students in action yesterday.



Kachin State Chief Minister aids returning IDPs, inspects food distribution for PutaO govt staff



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan (front) is pictured during his inspection tours yesterday.

THE Kachin State government provided basic foodstuffs and items to the households residing at the temporary shelters who will return to their places of origin and Ngwepyaw Model village at Jarmaing Kaung RC camp in Myothitgyi ward in Myitkyina Township yesterday.

Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan mentioned the assistance to the internally displaced persons and encouraged displaced persons.

Relevant officials then provided K818,4000 worth of

66 rice bags and 66 cooking oil bottles, 66 egg cartons and 66 instant noodle cartons for 335 people of 66 households who will return to Ngwepyaw Model village of Palana village-tract and their respective wards and villages.

Moreover, the Kachin State Natural Disaster Management Department gave K13,203,816 worth of rice and K100,000 to each household and 66 kits containing 16 recuse items, totalling K21,387,816, to them.

The camp in-charges also expressed gratitude, and the chief minister cordially met households.

The chief minister and party proceeded to Myitkyina airport and inspected the transport of basic foodstuffs by flights to provide government employees in PutaO district for the first time. He gave cash awards to officers and staff of the Kachin State General Administrative Department who participated in food transport. — IPRD/KTZH

Bangladeshi Ambassador donates books for National Library (Nay Pyi Taw)

DR Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, donated books to the National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) of the Historical Research and National Library Department with a ceremony at the orientation hall of the library in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Bangladeshi ambassador first explained the purpose for donating books, followed by handing over books on the his-

tory and culture of Bangladesh, art and literature, biodiversity and books on the recent development tour of Bangladesh to the U Aung Myint, Director-General of the Department of Historical Research and National Library, who received and returned the certificate of honour.

Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan then expressed gratitude for the book donation. The ambassador and the deputy minister exchanged souvenirs, and the ceremony concluded. — MNA/KZL



The Bangladeshi ambassador and the deputy minister pose for the documentary group photo at yesterday's event.

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.

NATIONAL

Open tender call to repair roof slabs of Yangon Hluttaw building



Yangon Hluttaw building.

AN open tender has been invited from the private sector to repair the roof slabs of the Hluttaw building in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

In the 2024-25 financial year, the Hluttaw and the Housing Buildings Conservation Body (Yangon), under the Department of Urban and Housing Development under

the Ministry of Construction, have invited open tenders for those interested in repair works using Myanmar currency. A waterproofing membrane must be installed on the roof of the Hluttaw Building.

A tender application form is available for purchase at the rate of K36,000 at the Urban Division of the Hluttaw and the

Housing Buildings Conservation Body (Yangon) in Yangon Region's Hluttaw compound from 29 April to 13 May during office hours. Tenders must be submitted on 14 May.

Application forms submitted after the deadline will not be accepted, and the date for the tender scanning will be announced. — TWA/TKO

Basic education schools to include reading and sports on schedule



Students are seen reading in the school library at Thayetaung High School.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Education, the schedule for Basic Education Schools includes dedicated time for both reading and sports.

The schedule for Basic Education Schools not only

includes studying but also incorporates time for playing sports and reading in the school library, with plans to provide useful books and hold sports competitions.

The Minister of Education

announced these plans during a meeting with university rectors, degree college principals, and township education officers of states and regions on 23 April in Nay Pyi Taw. — TWA/MKKS

Forest Dept establishes 43 mangrove forests to safeguard coastal areas

THE Forest Department has established 43 protected public mangrove forests, totalling 716,500 acres, to prevent natural disasters and protect marine ecosystems along the coastal regions.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation designate protected public mangroves to preserve biodiversity and tropical forests. The residents can also source forest products for the long-term by protecting these mangroves.

Currently, Myanmar accommodates 1,384 forest reserves and protected forests. They can mitigate climate change and will also help expand the country's forested areas.

The efforts include adding more plants in the thinning mangroves, and sharing knowledge

and know-how in preserving natural forests. The Forest Department also plans to expand conserving shorelines and mangroves. — TWA/NT



The Masanpa 2 protected public mangrove forest in Kyunsu Township, Myeik District.

Classic singer Sithu Tin Tin Mya celebrates 88th birthday donation

ACCORDING to the classical singer Sithu Tin Tin Mya, her 88th birthday donation was celebrated at the Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha monastery, located in Bahan township of Yangon, on 25 April.

Sithu Tin Tin Mya said: "Last year, I spectacularly celebrated the 75th anniversary of my musical career along with my birthday. So, for this year's birthday, I chose to donate to the monastery to have a significant impact on its religious work. I owe my longevity not only to music but also to my nephew, who cares for me like a son since I have no children of my own. I am delighted to mark my 88th birthday with such a meaningful donation".



The photo shows the celebration of the 88th birthday donation of classic singer Sithu Tin Tin Mya.

The renowned vocalist donated nearly K8 million for her 88th birthday, contributing to donations for monasteries as well as to the Shwedagon Pagoda. — ASH/TRKM

MPT acknowledges network slowdown due to underwater cable malfunctions

THE telecom company MPT has issued an acknowledgment of the slowdown in its network connection services, which was attributed to malfunctions in international underwater cables.

In its public statement, MPT cited malfunctions that occurred in the SEA-ME-WE5 underwater cable in the waters near Indonesia on 20 April. These malfunctions have adversely affected the speed of MPT's services, including

mobile, FTTH, and related products.

The telecom pledged to swiftly address the maintenance of the cable through collaboration with relevant organizations. Emergency measures have apparently been implemented to establish new cable connections, aiming to improve speed during the maintenance period.

MPT also assured customers of timely updates on any developments. — TWA/NT

Thailand-Myanmar Business Council delegates meet Thilawa SEZ Management Committee

THE delegation of the Thailand-Myanmar Business Council (TMBC) met officials from the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee yesterday.

Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee Chairman U Yan Naing Tun first clarified the economic opportunities created by the government at the zone and the chances to make investments and matters related to exploring business opportunities in Myanmar.

TMBC delegation leader Mr Kich Aungvitulsatit then discussed the bilateral relationships and investments at Thilawa SEZ.

Moreover, the progress of Thilawa SEZ and investment opportu-

nities created by the country were presented in detail to the business people.

Twenty-one countries made investments in Thilawa SEZ, with an investment amount of US\$2,124 million, and Thailand is the third largest investor.

The Thilawa SEZ manages the export and import-substitute manufacturing processes, commodities, construction materials, vehicles and so on.

The Thilawa SEZ Management Committee also makes efforts to operate import-substitute manufacturing processes by cooperating with local MSMEs and developing the MSMEs and local job opportunities. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



The meeting between the Thailand-Myanmar Business Council and the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee in progress yesterday. PHOTO: THIHA

Raw salt prices decline in Mon State

THE salt businesspersons reported that raw salt prices in the Mon State salt market have been steadily declining.

On 1 April, the sun-dried salt (ordinary) fetched K140-K150 per viss. However, it declined to K120-K130 per viss on 25 April. The salt prices have been trending downward as it is the time of producing salt, and salt farming blocks are producing raw salt for the moment, the salt traders reported.

Salt production com-

menced in mid-September in Mon State. Harvesting raw salt is from December to January.

Salt produced in Mon State is distributed to Taninthayi, Bago and Mandalay regions. In addition to domestic demand, it is exported to foreign markets upon the purchase offer.

In the last week of September, Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a company from South Korea for salt exports. It shipped a container loaded with 20 tonnes as a trial run,

and further exports are bound to happen.

Additionally, a container carrying 20 tonnes of raw salt from Panga village, Thanbyzayat Township, Mon State, was preliminarily exported to Japan in August.

Mon State, the second largest producer in Myanmar, yearly produces 40,000 tonnes of sun-dried salt, beyond magnesium chloride (MgCl₂), iodized salt (I₂) and table salt (NaCl), with 12 salt processing factories. — NN/TMT



Salt farmers are working in a block in Mon State.

Two-stage tender opened for Nyaungkhashay permanent checkpoint construction

ACCORDING to the Tender Committee of the Ministry of Commerce, applications for two-stage tenders have been opened for the construction projects of the Nyaungkhashay permanent checkpoint.

The Tender Committee invites the Myanmar citizens companies to participate in the two-stage tenders for four construction projects that will be formulated by the Department of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce with Myanmar currency in the 2024-25 financial year to open and operate the Nyaungkhashay permanent checkpoint.

Accordingly, the tender forms will be sold commencing

on 26 April till 10 May. The tender form and technology proposal envelope A shall be submitted by 13 May to office No 3 of the Department of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce.

Scrutinizing the technology proposal will be carried out on 24 May, and submitting and scrutinizing the proposed price quotations by the technology-winning companies will be informed.

Interested businesses can buy the tender form with K50,000 and shall submit the forms no later than the targeted deadline. In fact, submitting the tender forms via email will be unacceptable, the report stated. — NN/TMT



Trucks are seen queuing to pass the Nyaungkhashay permanent checkpoint in Bago Region.

OPINION

Create fascinating destinations to catch attention of travellers

MYANMAR boasts lush green landscapes, a network of small and large rivers, natural water areas, and a rich cultural heritage that includes ancient traditions and customs of its diverse national races. Its natural beauty, rare plant species, captivating waterfalls, snow-capped mountains, diverse wildlife, migratory birds, unique ecosystems, and historic cultural heritage sites have captured the attention of travellers from around the world.

During peak seasons, a significant number of local travellers visit recreational centres and other notable sites across the country. In 2022, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council, the tourism industry contributed 7.6 per cent to the global GDP. This underscores the importance of tourism in Myanmar's economy and the socioeconomic life of its people. Therefore, it is essential to create travel opportunities and develop destinations that appeal to both local and foreign travellers.

International tourists are particularly drawn to Mount Phonkan Razi and Mount Kha-kabo Razi, snow-capped areas located in the PutaO region of northern Myanmar. Mountaineers visit these areas annually to scale the hills. Developing these areas and the tourism industry requires improving transportation infrastructure and ensuring peace and stability in the region. The importance of peace, stability, and

good transportation is evident in the significant number of travellers who visit snow-capped mountains in China each year.

To facilitate tourism development, a 56-mile road has been constructed between PutaO and Khaunglanphu towns in Kachin State, providing residents with better access to transport, education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and the tourism industry. As a result, local and foreign travellers can visit snow-capped hilly areas except during the monsoon season, contributing to the growth of the tourism industry.

Furthermore, a 76-mile motor road connects PutaO and Hsan-lutchet Hill in Khaunglanphu. The Ministry of Border Affairs has completed the construction of the remaining 56-mile road segment, complete with bridges in necessary areas, to facilitate easy access for local national races. Residents and travellers can now travel along the 132-mile route between the two towns. Cooperation between residents and the government in relevant projects is crucial as the government emphasizes the peace and stability of the region.

The development of tourism can showcase the genuine life and cultural heritage of the people of Myanmar. Both tangible and intangible cultural heritage can attract local and foreign travellers at any time. Furthermore, the warm smiles and hospitality of the national races are sure to capture the attention of visitors to the nation.

The development of tourism can showcase the genuine life and cultural heritage of the people of Myanmar. Both tangible and intangible cultural heritage can attract local and foreign travellers at any time. Furthermore, the warm smiles and hospitality of the national races are sure to capture the attention of visitors to the nation.

