

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Establishment of school and community libraries helps produce well-versed youths



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the display of books and publications at the book donation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to establish school libraries and community libraries for the emergence of well-versed youths.

A ceremony to donate books and publications to libraries of Myanmar Libraries Foundation and military headquarters, regiments, and units across the nation took place at the Na-

tional Library in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

In his speech, the Senior General said that his family would donate 1,500 copies each of Luhtu Theinpan (Public Science Treatises) in three volumes, totalling 4,500 copies — 3,000 to librar-

ies of Myanmar Libraries Foundation and 1,500 copies to libraries of military headquarters, regiments and units. If the fourth and fifth volumes of such treatises have been published, the Senior General said his families will donate them to libraries.

The Senior General continued to say that the government creates learn-

ing opportunities for all school-age children to have free education at the basic education level, aiming to produce educated youths, enable all school-age children to attend school, minimize untimely dropout of students for various reasons and increase changing up of student grades.

Currently, the Senior General disclosed that some three million people are graduates among more than 56 million people. Statistics show that 70 per cent of the 25.17 million population above 25 years old have completed middle school education, and 13 per cent of graduates are technological and vocational diploma holders across the nation. As most of the students drop out of school at the end of primary education, he noted that the government is implementing the KG+9 educational scheme.

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Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the book donation ceremony

- The government creates learning opportunities for all school-age children to have free education at the basic education level.
- As most of the students drop out of school at the end of primary education, the government is implementing the KG+9 educational scheme.
- The Ministry of Information takes responsibility for operating 410 libraries at district and township levels, with more than 3,500 libraries for local organizations, individuals and people.

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Groundnut fetches good price in Mandalay market due to demand from foreign countries

NATIONAL

YCDC initiates rainwater harvesting project to combat water shortages



The Maha Bandoola Park is allocated for the initial water reserve construction project.

TO ensure the city's water sufficiency, the Yangon City Development Committee plans to establish water reserve zones within the municipal area for constructing rainwater harvesting ponds.

As an initial project, these ponds will be constructed in Maha Bandoola Park, located in Kyauktada Township, along with other green plains, as announced by the committee's hydrologist Dr Zaw Win.

The committee has completed a feasibility survey for building rainwater storage facilities. With public cooperation, the collected rainwater will help replenish depleting

underground water reserves, prevent saltwater contamination, and mitigate the risk of collapses in underground water layers.

Dr Zaw Win explained, "Our approach draws inspiration from the artificial water recharge system used in India. Residents will construct small underground storage units in their yards to collect rainwater. The water, excluding sewage, along with rainwater, will be directed through a pipeline measuring three inches in diameter and 10 feet in length, ultimately reaching the underground storage. This method will effectively

replenish the underground water levels, reducing the risk of collapses for tube well users".

As Yangon experiences rapid population growth, much of its green spaces, spread across 790 square kilometres spanning 33 townships, are being lost to concrete buildings and streets. This trend contributes to the decline in underground water levels.

The initiative will begin in Maha Bandoola Park starting from this year's rainy season and gradually extend to other areas that previously housed defunct tube wells. — ASH/NT



Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung seen explaining the practices of Buddhism in Myanmar at the 2nd Great Shravasti Buddhist Cultural Assembly in India.

Myanmar attended 2nd Great Shravasti Buddhist Cultural Assembly in India

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the 2nd Great Shravasti Buddhist Cultural Assembly was held in Shravasti, Uttar Pradesh, India, from 30 to 31 March, with Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung in attendance as the guest of honour.

During the event organized by the Lord Buddha Welfare Foundation Bharat in India, the Myanmar ambassador to India participated in lighting oil lamps at a recitation of the Maha Pathana Treatise in Jetavana Temple.

Next, the Myanmar Ambassador, along with monks, nuns, and other attendees, planted Bodhi banyan trees (*Ficus religiosa*) and sal trees (*Shorea robusta*) in Dhamma Sthali village, where a replica of the Ashoka Pillar is planned to be erected.

At the ceremony, Ven Pal-

lengama Hemarathana Nayaka Thero, chairman of Sri Lanka's Sangha Patrons' Association, and other monks preached about the benefits of growing the Bodhi tree and related teachings of Buddha.

The Myanmar ambassador explained the practices of Buddhism in Myanmar, including the emergence of Tipitakadhara and Tipitakakovida, religious figures who are able to memorize the Tripitaka, or Buddhist canon, orally and understand its concepts thoroughly.

A total of 150 monks and nuns from Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Nepal, Viet Nam, Tibet, and South Africa, including Myanmar monks residing in India, attended the ceremony. During the event, students from the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies performed Tibetan cultural dances. — ASH/TH

YGH prepares for Thingyan Festival emergency treatments

SPECIALIST Dr Cho Zin Phoo, from the emergency ward of Yangon General Hospital (YGH), has stated that the hospital has bolstered its medical staff and replenished medical supplies in preparation for providing emergency treatments during the Thingyan Festival.

The emergency ward undertakes these preparations annually during the Thingyan Festival to ensure emergency treatments for accidents and to continue offering regular

healthcare services to the public.

"YGH typically plans as the Water Festival approaches to offer medical treatment for accident injuries and emergency healthcare during the festivities. This planning involves scheduling additional shifts for medical staff and stocking the necessary medicines and drugs for treating the injured. Furthermore, since private clinics are closed during the Thingyan Festival, we also prepare for patients with regular illnesses, in-

cluding providing accommodation for them," explained Dr Cho Zin Phoo.

Additionally, as the Water Festival coincides with a period of very high temperatures, the Ministry of Health advises the public to seek shade under trees, in parks, pandals, and well-sheltered buildings from 11 am to 4 pm to avoid harmful ultraviolet rays. Furthermore, they recommend controlling alcohol consumption, as high alcohol levels in the body can be dangerous. — ASH/TMT



The photo shows the Yangon General Hospital.

NATIONAL

Establishment of school and community libraries helps produce well-versed youths

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Now, he underlined that a plan is implemented for students to learn industrial, agriculture and livestock education at 51 basic education high schools in 50 districts in the 2023-24 academic year, with a plan for the establishment of 34 more schools in 2024-25 AY.

Currently, the Senior General highlighted that the Ministry of Information takes responsibility for operating 410 libraries at district and township levels. On the other hand, local organizations, individuals and people operate more than 3,500 libraries.

The Senior General and his

wife presented 3,000 copies of Luhtu Theikpan (Public Science Treatises) Volume I, II and III to Myanmar Libraries Foundation Patron U Kyaw Hsan and Chairman U Nyunt Swe and 1,500 copies of the same treatises for libraries of regiments and units to Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo.

Foundation Patron U Kyaw Hsan explained the establishment of the libraries.

The Senior General and his wife, together with attendees, watched a video clip on “general topics of literature”.

The Senior General and his wife viewed books and publications, and documentary photos

were displayed at the ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and wife, Council members General Mya Tun Oo and wife, Admiral Tin Aung San and wife, Dr Hmu Thang, Dr Ba Shwe and U Yan Kyaw and dignitaries. — MNA/TTA

Fulfilling needs of Tatmadaw members under correct leadership and fair administration to forge military unity



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win salutes the passing out parade of the 127th Intake at the Tatmadaw Officer Training School (Bahtoo) yesterday.

VICE-SENIOR General Soe Win called for emphasizing military unity by fulfilling the needs of Tatmadaw members under correct leadership and fair administration.

On behalf of Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu

Soe Win delivered an address at the passing out parade of the 127th Intake of Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) at its parade ground yesterday morning.

