

## Sports victories reflect State's development

Officials need to fairly manage competitions in the National Sports Festival in accordance with sporting spirit and sports oaths, although all competitions will be strong in line with the prestige of the sports festival.



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Premier Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the first meeting of the Leading Organizing Committee on the Fifth National Sports Festival 2024 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

**V**ICE-SENIOR General Soe Win noted that the improvement of sports standards shows the prestige and progress of the country.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is also a Patron of the Leading Organizing Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival 2024, delivered a speech at the first meeting of the leading committee at the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General revealed that the State Administration Council plans to organize the 5<sup>th</sup> National Sports Festival in December 2024 under the sports calendar.

Officials need to fairly manage competitions in the National Sports Festival in accord with sporting spirit and sports oaths, although all competitions will be strong in line with the prestige of the

sports festival.

He instructed officials to choose the outstanding athletes who would set records close to the records of first, second and third prize winners in the XXXII SEA Games as tentatively selected players for the nation to be able to compete in the international sports competitions.

The Vice-Senior General disclosed that the national sports festival would be categorized as six sports events at the inter-ministry level and 23 events at the inter-state/region level, with the participation of some 6,500 athletes.

He recounted that the national sports festivals were held by successive governments, — the first festival in 1992, the second in 1994, the third in 1997, and the fourth in 2015.

He explained the purposes of holding the sports festival: the first point is to promote sports standards of the nation further, and the second point is to success-

fully compete in the XXXIII SEA Games to be hosted by Thailand in December 2025, turn out new generation athletes who will bring honour to the State, forge fraternity of athletes among regions, states and ministries, raise sports activities and attract

entire people to join sports activities.

For the welfare of athletes, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to provide healthy and genuine foods for athletes.

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### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Vice-Senior General at the first meeting of the National Sports Festival

- Officials need to manage competitions fairly in the National Sports Festival in accordance with sporting spirit and sports oaths.
- Outstanding athletes who would set records close to the records of first, second and third prize winners in the XXXII SEA Games will be chosen as tentatively selected players for international sports competitions.
- The national sports festival will be categorized into six sports events at the inter-ministry level and 23 events at the inter-state/region level, with the participation of some 6,500 athletes.
- Experts from relevant arenas and artistes must be organized to actively participate in the opening and closing ceremonies of the sports festival as a national-level ceremony.

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# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order 42/2024

6<sup>th</sup> Waning of Kason 1386 ME  
28 May 2024

### Appointment of deputy minister

THE State Administration Council has appointed Maj-Gen Ko Lay as Deputy Minister for Defence under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,  
*Aung Lin Dwe*  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary

## ME hosts religious titles conferring ceremony in New Delhi



The conferring ceremony of religious titles to three members of the Sangha in progress in New Delhi on 26 May 2024.

THE conferring ceremony of religious titles ‘Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja’ and ‘Saddhamma Jotikadhaja’ offered by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held on 26 May 2024 at the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi.

State Ovadacariya Sitagu Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Ashin Nyanissara, Sangha Raja of Shwekyin Nikaya Buddhist Order, Founder of Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Association, Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies, as well as Patron of Sitagu Ayudana and Sekkhu Dhana Hospitals, and Kushinagar Presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Guruji Dr A B Gyaneswar, President of Burmese Buddhist Sangha Council of India, President of All India Bhikkhu Sangha Council, Member of World Buddhist Sangha

Council, as well as Member of Asia Buddhist Sangha Council, attended the ceremony as the guests of honour.

Present at the ceremony were ambassadors from Buddhist countries, venerable monks and Buddhist devotees from Buddhist Universities and Religious and Social Organizations. According to the agenda, breakfast was served to distinguished guests, and lunch was offered to venerable monks by the Myanmar ambassador.

Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung first delivered an opening speech, emphasizing well-deserved recognition for Venerable Buddhist Monks’ outstanding contribution and devotion towards promoting and strengthening Buddhism as well as for their utmost efforts in carrying out the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of

the Buddha Sasana in India and other Buddhist countries. Then, the guests of honour, Sitagu Sayadaw and Kushinagar Sayadaw, delivered remarks. On behalf of the Government of Myanmar, the Myanmar ambassador presented the prestigious religious titles to three prominent venerable members of the Sangha: 1) Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre-MIMC, 2) Venerable Dr Dhammapiya, Chancellor of the Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University and Secretary General of North-East India Buddhist Sangha Council, and 3) Dr Ashin Yatha, Sonuli Myanmar Monastery, followed by presenting International Buddha Peace Awards to four dignitaries who have rendered significant social contribution. — MNA



The Myanmar Embassy seen holding the ceremony to honour two title-recipient monks from Japan on 25 May 2024.

## Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo honours 2 Sayadaws with 2024 religious titles

THE Myanmar Embassy in Japan held a congratulatory ceremony for two Sayadaws in Japan who received religious titles for 2024, the embassy announced.

The ceremony was held at the Ayeyawady Hall of the embassy on 25 May for two Sayadaws – Most Venerable Dr Shinkai Kori, Chief High Priest of Nenbutsushu Sampoan Muryojuji Temple in Kato, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, and Bhaddanta Pannita of the Myanmar Monastery of Moji World Peace Pagoda, Kitakyushu, Japan — who were awarded religious titles for 2024 by the State Administration Council, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Present at the ceremony were Ambassador U Soe Han and his wife, Military Attache (Army, Navy, Air Force) Maj-Gen Kyaw Tun, staff of the Myanmar Embassy and the Myanmar Military Attache Office, Myanmar guests, Buddhist well-wishers in Japan, other Theravada Buddhists

from World Buddhist Supreme Conference, Nenbutsushu Sampoan Muryojuji Temple and the Vipassana Retreat, and Myanmar government scholars studying in Japan.

After reciting Namo Tassa three times and observing the Buddha’s attributes by Japanese monks, the ceremony was opened, and the attendees took five precepts in the presence of the Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyar-notetara.

Ambassador U Soe Han explained the purpose of holding the ceremony and delivered words of thanks. Afterwards, the titles and insignia were conferred on Most Venerable Dr Shinkai Kori, who received the title of Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika title, and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannita, who received the title of Abhidhaja Agga Maha Kamatthana Cariya title, and the Sayadaws responded words of thanks.

After the formal recitations, the participants offered day meal and offerings to Sayadaws. — MT/ASH/ZN



# NATIONAL

## Sports victories reflect State's development

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Moreover, he urged officials to organize experts from relevant arenas and artistes to actively participate in the opening and closing ceremonies of the sports festival as a national-level ceremony.

The Vice-Senior General

pointed out that officials from the working committee and relevant subcommittees have to successfully take responsibility for organizing the festival as part of grasping an opportunity to show patriotism, national spirit, peace and stability of the nation.

Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan reported on preparations to host the 5<sup>th</sup> national sports festival, formation of the working committee and subcommittees, categorizing the sports events and awarding plans.

Chairman of the opening and closing ceremony organizing committee Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn presented plans to hold the opening and closing ceremonies of the festival on a grand scale.

Union ministers, the Audi-

tor-General of the Union, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, region and state chief ministers and officials reported on preparations for the festival.

Later, the Vice-Senior General coordinated measures related to discussions and reports.

— MNA/TTA

## 'Yoe Yar Yaung Chyi Monsoon Special Art Exhibition at Kalasa Art Gallery

ACCORDING to the person in charge of the Kalasa Art Gallery, the 'Yoe Yar Yaung Chyi Monsoon Special Art Exhibition is being held from 25 May to 2 June at the gallery in Kyauktada Township.

The person in charge stated, "We named the show 'Yoe Yar Yaung Chyi because it features a collection of colourful paintings depicting Myanmar traditions and beautiful landscapes. Visitors can enjoy diverse creations from six artists, each piece reflecting the artists' emotions. Additionally, the exhibition offers amazing paintings at affordable prices as part of the Monsoon Special Sale."

The exhibition is a weekly event that showcases special collections from senior artists of the Kalasa Art Gallery. Works by artists Khin Maung Yin, Myo Myint Tun, Tint Naing, Zaw Ye Aung, Thoe Htain, and U Mya Thaug are on display. — ASH/TRKM



The image showcases some paintings displayed at the 'Yoe Yar Yaung Chyi Monsoon Special Art Exhibition.



The Validation Workshop for the Research on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Income Security of Rural Older People in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam in progress yesterday.

## Nay Pyi Taw workshop explores COVID-19's impact on elderly income in CLMV countries

A Validation Workshop for the Research on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Income Security of Rural Older People in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning in a hybrid format.

The research was conducted from June 2023 to June 2024 in each respective country with funding from the ASEAN Development Fund (ADF) following the resolution of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development Work Plan (2021-25).

Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, along with personnel from relevant departments, regional and

national researchers from Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, and other think tanks attended in person. Representatives from the office of the Secretary-General of ASEAN, social welfare staff, the alternate chair of the SOMSWD, focal points, and the alternate chair of the ASEAN SLOM attended virtually.

Union Minister Dr Soe Win addressed the workshop, highlighting the global challenges faced by vulnerable groups due to COVID-19, including difficulties in earning, healthcare, and social security for older people in rural areas of Southeast Asia. The research findings underscored the impacts of COVID-19 on elders in various sectors and

provided recommendations for policy-making. He also urged long-term cooperation to ensure sustainable income access for elders, particularly in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam, Dr Ha Thi Minh Duc, delivered a speech on behalf of the alternate chair of the SOMSWD.

Regional researcher Dr Khine Khin Phyu presented the research findings. Participants discussed the research, and the director-general of the Social Welfare Department concluded the meeting. — MNA/TMT

### Public Notice

The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

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).

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.

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

# NATIONAL

## Political parties issue statement condemning sanctions on Myanmar

THE political parties organized a coordination meeting on sanctions on Myanmar at the Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC) in Yangon yesterday.

The event was attended by chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and executive committee members of political parties, the chairperson and members of the Myanmar Writers' Association, the president and the general secretary of the Myanmar Farm-

ers' Development Foundation, officials of foreign embassies in Myanmar and invitees.

USDP (Union Solidarity and Development Party) Chairperson U Khin Yee first said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss sanctions on Myanmar.

Attendees then had discussions on sanctions and released a joint statement strongly opposing and condemning sanctions on Myanmar. — MNA/KTZH



A roundtable meeting amongst political parties, the Myanmar Writer's Association, and the Myanmar Farmer's Development Foundation in progress yesterday.

## Joint Declaration of 25 political parties

6<sup>th</sup> Waning of Kason 1386 ME  
28 May 2024

- In the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the government, responsible organizations, and citizens who desire peace and stability are making concerted efforts in accordance with the law to resolve the internal conflicts that have arisen in the aftermath of the 2020 multiparty democratic general elections.
- However, numerous innocent civilians have been killed, private properties have been destroyed, and essential social and economic infrastructures built with public funds have been damaged by the terrorist groups created by extremist political actors. The future of the younger generation has also been destroyed.
- As a consequence of the above episodes, basic livelihoods have deteriorated, leading to an increase in crimes such as robbery, kidnapping, arson, intimidation, and other acts of violence.
- While the Myanmar Government is making concerted efforts to resolve the internal conflicts domestically, some powerful countries and some global organizations have imposed sanctions as a means to directly or indirectly support certain factions. International responsibility for supporting the peace and stability of a country in a positive manner and offering humanitarian aid with impartiality should be abided by those countries and groups. They have instead adopted the practice of selectivity and partiality by imposing "Sanctions" to create political and economic crises in a country, which was the unsuccessful method of "Neo-colonialism".
- Upon examining the sanctions imposed on Myanmar from 11 February 2021 to 31 January 2024, it is found that they include blocking private assets, cutting off support links with the government, obstructing socioeconomic activities, restricting financial transfers, limiting and prohibiting exports of goods and products, travel restrictions, suspending international engagements, isolating the country, and banning participation in global intellectual property meetings, among many other intensified measures.
- The aforementioned sanctions explicitly target and restrict a nation's sovereignty, development, stability, and the peaceful and prosperous future of its entire population. These actions also create conditions of discrimination and partiality, clearly violating the principles stated in Article (7) of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which asserts, "Discrimination instead of equal protection, incitement to discrimination, and equal protection". It has been observed that these declarations and principles are being blatantly violated.
- Furthermore, these actions also violate the principles outlined in the United Nations Charter. Article (2), Section (1), which states, "The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members," and Article (4) states, "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of political independence of any state." It is concluded that these sanctions are in direct contravention of these principles.
- Although sanctions are claimed to be directed at the Myanmar Government, the reality is that they adversely affect the entire population in Myanmar, causing widespread suffering and forcing them into a vicious cycle of hardship. Additionally, these actions will also hinder the progress of the five-step roadmap being implemented by the State and obstruct the conditions necessary for the emergence of a free and fair election.
- Therefore, we strongly urge all to revoke the sanctions imposed on the State as soon as possible. We request the international community to provide collective assistance based on the actual impact and conditions. Furthermore, we, all political parties, unanimously and categorically reject, oppose, and condemn any action or sanctions taken against Myanmar.