FIGHTING age-related problems involves a multifaceted approach that includes maintaining a healthy lifestyle, engaging in regular physical activity, eating a balanced diet, staying mentally active, and seeking appropriate medical care. The following are some strategies that can help:

- ❖ **Healthy Lifestyle:** Maintain a balanced diet, engage in regular exercise, get enough sleep, and avoid harmful habits like smoking and excessive drinking. These habits can help prevent or manage various age-related health issues such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and osteoporosis.
- ❖ **Regular Exercise:** Exercise can help improve flexibility, strength, balance, and cardiovascular health. Aim for a mix of aerobic exercises (like walking, swimming, or cycling) and strength training to maintain muscle mass and bone density.
- ❖ **Healthy Eating:** A well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats can provide essential nutrients and antioxidants that support overall health and combat age-related issues.
- ❖ **Adequate Sleep:** Quality sleep is crucial for overall health and well-being. Aim

for 7-9 hours of sleep per night to allow your body to rest, repair, and rejuvenate.

- ❖ **Stress Management:** Chronic stress can accelerate the ageing process. Practise stress-reduction techniques such as meditation, deep breathing exercises, yoga, or spending time in nature to promote relaxation and emotional well-being.
- ❖ **Social Engagement:** Stay connected with friends, family, and your community. Social interaction is crucial for mental and emotional well-being and can help prevent feelings of isolation and loneliness.
- ❖ **Mental Stimulation:** Keep your brain engaged with activities that challenge your cognitive abilities. This can include puzzles, learning new skills or languages, reading, or engaging in intellectually stimulating conversations.
- ❖ **Regular Medical Check-ups:** Schedule regular visits to your healthcare provider for preventive screenings and health assessments. Early detection and treatment of health issues can often prevent them from becoming a more severe condition.
- ❖ **Limiting Harmful Habits:** Avoid smoking, excessive

How to fight age-related problems

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



Exercise can help improve flexibility, strength, balance, and cardiovascular health. Aim for a mix of aerobic exercises (like walking, swimming, or cycling) and strength training to maintain muscle mass and bone density. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/SHUTTERSTOCK**

alcohol consumption, and excessive sun exposure, as these habits can accelerate the ageing process and increase the risk of age-related health problems.

❖ **Maintain A positive outlook:** Adopting a positive attitude and outlook on life can have a significant impact on how you experience ageing. Cultivate

gratitude, resilience, and a sense of purpose to promote emotional well-being. ❖ **Seek Professional Help:** If you're experiencing specific age-related issues such

as chronic pain, mobility issues, cognitive decline, or emotional struggles, don't hesitate to seek help from healthcare professionals, therapists, or specialists who can provide targeted support and interventions.

❖ **Stay Active:** Regular physical activity can help improve strength, flexibility, and overall health. This can include activities like walking, swimming, yoga, or tai chi. Even simple activities like gardening or dancing can be beneficial.

In addition, ageing is a natural part of life, and while it may come with its challenges, there are many opportunities for growth, fulfilment, and enjoyment at every stage. Therefore, you need to adapt to change and recognize that ageing brings changes, both physically and mentally. Moreover, accepting and adapting to these changes can help you maintain a positive outlook and quality of life.

Study finds how liver inflammation associated with poor cancer outcomes

liver inflammation induced by cancer prompts liver cells to produce serum amyloid A (SAA) proteins, which hinder the function of T cells, the body's primary defenders against cancer.

LIVER inflammation, a typical side effect of malignancies elsewhere in the body, has long been associated with poor cancer outcomes and, more recently, with poor response to immunotherapy.

A team of researchers from the University of Pennsylvania's Abramson Cancer Centre and Perelman School of Medicine has now discovered a major cause for this.

Proteins known as serum amyloid A (SAA)

In their study, published in Nature Immunology, the researchers discovered that cancer-induced liver inflammation causes liver cells to secrete proteins known as serum amyloid A (SAA) proteins, which circulate throughout the body and inhibit T cells — the immune system's primary anticancer weapons — from infiltrating and attacking

tumours elsewhere.

"We want to better understand what causes cancer to resist or respond to immunotherapy to help design more effective strategies for patients," said senior author Gregory Beatty, MD, PhD, an associate professor of Hematology-Oncology and the director of Clinical and Translational Research for the Penn Pancreatic Cancer Research Center. "Our findings show that

liver cells — with their release of SAA proteins — effectively serve as an immune checkpoint regulating anti-cancer immunity, making them a promising therapeutic target." The study builds on previous research from the team, including co-lead authors Meredith Stone, PhD, a research associate, and Jesse Lee, a graduate student, into liver inflammation in cancer: In a 2019 study, they showed how it promotes pancreatic tumor

metastasis to that organ. In 2021, researchers from the Beatty Laboratory observed that systemic inflammation, involving many of the same molecules implicated in liver metastasis, is associated with worse responses to immunotherapies in pancreatic cancer patients. The latest study was designed to investigate in more detail how liver inflammation may block the effects of these immune-boosting therapies.

Pancreatic cancer

First, they looked at mouse models of pancreatic cancer, measuring the amount of T-cell infiltration in pancreatic tumors — a basic indicator of anti-tumour immune activity. They found that mice with less T cell infiltration in their tumours tended to have more liver inflammation. These mice also showed stronger signs of an inflammatory signaling pathway called the IL-6/JAK/STAT3 pathway — the same one the team had implicated in liver metastasis in their 2019 study.

The researchers next showed that STAT3 activation in liver cells is associated with the reduced production of immune cells called dendritic cells, which are critical for normal T cell responses.