At the parade, the Vice-Senior General presented the silver sword award to Best Cadet Award winner Cadet Paing Hein Thu.

Speaking on the occasion, on behalf of the Senior General, the Vice-Senior General said that those who joined the Tatmadaw of their own accord with the spirit of defending the State have to build themselves to be strengthened while taking train-

ing for improvement of combat power and combat capability.

He pointed out that cadets have learnt military tactics, leadership, office staff, adjutant, quartermaster, military engineering, computer science, and other subjects during the training course, urging them to continue learning military arts and tactics. Moreover, they have to seek experiences from senior officers to improve their capacity.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need for all to strictly follow the Rule of Engagement-ROE in serving military duties as well as military

laws in addition to civil laws.

Currently, he noted that some foreign countries and internal and external terrorists attempt to disintegrate military unity with the use of various ways and means by utilizing media as a tool.

Only when people and Tatmadaw are in oneness will people's military service strategies be implemented, he noted.

The Vice-Senior General unveiled that Tatmadaw invites all to talk about durable peace transparently and continuously holds talks with ethnic armed organizations to legally demand their aspirations through NCA

and Hluttaw routes, urging all to participate in the restoration of a durable peace process.

The Vice-Senior General also met with outstanding award winner cadets at the hall of the Villa.

Also present at the parade were Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General, Chief Minister of Shan State Zeya Kyaw Htin U Aung Aung and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Eastern Command and wife, officials, instructors, parents and relatives of cadets and guests. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General oversees agricultural, livestock activities at Bahtoo Station

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by officials, visited the Animal Husbandry and Training Battalion yesterday. They inspected seasonal and substitution crop breeding programmes for various livestock, including laying hens, dairy cattle, meat cattle and pig farms, providing necessary guidance based on

briefings from officials.

The inspection also covered the production and distribution of pure seeds for various crops, as well as the utilization of organic compost from animal dung. Discussions revolved around the process of pig breeding, emphasizing the benefits of artificial insemination for improved productivity.

In addition, the Vice-Senior General examined collective agriculture land at the Tatmadaw Combat Training



Vice-Senior General Soe Win views round the display at the Bahtoo Station yesterday.

School in Bahtoo, identifying new farmland and observing planting activities for summer

crops such as paddy, potato, and soybean. Collaborative efforts were discussed to support

agricultural initiatives in the region. — MNA/TS

Graduation dinner of Thiha Company of 127th Intake held at Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo)



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services C-in-C (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win greets graduate officers at yesterday's dinner.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, on behalf of State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, attended the graduation dinner of the

Thiha Company of the 127th Intake of Officer Training Course of Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) held at the Military Appointments Hall of the OTS yesterday.

First, the Vice-Senior General and party cordially greeted graduate officers and then had dinner together.

After the dinner, the

Vice-Senior General and the party enjoyed the music of the military band of the OTS (Bahtoo) and presented cash prizes to the band players. Then, they also enjoyed the entertainment of the Mobile Relations Unit under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare with graduate officers. — MNA/KTZH

Cadets from 127th Intake commissioned at Defence Services Officers Training School

THE commissioning ceremony for the cadets from the 127th Intake of Officer Training School took place at the Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo) on the morning of 3 April.

Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Lin Aung, Deputy Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant, Commandant Brig-Gen Zaw

Myo Win, graduating cadets, their parents, relatives, and instructors attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, the Military Appointment-General presented the officer commissioning certificates to each graduating cadet and delivered a speech, marking the conclusion of the event. — MNA/TKO



One of the graduating cadets seen receiving the officer-commissioning certificate yesterday.

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Soe Win encourages patients at military hospital in Bahtoo

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by officials, visited the military hospital in Bahtoo Station to comfort and

encourage hospitalized Tatmadaw members, their families, as well as members of the Myanmar Police force, local militia, and residents. Upon arrival, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife, along with senior military officers, were warmly

welcomed by the hospital commandant and officials.

In the meeting hall, the Vice-Senior General addressed the healthcare conditions and needs of the residents, providing necessary instructions and assistance. Subsequently, he

visited the hospital's wards, inquiring about individual health conditions and distributing essential supplies to patients.

Meanwhile, Daw Than Than Nwe, the wife of the Vice-Senior General, and accompanying members visited the maternal and child care ward, offering words of encouragement and additional provisions.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife toured the hospital, acknowl-

edging the dedication of healthcare staff through awards and contributing cash donations to support the facility's operations.

Concluding their visit, Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected local battalions and units in Bahtoo Station, engaging with families, extending cordial greetings, and providing financial aid and food supplies to support the troops and their families. — MNA/TS



Vice-Senior General Soe Win seen giving words of encouragement to the patient at the military hospital in the Bahtoo Station.



The Vice-Senior General presents cash assistance to families of Tatmadaw members yesterday.

MIC approves 6 new projects: EV assembly, power generation included

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) permitted six new investment projects during the 4/2024 meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications and MIC Chairman General Mya Tun Oo and members of the commission attended the meeting.

The six investment projects are in the sectors of industry, hotel and tourism, and electricity, including expansion of the initial capital of ongoing projects. The overall investments amounted to US\$33.911 million and K545,500 million, thus creating 1,349 job opportunities.

The greenlit projects includ-

ed the assembly and production of electric vehicles, power generation under Myanmar citizens' investment and tourism sector.

Out of 53 countries that make investments in Myanmar until the end of March 2024, Singapore, China and Thailand are the most prominent investors in the country.

Among the 12 business sectors, they invest in electricity, with 28.48 per cent of total investment, while 24.44 per cent is in oil and natural gas, and 14.43 per cent is in the manufacturing sector.

The MIC reviews the investment proposals of local and foreign investors to permit and offer services to the current investors in accordance with the Myanmar Investment Law. — MNA/KTZH



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Transport & Communications Minister General Mya Tun Oo presides over the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting 4/2024 yesterday.

NATIONAL

DPM Union MoFA Minister accepts Letter of Consular Commission of South Africa

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, accepted the Letter of Consular Commission from U Myint Htay, newly-accredited Honorary Consul of the Government

of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and presented him the exequatur at the office of the Union Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 3 pm on 3 April 2024. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe meets U Myint Htay, newly-accredited Honorary Consul of South Africa to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoI hosts meeting on youth development, outstanding student gathering



The gathering of excellent students and youth development meeting in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE gathering of excellent students and youth development meeting took place at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan and other relevant Union ministers attended the meeting.

U Maung Maung Ohn announced that the Head of State would meet outstanding individuals from across the nation at the International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw on 26

April. This event will feature a variety of exhibitions and entertainment programmes.

Highlighting his ministry's commitment to youth development under the guidance of the Central Committee for Youth Affairs, he urged other ministers to present topics that would capture the interest of the youth.

Subsequently, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe pledged to organize knowledge-sharing exhibitions, providing visitors with insights into the country's notable landmarks all in one place.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein

Zan also mentioned that his ministry would showcase the biographies of the country's renowned athletes, offering the youth the chance to admire them as role models.

Various other Union ministers contributed ideas for the event's exhibitions. Anticipated displays include historical photographs, efforts towards peace building, the unity of ethnic nationalities, stories of former outstanding students now serving as civil servants, interactive talk forums, Myanmar's rich traditions, and initiatives for environmental conservation. — MNA/NT

MoC Deputy Minister receives CPC Dehong Dai and Jingpo Prefectural Committee Secretary

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Win Pe received a delegation led by Mr Jiang Shan, Secretary of CPC Dehong Dai and Jingpo Prefectural Committee of Yunnan Province, at the ministry meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

morning.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of common interest of Dehong Dai and Myanmar to promote friendly cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, and transport. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister for Construction U Win Pe discusses with a delegation led by CPC Dehong Dai and Jingpo Prefectural Committee Secretary Mr Jiang Shan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.
2. The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).
3. According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption
Answer "1111" to improve services

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.