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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.  
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# NATIONAL

## Myanmar to attend 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN information meeting in Cambodia

THE Myanmar delegation led by U Ye Naing, Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information, who is also the chairman of Myanmar's ASEAN Information Sub-Committee, left Yangon for Cambodia to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-COCI Sub-Committee on Information Meeting yesterday.

The ASEAN Information Sector (ASEAN-SCI) meetings are held annually with the main purpose of strengthening mutual understanding and trust between member countries through information and communication activities in the ASE-

AN region and jointly implementing ASEAN projects.

A total of 10 member countries attended and discussed the latest developments regarding information sector activities and project activities.

ASEAN member countries chair this meeting once a year. This year, Cambodia will host it from 29 to 30 May in Siem Reap.

— MNA/KZL

Myanmar delegates seen at Yangon International Airport before leaving for Cambodia.



## Myanmar delegation attends AICHR 39<sup>th</sup> meeting in Indonesia



Myanmar delegates join hands with attendees at the AICHR 39<sup>th</sup> meeting in Jakarta.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar delegation led by U Mang Hau Thang, Deputy Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, attended the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) held from 19 to 22 May in Jakarta, Indonesia.

During the meeting, discussions included current developments in ASEAN, institutional matters of AICHR, the drafting of the AICHR Five-Year Work Plan (FYWP) for the 2026-2030 period, and the implementation of AICHR's priority programmes. These programmes focus on the rights of persons with disabilities, children's rights, disin-

formation and misinformation, human rights and police affairs in ASEAN, and business and human rights, among other topics.

The Myanmar representative to AICHR provided an update on Myanmar's ongoing efforts to achieve peace, prosperity, and democracy while ensuring the rights of all citizens. — ASH/TMT

## Chinese Ambassador sees security activities at Golden Triangle waters

ACCORDING to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, officials from the embassy, led by Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai, on 25 May visited the maritime security activities conducted by the four countries — China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos — at the Golden Triangle area, where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet.

The delegation visited the Wang Pong Station, under the Shan State Maritime Police Division, which was built with the support of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund.

Similarly, with a floating patrol boat donated by China, they went to the Golden Triangle wa-

ters in the Thai-Myanmar-Laos border area and conducted a field study of the four-nation joint patrol situation. Afterwards, they met and encouraged Chinese police officers stationed at the border.

The Chinese ambassador and his delegation met officials from the Shan State Maritime Police Division. They exchanged views on promoting the fight against cross-border crimes, matters related to the joint combat against online communication scams and online gambling crimes, and the protection of the safety of people's lives and property. — ASH/TH



A delegation led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai seen during their observation tour of the Golden Triangle waters.

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

# NATIONAL

## Kawthoung border sees trade surplus in April

THERE is a trade surplus of over US\$12 million at the Kawthoung border in April of the current financial year 2024-2025, when exports exceed imports, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The export value at Kawthoung hit \$17.7 million, whereas imports were worth \$4.97 million last month, totalling

\$22.69 million.

Fisheries exports at Kawthoung operate with a freight-on-board (FOB) system.

The border trade at the Kawthoung border in the previous FY 2023-2024 amounted to \$234.386 million, comprising exports worth \$193.75 mil-

lion and imports worth \$40.63 million, resulting in a trade surplus of \$153.12 million then.

Myanmar exports cashew nuts, fisheries products such as squid, crab and fish, fishing nets, construction materials and other goods to external markets. — TWA/KK



Vessels are seen being loaded with fisheries products at the Kawthoung border.

## Agri Tech Myanmar Expo 2024 to kick-start in June

THE Agri Tech Myanmar Expo 2024, also known as the 8<sup>th</sup> International Agricultural, Livestock and Fishery Show, will be launched in June.

The exhibition is scheduled to be held from 28 to 30 June at the Yangon Convention Centre in the courtyard of the Innaya Lake Hotel.

The event will display and sell mill and related equipment, dryers, colour sorters, agricultural machinery, tractors, threshing machines, agricultural medicines, agricultural equipment, livestock feed and medicine for the livestock sector, raw food and supplements, farm equipment, livestock feed production machines, refrigeration plant equipment and tools for fish tanks and fishing boats produced or imported from local and international companies.

In addition, seminars that will be practical and beneficial for farmers will be included in the exhibition, and a workshop called "Renewable Energy", which is indispensable for the agricultural sector, is also planned to be held.

In the agricultural sector, experts and farm owners will discuss the use and benefits of natural fertilizers that can be produced locally instead of imported fertilizers, the establishment of organic farms and the issuance of certificates of recognition. — TWA/KZL

The advertisement for the Agri Tech Myanmar Expo 2024.

