

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Boost tree growing to mitigate climate impact in Myanmar

SEE PAGE-6

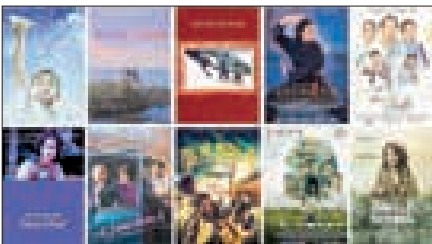
An awareness campaign on heat protection conducted by Red Cross youths on 15 April 2024.

PHOTO: MRCS

SUNDAY EDITION

NATIONAL

PAGE-5



Myanmar film 'Mysterious Snow' screens at ASEAN Film Festival in London

BUSINESS

PAGE-7

Myanmar kyat depreciates, surpassing K3,900 per dollar

Elevated temperatures dampen outdoor activity, leading to taxi income decline

JUST a few people are going out during the day as the temperature has elevated, resulting in a decline in the income of taxi drivers.

People don't go outside if it is unnecessary. Therefore, they have few passengers in the day-time, said taxi drivers.

SEE PAGE-4

Some taxis are running in Yangon City.



Be Proud with "DAGON"

Sales Department- Ph-01 651177, 09 69465580

STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (3) Mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 263147366

KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingaladone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443553

STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay Ph-09 661702244

STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Year Gauk Ward, Pyin Oo Lwin Ph- 09 685119077



NATIONAL



Yangon University of Foreign Languages.

YUFL diploma in English for communication skills course gains attention

THE announcement by Yangon University of Foreign Languages that it will conduct batch 1 of the Diploma in English for Communication Skills has caught a lot of attention.

YUFL made it public on its Facebook page, and many people have expressed their interest in joining the course.

Under the CHRD programme, the Diploma in English for Communication Skills course has been scheduled to be conducted face-to-face and online. Those who completed English basic level 1 or level 2 at YUFL can join the upper level directly, and entrance test is not required.

New students will have to join from English basic level 1, and applicants for face-to-face

classes will have to take an entrance examination at YUFL. Applicants for online courses will have to take it online, and a Web link will be sent by email when the exam is due.

Application forms are available at the YUFL Student Affairs Department, and submissions are welcome from 29 April to 3 May. Registration numbers will be announced on 5 May, and entrance will be sat on 6 May. Fee payment is allowed from 8 May to 10 May.

The duration is 18 months, each level lasts three months, and the fee is K100,000, which can be paid separately for each level. Face-to-face basic 1 and 2 classes will run on Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 12 pm and intermediate 1 class

from 1 pm to 4 pm, and online basic 1 and 2 classes will run on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6 pm to 8 pm and online intermediate 1 class will run on Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 12 pm.

It will start on 11 May. Applicants must have at least passed matriculation. An original certificate of completion of matriculation and copy, or an original certificate of graduation and copy, an original ID card, and a copy of 3 passport photos are required.

For more details, inquiries can be made to the YUFL training course department, 09 7513190, 09-442253812, 19-976535656, 09-791269798 and 09-428227484 during office hours. — MT/ZS

Numerous female candidates register for 16th EPS-TOPIK exam in service industry group

FOR the 16th EPS-TOPIK exam, which is going to take place on 10 May, many women candidates have registered in the service industry group.

"Women are allowed for the first time in this year, so there are many interested women applicants. Of around 9,000 candidates who have registered in the service industry category, about two-thirds are

to include the batch number on the receipt for the exam permission, and those who have no batch number can inform the POEA office before 26 April.

The exam centre is located at the POEA office, Pinlon Hall, Ward 43, corner of Minyekyawswa Road and Bominyaung Road in Dagon Myothit (North). Male candidates have to wear a shirt and



Women are working at some workplaces in South Korea.

women," said a freelance Korean language teacher.

The exam will be held from 30 April to 10 May for agriculture, livestock and construction industries, from 10 May to 29 May for service industry group 1 and group 2, and the date for manufacturing industry will be further announced, POEA said on 18 April.

POEA said on 25 April that those who paid the registration fee for the manufacturing industry exam need to make sure

longyi, and female candidates have to wear a Myanmar outfit, POEA warned.

In the 16th TOPIK test, the 7th marking employment system, which will be held in 2024, recruitment of Myanmar workers will be extended in the Republic of Korea's service industry, and both males and females are eligible to join the test. Women who would take the exam for the service industry must complete basic high school level. — MT/ZS

AT the Aungban vegetable market in Shan State, snow peas have gained a lot of buyers, and the price has been good.

It has been about a week since the snow pea price soared. In previous months, the snow pea price per viss was K5,000 and climbed to K10,000 this week.

"Among vegetables, snow pea price has climbed up. It has been over K10,000 now. Previously, it was K5,500-K6,000 per viss. The price goes up in a week. It is because the crop receives a lot of demand, so the price climbs up. Vegetable production has been paused in other areas, so buyers have to flock here. And wholesalers have to raise the price; if

High demand boosts snow pea prices



not, farmers would complain," said a manager from a vegetable wholesale centre in Aungban.

Although the price has been high at present, it is likely to decline soon; however, it is still unknown when it will be.

"If the price continues rising, it is probably not exceeding K11,000. However, the price will decline when the supply becomes larger and demand becomes low. We can't say when it will happen. It depends on consumers and the market," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

The vegetable market in Aungban.

Honorary reception held for outstanding students in Yangon

A welcome reception for G 11 outstanding students (2023-2024 academic year) who will visit Ngwehsaung camp and G 12 outstanding students who will visit Chaungtha camp was held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon yesterday. The Yangon Region chief minister, the Yangon Command commander and officials welcomed the outstanding

students, and the chief minister delivered a speech.

The chief minister hosted lunch for outstanding students, and they enjoyed dance performances during the lunch. A total of 306 outstanding students who will depart for Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha were seen off at the MCC. — Hsan Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/KZL



A welcome reception for outstanding students in progress in Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: HSAN KYAW OO (IPRD)**

Grade 9 outstanding students welcomed in Bagan



Grade 9 outstanding students arrive at Outstanding Students Recreation Centre in Bagan on 27 April.

GRADE 9 outstanding students who arrived at Bagan on 27 April were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint, Director-General of the Teacher Education Department, Daw Hnin Kyi, Deputy Director-General of the Ethnic Language Department, U Aung Thu Thu, as well as officials, chairpersons of district and township administration bodies, district and township education officers, teachers, students, and residents.

With the aim of nurturing students as role models, the Outstanding Student Project is being implemented. In the 2023-2024 academic year, a total of 140 outstanding students in Grade 9, 140 outstanding students in Grade 10, 137

outstanding students in Grade 11, and 137 outstanding students in Grade 12 were produced, resulting in a total of 554 outstanding students.

The outstanding students arriving at Nay Pyi Taw, along with respective administrators of the Outstanding Students Recreation Centre and supervising teachers, began their study trips to Bagan, Inlay, Taunggyi, and Ngwehsaung centres.

Grade 9 outstanding students of the 2023-2024 academic year and supervising teachers arrived at Bagan, led by Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Moe Tun, the Mandalay Region education officer, who is the head of the Bagan Outstanding Students Recreation Centre. — MNA/TKO

2023-2024 academic year Grade 10 outstanding students arrive in Taunggyi

A total of 140 outstanding grade-10 students from the 2023-2024 academic year, along with their supervising teachers, led by Dr Soe Myint Tun, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Basic Education, departed from Nay Pyi Taw on 27 April and arrived in Kalaw, Shan State (South).

U Soe Myint, chairman of the Kalaw District Administration Body, along with its members, officials from the Department of Education, various departments, students, and local ethnic people, welcomed the outstanding students by waving miniature flags along the roadside.

Outstanding students then visited Mawmyay-U Park and the Kalaw Clock Tower, followed by lunch at No 1 Basic Education High School in Kalaw.

They also departed from Kalaw and arrived at Taunggyi Township's No 1 Basic Education High School, where a camp for outstanding students was inaugurated.

They were warmly welcomed by U Myint Lwin, the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Basic Education, along with officials, teachers, students, and bands. — MNA/TKO



Officials from various departments, students, and local people welcome the outstanding students by waving miniature flags along the roadside in Kalaw yesterday.

NATIONAL



Some taxis are running in downtown Yangon.

Elevated temperatures dampen outdoor activity, leading to taxi income decline

FROM PAGE-1

“It is too hot during the day, so people don’t go outside if it isn’t necessary. And if they can’t avoid going out, they want to take air-conditioned only. They take air-conditioned YBS buses. We have passengers just in the morning and evening, and they are regular customers,” said a taxi driver from Thakayta township.