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, fuel oil, industrial materials and vehicles

DURING inspections on 2 April, joint teams supervised by the Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force apprehended three Yangtze trucks (approximately valued at K150 million) carrying 36,820 kilogrammes of ammonium nitrate, valued at K36.82 million, without official documents near Kyakyikwin village in Mohnyin township. They also intercepted three Yinxing 125 motorbikes worth K380 million and two vehicles (approximately valued at K160 million) carrying 40,000 kilogrammes of ammonium nitrate worth K40 million near Pinbaw village in Mohnyin township.

These actions were conducted under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

On the same day, an unregistered Lexus car and an unreg-

istered X-trail truck (estimated value of K38 million) were seized near the Moekaung-Myitkyina Pyidaungsu road under the Export and Import Law.

Additionally, a total of 2.023 tonnes of illegal teak and 2.514 tonnes of illegal hardwood, worth K1.324 million, were confiscated in Mindon township under the

Forest Law.

On the same day, the combined team seized an unregistered Toyota Mark X car (approximately valued at K3.5 million) in Shwepyitha township and a Dongfeng bowser (estimated value of K40 million) carrying 800 gallons of illegal diesel worth K9 million at the Myitnge combined checkpoint. These actions were taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that eight arrests were made on 2 April, with an estimated value of K479 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal ammonium nitrate and vehicles in Kachin State.

K1.932 bln worth of 138 heroin blocks seized in Kyaikto

THE Myanmar Police Force has reported the seizure of 138 blocks of heroin, weighing

48.3 kilogrammes and valued at K1.932 billion, in Kyaikto Township of Mon State.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising members of the security forces intercepted and searched a Super Custom HiAce car travelling from Yeni to Mawlamyine. The vehicle, driven by Lin Lin Phyto, was stopped near Ma-yanchaung village in Kyaikto township at 3 pm on 30 March.

The police confiscated 138 blocks of heroin, weighing 48.3 kilogrammes and valued at K1.932 billion, from the vehicle.

Legal action has been initiated against the offender, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend other individuals involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS



An arrestee is seen along with seized blocks of heroin and a vehicle.

Counter-argument to false information

False claims of underage military conscription circulate, authorities clarify

THE subversive media outlet Khit Thit is spreading false information claiming that a 15-year-old boy named Maung Poe Chit from Ayechanthar model village in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, was arrested by security forces to compel him into military service.

An officer from the Committee for Summoning People's Military Servants clarified that this news was untrue. Furthermore, Section 2 (b) of Chapter 1 of the People's Military Service Law states that a person of military service age is defined as a male citizen who is between 18 and 35 years old. Therefore, the arrest of 15-year-old Maung Poe Chit from Ayechanthar model village for forced conscription is simply false news.

Since the implementation of the People's Military Service Law, subversive media outlets have been spreading fake news to disturb the peace and mislead the public with propaganda. For accurate information about the People's Military Service Law, the public can visit <https://mod.gov.mm/node/74>. — MNA/TMT



The screenshot validates misinformation.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



OPINION

Expand sown acreage of cotton to ensure local sufficiency

THE government is intensifying its efforts to promote the cultivation of cotton, an industrial crop vital for the burgeoning micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in natural thread production. These endeavours aim to ensure local self-sufficiency and cater to export demands.

In the upcoming 2024-25 financial year, cotton cultivation will be expanded across 19 zones in six regions and states, targeting 612,712 acres of cotton plantations. This initiative reflects a strategic plan to annually increase the sown acreage dedicated to boosting cotton cultivation, with a goal of reaching 747,000 acres by the 2027-28 financial year, yielding 700 visses of cotton per acre.

Magway Region, in particular, plans to allocate over 260,000 acres of croplands across four zones for cotton cultivation. Local farmers are encouraged to seek support from relevant agriculture departments to ensure the success of their cultivation endeavours. Emphasizing adherence to seed laws and selecting high-quality crop strains, farmers aim to surpass targeted acreage and achieve high yields of cotton wool.

Actually, the government's efforts to expand cotton cultivation aim to bolster local industries, ensure self-sufficiency, and meet export demands. Through strategic planning, support for farmers, and utilization of quality inputs, Myanmar endeavours to enhance its position in cotton production, thereby fostering economic growth and meeting the textile needs of its people.

Magway Region witnessed the cultivation of 172,793 acres of long and short staple cotton strains in the 2022-23 financial year, increasing to 217,416 acres in 2023-24 FY. For the 2024-25 financial year, authorities have designated four cotton cultivation zones, aiming for 266,800 acres. Plans are in place to expand this to 350,000 acres by FY 2026-27, with a focus on utilizing quality inputs to maximize yields.

Agricultural department staff members in relevant townships and districts, as well as regional and state departments, are tasked with mobilizing and supporting local growers to accelerate cotton cultivation across available croplands, ensuring production meets or exceeds targeted volumes. Successful cultivation will result in the production of raw cotton, which is ready for processing into threads for various industries.

The central regions of Myanmar, blessed with favourable weather conditions, provide an ideal environment for cotton cultivation. Despite harsh conditions in other areas, cotton crops in central Myanmar thrive in hot and dry climates. Increasing the acreage dedicated to cotton cultivation directly contributes to the sufficiency of clothing and textiles for the populace.

Actually, the government's efforts to expand cotton cultivation aim to bolster local industries, ensure self-sufficiency, and meet export demands. Through strategic planning, support for farmers, and utilization of quality inputs, Myanmar endeavours to enhance its position in cotton production, thereby fostering economic growth and meeting the textile needs of its people.

According to a recent pilot study conducted by doctors at Stanford Medicine, a ketogenic diet helps these individuals' mental health in addition to restoring their metabolic health while they continue their drug regimen. The findings, which were released in Psychiatry Research, indicate that nutritional interventions can be quite effective in addressing mental health conditions.

Usual standard of care

"It's very promising and very encouraging that you can take back control of your illness in some way, aside from the usual standard

of care," said Shebani Sethi, MD, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and the first author of the new paper.

The senior author of the paper is Laura Saslow, PhD, associate professor of health behavior and biological sciences at the University of Michigan. Sethi, who is board certified in obesity and psychiatry, remembers when she first noticed the connection. As a medical student working in an obesity clinic, she saw a patient with treatment-resistant schizophrenia

whose auditory hallucinations ceased on a ketogenic diet.

That prompted her to dig into the medical literature. There were only a few, decades-old case reports on using the ketogenic diet to treat schizophrenia, but there was a long track record of success in using ketogenic diets to treat epileptic seizures.

"The ketogenic diet has been proven to be effective for treatment-resistant epileptic seizures by reducing the excitability of neurons in the brain," Sethi said. "We

thought it would be worth exploring this treatment in psychiatric conditions."

Metabolic psychiatry

A few years later, Sethi coined the term metabolic psychiatry, a new field that approaches mental health from an energy conversion perspective.

In the four-month pilot trial, Sethi's team followed 21 adult participants who were diagnosed with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, taking antipsychotic medications, and had a metabolic abnormality — such as weight gain, insulin resistance, hypertriglyceridemia, dyslipidemia or impaired glucose tolerance.