## Myanmar entrepreneurs invited to participate in Plexconnect 2024 in Mumbai

ACCORDING to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar entrepreneurs have been invited to participate in Plexconnect 2024, to be held in Mumbai, India, from 7 to 9 June.

The event is organised by the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Plastics Export Promotion Council (PlexCouncil). Over 500 businesses will participate, with more than 900 buyers and 25,000 trade visitors and company owners from

over 100 countries expected to attend.

Selected buyers from Myanmar will be provided with free air tickets, hotel accommodation, and ground hospitality.

Those interested in participating can visit Plexconnect at <http://www.plexconcil.org/plexconnect> and Buyer Details at <http://www.plexconcil.org/plexconnect/buyer-details> for more information or contact Mr Kuban Hobday, Regional Director, at [Ruban.hobday@plexconcil.org](mailto:Ruban.hobday@plexconcil.org) for registration. — TWA/TMT



An advertisement of the Plexconnect 2024 that will be held in June in Mumbai, India.

## Coop Dept offers combined high school, accounting course for G9 graduates

THE Cooperative Department announced that students who have passed the Grade-9 exam can enrol in a combined basic education high school and accounting course at the Cooperative Accounting Vocational Training Centres.

The course is a three-year programme offered at Cooperative Accounting Vocational Training Centres

located in Magway, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Mawlamyine, and Patheingyi, and it will commence on 17 June.

Applicants must have passed the Grade-9 exam, adhere to the rules and regulations of the training centres, and commit to completing the entire course. Upon completion, students will receive a Certificate in Business Accounting. They may also qualify to

enrol in Cooperative Colleges for further education if they meet the necessary criteria.

Application forms are available at the Cooperative Accounting Vocational Training Centres in Taunggyi, Magway, Mandalay, Patheingyi, and Mawlamyine. Completed forms and necessary documents must be submitted by 15 June at the latest. — TWA/TRKM



The photo showcases the Cooperative Accounting Vocational Training Centre (Taunggyi).

## Myanmar pulse exports exceed 367,000 tonnes as of 17 May

MYANMAR'S pulse exports totalled over US\$315 million with over 367,000 tonnes as of 17 May in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's seaborne trade hit over 356,150 tonnes of pulses exports worth \$305.3 million, whereas over 11,610 tonnes of pulses worth \$10.25 million were sent to the neighbouring countries between 1 April and 17 May this FY.

The value of Myanmar's

pulse exports reached over US\$1.48 billion from over 1.76 million tonnes in the FY 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum

of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

Myanmar's black gram output is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year, whereas pigeon



Various beans and pulses seen being arranged for sales in the market.

pea production crosses 50,000 tonnes.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India

primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

## Fisheries Dept targets US\$800M in exports for FY 2024-2025



Workers seen in the fisheries processing line.

THE Department of Fisheries aims to achieve export earnings of over US\$800 million in the current financial year 2024-2025.

Myanmar bagged \$729.4 million from 522,565 tonnes of fisheries products in the FY 2023-2024.

All the stakeholders in the supply chain, including officials from the Fisheries Department, exporters, traders and fish and shrimp farmers, are cooperating to boost exports this year.

Myanmar's fisheries exports have amounted to US\$84.8 million as of 17 May in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

At present, fishery exports are regularly occurring, yet the volume of fishery exports is still

lower than that recorded in the pre-pandemic period.

Myanmar sends fisheries such as fish, crab, and shrimp to neighbouring countries (China and Thailand) through Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Sittway and Maungtaw border posts. They are conveyed to Japan, European countries, China, Thailand, and other regional countries via maritime channels.

More than 20 fish species, including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass, are delivered to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Myanmar delivers fisheries to over 40 countries, and the leading importer of Myanmar's fisheries is Thailand, followed by China. — NN/EM

## Café Show China 2024 invites Myanmar coffee suppliers

CAFÉ Show China 2024, which will take place from 30 August to 1 September 2024 in Beijing, China, welcomes the participation of Myanmar coffee suppliers, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Embassies, coffee producers, and food and beverage industry professionals participated in the Café Show 2023, and they have been cordially

invited to join this annual event in Beijing.