He earns barely a few tens of thousands of kyats on some days, so it is uneconomical after fuel costs, he said.

“Two days ago, I received just around K20,000 for the whole day. We don’t have many passengers at noon. There is not much left after fuel cost is deducted. Fortunately, I don’t need

to pay the owner on the days when I don’t have passengers because my sister owns my taxi,” said another taxi driver.

Due to high temperatures, drivers have to be aware of their health as well as be alert of fire hazards from overheated car engines, he said.

The sweltering weather may cause dehydration, heat rash, fatigue, dizziness, headache, cramps, lack of sweat, high body temperature, unconsciousness and even life-threatening if it becomes severe, the Ministry of Health warned.

In Yangon Region and other regions and states, some people have fainted and even faced sudden death from haemorrhagic strokes due to extreme heat. — MT/ZS

Counter-argument to false information

Spreading misinformation: security forces arrested 60 people for military service



The screenshot validates misinformation.

THE malicious Khit This media is fabricating news stories and circulating misinformation, claiming that the security forces in Aunglan township of Magway Region arrested about 60 visitors on Aunglan-Shwepantaw Road. They allege that those arrested were offered K5 million each for release, and those who could not pay were forcibly conscripted into the People’s Military.

A security official from the relevant location reported that this news was false and intended to discredit the security forces and mislead the public. The security forces did not arrest any visitors; it was merely propaganda spreading misinformation.

Subversive media outlets and individuals are intentionally spreading misinformation to disrupt public peace and tranquility, especially since the enforcement of the People’s Military Service Law. — MNA/TRKM

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, fuel oil, foodstuffs, industrial materials, auto parts, motorbikes and vehicles

ON 25 April, the combined Customs teams captured 4,444.2 square metres of ceramic tiles valued at K42,930,972 from China that exceeded the amount mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) from three containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. The action was conducted under Customs procedures.

During inspections on 26 April, the on-duty teams impounded an unregistered Nissan X-trail vehicle (estimated value of K12 million) and five kinds of goods worth K12.068 million, including 300 cartons of Master branded soya sauce from China at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Additionally, on the same day, the combined teams confiscated a Young Man bus (approximately K30 million) heading to Mandalay from Mawlamyine, carrying seven kinds of goods valued at K7.18 million, including 600 bottles of Cook and Lobster branded Fish sauce from China without official documents at the

Nyaungkhashay x-ray station and illegal teak weighing 14.820 tonnes, illegal hardwood weighing 1.603 tonnes and illegal other timbers weighing 1.704 tonnes valued at K6,644,390 in Toungoo, Pyay and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On the same day, the combined on-duty teams seized a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (approximately K30 million) carrying three kinds of goods worth K58 million including 30 VK tyres from India without official documents near Myitnge-Htonbo tollgate and a Dongfeng Dump truck with a trailer (approximately K120 million) carrying illegal premium diesel valued at K96.789 million at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 13 arrests were made on 25 and 26 April, with an estimated value of K415 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal Master branded soya sauce in Sagaing Region.

Global NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

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

Write for us

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

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar Consul-General promotes investment at Kunming trade event

MYANMAR Consul-General U Thawda Aung in Kunming attended an investment promotion event at the Myanmar Trade Centre (Kunming), China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, on 26 April, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He said that the centre was opened under the management of the Myanmar Consulate-General in March. It aims to boost trade, investment and collaboration between Myanmar and China. The consul-general pledged that his office would act as a bridge between the two countries over multiple sectors,

including trade, investment, and tourism.

At the event, a representative of the Investment Promotion Department at Kunming administration presented their investment promotion developments. A representative of the Mohan-Boten Corporation Zone discussed the status of the economic cooperation between China and Laos along the borders.

Around 100 attendees, including Kunming Vice Mayor Mr An Enfa, Malaysian and Vietnamese Consul-Generals, and merchants, attended the event. — ASH/NT



Myanmar Consul-General U Thawda Aung poses for the group documentary photo at Kunming's investment promotion event on 26 April 2024.

Myanmar Music Day to celebrate with music entertainment programmes

MYANMAR Music Day will be commemorated nationwide with music entertainment programmes on 27 June, as announced by U Aung Min Naing, associate information officer at the Myanmar Music Association (Central) Information Department.

The Myanmar Music Association (Central) celebrated the previous Myanmar Music Day with a ceremony and entertainment programmes at Myanma Radio and Television (Yangon Region), which were broadcast through its channel.

"This year, Myanmar Music Day will be commemorated not only at the Myanmar Music Association (Central) but also in states and regions starting from 1 June. Entertainment festivities will also be organized and aired on MRTV," U Aung Min Naing said.



The photo depicts a commemoration of Myanmar Music Day at the Myanmar Music Association in Mayangon.

The ceremonies of the commemoration of Myanmar Music Day have been held in specific regions and states since 2013. — ASH/TRKM

ME Tokyo advises pre-booking online for consular services

MYANMAR Embassy in Tokyo announced again that Myanmar nationals seeking consular services, including passport renewals at the embassy, are required to make an online appointment in advance.

As the embassy provides consular services for the interests of Myanmar nationals in Japan in accordance with the laws, rules, regulations and procedures, thousands of citizens come to the embassy daily for these services, including applications for passport renewals by mail. The number of customers sometimes exceeded the capacity of the building, resulting in a long queue

and long waiting time for these services, it said.

The embassy, therefore, announced in March that from 1 April, it would change to an online appointment system for consular services, excluding visa applications, in order to provide better services to Myanmar nationals.

The embassy reiterated the above announcement on 26 April and thanked Myanmar nationals who cooperated in this system change. It added that online appointments can be made at <http://www.myanmar-embassy-tokyo.net/2024/onlineappointment/onlineappointment.htm> or through a QR code. — MT/ZN

Myanmar film 'Mysterious Snow' screens at ASEAN Film Festival in London

THE Myanmar film titled 'Mysterious Snow' was screened at the ASEAN Film Festival, held at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University in London, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The festival, held from 22 to 27 April, saw the attendance of Chargé d'affaires of Myanmar Embassy U Tun Aung Kyaw and officials at both the opening ceremony on 22 April and the Day of Myanmar Film Festival on 24 April.

The chairperson of the ASEAN-London Committee, the Thai ambassador, and Professor Rachel V Harrison from SOAS University delivered the opening speeches at the film festival. Diplomats, embassy officials, family

members, officials from SOAS University, and guests from respective countries were present.

A total of ten films were screened by the embassies of 10 ASEAN countries at the ASEAN Film Festival, with each embassy showcasing one film. Additionally, the Myanmar film 'Mysterious Snow' was explicitly screened for the Day of Myanmar Film Festival.

Mysterious Snow was a novel written by author Juu, and Academy Award winner Nyein Min penned the script. The film was directed by Academy Director Zinyaw Maung Maung, with Academy Award winners Nyunt Win, Lwin Moe, Lu Min, and Soe Myat Nandar starring in it. — ASH/TRKM



Attendees of the ASEAN Film Festival at SOAS University, London, seen in a commemorative photo.

NATIONAL

9.5M cubic feet of natural gas daily for urea fertilizer production



No 4 Fertilizer Factory in Myaungtaga seen in operation.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Energy, some 9.5 million cubic feet of natural gas is being distributed per day for the continuous operation of urea fertilizer factories. The ministry is planning to increase the production of urea fertilizers to ensure the continuous operation of fertilizer factories, which are essential for the development of the agricultural sector.

No 4 Fertilizer Factory in Myaungtaga and No 5 Fertilizer Factory in Kangyidaunt are nearing the end of their warranty period. Therefore, the government is paying particular attention to maintenance and repair work to ensure continuous operation and production.

Similarly, the ministry is systematically managing the maintenance of fertilizer factories

and oil refineries for operation at full capacity, and efforts are underway to increase exploration of oil and natural gas by testing new blocks.

The ministry produced more than 1.4 million barrels of crude oil and 888 million cubic feet of natural gas from 10 inland oil fields until the end of February in the 2023-24 financial year. — TWA/TKO

Boost tree growing to mitigate climate ...

FROM PAGE-1

IF everyone cooperates and grows more trees, the effect of global warming and climate change can be reduced in Myanmar, urged a meteorologist U Win Naing.

U Win Naing forecasts weather conditions online, and he also advocates growing trees by demonstrating data and evidence over climate change.