SOURCE: ANI

Health conditions, risk factors, potential complications, adherence to pre- and postoperative instructions, facility accreditation, reviews, testimonials, and realistic expectations are crucial aspects to ensure safety. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ ISTOCK

tations. This can lead to dissatisfaction and may require additional procedures to correct or improve the results.

Be Aware of Risks associated with Cosmetic Surgery

Safety in cosmetic surgery is paramount and requires thorough consideration. Potential patients should consult reputable surgeons, ask questions, and make informed decisions based on individual circumstances and goals.

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



❖ Hematoma and Seroma: These are collections of blood (hematoma) or fluid (seroma) that can occur under the skin at the surgical site. They may require drainage or further treatment if they occur.

❖ Nerve Damage: Cosmetic surgery can sometimes cause temporary or permanent damage to nerves, leading to numbness, tingling, or loss of sensation in the affected area.

❖ Complications specific to the procedure: Each cosmetic surgery procedure carries its own set of risks. For example, breast augmentation surgery carries risks such as implant rupture, capsular contracture (hardening of scar tissue around the implant), and changes in breast sensation.

❖ Unsatisfactory results: Despite the surgeon's best efforts, the outcome of cosmetic surgery may not meet the patient's expectations.

❖ Psychological effects: Some individuals may experience psychological effects following cosmetic surgery, such as depression, anxiety, or body dysmorphic disorder, a condition characterized by an obsessive focus on perceived flaws in appearance.

Researchers find how ketogenic diet improves severe mental illness

A recent pilot study by doctors at Stanford Medicine suggests that a ketogenic diet can improve both mental and metabolic health for these individuals alongside their drug regimen.

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Metabolic psychiatry

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SOURCE: ANI

❖ Long-term complications: While most complications from cosmetic surgery resolve over time, some may persist or develop later, requiring additional treatment or intervention.

Therefore, safety in cosmetic surgery is a critical consideration for anyone looking to undergo the procedures. When considering cosmetic surgery, one should consult with a reputable surgeon, ask questions, and make informed decisions based on your individual circumstances and goals.

Moreover, you need to consider your health conditions as well as risk factors, know the potential complications of specific procedures, follow the rules of Pre- and Postoperative instructions and facility accreditation, check reviews and testimonials, and realistic expectations such as plan for recovery and knowing what to do if something goes wrong are essential tips to ensure a safe experience. Informed consent is a key part of the process. Make sure one has all the information one needs to make a safe choice for cosmetic surgery. In addition, we would like to mention again that be aware of the risks associated with cosmetic surgery.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



2024 Dr San Baw Honorary Lecture Delivered at the University of Pennsylvania

Dear Editor

I understand that for the year 2024, Father's Day was on 28 March. I would like to briefly report on commemorating the legacy of my late father, Dr San Baw, at one of his alma maters.

Dr Kyriacos A Athanasiou delivered the 2024 Dr San Baw Lecture in Orthopaedic Innovation on the topic of 'Translating Cartilage Regeneration Research' at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) in the United States on 21 March 2024. My father was an alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine, where he graduated in February 1958 and the University of Rangoon in March 1950.

Among other orthopaedic innovations, he pioneered the use of ivory hip prostheses to replace fractured thigh bones. He developed a new technique for treating the development of extra shin bone in children. In 2018, I established an endowed fund in honour of my father 'San Baw, MD. GM'58 Honorary Lecture in Orthopaedic Innovation' in perpetuity at Penn. Dr Bartek Szostakowski of Poland gave the inaugural Lecture in 2018 on the topic of 'Dr San Baw: A Forgotten Innovator of Orthopaedic Biologic Reconstruction'. Since then, three other Orthopaedic Surgeons have delivered the 2022, 2023 and 2024 San Baw Lecture in Orthopaedic Innovation at the University of Pennsylvania.

Myint Zan



A ketogenic diet is a high-fat, low-carbohydrate eating plan designed to induce a metabolic state called ketosis. A ketogenic diet can improve both mental and metabolic health for these individuals alongside their drug regimen. ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE IMAGE/PIXABAY

NATIONAL

Rise in forex rate leads to increase in EPS-TOPIK registration fee

DUE to the increase in the foreign currency exchange rate, the registration fee for the Korean language proficiency test (EPS-TOPIK), which is payable in kyats, has risen compared to previous rates.

“Because of the high price of the dollar, when we had to pay the exam fee in Myanmar currency, it was higher than the previous fee,” Ko Zaw Htet from North Okkalapa township, who paid the EPS-TOPIK exam fee, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The examination registration fee is set at US\$28 per person, and applicants are required to pay an equivalent amount in kyats, depending on fluctuations in the dollar’s value.

The EPS-TOPIK registration fee is



Applicants wait in line to pay the EPS-TOPIK exam registration fee on 19 March.

scheduled to be paid from 19 March to 5 April, and it has been reported that the number of applicants for the exam this year is nearly 75,000. — TWA/MKKS

Myanmar’s forest product export surpasses US\$65.7M over 11 months

EXPORTS of Myanmar’s forest products hit US\$65.7 million as of 22 March of the financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, comprising 0.77 million from the public sector and over \$64.9 million from the private sector, the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics indicated.

Myanmar’s forest products export amounted to \$139.35 million in the last FY 2022-2023 (April-March).

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order to boost exports, and the priority sectors of the NES include agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors.

Myanmar’s exports topped \$14.3 billion over the past 11 months of the FY 2023-2024. — TWA/KK



A worker seen cutting a teak log extracted from the Myanmar forest. PHOTO: XINHUA



An advertisement poster for the Heat Protection Week and Pre-Thingyan Market Festival.

Yangon Zoo to host Heat Protection Week, Pre-Thingyan Market Festival

THE event of the Heat Protection Week and Pre-Thingyan Market Festival will reportedly take place over three days at the Yangon Zoological Gardens.

The festival is scheduled from 5 to 7 April, during which educational talks on heat protection and informative signs will be presented.

Furthermore, the event will feature a magic show, opportunities to

take photos with tame birds, music concerts, photo booths for visitors to capture beautiful images, game programmes for children to participate in and compete, and other entertaining activities.

According to the Yangon Zoological Gardens, numerous stalls will be present, offering consumer goods and food for visitors to purchase. — TWA/TKO

Weekly market update of dry groceries at Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre

FOR a week from 28 March to 2 April 2024, the sugar price increased to K4,600 per viss. The prices of black gram and pigeon pea moved up. Onion price dipped. The palm oil reference price remains unchanged for three weeks.

Onion

Bayintnaung Wholesale market saw the supply of 360,000 viss of onions on 1 April and 210,000 on 2 April. The wholesale prices stood at K1,600-K3,000 per viss depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Seikphyu and Monywa) on 2 April.

The Pakokku market had an inflow of 100,000 viss of new onions on 2 April. The highest

price was K1,625-K1,850 per viss.

Garlic

The prices of Kyukok garlic hit K10,000-K10,100 per viss while the garlic from Aungban, Shan State fetched K7,200-K8,500 per viss depending on varieties and qualities.

Potato

Shan potatoes were priced at K1,500-K1,900 per viss on 2 April.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were registered at K5,500-K8,000 per viss for long chilli pepper and Moehtaung variety on 2 April. The prices of bell peppers were K9,000-K9,500 per viss that day.

Rice

The prices hit K76,000-K95,000 per sack of non-premium new monsoon rice and K100,000 per sack of Pawkywe variety on 2 April. Meanwhile, the new Pawsan rice of premium quality were worth K125,000-K160,000 per sack depending on producing areas (Ayeyawady, Pyapon, Myaungmya, Shwebo). The stick rice prices hit K94,000-K95,000 per viss.