Myanmar Coffee Association and entrepreneurs who are willing to join the exhibition need to send the list of participants and business information to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization by dialling 067 408622 and mailing to event.td.myantrade@gmail.com by 1 July. — NN/EM

## YRIC endorses K1.55B domestic project, 3 foreign projects worth US\$3.7M

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) gave the green light to one domestic enterprise owned by Myanmar citizens and three wholly foreign enterprises with an estimated capital of US\$3.739 million and K1.55 billion at the meeting 5/2024 held on 27 May.

One domestic enterprise will pump invest-

ments into the hotel sector, while the three foreign enterprises will make investments in the manufacturing of bags, garments and bridal gowns on a cutting, making and packaging basis. They will create a total of 2,301 jobs.

At the meeting, nine companies also raised capital expansion and general matters. — NN/EM



The general view of the office of the One-Stop Service for Investment.

# OPINION

## Raise public awareness for systematic waste management

**M**YANMAR'S growing population, expanding cities, and burgeoning industries bring significant waste management challenges. The increasing volume of waste in three major cities, namely Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, triggers long-term environmental and health risks in the society.

Myanmar's citizens often struggle to adhere to waste disposal regulations and existing laws, leading to environmental pollution. Improper waste disposal contaminates water sources such as lakes, creeks and rivers, which bring fresh water for consumption and cultivation by Myanmar people and fertile soil layers, and burning waste releases harmful pollutants like carbon dioxide, exacerbating air pollution in the atmosphere and health issues for the people.

A 2017 report by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency highlights the severity of the problem:

Effective waste management in urban areas requires active public participation. However, limited public knowledge about waste management and reluctance to pay for waste disposal services hinder progress. Additionally, non-compliance with existing waste management laws and regulations exacerbates the problem. Hence, raising public awareness about proper waste disposal practices and encouraging community involvement is crucial.

disposing of waste while local authorities seek better ways and means to manage waste in their relevant areas.

Effective waste management in urban areas requires active public participation. However, limited public knowledge about waste management and reluctance to pay for waste disposal services hinder progress. Additionally, non-compliance with existing waste management laws and regulations exacerbates the problem. Hence, raising public awareness about proper waste disposal practices and encouraging community involvement is crucial.

Adopting advanced technologies is essential for systematically solving problems on waste disposal, recycling, and reuse, aiming to minimize the overall waste volume across the nation. Educating the public on sustainable waste management practices is vital for creating a waste-free society.

In summary, addressing Myanmar's waste management issues requires a concerted effort to educate and engage the public, enforce regulations, and implement advanced waste processing technologies. By fostering a culture of responsible waste management, Myanmar can mitigate environmental damage and promote public health, ensuring a cleaner, more sustainable future.

**S**TRANGELY enough, some teachers do not believe that the teaching profession is an art. That is to say, they think as easy as anything that anyone would be able to go into teaching after they have done a degree in any specialized subject. That is not quite a false assumption, but it is rather difficult to say that all graduates can teach their majors very well. The reason is that subject mastery and teaching concepts can be apparently separated from each other even though these two interdependent parts go together on the road to education so often. No one but teaching practitioners will know that point for certain. And the teaching profession has become far too commercialized in recent years. Of course, teaching is more than the commercial industry. A teaching career is deemed the noblest job in the world and a finely useful art.

It can never be denied that the first step towards leading a teacher's life is nothing but subject mastery. First, a teacher must have mastery and proficiency in the subject in his charge. In my opinion, subject mastery also means that a teacher enjoys his special subject and lusts to devote himself to his subject teaching. Only his love of subject and subject teaching will likely bring him to success as a teacher in the way that he dedicates his life to teaching the subject, not knowing that he will have exhausted himself doing it. As far as I am aware, most teachers tend

## Unless teaching is considered an art

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

to have a good command of the only subject. If they have more than one subject on their duty, it is certain that they will not be capable of learning and teaching all subject matters, great and small, to students. Thus, it would be better if a teacher has taken up a single subject from beginning to end together with as many of its related facts to hand as he can afford. Lastly, it is best if the teacher has had more mastery of the subject than his students by degree simply because only if so will he be able to guide his students to the brighter educational route in relation to a subject in the future.

After subject mastery, subject-related teaching concepts follow, as always. Educational literature regarding subject teaching involves three main branches, namely, educational theory (Ethe), educational psychology (Epsy), and methodology (Method). Educational Theory studies the past and present policies on education at home and abroad, the infrastructure system of a school, school programs, and the management or administration

of a school head in particular. Together with tests and measurement, educational psychology primarily highlights the physical, mental, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, moral and social development of a student besides his learning styles and behaviours. Lastly, methodology demonstrates diverse approaches and teaching methods of a subject in accordance with the subject nature from different perspectives.