“Due to climate change and global warming, the temperature in our country will be 1.5-2 degrees Celsius higher than the average until August. To eliminate it, I have continuously urged the cultivation of trees as part of educational activities. Only growing trees can reduce this impact over the next years. If not, it is difficult to deal with it,” U Win Naing explained.

Either cultivating crops or planting vegetables can generate oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. In Myanmar,



Shwegon Yeikmon Social Welfare Association helps hospitalize patients with shortness of breath and low oxygen levels at night due to rising temperatures. **PHOTO: SHWEGON YEIKMON SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

the amount of carbon dioxide absorption from trees and greenhouse gas emission has not been found to be much different, he said.

“Our country is still fine, not like Africa and deserts. We have more trees. If we all co-

operate in growing trees, we have a chance to reduce the impact of climate change and global warming in the next two to three years. It is terribly hot this year, and heat-related deaths increase,” he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

NEWS In BRIEF

Efforts to restore trade, security on Myawady-Kawkareik road underway

MAJ-GEN Zaw Min Tun says that efforts are underway to resume trade and security on the Myawady-Kawkareik road, and currently, there are some confrontations. Now, the Tatmadaw, or defence services, regained control of the Infantry Regiment 275, Myawady city's guard. He added that the Border Guard Forces and No 44 LID cooperated to restore security in the border town and regain IR 275.

Col Saw Chit Thu central to Myawady incident

THAILAND-BASED Bangkok Post published an article claiming that Colonel Saw Chit Thu, the leader of the Karen National Army, formerly BGF, is at the centre of the Myawady incident. Currently, the town on the Myanmar and Thailand borders is highly contested between the Tatmadaw and armed forces.

Colonel Saw Chit Thu-led armed group separated from the Karen National Union in 2010. It has assisted the Tatmadaw in its battle against the KNU and its armed wing, Karen National Liberation Army, and other armed forces.

Mae Sot-Myawady Bridge I reopens

RESIDENTS say that the Mae Sot-Myawady Friendship Bridge I reopened on 27 April. Although the crossing on the Thailand border remains open, the Myanmar side closed the entry to Thailand on 21 April. The No 2 Bridge is currently under maintenance. An armed conflict on 20 April damaged the bridge, and so were machinery, buildings, banking processes, and internet connections. There is still no word on the reopening date.

Thailand pledges to resolve border conflicts, offer aid

DURING the meeting between Myanmar Ambassador to Brussels U Soe Lin Han and Mrs Kanchana Patarachoke, a newly appointed ambassador of Thailand to Belgium and EU, on 24 April, the latter promised that they are finding ways to settle conflicts on the Thailand-Myanmar border and give humanitarian aid.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae honoured with Golden Great Wall Commemorative Medal by China

LT-GEN Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Home Affairs, receives the Golden Great Wall Commemorative Medal, the highest honour awarded by the Ministry of Public Security of China, from Minister Wang Xiao Hong of China's Ministry of Public Security during his six-day working visit to China at the invitation of Minister Wang Xiao Hong.

China pledges RMB5 mln for Myanmar Police Force

CHINA has signed and exchanged a letter of assistance worth RMB 5 million to the Myanmar Police Force. Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Home Affairs, and his counterpart also discussed security matters, the rule of law, border peace and stability, eradication of online scams and human trafficking, and joint efforts against the drug trade and transnational crime during his working visit to China. — Htun Htun/NT

Papaya demand rises in Shan State market amid good supply

DUE to an influx of papaya into the Shan State market, traders say demand is good.

With higher production this year, the traders are working hard to be able to sell as much as they can get.

“There is a harvest every seven days. The number of fruits is large. To sell as many as the supply, we need to make efforts. Fruits are good to sell at this time because it is hot. If I choose and buy only the best fruits, I have to pay more. I buy a papaya from the farms for K2,000 and sell it for K2,500. Demand and supply are not going down,” said a papaya trader.

A papaya costs between K1,000 and K3,500 in the Shan State market, depending on its



Ripe papaya in the market. Papaya grows throughout Myanmar and is more abundant in tropical and subtropical areas.

size and roundness.

“There are more wholesalers in our area. Because of the effect of the watermelon

market, the market for heavy papayas is smaller. This is the season to harvest juicy fruits like muskmelons. In the retail

market, papaya costs a maximum of K3,000-K3,500. We can only get this price if the fruit weighs more than 1.5 visses

or about two visses. Those that weigh less cost K1,000 or K1,500 per one papaya. We can't sell sunburnt fruits. The price of papaya varies with its roundness,” said another trader.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the papaya market was good from April to October, and fruits produced in Sagaing and Mandalay regions were supplied to Taunggyi, Lashio in Shan State, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

Ripe papaya is eaten as it is, and unripe fruits are used as a minor ingredient in papaya salads, Thai papaya salads and mixed salads. Papaya grows throughout Myanmar and is more abundant in tropical and subtropical areas. — Thit Taw/ZN

Myanmar kyat depreciates, surpassing K3,900 per dollar

INFORMATION from the foreign exchange market reported that the Myanmar kyat currency has depreciated again to over K3,900 per dollar.

The foreign exchange rate on 12 April before the Thingyan Festival was K3,890 for a dollar. The rate has surged to K3,960 on 27 April. Therefore, it has increased by K70 per dollar within 15 days.

On the other hand, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected foreign currencies into the market to control the skyrocketing dollar exchange rates.

CBM sold five million yuan and 50 million Thai baht on 22 March, US\$5 million on 15 March, 50 million Thai baht on 11 March, and seven million yuan and 12 million Thai baht on 5 March to exporters and importers through online trading platforms.

Furthermore, CBM injected \$10 million and 200 million Thai baht on 4 March into the foreign exchange market.

Therefore, CBM sold a total of \$15 million, 12 million yuan, and 312 million Thai baht in the foreign exchange market in March.

CBM notified on 15 March that cooperation with legal bodies has also been made to be able to prosecute those who manipulate



US dollars in the foreign exchange market.

the foreign exchange market under the existing laws.

At present, CBM sets the exchange rate of K2,100 per dollar as the reference rate. On 5 December 2023, CBM relaxed some rules allowing authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign currency trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand. However, the outward remittance procedures must adhere to the rules and regulations specified by the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee.

Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law prescribes, “Purchases and

sales of foreign currencies within the Union shall only be transacted by the authorized persons holding foreign currency exchange licences. Foreign currency exchange licence holders shall only entitle to deal in foreign currencies in cash and traveller's cheques.”

Accordingly, CBM also notified the public that action would be taken under the Foreign Exchange Management Law if the people were found to hold foreign currencies without permits or licences.

The foreign exchange rate has skyrocketed on 19 August 2023 to K4,000 per dollar. — NN/TMT

Authorities discuss gold quality criteria and base price

DISCUSSIONS are underway to establish quality criteria and base prices for gold to ensure systematic trade in the gold market.

Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) Daw Than Than Swe addressed it during the meeting between the CBM Governor and the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market, which took place at Office No 55 in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 April.

During the meeting, the CBM governor presented that schemes are being carried out to regulate the quality criteria and base price for systematically trading gold in the gold market to formulate a legitimate gold market, and action will be taken against speculators who manipulate the gold and currency markets intentionally to destabilize the market. She also discussed that provisions prescribed in Section 4 of Chapter 3 of the Essential Supplies and Service Law should be implemented if gold is considered essential goods. She urged the members to review and systematically monitor the current situation.

At present, the pure gold price in the marketplace is K4,800,000 per tical. However, the reference closing price for pure gold by the Yangon Gold Enterprise Association (YGEA) is K3,998,900. Therefore, it has been K800,000 gapped for a tical of pure gold between the price in the marketplace and the YGEA reference price.

The spot gold price in domestic reached a peak record at K4,840,000 per tical two weeks ago before the Myanmar New Year holiday.

On the other hand, YGEA also announced on 30 March that authorities were interrogating the suspected gold price speculators.

YGEA also notified that speculators deliberately draw the spot gold price to unreasonably high points with the intention to distort the gold price stability by spreading rumours; thus, the association strongly denounces those animosities. — NN/TMT

OPINION

Nurture outstanding students to serve as future State reserves

AS A reserve force for the nation, new generation student youths are being nurtured from the basic education to the higher education sectors. Thanks to such a project, they will be well-versed citizens ready to serve the State's responsibilities at different levels, and they will be hardcore for nurturing more and more outstanding student youths in the future.