Palm oil

For a week from 1 to 7 April 2024, the wholesale reference price of Yangon Region was stable for the three weeks.

Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at K3,082,000 per tonne of

black grams (Fair Average Quality/RC), K3,330,000 per tonne of black grams (Special Quality/RC), K3,900,000 per tonne of pigeon peas (red gram) RC, K3,830 per viss of green grams (Shwe Wah) and K5,600-K5,900 per viss of

chickpeas in Yangon’s wholesale markets on 2 April 2024. — TWA/KK



A woman is seen pushing a shopping cart loaded with dry groceries at Capital Market.

CBM sells US\$3M, 2M yuan, 40M Thai baht on 3 April

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold three million US dollars, two million yuan and 40 million Thai baht for importers/exporters through online trading platforms on 3 April 2024.

CBM sold US\$18 million, 12 million yuan and 312 million Thai baht in March, \$77.38 million and 850 million Thai baht in February and \$68.33 million, 313.5 million Thai baht and 4.2 million yuan in January 2024.

The reference exchange rate set by CBM is K2,100 against a US dollar, while it is valued at some K3,880 at the over-the-counter market at present. The exchange rates currently stand at K105 for a Thai baht and K526 for a yuan.

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



File photo shows a person counting greenbacks at the forex counter.

starting from 5 December 2023.

Additionally, the outward remittance procedures must adhere to the

rules and regulations specified by the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. — NN/EM

MRF invites rice seed production MSMEs



A trader checks the quality of paddy seed.

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) called for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in rice seed production to compile the list of those MSMEs and help support them with sustainable development plans by analyzing their needs.

Moreover, the federation wants to join hands with those MSMEs with a view to meeting the market demand of the rice seed starting from monsoon season this year.

Those who like to cooperate with the MRF are asked to send their business profile including contact number, address and email of the representatives to the MRF's email: admin@mrf.com.mm by 12 April. — NN/KK

Seven gold shops face legal action for non-compliance

THE Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market released a statement on 2 April that seven gold outlets and refineries were found to violate the directives and guidelines stipulated under the existing laws.

The committee formed the combined special inspection teams under the guidance of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) and went on the inspection tours to the gold shops in Yangon and Mandalay regions. Some shops failed to comply with the guidelines for the precious metal (gold) traders, including not having a valid gold trading registration.

Those seven shops are Maung Kain Gold and Jewellery, New Tai Sin goldsmith, Khayan Thongwa Gold and Jewellery in Yangon Region and Shwe Sin Win gold refinery, Shwe Minthar goldsmith, Man Sabai Gold and Jewellery and Myanmar Shwe Gold and Jewellery in Mandalay Region.

They faced suspension of businesses from 2 April and other necessary action in accordance with the rules.

The committee is working together with the department concerned and law enforcement agencies to inspect and take action against those unscrupulous dealers attempting to manipulate the market by misleading the information to spark public concerns and those who are involved in the verbal deal. — NN/EM

Groundnut fetches good price in Mandalay market due to demand from foreign countries

THE Mandalay bean market is doing well because of the demand for groundnut from neighbouring countries as stated by the Mandalay bean traders.

At present, groundnut beans are brought into the Mandalay market from areas such as Bahmo, Katha, Htigyaing, Shwegu, Kalay, Kalaywa, and Gangaw. U Soe Win Myint, the owner of Soe Win Myint Fair in Mandalay, said that this year, transactions have been brisk and prices

have risen to K310,000 per bag.

"A large number of beans are entering the market and transactions are good. The prices are rising because the neighbouring countries: China and India are buying them. This year's yield and prices are good, and farmers are happy with the good yield. Most of the beans are exported to European and Middle Eastern countries.

The number of customers buying beans is increasing year by year, so we

are getting good prices.

As a winter crop, groundnut is grown only once a year, and this crop does not like hot seasons and rainy seasons, so it cannot be grown anywhere. The crop can be grown in Htigyaing, Katha, Bahmo, Shwegu and Chindwin River Basin Area including Kalay, Kalaywa and Gangkaw along the Ayeyawady River Basin. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/KZL

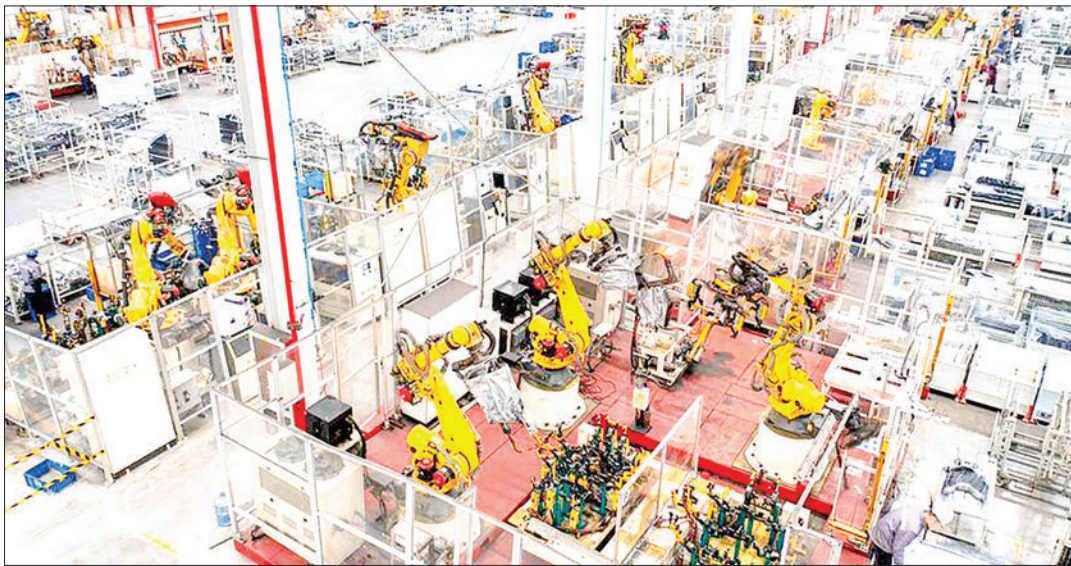


Merchants evaluating beans and pulses at the Mandalay market.

ECONOMY WORLD

Advanced manufacturing new magnet for foreign-invested firms amid industrial upgrade

Foreign investment in China's manufacturing sector reached 27.9 per cent of the total in 2023, reflecting its ongoing appeal for its manufacturing prowess and comprehensive industrial chain.



An aerial drone photo taken on 8 January 2024 shows robotic arms processing components for new energy vehicles at a private company in Changxing Economic and Technological Development Zone of Huzhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province. **PHOTO: TAN YUNFENG/XINHUA**

CHINA'S advanced manufacturing is renewing the attention of foreign-invested companies for the country's manufacturing sector amid an innovation-led upgrade of the industrial chain.

"We see booming innovations in areas including the new energy vehicles, and connected and automated driving trucks in China, and we consider China a place to pursue the development and application of such

future-oriented products," said Holger Scherr, president and CEO of Beijing Foton Daimler Automotive Co Ltd (BFDA), and head of the Mercedes-Benz business unit.

David Fan, executive vice-president and China president of the Japan-based auto part supplier Marelli, also noted the growing innovation capabilities of the Chinese market, as one of the important reasons for the country's market and supply

chain to hold an irreplaceable position to Marelli.