SOURCE: ANI



This discovery suggests that targeting liver cells and their secretion of SAA proteins could enhance the effectiveness of immunotherapy in cancer treatment. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREPIK**

ARTICLE

Weather report



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 26 April 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 27 APRIL 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin, Eastern Shan States and isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Taninthayi Regions and (Northern and Southern) Shan, Kayin State. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Taninthayi Region and Kayin States. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 APRIL 2024: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 APRIL 2024: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 APRIL 2024: Partly cloudy.

NATIONAL

Terrorism supporters of KNU, NMSP AD (Mon splinter group) and PDF terrorists assaulted in Kawbein, Dhammathat and surrounding villages, mine clearing operations underway

BEGINNING 24 March, a large number of terrorism supporters of KNU, NMSP AD (Mon splinter group) and PDF terrorists attacked departmental buildings and police stations and committed terrorist acts in Kawbein village, Kawkareik Township, Kayin State, and Dhammathat village in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, and surrounding villages. Local security forces and police members of police stations gathered strength and defended the places. But they had to temporarily leave Kawbein village on 25 March and Dhammathat village



The location where terrorists are waiting to attack security forces.

between monasteries and houses, using local people as human shields in the battles. However, the security forces responded in accord with the rules of engagement (ROE).

As the security forces advanced and crushed the enemy in systematic group formations, terrorists had to flee in disarray. But the terrorists torched or blew up homes, departmental buildings and police stations along their retreating route.

Due to the terrorist acts of terrorism supporters of KNU, NMSP AD (Mon splinter group) and PDF terrorists, many buildings in the area were destroyed. Security forces conducted mine-clearing operations area-wise and road-wise for the safety of locals.

Mon State and Kayin State governments are preparing to conduct rehabilitation tasks together with the locals in Kawbein, Dhammathat, and surrounding villages to ensure that homes for displaced persons are provided as soon as possible. As peace and stability returned to the villages, locals returned to their homes. — MNA/TTA



Seized weapons, munitons and the bodies of terrorists.

on 27 March and regrouped at Tayana village.

Due to their terrorist acts, local villagers had to flee from

their homes with apprehension. In order to enable them to return home, Tatmadaw columns launched counter-terrorism

operations in the surrounding areas of Kawbein, Dhammathat and surrounding villages on 11 April. The columns engaged with

terrorists seven times and seized some enemy bodies and arms, ammunition and accessories. Some Tatmadaw members were wounded, but the columns were able to re-control Dhammathat village on 22 April and Kawbein village on 25 April. During their occupation of the Kawbein and Dhammathat villages and surrounding ones, terrorists took cover in religious buildings, schools, departmental buildings and homes and fired at Tatmadaw columns. They also planted mines around the public roads



Mechanical digging a tubewell in the hot and dry zone.

Undergroundwater scarcity increases in Chauk, Yenangyoung, NyaungU

IN some areas of Chauk, Yenangyoung and NyaungU that are now extremely hot, it has become more difficult to dig for underground water, according to the Yenantha Dingar Brothers Tree Growing Parahita Group.

With wells drying up and the distance to underground water sources increasing, these very hot areas are facing water shortage issues.

“The water problems are getting worse every year without any relief. A lake that used to be dry for two months is now dry for two and a half or three months. When we asked well experts, access to underground water has moved farther away from 80 feet to 100 feet. The

water level has been receding year by year and is now very far away. Villages in these areas have to bear K20-K30 million to sink a tube well. In our village, we had to sink up to 800 to 900 feet to reach the water. And since the villages with tube wells — do not have electricity, we also have to consider the cost of a solar power system. The current cost of K20-K30 million will increase to K50 million in the next ten years. The farther the underground water is, the deeper a well has to be sunk,” said Ko Dingar, who heads the Parahita group.

With the receding water table, tubewells in some villages have stopped flowing during the summer.

“Water issue is getting worse. It is because people in later generations depend more on tube wells, disregarding the value of lakes. We have sunk about 100 lakes. But, the efforts of only one group are not effective,” he said.

In the hot and dry areas of Anya, people used to depend on lake water, but in the modern time of tubewells, they have abandoned the lakes without any maintenance, leading to the disappearance of the lakes. It is only when these lakes are repaired and maintained that benefits such as rainwater harvesting, environmental greening and undergroundwater recharge can be achieved, it is learnt. — Thit Taw/ZN

NATIONAL

S Korea provides firefighting PPEs to Myanmar



The handover event to donate firefighter turnout gears to Myanmar and Sri Lanka in progress on 24 April 2024.

THE Republic of Korea provided firefighting personal protective equipment, including jackets, helmets, gloves, and boots, to Myanmar at the opening ceremony of the Gyeonggi-do Firefighting Equipment Logistics Centre in Gyeonggi-do Province, Republic of Korea, on 24 April, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the opening ceremony of the Gyeonggi-do Firefighting Equipment Logistics Centre in Gyeonggi-do Province, firefighting suits were provided to both Myanmar and Sri Lanka. U Thant Sin, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, attended the ceremony and expressed his gratitude.

The centre is the first centre in the Gyeonggi-do Province of the Republic of Korea to store emergency firefighting suits. A total of 368 sets of uniforms, 64 helmets, 78 pairs of gloves, and 76 pairs of boots will be provided to the Fire Services Department through the FLCM Foundation in Korea.