Selected from various regions and states during the 2023-24 academic year, outstanding students are soon to converge at Nay Pyi Taw, the capital, to participate in a programme that will prepare them to contribute to Myanmar's future. This initiative, the Outstanding Student Project, aims to identify and cultivate students with exceptional talent, intelligence, physical fitness, and high moral character. It prepares them to actively engage in educational development and nation-building tasks, fostering them as exemplary individuals.

Initially launched in 1964, the project was temporarily suspended in 1988 but resumed as the Overall Outstanding Student Project in 2013. In 2018, it was renamed the Outstanding Student Project and is now celebrating its 60th anniversary. Over the years, the project has produced outstanding individuals who have served the nation in various capacities.

For the 2023-24 academic year, a total of 554 outstanding students were selected from Grades 10, 11, and 12 in the basic education schools nationwide. The selection was based on written tests in Myanmar, English, and general knowledge, as well as physical tests and assessments of moral character, public ethics, Myanmar culture and customs, and general knowledge in oral exams.

These selected students will be honoured and sent to outstanding student camps in Bagan, Taunggyi, Ngwehsaung, and Chaungha for recreation and further enrichment. Through these camps, they will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge, build camaraderie, develop teamwork skills, and deepen their understanding of Myanmar's traditional culture and customs, thereby nurturing their sense of national pride.

Nurturing human resources is essential for nation-building endeavours. These youth will eventually serve the State, contributing to the nation's interests as part of their national duty. By consistently producing generations of students with high physical, mental, and moral qualifications, programmes like the Outstanding Student Project play a vital role in grooming future state leaders and service personnel. They provide a platform for young individuals to develop their potential, ensuring a steady supply of capable and reliable leaders for Myanmar's future.

Use of acid reflux drugs linked to higher risk of migraine: Study

The study, published in the online issue of Neurology Clinical Practice, does not definitively establish a causal relationship between these medications and migraines but highlights a correlation.

ACCORDING to a study, people who take acid-reducing medications may be at a higher risk of migraines and other severe headaches than those who do not. Acid-reducing medications include proton pump inhibitors like omeprazole and esomeprazole, histamine H2-receptor antagonists or H2 blockers like cimetidine and famotidine, and antacids.

The study does not prove that acid-reducing medicines cause migraines; it only indicates a relationship. Findings of the study were published in the online issue

of Neurology Clinical Practice, an official journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

Acid reflux is when stomach acid flows into the esophagus, usually after a meal or when lying down. People with acid reflux may experience heartburn and ulcers. People with frequent acid reflux may develop gastroesophageal reflux disease, or GERD, which can lead to cancer of the esophagus.

"Given the wide usage of acid-reducing drugs and these potential implications with migraine, these results warrant fur-

ther investigation," said study author Margaret Slavin, PhD, RDN, of the University of Maryland in College Park. "These drugs are often considered to be overprescribed, and new research has shown other risks tied to long-term use of proton pump inhibitors, such as an increased risk of dementia." For the study, researchers looked at data on 11,818 people who provided information on use of acid-reducing drugs and whether they had migraine or severe headache in the past three months.

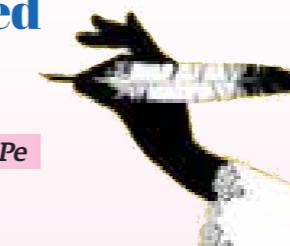
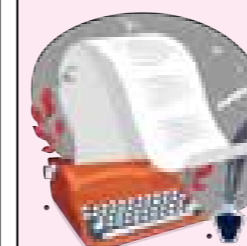
SOURCE: ANI

Regards conveyed

By Chit Ko Pe

It's what I desire, swinging in the clouds.

My regards are fondly conveyed, via the clouds in the wind's sway, to my dear, who is far away.



စကားလက်ဆောင်

တိမ်တောင်လွှာ တွဲကွဲကာ လိုက်ချင်သာ။

လေစုန်ကု ခရီးမှ အပြေးမှီလို့ မနိုးသူ အဝေးဆီသို့ မျှော်ရည်ကာ သတိရ ဆက်သ စကား။

ချစ်ကိုဖေ

Devising One's Path

By Zawgyi
Translated by Myint Zan



as water flows the wind from the south blows on the surface of the water the wind forces itself: water bubbles up as if two chicken are fighting for 'right of way'

the waves are indeed (like) the wind but hyacinth (Beda flower) is adept in the water (still) Lovely hyacinth wishes to go downstream but the waves (temporarily)

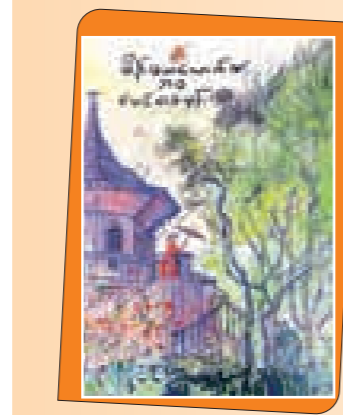
block her trouble for lady beda! the waves hit her again she has to move along while thus retreating she sees the entrance to the sea water flows downstream the wind blows upstream the flying beda has to devise schemes [to remain afloat] in her abode- this creek

The original poem by Saya (teacher) Zawgyi (12 April 1907-26 September 1990) was published in Volume 24 (June 1962) issue of Ngwe Tar Yi magazine. This translation commemorates the 117th birthday of U Thein Han (Zawgyi) on 12 April 2024.

ကြိယာ

သက်လာတဲ့ရေ၊ တောင်လောကဖမ်း။
ရေပြင်မှာ လေဝင်စိုင်း။
လှိုင်းကြက်ခွပ်လမ်း။
ဒီလှိုင်းက လေသာဟာ၊ ဗေဒါက ရေသာမာ။
ဗေဒါခင် စုန်ချင်အား၊ ဒီလှိုင်းက တာ။
ဒုက္ခ ဟဲ့ မပေး။
လှိုင်းပုတီးပြန် ဆုတ်ဟန်ပြု၊ ဆင်းရဲသူမှာ။
ဆုတ်ရင်းလည်း သူဆင်းလာ
မြင်ပါပေါ့ ပင်လယ်။
ရေစုန် လေဆန် မှီ
ဗေဒါပျံ ကြိယာရုံ၊ ချောင်း ဒီလောက။

ငွေတာရီ၊ အမှတ် ၂၄၊ ဇွန်လ ၂၀၂၄။



Book Title - Meinma Ta Yauk Ei Bawa
A Woman's Life (Une Vie, 1883) by Guy de Maupassant
Translator - Maung Paw Htun
Publishing House - Zawgyi Pho Wun
Publication Date - March 2024 (3rd Edition)
Price - K14,000

Meinma Ta Yauk Ei Bawa

A Woman's Life (Une Vie, 1883) by Guy de Maupassant

SAYA Maung Paw Htun died at 87 in August of 2022. He both writes and translates, although he is better known as a translator. The book titled, 'Gandaya San Yay Ai' won him the National Literary Award in the Genre of Translation for the first time, and in 2006 again, he won the same award with the book titled, 'Kan Kyamar Ahkyintha' for the second time. In 2014, he won the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement.

True, he is dead and gone, but his translations are still alive. His translated works are

still being published. This book under review was published in March of this year by the publisher known as Zawgyi Pho Win. The book is titled, 'A Woman's Life (Une Vie)', which is the most popular and perhaps the greatest of the full-length novels of the French writer Guy de Maupassant. That is the story of the unfortunate Jeanne, a Norman gentlewoman. Avarice and Lechery, cruelty and greed, conspire against Jeanne wherever she goes: her husband turns out to be a lascivious boor, her son a heedless spendthrift. In the end, she is

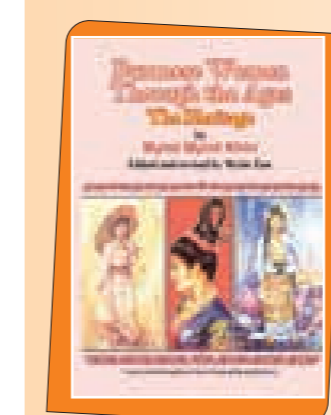
forced to sell her old family house to stay alive.

The book starts with a young Jeanne who is on her last every day at the convent school in 1819 and who is desperate to taste freedom and start her life after being cooped up for so long, only being able to stare out of widows and dream what her life will be like when she is finally out in the world. Jeanne's daydreams are filled with longing and a restless spirit that is aching to see faraway lands and nature and finally breathe after all these years at school. Jeanne's par-

ents (a Baron and baroness) pick her up on the last day and drive her to Poplars, which is to become her home by the sea.