China's manufacturing sector has remained a land of opportunity for foreign-invested companies over the years for its manufacturing prowess and the most comprehensive industrial chain in the world. In 2023, foreign investment into the sector accounted for 27.9 per cent of the total, up 1.6 percentage points from the previous year, official data showed. — Xinhua

Cambodia's economic growth projected at 6.6% in 2024: PM

This growth is driven by sectors such as garment exports, tourism, agriculture, construction, and real estate.

CAMBODIA is expected to see a 6.6-per cent economic growth in 2024 from 5.6 per cent in 2023, the country's Prime Minister Hun Manet said here on Tuesday.

The Southeast Asian country's growth is mainly driven by garment export, tourism, agriculture, as well as construction and real estate.

"Over decades, Cambodia has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving into a modern and globally integrated economy," he said in a speech during the opening ceremony of a one-day Cambodia-ASEAN Business Summit here.

"Our growth is projected to return to the pre-pandemic level of seven per cent by 2028, signalling a promising economic future," he added. Hun Manet said Cambodia's strategic membership in key regional and global trade agreements positions it as a highly integrated player within the dynamic global market.

"Made-in-Cambodia products, encompassing garments and bicycles, are now recognized worldwide for their quality and competitive pricing," he said. "This signifies Cambodia's growing presence in the global marketplace." — Xinhua



Aerial photo taken on 2 December 2020 shows an asphalt mixing station at the construction site of the first expressway in Cambodia in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ LI ZHEN/ XINHUA**

Cost of damage to critical infrastructure in Gaza estimated at US\$18.5 bln: report

THE cost of damage to critical infrastructure in Gaza is estimated at around 18.5 billion US dollars, according to a new report released Tuesday by the World Bank and the United Nations.

The report, which was conducted with the financial support of the European Union, shows that the cost of damage is equivalent to 97 per cent of the combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022.

The Interim Damage Assess-

ment report used remote data collection sources to measure damage to physical infrastructure in critical sectors incurred between October 2023 and end of January 2024. The report finds that damage to structures affects every sector of the economy. Housing accounts for 72 per cent of the costs. Public service infrastructure such as water, health and education account for 19 per cent, and damages to commercial and industrial buildings account for nine per cent. — Xinhua

Sri Lankan economy projected to grow 2.2% in 2024



This photo taken on 29 March 2024 shows the city view of Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka. **PHOTO: XU QIN/XINHUA**

SRI Lanka's economy is projected to see moderate growth of 2.2 per cent in 2024, showing

signs of stabilization, following the severe economic downturn in 2022, the World Bank

in its attest bi-annual update said on Tuesday.

According to the update, the country still faces elevated poverty levels, income inequality, and labour market concerns.

The update highlighted that Sri Lanka saw declining inflation, higher revenues on the back of the implementation of new fiscal policies, and a current account surplus for the first time in nearly five decades.

However, poverty rates continued to rise for the fourth year in a row, with an estimated 25.9 per cent of Sri Lankans living below the poverty line in 2023. — Xinhua

Bullet train services resume after suspension in eastern Japan

OPERATIONS fully resumed between Tokyo and Sendai stations on the Tohoku and Akita Shinkansen lines, as well as between Tokyo and Fukushima on the Yamagata Shinkansen.

Bullet train services restarted in eastern Japan on Tuesday after being suspended in some areas following the breakdown of a maintenance vehicle early in the morning, their operator said.

East Japan Railway Co. fully resumed operations at around 12:30 p.m. between Tokyo and Sendai stations on the Tohoku and Akita shinkansen



People stand in line at a ticket office at JR Fukushima Station on 2 April 2024, after bullet train services between Tokyo and Sendai stations on the Tohoku Shinkansen Line were suspended. **PHOTO: KYODO**

lines, as well as between Tokyo and Fukushima on the Yamagata Shinkansen. A total of 76 trains on the three lines were canceled, and 20 trains were delayed by up to five and a half hours, affecting about 43,500 people, the company said. — Kyodo

Kenyan shilling surges 16% on high dollar inflows

THE Kenyan shilling gained 16 per cent in the first quarter of 2024 to stand at a new high of 131.8 to the US dollar at the end of March, the Central Bank of Kenya said Tuesday. The apex noted that the currency

gained from 157 at the beginning of January, with the rise attributed to an increase in US dollar inflows following more than 763 million dollars in funding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). — Xinhua

Tesla Q1 deliveries fall 8.5 %

The company delivered a total of 386,810 vehicles in Q1 2024, which fell short of analysts' estimates.

TESLA on Tuesday posted its first-quarter vehicle production and deliveries report for 2024, with deliveries falling 8.5 per cent from the year-ago quarter and about 20 per cent from the fourth quarter.

The company's total quarterly deliveries for Q1 2024 were 386,810, falling below the analysts' estimates.

Its total production amounts to 433,371 in the quarter, showing a decline of 1.7 per cent year over year and 12.5 per cent sequentially for Tesla.

Tesla reported that it produced 412,376 Model 3/Y cars and delivered 369,783. It produced 20,995 of its other models and delivered 17,027.

“Decline in volumes was partially due to the early phase of the production ramp of the updated Model 3 at our Fremont factory and factory shutdowns resulting from shipping diversions caused by the Red Sea conflict and an arson attack at Gigafactory Berlin,” Tesla said in a statement. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 8 February 2024 shows a Tesla Cybertruck at the 2024 Chicago Auto Show at McCormick Place in Chicago, the United States. **PHOTO: JOEL LERNER/XINHUA**

China to improve construction of financing credit service platforms

CHINA has released an action plan on strengthening the building of financing credit service platforms to facilitate the financing of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

The guideline, issued by the General Office of the State Council, urges efforts to better coordinate the building of such platforms and fine-tune the inclusive financing service system based on credit information. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (221N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (221N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-4-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the **13th April 2024 to 21st April 2024**, Thingyan Water Festival (New Year Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from **TAW WIN DAR Co., Ltd** to **AGROTERRUM MYANMAR CO.,LTD**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type and No.
1.	Ricesaver 180 EC	Cyhalofop-butyl 180 g/l EC	Provisional 2023-6093
2.	Kobermec 20 EC	Emamectin benzoate 20g/l EC	Provisional 2023-6097
3.	Fesam 250 SL	Fomesafen 250g/l SL	Provisional 2022-6004
4.	Felomina 75 EC	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 75g/l EC	Provisional 2023-6094
5.	Imatop 100 SL	Imazethapyr 100g/l SL	Provisional 2023-6095
6.	Eaglefop 100 EC	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 10% EC	Provisional 2023-6096
7.	Hexacore 50 SC	Hexaconazole 50g/l SC	Provisional 2022-5977

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



This photo taken on 3 April 2024 shows a damaged residential building in Hualien, southeast Chinese Taipei. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

7.3-magnitude quake hits Chinese Taipei

The Ministry of Natural Resources warning centre issued a red alert for a tsunami, later downgraded to an orange alert.

A 7.3-magnitude earthquake jolted the sea area near Hualien in Chinese Taipei on Wednesday, leading to the suspension of work and school classes in Hualien.

The quake struck at 7:58 am Wednesday (Beijing Time) and the epicentre was monitored at 23.81 degrees north latitude and 121.74 degrees east longitude, at a depth of 12 kilometres, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre. The Ministry of Natural Resources warning centre issued a red alert for a tsunami soon after the earthquake. It later issued an orange alert for tsunami.

Chinese Taipei's meteor-

ological agency measured the quake as 7.2 magnitude, saying it was the strongest earthquake to hit the island in 25 years since a deadly earthquake struck on 21 September 1999.