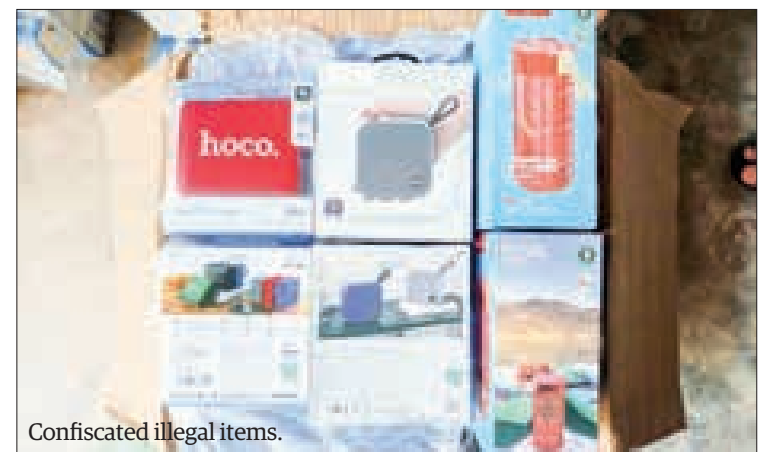
The ceremony was attended by Chairman Mr AhnKyeil of Gyeonggi-do State Parliament Security and Public Administration Committee, Secretary Mr Yoo Gyunhyun of Gyeonggi-do State Parliament Security and Public Administration Committee, Chief Mr Ji Jun Ho of the Bucheon City Fire Department, FLCM Foundation Chairman Mr Kim Sung Chor and invitees. — ASH/MKKS

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, foodstuffs, industrial materials, consumer goods, motorbikes and vehicles

ON 24 April, the combined teams managed by the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force captured illegal timbers weighing 19.485 tonnes worth K2,595,905 in Patheingyi, Kyonpyaw, Hinthada and Laputta districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 25 April, the combined on-duty teams supervised by the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force nabbed three vehicles (estimated value of K115 million), heading to Toungoo from Hap-an and to Yangon from Myawady, carrying 39 kinds of goods worth K50.796 million, including 1,800 bags of Wai Wai instant vermicelli and 5,400 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk without official documents at the Thanlwin Bridge (Tayokhla side). The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the on-duty teams seized 11,260 kilogrammes of GI Hollow pipes from China worth K16,552,200 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from six containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, a Yutong bus (estimated value of K30 million), heading to Nay Pyi Taw from Mawlamyine, carrying two kinds of goods valued at K2.5 million including 10 sets of washing machine from China at the Nyaung-kuhshay x-ray station and illegal teak weighing 1.548 tonnes and illegal hardwood weighing 10.889 tonnes valued at K8,548,904 in Toungoo districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law. The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 23 arrests were made on 24 and 25 April, with an estimated value of K225 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal items.



Fire breaks out after two vehicles collided on Beily Bridge in Yangon

ACCORDING to a report at about 9 pm on 25 April, two vehicles collided and caught fire at the Beily Bridge in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon

Region, and the fire was put out at 9:05 pm.

During the incident, a vehicle named YGN-9, 6D/8204, Honda CRV (white) hit another car

named YGN-36, 1H/8925, Toyota Belta (lead colour) and the fire started after hitting the engine compartment of the Toyota Belta, according to the township fire brigade. The total loss of two vehicles is approximately K2 million, and legal action is taken against the owner of Toyota Belta. — Than Htut/KZL

Firefighters struggle to extinguish the fire at the incident venue on 25 April 2024.

ECONOMY WORLD

New passenger air route opens to connect NE China, Frankfurt



BMW i3 electric cars are pictured at Plant Lydia of BMW Brilliance Automotive (BBA) in Tiexi District of Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province, 23 June 2022. **PHOTO: YANG QING/XINHUA**

The introduction of this route is expected to bolster economic and trade ties between China and Germany, particularly in Liaoning Province and the northeastern region of China.

CHINA Southern Airlines, a leading Chinese airline, opened a new passenger air route on Thursday, linking Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province with Frankfurt.

This new intercontinental route is the first direct regular route to Germany opened by a domestic airline in the northeastern region of China.

The flight is scheduled at 1:30 am every Thursday in Shenyang and is expected to arrive in Frankfurt at 6:10 am local time; while the returning flight

is scheduled at 2:15 pm from Frankfurt and arrive in Shenyang at 6:15 am.

"The new air route will play a positive role in strengthening economic and trade cooperation between China and Germany in the new era, promoting higher-level and higher-quality economic and trade cooperation between Liaoning and even the northeastern region of China and Germany," said Wang Hai, deputy general manager of the northern branch of China Southern Airlines. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan March duty-free sales at department stores surge to record high

Duty-free sales at Japan's department stores in March surged nearly 2.5-fold from a year earlier to a record 49.5 billion yen (\$320 million), as demand for luxury brands were boosted by the weak yen amid an influx of travellers during cherry blossom season, data by an industry body showed Thursday.

The figure was the highest since comparable data became available in October 2014, surpassing pre-pandemic levels of 2019 for the ninth straight month, while the number of duty-free shoppers also set a fresh record for March at 454,000, the Japan Department Stores Association said.

Overall same-store sales at 177 stores operated by 71 companies increased 9.9 per cent from a year earlier to 510.9 billion yen, marking the 25th straight month of growth. — Kyodo

High US deficit poses risks to global economy, but spending cuts won't be easy

WITH the US government showing no sign of containing its spending in an election year, economists and observers have warned that high US deficit poses risks to the US and global economy.

First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Gita Gopinath said that while high deficits are supporting growth in the United States and globally, there is a downside.

"Along with that growth, you're getting higher interest rates and a stronger dollar and the second two are creating more complications for the world," Gopinath told the recent IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings. IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, meanwhile, labeled the US deficit as an issue of "particular concern".

In an interview with Xinhua, Vitor Gaspar, director of the IMF's fiscal affairs department, noted that the year 2023 was "particularly remarkable" for the United States in terms of loose fiscal policy. — Xinhua

India-Central Asia collaboration in strategic minerals has promising future

The five Central Asian countries each possess abundant natural and mineral resources.