Jeanne's first few months are spent getting to know her new surroundings and enjoying her freedom, and soon, she is introduced to a young man named Julien, who is a count. After a brief and all-consuming romance, they marry. Jeanne starts to pick up clues that all is not what it seemed as early as the wedding night when he forced himself on his new bride, but desperately wanting to believe that she has married the right man and stayed happy, she puts it to one side. The story is much about the downward spiral of one woman's life. We watch Jeanne's hopes, desires, and dreams turn into boredom, frustration and self-pity.

The original writer is a Frenchman, and he is a playwright, too. He was a 19th-century author, celebrated as a master of the short story, and a representative of the naturalist school, depicting human lives, destinies, and social forces in disillusioned and often pessimistic terms.



Book Title - Burmese Women through the Ages - The Heritage
Author - Myint Myint Khin/Edited by Myint Zan
Publishing House - Myanmar Heritage Publications
Publication Date - December 2023
Price - K35,000

Burmese Women through the Ages - The Heritage

THE late Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin was, among others, a retired Professor of Medicine and one-time consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO). Later in life, she wrote and published poetry in English. She was also the author of books for the general public in both Myanmar and English languages on topics mainly relating to medicine and education.

Around 2006/2007, she began research and slowly started writing this book, which she completed in April 2014, two months before she passed away on 19 June 2014. Her son, Dr Myint Zan, a retired Professor of Law, apparently, after much effort, re-

trieved the manuscript, edited it and published it.

The book has six parts. Part I, being 'The Forgotten Land: History, Culture and the Historical Status of Women' to Part VI 'Vignettes' of some Burmese women from Princess of the Bagan era to Burmese women who flourished in the pre-colonial, colonial and contemporary eras. A few of the 'Vignettes' were given assumed names by the author. The author presents snippets of biographies of about twenty-five Burmese women throughout the ages. Snippets of six additional Burmese women, including the late historian Daw Kyan, who passed away at the age of 101 in

2019, are added by the editor, Dr Myint Zan.

Five different persons gave five introductions to the book. Two are Myanmar women (Professor of Physiology Dr Hla Yee Yee, researcher Ei Shwe Sin), and one person is an Australian woman (member of the New South Wales Parliament Janelle Saffin). Professor James Boyd White, Hart Wright Professor of Law Emeritus, Professor of English Emeritus at the University of Michigan in the United States and Physicist Dr Tin Hlaing (Pho Hlaing) also wrote introductions.

The appendix includes tributes to Dr Myint Myint Khin both when she was alive and after she

passed away. These tributes were published in various journals and magazines abroad and domestically, including but not limited to the obituary in the British Medical Journal and Support Group for Medical Doctors (SGED) newsletter. Dr Myint Myint Khin founded the SGED in 1999.

Though some of the parts deal with historical issues (for example, Part II 'Ancient, Medieval and Pre-colonial History'), some are present and future-oriented (e.g., Part IV 'Education, Health, Politics, Economy, Arts, the Law and Burmese women' and Part V 'Globalization, Current Issues and Burmese Women's Future').

Since the author, Dr Myint Myint Khin, completed the rough draft of the book in April 2014, her son, the editor Dr Myint Zan, deems it expedient and necessary to add a few comments, explanations and elaborations in a few places in the book.

The research that went into writing this book is laudable. The format and the front and back covers of the book are elegant. The list of references in both English and Myanmar languages is extensive. The late author and her devoted son the editor are to be commended for bringing forth this remarkable book.

NATIONAL Entertainment

Debut ceremony for 'Love Like Fire' movie series held



THE staging ceremony of offerings (coconut and three bunches of bananas in a basket) for the 'Love Like Fire' movie series was made at Maha Wizaya Pagoda in Dagon township, Yangon, on 24 April.

Khun Thar Cho wrote the story and script, and director Ko Thaug directed it.

"I will take the villain role in this series, and I have to do negative things against Ma Aye

Myat Thu. It is about romance and horror. Fans are satisfied with villainous characters, and I am excited to take on this role," said composer-singer actor Khine Noe.

The cast includes Khun Thar Cho, Khine Noe, Than Zin Moe Htet, academy Aye Myat Thu, academy Khin Moh Moh Aye, academy Wah Wah Aung and others. The filming process will take place in Yangon in early May. — ASH/KTZH

The photo shows artistes participating in the staging event of offerings (coconut and three bunches of bananas in a basket) at the Maha Wizaya Pagoda.

Cartoon Ngwe Kyi

SINGER Sithu Lwin made a birthday wish for his father, cartoon Ngwe Kyi, on 26 April. The 76-year-old painter and cartoonist is famous for his extraordinary artworks, especially 'Law Ka Gyi Hmar Byar' in Shumawa magazine and 'Myanmar traditional jokes' cartoon in Shwin Pyone journal. Saya U Ngwe Kyi has another pen name called Cartoon Maung Lin.



Celebrity Brief

Hsaung Wutyee May

ACTRESS Hsaung Wutyee May made a post on 26 April urging her fans to take care of their health during the hot weather. She also announced to the media to use the English spelling of "Hsaung" for her initial name instead of "Saung".



Than Tun Lay

CLASSICAL singer U Than Tun Lay, who attended the birthday ceremony of singer Daw Tin Tin Mya, talked about the differences between the singers of the previous era and today, the enormously increasing numbers of singers and the role of media that can make people popular and the people become singers thanks to media.

La Min Kabya-DJ Moon

ACTRESS and singer La Min Kabya has become famous among people, such as DJ Moon. She paid respect to her 75-year-old parents with millions of kyats that she earned during the Thingyan period. She also mentioned her income of K3 million for playing DJ for one hour and her passion for her career. She announced that she would release her own tune songs after two cover songs.



Nyi Nanda

ACTOR Nyi Nanda, who took Thaik Soe's character for the 'The Offspring' movie series, posted on his Facebook page expressing gratitude to his first mentors, Ko Thar Gyi, U Kyaw (Kyaw Hein) and his brother Byike, including Ko Kyaw Kyaw Oo and Ko Aung Ko Oo of Aung Thiri Film Production, director Mel Min Bon and other relevant participants of Mahar. He also stars as Hsenwi Saopha U Kaung Myat in the 'Ta Khotte Ta Ya' movie directed by director Wyne.



Thae Nu Wah

MYANMAR classical singer Thae Nu Wah will organize an event to honour the late musicians with Pianist Maung Hla Aye at the Melia Hotel at 4 pm on 10 May. With regard to the 'Lwan Khe Ya Tae Pone Yate Myar' event, she said it is not easy to organize an event. "I have to manage the processes and sell the tickets myself. I thank the fans from the countryside areas. The people can get ticket numbers by transferring money using KPay. Let's buy the ticket to enjoy the classical songs of the great artistes", she said. — Htun Htun/KTZH

WORLD

King Charles III to shortly return to 'public-facing duties' after cancer treatment

The King and Queen will visit a cancer treatment centre together next Tuesday to commemorate this milestone, where they will meet with medical specialists and patients.

THE British Royal Family announced on Friday that King Charles III will shortly return to public-facing duties after a period of treatment and recuperation following his recent cancer diagnosis.

The Royal Family took on X, and said, "His Majesty the King

will shortly return to public-facing duties after a period of treatment and recuperation following his recent cancer diagnosis."

The King and the Queen will make a joint visit to a cancer treatment centre next Tuesday to mark this milestone.

At the centre, they will also

meet medical specialists and patients.

Moreover, this visit will be the first of a number of external engagements King is about to undertake in the weeks ahead.

According to the post by the royal family, the King and Queen are expected to host the Emperor



King Charles III of the British Royal Family will soon resume public duties after treatment for cancer. He and the Queen will visit a cancer treatment centre next Tuesday. **PHOTO: ANI**

and Empress of Japan for a state visit in June.

"In addition, the King and Queen will host the Emperor and

Empress of Japan for a state visit in June, at the request of the HM Government," they stated.

— ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF: WORLD

Delta Airlines plane makes emergency return as exit slide of Boeing aircraft falls off mid flight

A Boeing 767 Delta Airlines plane was forced to make an emergency return to the John F Kennedy International Airport in New York City after its emergency exit slide fell off after take-off, reported US-based media outlet NPR citing the airline.

"After the aircraft had safely landed and proceeded to a gate, it was observed that the emergency slide had separated from the aircraft," a Delta spokesperson said in a statement to NPR Friday afternoon.