According to the agency, the earthquake was monitored at a depth of 15.5 km. The epicentre was located 25 km south-south-east of Hualien. The maximum intensity recorded was 6 magnitude in Hualien County.

Local authorities have announced the suspension of work and school classes in Hualien.

Strong tremors were felt across Chinese Taipei. Xinhua reporters in Taipei experienced in-

tense tremors as buildings shook continuously for over a minute. Elevators in the reporters' apartment building were suspended from operation.

Multiple residential buildings partially collapsed in Hualien, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of residents. Falling rocks were also reported in hilly areas.

A rubber factory building in New Taipei City collapsed due to the quake. Subways in multiple counties and cities on the island have been temporarily suspended. Taipei's metro system resumed operation after being suspended for around one hour. — Xinhua

Norway's parliament building closed after two bomb threats

NORWAY'S parliament, known as the Storting, was shut down on Wednesday following two bomb threats.

The national broadcaster NRK quoted police as saying that a threatening email was received on Tuesday evening, which was initially dismissed as non-credible. However, a subsequent threat emerged on Wednesday morning, prompting serious concern from law enforcement.

The police have sealed off all entrances to the parliament amidst ongoing investigations to

ascertain any links between the two threats.

As a precaution, the vicinity around the building was also cordoned off from as early as 10 am Wednesday. Authorities are currently conducting a thorough search of the area.

The security measures have significantly impacted traffic flow and public transport services around the parliamentary building. In response to the situation, all parliament members were promptly informed of the threats via text messages. — Xinhua



The Storting building is the seat of the Storting, the parliament of Norway, located in central Oslo. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

North Korea confirms it test fired new hypersonic missile

The test involved the Hwasong-16 missile, which was launched in a Pyongyang suburb.

NORTH Korea leader Kim Jong Un attended and oversaw the test launch of a brand new intermediate-range solid fuel missile that carried a hypersonic warhead on Tuesday, the country's official state media was cited as saying by Kyodo News.

According to Korean Central News Agency Kim Jong Un, attended the test launch of the solid fuel-powered Hwasong-16 missile in a Pyongyang suburb and claimed all missiles his country has developed are now based on solid fuel technology and are capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

North Korea launched a ballistic missile towards the Sea of Japan on Tuesday, with the projectile falling into waters outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, according to the Japanese Defence Ministry. The South Korean military said the projectile might have been a hypersonic weapon. Hy-



Kim Jong Un asserted that all of North Korea's developed missiles are now solid fuel-based and capable of carrying nuclear warheads. **PHOTO: ANI**

personic missiles are designed to travel at more than five times the speed of sound on irregular and low-altitude trajectories.

Solid-fuel missiles do not need to be filled up with fuel before being launched like liquid-fuel missiles do, making it harder for other countries to detect launch preparations and enhancing their pre-emp-

tive strike and retaliatory capability, Kyodo News reported. North Korea said in January it had test-fired an intermediate-range ballistic missile carrying a hypersonic warhead, and said last month that it had successfully conducted a grounded test of a solid-fuel jet engine for an intermediate-range hypersonic missile. — ANI

SPORTS

WTA1000 Wuhan Open to return in October

Scheduled from 7 to 13 October, the tournament will take place at the Optics Valley International Tennis Center, boasting a retractable roof center court with a capacity of over 13,000 spectators.

THE Wuhan Open, one of the 10 WTA1000 tournaments worldwide, is set to return to Wuhan for the first time since 2019, organizers said on Wednesday.

The tournament will be held from 7 to 13 October at the Optics Valley International Tennis Centre, which features a retractable roof centre court and is able to hold more than 13,000 spectators.

“We are delighted to announce the return of the WTA1000 event to Wuhan, and reignite the

thrill of elite tennis competition in one of Asia’s most vibrant cities,” said Jorge Salkeld, Senior Vice-President, Octagon Tennis.

“This premium event not only showcases the remarkable talent of WTA athletes, but also highlights Wuhan’s enduring commitment to fostering sporting excellence,” Salkeld added.

As the provincial capital city of Hubei, the home province of China’s two-time Grand Slam champion Li Na and current



Li Na (2nd L) teaches tennis during the 2015 WTA Wuhan Open on 29 September 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

ace Zheng Qinwen, Wuhan witnessed the popularity of tennis grow exponentially in the past two decades.

“The Wuhan Open has

crowned many iconic champions since the inaugural event was held in 2014, including Venus Williams, Petra Kvitova and reigning champion Aryna Sabalenka,”

said Steve Simon, WTA Chairman and CEO. “We are excited to now write another chapter of the tournament’s history in 2024.” — Xinhua



File photo taken in August 2012 shows (from L) Japan’s Takuro Fujii, Takeshi Matsuda, Kosuke Kitajima and Ryosuke Irie showing off their medals after winning silver in the men’s 4x100 metres medley relay at the London Olympics. PHOTO: KYODO

Swimming: Japanese 3-time Olympic backstroke medallist Irie retires

JAPAN’S long-time backstroke king Ryosuke Irie, who won three Olympic medals in 2012, announced his retirement Wednesday at the age of 34.

At last month’s selection trials, the swimmer from Osaka Prefecture fell short in his bid to qualify for his fifth consecutive Olympics, where he’d hoped to wrap up his career.

“I’m truly happy to have had a long competitive career,” Irie told a press conference in Tokyo, his voice breaking with emotion. “I wanted to retire in Paris.”

Two-time double Olympic breaststroke champion Kosuke Kitajima made a surprise appearance at the press conference to congratulate Irie on

his career.

Kitajima and Irie were part of Japan’s silver medal quartet in the men’s 4x100-metre medley relay at the 2012 London Olympics. Kitajima called Irie “a central figure of Japan’s national swimming team and a great teammate”. As for his future, Irie said he is considering going to graduate school. — Kyodo

Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi wins bronze medal at IWF World Cup

INDIA’S star weightlifter Bindyarani Devi on Tuesday bagged the bronze medal at the IWF World Cup 2024 in Phuket.

Bindyarani lifted a total lift of 196 kilogrammes (83kg snatch + 113kg clean and jerk) to finish third in the standings. Her efforts fell short of a silver medal of 203kg at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Korea’s Kang Hyon Gyong won the gold medal with a lift of 234kg (103kg snatch + 131kg clean and jerk) while Romania’s

Mihaela Cambei took home silver with a personal best of 201kg (91kg + 110kg). The 25-year-old Bindyarani started the tournament with a failed attempt in an 83kg snatch but succeeded on her second attempt however she fell again in her next attempt to lift 86kg. In the clean and jerk, the Indian weightlifter registered 110kg and 113kg in her first two attempts. However, India’s final clean-and-jerk attempt proved to be unsuccessful (119kg). — ANI



Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi secured the bronze medal at the IWF World Cup 2024 in Phuket on Tuesday. She lifted a total of 196kg (83kg snatch + 113kg clean and jerk) to claim third place in the standings. PHOTO: ANI



Russian envoy Denis Alipov extends wishes on 40th anniversary of India's first space flight

RUSSIAN ambassador to India Denis Alipov on Wednesday extended his wishes to all Indians over the 40th anniversary of the first-ever Indian space flight aboard Soviet Soyuz T-11 spacecraft.

“Warm congratulations to Hero Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma and all Indians on the 40th anniversary of the first ever Indian space flight aboard Soviet Soyuz T-11 spacecraft!,” he posted on X.