INDIA during the Second India-Central Asia NSAs meeting has suggested establishing an India-Central Asia Rare Earths Forum to enhance cooperation in rare earth and strategic mineral sectors, fostering partnerships built on mutual benefit, transparency, and long-term goals.

Each of the five countries boasts abundant natural and mineral resources. Kazakhstan stands out with vast quantities of commercially valuable minerals including coal, oil, gas, uranium, gold, lead, zinc, iron ore, tin, copper, manganese, chromite, and bauxite, among others. Turkmenistan holds the world's fourth-largest reserves of natural gas and also possesses substantial amounts of cotton, uranium, petroleum, salt, and sulphur.

Uzbekistan is endowed with gas, uranium, cotton, silver, and gold. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan possess significant freshwater resources, yet to

be fully utilized. Additionally, Kyrgyzstan boasts reserves of gold, uranium, mercury, and lead. Each country has capitalized on its resources to varying extents. The socioeconomic development track record varies across these countries. Kazakhstan, endowed with abundant mineral resources, has outperformed others. However, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

have struggled to keep pace, experiencing slower progress.

India faces an energy shortfall, despite being rich in energy and natural resources, especially in this region. The synergy between India and Central Asia is evident. However, the hurdle lies in efficiently transporting these resources from landlocked areas to India. — ANI



Uzbekistan is rich in gas, uranium, cotton, silver, and gold. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have significant freshwater resources, with Kyrgyzstan also having reserves of gold, uranium, mercury, and lead. Despite these resources, each country's utilization varies. **PHOTO: ANI**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AirAsia unveils new listing plan under \$1.4 bln merger

MALAYSIAN conglomerate Capital A said on Friday it had finalised a 6.8 billion ringgit (\$1.4 billion) deal to merge its airline affiliates under a new listed entity to be called AirAsia Group. Capital A, which is led by mogul Tony Fernandes and includes a logistics business and digital payment Bigpay, said in January it would sell its budget airline AirAsia to its medium-haul affiliate AirAsia X.

The deal announced on Friday will include another affiliate, AirAsia Aviation Group, in that sale.

Fernandes, who has delayed plans to retire from Capital A, told reporters the plan would help the company move out of the financial distress status under which it has operated since 2020. — AFP

TotalEnergies quarterly net profit rises to \$5.7 bln

FRENCH group TotalEnergies said Friday its first-quarter net profit rose three per cent to \$5.7 billion as “sustained oil prices” offset lower gas prices. Chief executive Patrick Pouyanne said in a statement that TotalEnergies was “delivering strong results and an attractive shareholder return” that were “in line with its ambitious 2024 objectives”. The company’s core profit, however, fell 19 per cent compared to the first quarter last year to \$11.5 billion. TotalEnergies, which turns 100 years old this year, increased its hydrocarbon production by 1.5 per cent between January and March compared to the same period last year. — AFP

Beijing bourse facilitates treasury bond issuance of over 1.12 tln yuan in Q1

MORE than 1.12 trillion yuan (about 157.9 billion US dollars) of treasury bonds and over 66.79 billion yuan of local government bonds were issued on the Beijing Stock Exchange (BSE) in the first quarter of the year, according to data released by the BSE.

In March alone, 449 billion yuan of treasury bonds and about 16.8 billion yuan of local government bonds were issued on the bourse, the data showed.

In the first quarter, the turnover of the stocks on the bourse exceeded 566 billion yuan.

As of 25 April, there were 248 companies listed on the BSE, with a total market value of over 340.64 billion yuan, according to the data. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 14 November 2021 shows an exterior view of the Beijing Stock Exchange in Beijing, capital of China. PHOTO: LI XIN/XINHUA

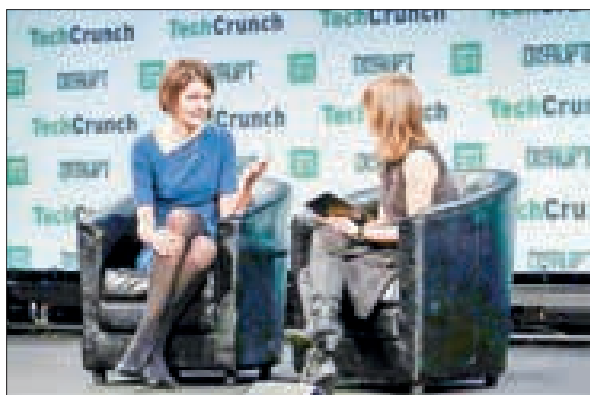
Snap shares pop after revenue tops expectations

SHARES in social media company Snap, which runs the youth-focused Snapchat, soared nearly 25 per cent on Thursday after it reported more quarterly revenue than expected by analysts.

“The value we provide our community and advertising partners has translated into improved financial performance,” Snap chief executive Evan Spiegel said in an earnings release.

Snap reported revenue of \$1.2 billion compared with \$989 million in the same period a year earlier. — AFP

Cybersecurity firm Darktrace accepts \$5 bln takeover



Darktrace chief executive Poppy Gustafsson (L) said the group’s ‘technology has never been more relevant in a world increasingly threatened by AI-powered cyberattacks’. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CYBERSECURITY firm Darktrace said Friday it had accepted a \$5.3-billion takeover bid from US private equity firm Thoma Bravo, which highlighted the British group’s “capability in artificial intel-

ligence”. The cash bid comes after Thoma Bravo expressed takeover interest two years ago.