Educational Theory is, metaphorically speaking, the main root of an education system. A teacher who has not yet studied Educational Theory is unable to see the structure of the school, the leadership skills of a head teacher, the number of classrooms, subclasses, teaching staff, teaching partners or well-lit rooms, class size, and even a school garden whether these situations will affect his teaching. Quite curiously, teachers must have known the principal's administrative qualifications as well as the exact number of classes that they take charge of and their teaching colleagues. If so, they can think about their potential

teaching ability and competency skills to a certain degree by sharing their responsibility with others. The adequacy and safety of school buildings and suitable breadth of classrooms with bright light or good natural light and adequate ventilation enable subject teachers to carry out co-curricular or extracurricular or teaching-learning activities with students effectively and efficiently. The school garden plays an essential role in providing teaching aids, such as plants with scientific names for biological study. Also, the curriculum, which needs breadth and balance in the school timetable, is precisely prescribed by Educational Theory.

What would happen next if a teacher has not learnt Educational Psychology at all? Sure! If there will be an undesirable increase in apparent tensions between teachers and students. Not knowing Educational Psychology, some teachers harshly blame or are sharply angry at or shortly get impatient with students for possibly negligible reasons. A teacher who knows educational psychology inside



Today's teachers face a multitude of challenges, requiring a diverse skill set including soft skills like speaking, reading, reciting poetry, singing, playing music, acting, dancing, and painting, alongside digital literacy. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

out should see that students are only of two types: slow learners or quick learners, studying with auditory or visual or note-taking or bodily-kinesthetic styles. He is strongly of the opinion that any student should first have cognitive readiness, physical readiness, emotional readiness, and psychological readiness before the whole teaching-learning process. They even understand that some students cannot follow their studies well very quickly due to their exhausting work, especially just after they have played football or helped with some housework. Other students are not able

to conduct school studies regularly, keeping abreast of others, on account of ill health or home socio-economic conditions, they believe too. In addition to building up systematically organized classroom test formats, those who studied Educational Psychology have permanent class control over students, identify with their sexual orientation, and finally get loved by them.

Many teachers are given to imitate their teachers' methods at the beginning of their instruction. This will be okay for both them and their pupils for some period of time. However, students

are changing their interests and attitudes towards education from time to time. Strangely, some students even say that they are no longer interested in the subject matter that has been prescribed in textbooks, even if they used to enjoy it before. Nevertheless, there may be a number of reasons why students do not pay any attention to school subjects. These reasons ought to include the fact that the subject matter is no longer up to date. Whatever is said, a teacher has to be highly competent to handle the subject matter, whether or not it is out of date, in any circumstance. Never

should teachers think that their conceptual knowledge and teaching methods are flawless. Worst of all, a teacher might be under the illusion that his teaching is perfect. On the day that the teacher does not continue to improve his concepts and methods of instruction, he will most definitely run into a failure as a teacher.

In fact, the demands and challenges of today's teachers are enormous. They need to have so many soft skills, such as speaking, reading style, reciting poetry, singing, playing music, acting, dancing, and painting, apart from digital literacy and internet use. Unless they have achieved the mentioned skills yet, they will sometimes have difficulties while teaching students arts and sciences, especially languages. If they have, most students are envious of those teacher's skills and will then try to be like them. There is still another important point on the art of earning a living as a teacher. Teachers need to be free from the complexity of personal cases and feelings with their instruction. Usually, this causes their instructional disturbance. Therefore, all teachers should never bring these cases and feelings into the class in any way. Above all, teachers had better not commit professional and ethical misconduct, mainly in financial and examination matters. By looking at the above-mentioned facts and figures, it will sooner or later become apparent that teaching can be considered as a colourful art.

## WHO Member States agree to share outcomes of historic IHR, pandemic agreement processes to World Health Assembly

*While progress has been made in negotiations towards a pandemic agreement, challenges remain. The World Health Assembly is seen as a crucial platform to galvanize efforts and finalize this agreement, aiming to better equip the world to handle future health crises.*



Reflecting on the immense toll of COVID-19, with at least seven million lives lost globally, Dr Tedros emphasized the need for a concerted effort to prepare for future pandemics. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

WHO Member States have ended intensive negotiations aimed at strengthening global capacities to respond to future pandemics and outbreaks in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and agreed to submit outcomes of their work for consideration by the upcoming World Health Assembly, starting on 27 May.