Delta Flight 520 from New York to Los Angeles "returned safely to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York around 8:35 a.m. local time on Friday, 26 April after the crew reported a vibration," the Federal Aviation Administration said. The plane spent roughly 33 minutes in the air, according to the FAA. — ANI

Massive fire burns forests in north India

A massive fire has broken out in the forests of India's northern hilly state of Uttarakhand, as people in the state's famous tourist destination Nainital faced breathing problems with dense smoke engulfing the residential areas.

The fire has been raging for more than 24 hours, and has destroyed over 33 hectares of forest land so far. Pine and oak trees form the majority of vegetation in these forests. Personnel of the Indian Navy and the Indian Army have been called in for fire-fighting.

Helicopters have been pressed into service to douse the flames. According to media reports, boating activities in the Naini Lake in Nainital have been suspended for tourists. — Xinhua

Yemen's Houthis claim responsibility for attacks on British oil tanker, US drone

YEMEN'S Houthi group said early Saturday that they had launched a missile attack and hit a British oil tanker in the Red Sea and shot down a US drone in northern Yemen.

"Our naval forces (on Friday) targeted a British oil ship, Andromeda Star, in the Red Sea with a number of appropriate naval missiles and hit it directly," Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea read a statement in the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV channel. — Xinhua

Hamas announces openness to any proposals for a permanent ceasefire

THE Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) announced on Friday its openness to any ideas or proposals for a permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

The movement said in a statement sent to Xinhua that Hamas is "open to any ideas or proposals that take into account the needs and rights of our people".

The statement proposed a permanent ceasefire, withdrawal of occupation forces from Gaza, and

unconditional or restricted return of displaced persons to their homes in Gaza and North Gaza governorates and across the Strip.

The statement emphasized accompanying measures such as reconstruction, ending the blockade, fulfilling humanitarian needs, and advancing a prisoner exchange agreement, all aligned with the realization of Palestinian national rights and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as

its capital.

It comes as Israeli public radio reported the arrival of Abbas Kamel, the head of the Egyptian intelligence leading an Egyptian security delegation to Israel as part of talks to resume the exchange deal with Hamas.

Israeli radio reported that Kamel will meet in Tel Aviv with the head of the Mossad, David Barnea, and the head of the National Security Council, Tzahi Hanegbi. — Xinhua



People march towards the Erez crossing to call for a permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, near the border with northern Gaza Strip, in Israel, on 26 April 2024. **PHOTO: TOMER NEUBERG/JINI VIA XINHUA**

ECONOMY WORLD



The conference focused on decarbonizing the maritime industry and addressing critical issues in inland water transport and shipbuilding. **PHOTO: PIB/ANI**

India reaffirms to take inland water transport share to 7% by 2047

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) held a two-day conference in Kochi to address the goal of increasing the share of Inland Water Transport (IWT) to 5% by 2030 and 7% by 2047 as part of the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

At a two-day conference in Kochi, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) reaffirmed its goal to boost the share of Inland Water Transport (IWT) to five per cent by 2030 and seven per cent by 2047, as outlined in Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

At present, the share is likely negligible.

The Ministry, along with Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Inland Waterways Author-

ity of India (IWAI) earlier this week organized a two-day conference in Kochi on 'Challenges and Prospective Solutions in Inland Waterways and Shipbuilding', bringing together various state departments, industry experts and stakeholders to delve into pressing issues within the maritime sector.

The conference, which featured four sessions, focused on the imperative of decarbonizing the maritime industry and

addressed critical challenges in inland water transport and shipbuilding. R Lakshmanan, Joint Secretary, MoPSW said "The two-day conference at Kochi successfully facilitated enriching discussions encompassing India's key priorities including Green Transition of Inland Waterways, establishment of a dedicated Sectoral Maritime Development Fund, promoting domestic shipbuilding, etc." — ANI

UAE participates in World Energy Congress

A high-level UAE delegation participated in the 26th edition of the World Energy Congress, held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Co-hosted by the World Energy Council and the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, the congress convened more than 7,000 international energy stakeholders, including 200 C-suite speakers and 70 min-

isters, to enable the highest levels of government-to-government dialogue that can drive the global energy transition agenda.

The high-level delegation included Sharif Al Olama, Undersecretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, and representatives of Abu Dhabi Department of Energy, Etihad Water

and Electricity, and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and BEEAH Group.

On the sidelines of the event, the UAE National Committee for the World Energy Council was awarded the "Driving Impact and Amplification" recognition for its exceptional efforts and positive impact on the energy landscape. — ANI

GLOBAL ECONOMY: BRIEFS

BOJ downplays weak yen impact, but keeps door open for rate hikes

BANK of Japan chief Kazuo Ueda on Friday played down the immediate impact of the yen's recent sharp decline on prices, calling it negligible, but said the central bank will raise interest rates again if inflation accelerates further.

The BOJ's new forecasts show Japan's inflation will likely be around its target of two per cent until the end of fiscal 2026, accompanied by a positive cycle of wage and price hikes.

The central bank decided earlier Friday to keep the monetary policy intact, and alongside Ueda's comments, weakened the yen further beyond the 156 line against the US dollar, its lowest since 1990. Its further fall fuelled fears of market intervention by Japanese authorities. — Kyodo

US economy slows as inflation still remains high

THE growth of US gross domestic product (GDP) slowed significantly in the first quarter amid stubborn inflation that shows no sign of abating.

The economy slowed more than analysts expected in the year's first quarter with decelerations in consumer spending, exports, and government spending.

GDP, the measure of all goods and services produced in the country, grew 1.6 per cent in the first quarter from the same period a year ago, according to data released by the Commerce Department on Thursday. — Xinhua

Microsoft expands its AI empire abroad

MICROSOFT, the tech titan most closely associated with AI, has announced nearly \$10 billion in investments in artificial intelligence abroad in recent months, the price it is willing to pay to remain a top player in this crucial market.

The overnight success of OpenAI's ChatGPT thrust generative AI as Silicon Valley's latest tech revolution, lifting Microsoft, OpenAI's main back-

er, to become the world's most valuable company.

Since then, the maker of Windows and its rival Google have been competing furiously, rolling out tools that produce text, images or lines of code on the basis of a simple query.

Meta and Amazon have followed suit, with their own increasingly sophisticated models and AI assistants. — AFP



The overnight success of OpenAI's ChatGPT thrust generative AI as Silicon Valley's latest tech revolution, lifting Microsoft, OpenAI's main backer, to become the world's most valuable company. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BMW, M'bishi Fuso to jointly tackle mechanic shortage in Japan

The programme, facilitated by the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan, aims to train mechanics in three years, shorter than the typical five-year duration to acquire necessary skills.



Photo shows a kick-off ceremony held on 4 April 2024, in Tokyo for a programme jointly introduced by BMW AG and Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp aimed at training auto mechanics in Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Japanese unit of Germany's BMW AG and Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp have launched a joint programme in April aimed at training auto mechanics in Japan as part of efforts to address a "se-

vere" labour shortage in the industry.

The programme, led by the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan, seeks to provide a platform to train a new generation of

mechanics in three years, shorter than the five years usually needed to acquire necessary skills.

Under the programme, which is based on Germany's dual vocational training system,

trainees will sign a contract with the automakers to spend over 70 per cent of the year for on-the-job training at their outlets or dealerships while attending schools in the remaining time. Trainees will receive financial assistance such as salary and tuition and are expected to be employed at the two automakers upon completion of the programme. They will also be given a German auto mechanic certificate, they said.

"A shortage of experts is bringing various social problems in both Japan and Germany and it's particularly severe in the auto industry," Lucas Witoslawski, deputy delegate of the chamber of commerce, told reporters at the German Embassy in Tokyo on 4 April. — Kyodo

Japan Airlines cancels flight as captain drunk at US hotel

JAPAN Airlines Co said Friday it recently cancelled a flight from Dallas to Tokyo after the 49-year-old captain engaged in disruptive behaviour while drunk at his hotel in the US city and received a warning from local police. The airline said it decided to cancel Flight 11 to Tokyo's Haneda airport on Wednesday as it needed to check his physical and mental status, but could not find an alternate pilot for the 11:05 am departure. JAL helped 157 passengers transfer to other flights. — Kyodo

Olympic deal shows bubbling market for zero-alcohol beers

FOR the first time this summer, as sportswomen and men strive for victory in Paris, spectators will be able to sip the official beer of an Olympic Games. But the tinkle won't go to their heads: it will be the alcohol-free version of the popular Mexican brand Corona. The breakthrough sponsorship deal, inked by Belgian-Brazilian beer giant AB InBev, is just the latest sign of the fizzing market for zero-alcohol brews. "All brewers are moving towards alcohol-free or low-alcohol beverages," Krishan Maudgal, director of the



Zero-alcohol beer is a small but growing segment of the beverage market — with the Olympic link aiming to boost uptake. **PHOTO: AFP**

Belgian Brewers Association, told AFP. That's the case even in Belgium, where the centuries-old brewing heritage is recognized by UNESCO and the alcohol percentage in beers made by Trap-

pist monks can reach double digits. "Twenty or 30 years ago it was more a case of increasing the alcohol content, but now we've reversed the trend and are lowering it," Maudgal said. — AFP

BIZ NEWS: BRIEFS

China's sci-fi industry sees 29.1% revenue growth in 2023

THE total revenue of China's science fiction industry in 2023 stood at 113.29 billion yuan (15.94 billion US dollars), a 29.1-per-cent growth year on year, according to a report released Saturday.