“Darktrace is at the very cutting edge of cybersecurity technology, and w. — AFP

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
No.(2) Mining Enterprise
Invitation for Open Tender

1. No. (2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites for tenders to sale for the following materials-

Sr.	Lot No.	Materials Classifies	Weight (M/T)	Ex Work	Tender Closing Date/Time
1	Lot-1	Tin Concentrate	4.2510	Dawei	9-5-2024 (12:00) pm
2	Lot-2	Tin Concentrate	16.2040	Myeik	
3	Lot-3	Tin, Wolfram mixed Concentrate	21.4770	Dawei	
4	Lot-4	Tin (Low Grade)	1.4440		
5	Lot-5	Wolfram (Low Grade)	1.2370		
6	Lot-6	Tin, Wolfram mixed (Low Grade)	11.2990	Myeik	
7	Lot-7	Tin Concentrate	9.5000		
8	Lot-8	Tin Concentrate	4.7370	Pyinmana	
9	Lot-9	Tin (Low Grade)	2.1015		
10	Lot-10	Tin(Low Grade)	5.0850		

2. No.(2) Mining Enterprise could provide necessary documents to interest companies and contact to No.(2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19),Nay Pyi Taw, Ph: +95-(0)67-3409391, E-mail; metwo@e-monrec.gov.mm, within office hours.

Tender Committee
No.(2) Mining Enterprise

Advertise with us/

Hot Line:
09255597511
09251022355

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1168)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1168)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD



Voters stand in a queue to cast their ballot outside a polling station during the second phase of voting for the India's general election at Gashbari village in Darrang district of Assam state on 26 April 2024.

PHOTO: AFP

Indian election resumes as heatwave hits voters

India's ongoing six-week election saw millions braving a scorching heatwave to cast their votes.

INDIA'S six-week election juggernaut resumed Friday with millions of people lining up outside polling stations in parts of the country hit by a scorching heatwave.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is widely expected to win a third term in the election, which concludes in early June.

But turnout in the first round of voting last week dropped nearly four points to 66 per cent from the last elec-

tion in 2019, with speculation in Indian media outlets that higher-than-average temperatures were to blame.

Modi took to social media shortly before polls re-opened to urge those voting to turn out in "record numbers" despite the heat.

"A high voter turnout strengthens our democracy," he wrote on social media platform X. "Your vote is your voice!"

The second round of the poll — conducted in phases to ease the immense logistical burden of staging an election in the world's most populous country — includes districts that have this week seen temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

India's weather bureau said Thursday that severe heatwave conditions would continue in several states through the weekend. — AFP

Further Trump trial delay looms as Supreme Court weighs immunity claim

The US Supreme Court seemed doubtful of Donald Trump's argument that a former president is completely immune from criminal prosecution.

THE US Supreme Court appeared skeptical on Thursday of Donald Trump's claim that a former president is "absolutely immune" from criminal prosecution but looked set to issue a ruling that could further delay his election subversion trial.

The historic case — the last in the court's current term —

has far-reaching implications for executive power and the 77-year-old Trump's multiple legal entanglements as he seeks the White House again.

"We're writing a rule for the ages," said Neil Gorsuch, one of three conservative justices appointed to the nation's highest court by the former Republican

president.

By even agreeing to hear the case, the Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, already significantly delayed the start of Trump's trial on charges of conspiring to overturn the results of the 2020 election won by Joe Biden. — AFP

THE WORLD IN BRIEF

S Korean president's approval rating rises to 24%: poll

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol's approval rating rose one percentage point over the week to 24 per cent this week, a weekly poll showed Friday.

The negative assessment of Yoon's conduct of state affairs slipped three percentage points to 65 per cent, according to local pollster Gallup Korea.

Support for the ruling conservative People Power Party added three percentage points to 33 per cent this week compared to the previous week. The main liberal opposition Democratic Party's popularity rating fell two percentage points to 29 per cent. — Xinhua

India stresses peace and cooperation at SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Kazakhstan

DEFENCE Secretary Giridhar Aramane joined his counterparts from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states in Kazakhstan capital, Astana for a pivotal Defence Ministers' meeting on Friday, the Ministry of Defence said in an official press statement.

During the gathering, a significant protocol was signed, underscoring the collective commitment of all SCO members towards fostering peace and cooperation in the region. The meeting culminated in a Joint Communique, highlighting key agreements and initiatives, notably the embrace of the ethos of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', drawing inspiration from the timeless Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. — ANI

At least 155 killed in Tanzania due to floods caused by weeks of heavy rains

At least 155 people have lost their lives as a result of flooding and landslides caused by heavy rains in Tanzania, according to Al Jazeera.

In an address at the Parliament on Thursday, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said that the current rainy season has been made worse by the El Nino climate pattern, which has resulted in flooding and the destruction of roads, bridges, and railroads.

"The heavy El Nino rains, accompanied by strong winds, floods and landslides in various parts of the country, have caused significant damage," Majaliwa said. — ANI



Protestors dressed like a "kangaroo court" demonstrate outside the US Supreme Court as it hears Donald Trump's presidential immunity claim. PHOTO: AFP

SPORTS

Shan United, Rakhine United win over opponents in MNL Cup on 26 April

SHAN United FC trounced Rainbow 7-0 in Padonma Stadium in a Group-B match. Albeit facing a loss in the last match of the first leg, Shan United led the group table till 26 April with a win over Rainbow.

Shan United changed its lineup of players to include citizen players. In the 20th minute, Shan United scored the opening goal. The team translated its opportunities into three goals in the first half and four more in the second half. Nanda Kyaw scored one goal in the 20th minute for Shan United, Htet Phyto Wai one more goal in the 34th minute, Thurein Tun in the 45th minute, Motohiro in the 49th, 56th and 67th minutes as a hat-trick and Sa Aung

Pyae in the 88th minute.

At the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, Rakhine United beat Glory Goal 2-0. Veteran player Kyaw Ko Ko scored two goals in the 54th and 76th minutes for his team.

In Group B, Shan United and Rakhine United secured 12 points each in five matches, Kachin United nine points in four matches, Glory Goal three points in five games and Rainbow FC without points in five losses.