Additionally, the Russian Embassy in India also recalled the space mission that had Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma and two Russian cosmonauts on board.

“On 3 April 1984, the Soyuz-U launch vehicle put into orbit the Soyuz T-11 spacecraft under the Intercosmos programme. The crew consisting Soviet cosmonauts Yuri Malyshev and Gennady Strekalov included India's first cosmonaut — Rakesh Sharma,” the Russian embassy in India posted on X.

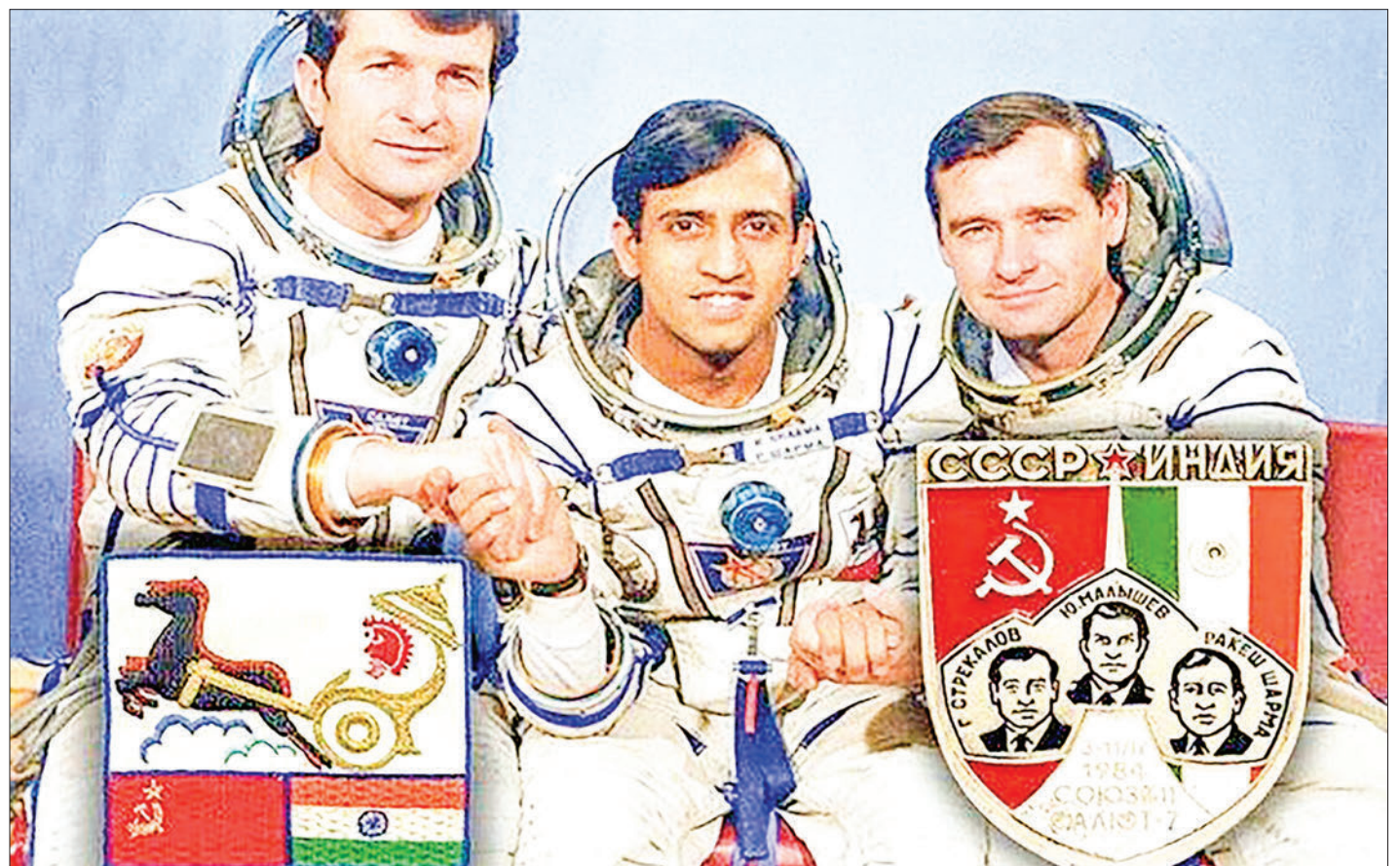
Earlier today, the Indian Air Force celebrated the achievement of Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, the only Indian to have gone into space on the anniversary of his space journey on this day, 40 years ago.

Exactly 40 years ago, on 3 April 1984, Sharma scripted history by becoming the first Indian to reach outer space on board the Soviet rocket Soyuz T-11.

Sharma flew aboard the Soviet rocket Soyuz T-11 launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic.

He spent seven days, 21 hours and 40 minutes in space and with his flight India became the 14th nation to send a

Sharma, who flew aboard the Soyuz T-11 rocket launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome in 1984, became the first Indian to reach outer space, spending 7 days, 21 hours, and 40 minutes in space.

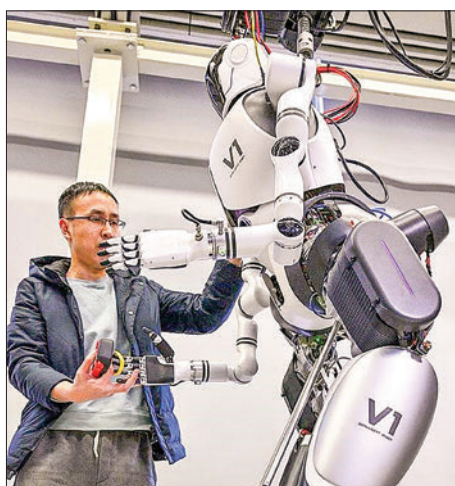


This historic achievement marked India as the 14th nation to send a cosmonaut into outer space. **PHOTO: ANI**

cosmonaut to outer space. The Soyuz T-11 spacecraft carrying cosmonauts including Sharma docked and transferred the three-member Soviet-Indian international

crew, consisting of the ship's commander, Yuri Malyshev, and flight engineer, Gennadi Strekalov, to the Salyut 7 Orbital Station. Sharma conducted several scientific

studies and experiments, his work including remote sensing and bio-medicine. The crew even held a conference with officials from space. — ANI



A researcher adjusts a humanoid robot at an AI laboratory on 31 January 2024. “Q Family” humanoid robots developed by the research team of the Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences, recently made their public debut in Beijing. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Construction of robotics industrial park in northern Beijing begins

Currently, two sites of the robotics industrial park are under construction, spanning approximately 56,000 square metres. They are slated for completion in the first half of 2026 and will function as standardized factories for enterprises.

BEIJING has commenced the construction of a robotics industrial park in the Future Science City located in the northern Changping District.

In 2023, the municipal government unveiled a plan to build “dual robot industrial parks”, with the second one situated in Yizhuang, in

southern Beijing.

The industrial park in the city's northern region will focus on building public service platforms and promoting robotics innovation enterprises to support the development of the relevant industry in Beijing, according to the Changping District government. — Xinhua

Cambodia's ex-PM Hun Sen elected as senate president in 5th mandate

CAMBODIA'S former Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen was elected as the president of the Senate in the fifth mandate on Wednesday, the state-run National Television of Cambodia reported.

All 62 senators present at the first session of the upper house of the parliament unanimously elected Hun Sen as the president, according to the report.

Also, they voted for ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) senators Prak Sokhonn, ex-deputy prime minister and ex-foreign minister, and Ouch Borith, ex-senior minister, to be the first president and the second president, respectively. — Xinhua