It marked the first time the annual revenue of the industry hit the 100-billion-yuan mark, said the report published at the ongoing eighth China Science Fiction Convention. — Xinhua

ADDED reveals investment opportunities in transportation industries

THE Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED) has issued a new guide outlining investment opportunities with high growth potential in Abu Dhabi's transport industries.

Released as part of the Abu Dhabi Channel Partners programme, the guide allows domestic and international players to invest in a sector projected to reach a combined market size of AED11.04 billion (US\$ 3 billion) by 2027. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (414W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (414W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/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 MAERSK A/S.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2406S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2406S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Iraqi authorities launch investigation into attack on gas field

The Joint Operations Command has established a technical investigation commission to examine the drone sabotage attack at the Khor Mor gas field in Sulaymaniyah province.



Khor Mor gas field in Iraq's Kurdistan region. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE Iraqi authorities have created a commission to investigate a drone attack on the Khor Mor gas field in Iraqi Kurdistan, which killed two people on Friday evening, according to a statement from the Iraqi security forces obtained by Sputnik.

“Based on instructions of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the Joint Operations Command has formed a technical investigation commission to clarify the circumstances of the sabotage attack carried out by a drone on the Khor Mor gas field in Sulaymaniyah province, which resulted in the

death of two people,” the statement said.

The Iraqi authorities threatened “fair punishment for those responsible for the attack, who are trying to harm the national economy”.

The Iraqi news agency INA reported that the attack on the gas field in northern Iraq did not affect gas production operations.

Earlier, the Rudaw broadcaster reported citing regional authorities that four people had been killed as a result of a drone attack on Khor Mor. — SPUTNIK

Paris students end Gaza war protests after street fight

STUDENTS at one of France's most prestigious universities on Friday called off protests over the Gaza war after street scuffles between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli groups.

Administrators at the

Institute of Political Studies, or Sciences Po, university in Paris acted to douse mounting tensions at the Paris establishment as demonstrations spread across American universities over the impact of the Gaza war.

Pro-Palestinian students have staged several days of sit-ins and protests at the 150-year-old university. Some blocked entrances to the university and tents were set up at the central courtyard for a protest camp. — AFP

North African countries expel Western military presence

CHAD, Niger, and other countries throughout the continent are increasingly questioning and rejecting the influence of Europe and the United States. A wave of anti-imperialist sentiment is spreading across Africa as countries across the continent reject Western influence.

The latest indication of the trend came Thursday when US officials revealed the country would withdraw troops stationed in the northern African country of Chad. The transitional government there had called for the United States to end its military presence in the nation

for some time, although US officials attempted to maintain troops there under the pretense of counterterrorism cooperation. The Biden administration finally agreed to comply with the country's request, hoping to revisit the issue after the country's upcoming presidential elections early next month.

This week also brought news that the United States would be pulling troops out of the neighbouring country of Niger, weeks after the government there had made similar requests. The US was thought to be even more reluctant to draw down there given the country has invested significant amounts of resources towards military and surveillance installations in Niger. — SPUTNIK



French soldiers at Niamey, Niger base, on 9 June 2021. PHOTO: JEROME DELAY/AFP/FILE

THE WORLD IN BRIEF

China adopts academic degrees law

CHINESE lawmakers on Friday voted to adopt a law on academic degrees to optimize the awarding of such degrees.

The law, which was passed at a session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the national legislature, will take effect on 1 January 2025. The law, consisting of seven chapters, stipulates the qualifications, conditions, and procedures for conferring academic degrees, including bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees. The new legislation also clarifies the circumstances of rejecting or revoking academic degrees, including the malpractice of ghostwriting, plagiarism, and counterfeiting, and such offences as grabbing enrolment in others' names and obtaining graduation certificates illegally. — Xinhua

10 killed in fire at Brazil hotel turned homeless shelter

AT least 10 people were killed Friday in a fire that broke out in a defunct hotel being used as a makeshift homeless shelter in the city of Porto Alegre in southern Brazil, officials said. Health authorities said at least 13 others were injured in the fire and taken to local hospitals, several in critical condition. The shelter did not have an operating permit or fire prevention plan, said the fire department for Rio Grande do Sul state, whose capital is Porto Alegre. — AFP

Turkish president, Dutch PM discuss NATO chief candidacy

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and visiting Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte discussed Rutte's candidacy for the position of Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) during a meeting in Istanbul on Friday. Following the meeting at the Vahdettin Mansion on the Asian side of the city, Erdogan and Rutte held a joint press conference. “No one should doubt that we will make our decision within the framework of strategic wisdom and fairness,” Erdogan told reporters, adding that he shared with Rutte what kind of qualities Türkiye would like to see in the new NATO secretary-general. — Xinhua

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Leicester City promoted to Premier League as Leeds suffer defeat against QPR

LEICESTER City were promoted to the Premier League (PL) after missing the top flight of English football for a year. The Foxes climbed to the top tier after Leeds United faced a 4-0 defeat against Queens Park Rangers (QPR) in the Championship.

QPR's Ilias Chair, Lucas Anderson, Lyndon Dykes, and Sam Field scored to beat Leeds on Saturday, which gave an advantage to Leicester.

Leeds stand in second place on the Championship standings with 90 points after winning 27 of 45 games. While Leicester hold the top berth on the table with 94 points after winning 30 of 44 games. The two teams have a four points difference which gave an advantage to the 2015-16 PL winner.

Currently, Leicester are in great form as they have clinched three wins in their previous five games. In their upcoming match, Enzo Maresca's men will play against Preston. — ANI

Colombia, Bolivia to meet in Copa America warmup

COLOMBIA and Bolivia will play a friendly in June as they finalize preparations for this year's Copa America in the United States, the Colombian football federation (FCF) said on Friday.

The match will be played at the Pratt and Whitney stadium in East Hartford, Connecticut, on 15 June, according to an FCF statement.

The Copa America, the world's oldest international continental football tournament, will play in 14 host cities from 20 June to 14 July. Colombia will begin their campaign against Paraguay on 24 June before also facing Costa Rica and Brazil in Group D. — Xinhua

Hanthawady holds onto victory, Dagon Star's winning streak ends

HANTHAWADY United retained the triumph after the Group C match of the Myanmar National League Cup 2024, while Dagon Star stopped their winning streak in the national league held on 27 April.

Hanthawady secured their big win over Silver Star FC 6-0 at the Thuwunna Stadium. Hanthawady ended their two-game losing streak and regained a win, while top-ranked Dagon Star also lost a win, reviving their hopes of advancing to the next round.

Silver Star FC was unable to compete with Myanmar National League's top club, Hanthawady and lost both rounds.

Hanthawady FC came out with a full complement of strong players to find their way back to victory, while Silver Star FC also used multiple men. Hanthawady FC won by half a dozen goals but managed to score five goals after 70 minutes.

Aung Moe Htwe opened the scoring in 13 minutes but struggled to score again after that and scored another goal in 70 minutes. Than Toe Aung scored more winning goals for Hanthawady FC in 70 minutes, Kaung Htet Aung in 72 minutes, Aung Moe Htwe in 84 minutes, Zwe Marn Thar in 86 minutes and Nay Moe Naing in 90 +3 minutes.

In the match held at The University Sports Complex, the Dagon Star United



Hanthawady United team player vies for the ball with Silver Star FC player during the Myanmar National League Cup match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 27 April 2024. PHOTO: MNL

team and the Dagon Port team drew one goal each. Having won all four games in the first round, Dagon Star, who led the group, pulled in the opening match of the second round, so they will continue to struggle in the next three games to progress to the next round.