On 27 April (today), Silver Star FC will play against Hanthawady United at Thuwunna Stadium, whereas Dagon Star United will take on Dagon Port at University Stadium as Group-C matches. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA



Players of Shan United and Rainbow FC are vying to control the ball in the group match. PHOTO: MNL

Man City's Guardiola says he does not 'waste time' thinking about refs

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola dismisses referee controversies ahead of facing Nottingham Forest.



Pep Guardiola's Manchester City are chasing a fourth straight Premier League title. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

MANCHESTER City boss Pep Guardiola says he does not "spend one second" thinking about referees as he prepares to face Nottingham Forest following the relegation-threatened club's stinging criticism of match officials.

Forest were furious not to be awarded three penalties during last weekend's 2-0 Premier League loss at Everton and made headlines by releasing a series of strong statements about the incidents.

But Guardiola, who takes his title-chasing side to the City Ground on Sunday, feels that being preoccupied with refereeing appointments is a waste of his time.

"I go to the game and I never ever know who is the referee," he said. "When I see their face, it's 'oh, I remember that face'. I never in my life

talk about the referees before, during or after — never ever, ever.

"A mistake can be a mistake and we are sad, and when it's in our favour we are lucky.

"But I don't waste my time. I have to economize, I have to choose with my time exactly what I have to do. I don't spend one second (thinking) about referees, especially when we lose."

Phil Foden inspired City's comfortable 4-0 win at Brighton on Thursday with two goals between finishes from Kevin De Bruyne and Julian Alvarez. The win lifted City to second in the table, one point behind leaders Arsenal with a game in hand. Guardiola hopes the 23-year-old Foden, who has 24 goals for the season in all competitions, can sustain his dazzling form during the title run-in. — AFP

Newcastle's Howe not losing sleep over Guimaraes future

Guimaraes reportedly has a £100 million release clause, but it may only be active for a limited time.

NEWCASTLE boss Eddie Howe said Friday he will not lose sleep over the fevered speculation about Bruno Guimaraes's future but admitted the club will find it tough to sign elite players due to financial constraints.

The 26-year-old Brazil midfielder has been linked with a series of potential suitors, including Manchester City, Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain after a hugely impressive spell on Tyneside. Guimaraes is understood to have a £100 million (\$125 million) release clause in his existing contract, which is due to run until 2028, but a report this week suggested that clause will

be in force only from the last week of May until the beginning of the final week in June.

Howe, speaking ahead of Saturday's clash with bottom club Sheffield United, said he did not "tend to worry" over issues outside his control. "It goes without saying what my thoughts on the Bruno situation are," he said. "We want to keep him, we want to build our team around him and he's an integral part of what we are doing. "His form has been very good, he seems very happy and settled, he will be thinking about a busy summer ahead and where we can hopefully take the team. He is a big part of that. — AFP



Newcastle United midfielder Bruno Guimaraes has been linked with a number of other clubs. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



VISA-EXEMPTION ARRANGEMENT

Singapore's Changi Airport records 16.5 mln passengers in Q1

SINGAPORE'S Changi Airport registered 16.5 million passenger movements from January to March, surpassing the passenger volume in the first quarter of 2019 by 0.5 per cent, the airport said in a statement Thursday.

The airport recorded 89,400 landings and taking-offs in the first three months.

Changi Airport's top five passenger markets in the first quarter were China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and Thailand, said the statement.

The mutual 30-day visa-exemption arrangement between Singapore and China has boosted travel between the two countries, propelling China as Changi's top market, the airport noted.

The airfreight throughput in Changi Airport totalled 475,000 tons in the first quarter, up 14 per cent year-on-year. — Xinhua

Xi meets Blinken, stresses major country responsibilities for China, US

Chinese President Xi Jinping met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Beijing, urging both China and the United States to take responsibility for global peace and foster opportunities for the development of all nations.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 26 April 2024. PHOTO: SHEN HONG/XINHUA

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Friday urged China and the United States to shoulder responsibilities for world peace and create opportunities for the development of all

countries.

Xi made the remarks when meeting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Beijing.

As major countries, China and the

United States should set a good example of how major countries are supposed to act, provide global public goods, and contribute to world solidarity, Xi added.

— Xinhua

US & UK reduced naval presence in Red Sea: Houthi leader



A cargo ship travels on the Suez Canal in Ismailia Province, Egypt, 13 January 2024. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA

THE United States and the United Kingdom have scaled down their naval presence in the Red Sea despite lack of abatement in the intensity of attacks carried out by Yemen's Houthis rebels on Israeli-linked ships, the rebel movement's leader, Abdul Malik al-Houthi, said on Thursday.

"Our operations have not decreased, as the Americans claim, presenting this as their achievement, but rather the movement of their warships has decreased. There has been an 80 per cent reduction in the movement of US Navy ships, not our operations," al-Houthi was quoted by Iranian broadcaster Almasirah as saying on the occasion of 200 days of hostilities in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, al-Houthi said that since the beginning of hostilities in Gaza, they have attacked 102 Israeli-affiliated ships,

an equivalent of one ship every two days.

"The American and British enemies have failed to ensure the movement of Israel-bound ships despite constant and intensive monitoring. As long as the blockade and aggression against the Gaza Strip continues, operations in the southern Red Sea will continue," al-Houthi said.

Moreover, the leader of the movement also known as Ansar Allah said that there was an ongoing effort to expand and strengthen operations in the Indian Ocean in ways that "the Americans, the British, the Israelis, and perhaps the rest of the world cannot envision".

His statements came a day after the movement announced attacks on a US ship and a destroyer in the Gulf of Aden and an Israeli ship MSC Veracruz in the Indian Ocean after a week-long standoff. — SPUTNIK