Mogu scored the icebreaker for Dagon Port in 38 minutes, while Zaw Ye Tun scored

the equalizer for Dagon Star in 73 minutes.

In Group C, Dagon Star has collected 13 points in five matches, while Hanthawady garnered nine points in five games. Meanwhile, Ayeyawady United secured nine points in four matches, and Dagon Port earned five points in four games. The Silver Star FC had no points in five matches. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Madrid Open: Andrey Rublev outclasses Facundo Bagnis, seals spot in third round



Andrey Rublev, ranked World No 8, ended a four-match losing streak by defeating Argentine Facundo Bagnis in the ongoing Madrid Open. PHOTO: ANI

THE World No 8 Andrey Rublev barked a four-match losing streak on Friday as he got the better of Argentine Facundo Bagnis to reach the third round of the ongoing Madrid Open.

Rublev outclassed 6-1, 6-4 Bagnis to reach the third round in Madrid for the fourth consecutive year after one hour and 30 minutes clash.

"It feels really great after a while to start with a win

and I'm happy with my performance. I think I played a good match, for the first round especially being in completely different conditions compared to other tournaments, and I played a good level," Rublev said as quoted by ATP. The 26-year-old will aim for his victory against Bagnis can kickstart his season on a high note. The seventh seed will meet Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in the third round after the home hope deflated NextGenATP Chinese star Shang Juncheng 7-5, 6-3.

"This week I started to feel that I'm more relaxed. I was practising well and the mood was different since I arrived here. That's why I had the feeling I should win one match at least," said Rublev. — ANI

Palestinian athletes to be invited to Paris Olympics: Bach to AFP

BETWEEN six and eight Palestinian athletes are expected to compete at the Paris Olympics, with some set to be invited by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) even if they fail to qualify, its head Thomas Bach said.

Bach told AFP on Friday that qualification events for the Paris Games, which start on 26 July, were ongoing for a number of sports. "But we have made the clear commitment that even if no (Palestinian) athlete would qualify on the field of play ... then the NOC (National Olympic Committee) of Palestine would benefit from invitations, like other national Olympic Committees who do not have a qualified athlete," he said in an interview at IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. He said he expected the Palestinian delegation to number "six to eight". — AFP

Foreign filmmakers to shoot documentaries in China's Chongqing

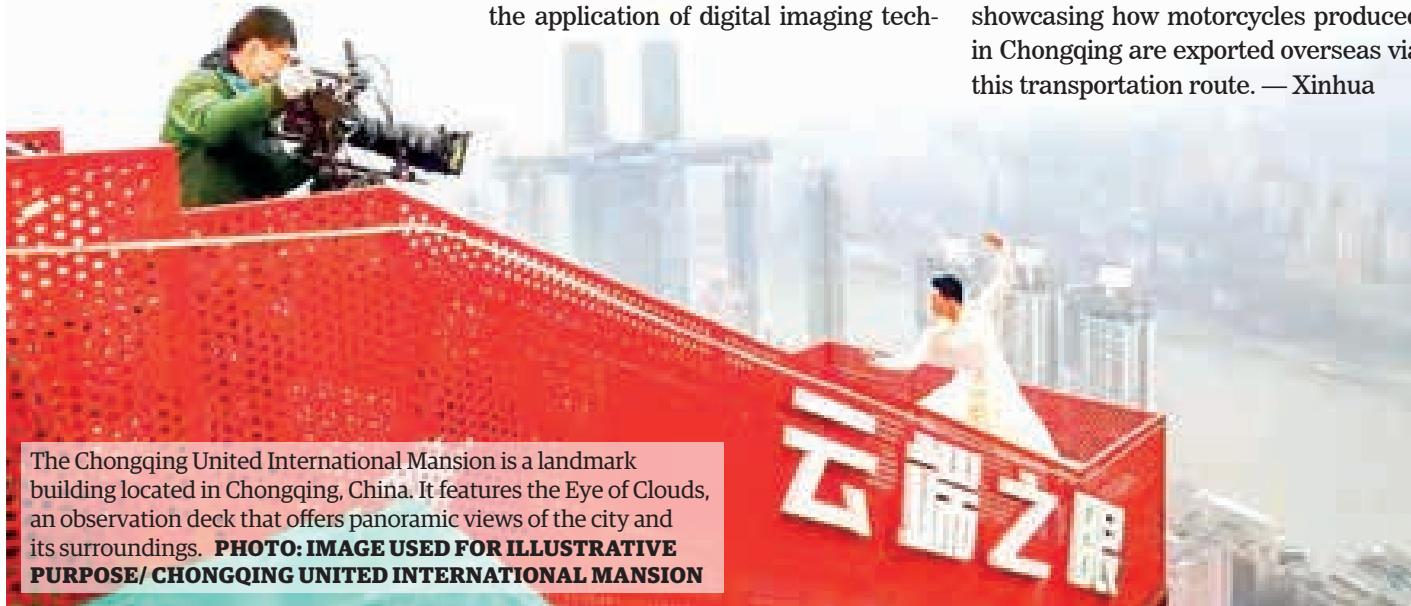
This year's Looking China annual youth film project was launched on Friday in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, with 10 foreign filmmakers invited to film the food and scenic spots of the region.

The young filmmakers, who are from Greece and Russia, will visit several districts and counties in Chongqing. They will create documentary films from 27 April to 2 May, using their perspectives to tell stories in and about China.

Ten foreign filmmakers from Greece and Russia are participating in this year's Looking China youth film project in Chongqing. They will explore the region's food and scenic spots, creating documentary films from 27 April to 2 May.

Anastasiia Manaeva from Russia will go to the Dazu Rock Carvings, a world cultural heritage site, to film the story of how restoration of cultural relics and the application of digital imaging tech-

nology help preserve the exquisite rock carvings there. Antonios Kordatos, who is from Greece, will focus on the New International Land-sea Trade Corridor, showcasing how motorcycles produced in Chongqing are exported overseas via this transportation route. — Xinhua



The Chongqing United International Mansion is a landmark building located in Chongqing, China. It features the Eye of Clouds, an observation deck that offers panoramic views of the city and its surroundings. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/ CHONGQING UNITED INTERNATIONAL MANSION**



Alejandra Rodríguez. **PHOTO: CHRISTIAN SUZUKI/X/ANI**

Alejandra Rodríguez makes history as the first 60-year-old Miss Universe Buenos Aires

ALEJANDRA RODRIGUEZ, a 60-year-old lawyer and journalist hailing from La Plata, Argentina, has etched her name in history by clinching the coveted title of Miss Universe Buenos Aires.

This remarkable feat marks a paradigm shift in the realm of beauty pageants, as Rodríguez becomes the first contestant of her age bracket to secure the esteemed crown, reported People magazine.

Defying conventional beauty norms, Rodríguez emerged triumphant among 34 competitors spanning a wide age range from 18 to 73.

Her victory not only symbolizes personal accomplishment but also embodies a broader message of inclusivity and diversity within the beauty pageant circuit.

"I am thrilled to be representing this new paradigm in beauty pageants because we are inaugurating a new stage in which women are not only physical beauty but another set of values," Rodríguez said, according to a statement obtained by People magazine.

Her win underscores a shift towards recognizing and celebrating a broader spectrum of attributes beyond physical appearance.

With her sights set on the forthcoming Miss Universe Argentina pageant scheduled for 25 May, Rodríguez remains undeterred in her pursuit of further accolades. — ANI

Golden Week holidays start amid post-COVID tourism boom, weak yen

JAPAN'S Golden Week holidays started Saturday, with train stations and airports across the country crowded with tourists amid easing fears of COVID-19, while the yen's sharp fall against other currencies has made overseas travel more expensive.

"I'm going on a graduation trip that I couldn't make due to the coronavirus pandemic. I want to enjoy a night safari," Rika Uechi, 26, said at Tokyo's Haneda airport before leaving for Singapore with a friend from university.

In the airport's Terminal 2, tourists flooded the international departures hall, which resumed operation in July last year after being shut for more than three years due to the pandemic.

A woman who works in Japan and was returning to Taiwan said, "I'm worried that the cost of souvenirs will be higher (due to the weak yen) when I return to Japan. I've prepared more money than usual." — KYODO

Tokyo's Haneda airport witnessed a surge in tourists, particularly in Terminal 2, which reopened last July after a three-year closure due to the pandemic.



Tokyo's Haneda airport is congested on 27 April 2024, as Japan's springtime holiday period starts. **PHOTO: KYODO**