Two parallel negotiation processes were undertaken to make a series of amendments to the

International Health Regulations (2005) and to develop a first-ever pandemic agreement, convention or other legal instrument.

Delegations to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, running from 27 May–1 June, will consider the outcomes of both processes, and the next steps for the two.

“Over the past two years, WHO Member States have dedicated enormous effort to rise to

this challenge posted by COVID-19 and respond to the losses it caused, including at least seven million lives lost,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “COVID-19 affected everybody, in many ways, and that is why Member States started a process to develop a pandemic agreement to make the world better prepared for the next pandemic. While great progress was made during these

negotiations, there are challenges still to overcome. We need to use the World Health Assembly to re-energize us and finish the job at hand, which is to present the world with a generational pandemic agreement.”

Countries today ended their resumed 9th meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) comprising WHO's 194 Member States. Initial agreement was reached by the INB

on multiple elements of the draft agreement, and convergence on others. There were also areas of non-convergence and divergent views.

The INB Bureau, which has been guiding the process, will present a report outlining the two-plus years of work of the process, and the outcome of that work, which is the draft text that has been negotiated to date. Options for next steps to conclude

the agreement process will also be put to the WHA for consideration.

Bureau co-Chair Mr Roland Driessche, of the Netherlands, said WHO Member States remain committed to completing the pandemic agreement process and looked forward to the World Health Assembly to consider the progress made on this landmark initiative.

SOURCE: WHO

# ARTICLE



# NATIONAL

## Ceremony held to hand over young ethnic people to their parents



The handover ceremony of ethnic youths to their parents in progress at the North-East Command.

MNDAA and TNLA terrorists forcibly detained the young ethnic people and made them attend terrorist training and serve their duties. The young eth-

nic people who did not want to serve duties under these terrorist groups fled from them and returned to the nearby Tatmadaw bases and departmental organizations.

The ceremony to hand over those fleeing from MNDAA and TNLA to their parents was held at the hall of the North-East Command with the presence of Commander Maj-Gen Soe Tint, departmental officials, town elders, victims and their parents.

The commander first made the remark, and officials presented cash assistance and foodstuffs to the young ethnic people. They also handed them over to their parents. Moreover, the commander and officials cordially met the youths. — MNA/KTZH

## Property rentals rise in North Okkalapa this month

IN this early monsoon, property rental has been more active in North Okkalapa Township which is one of densely populated townships of Yangon Region and where property buying and selling activities were good previously, according to real estate agencies.

Property buying and selling flourished at the end of 2023 and early months of this year in the township.

“In North Okkalapa real estate market, there are transactions but house rentals have been seen more this month. Buying and selling were good between the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024. Now monsoon season is arriving so we have estimated the house rentals will increase in particular,” said Ko Thurain Tun who runs a real estate service agency in the township.

High-priced land plots transactions also happened as there are buyers who want to run large scale businesses in the township.

In Yangon Region, there are townships where property transactions are happening while there are townships where rents are larger than buying and selling in this year, and prices differ depending on townships. — Thit Taw/ZS

## 16 Irrawaddy dolphins graze near Indaung village of Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung area



Photos show Irrawaddy dolphins in the Mandalay- Kyaukmyaung area.

THE Irrawaddy Dolphin Protected Area near Indaung Village in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung region is home to up to 16 Irrawaddy dolphins.

U Maung Maung Lay, chairman of the Irrawaddy Dolphin Protection Group of the Fisheries Department (Mandalay Region), stated that these dolphins live and graze in the Ayeyawady River near Indaung Village. The group's field obser-

ventions on 25 May confirmed that up to 16 Irrawaddy dolphins were present and active in this area.

“The condition of the Irrawaddy dolphins is monitored and recorded three times a month. On 25 May, a boat survey along the protected area revealed that 16 dolphins previously grazing in the waters near Mingun in Sagaing Township have moved to the waters near Indaung

Village in Wetlet Township. We have also asked fishermen and local villagers to inform our team if they see baby dolphins,” said U Maung Maung Lay. Additionally, groups of Irrawaddy dolphins are also notably living and grazing in the Ayeyawady River near Ayekyun Village in Madaya Township, which is developing village-based tourism in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung area. — ASH/MKKS



North Okkalapa Township map.

## Significant Water Level Bulletin

(Issued at 13:30 hr MTS on 28-5-2024)

ACCORDING to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Myitkyina is 588 cm and the water level rose about (10) feet within (36) hours.

The water levels, which rose at upper Ayeyawady river, may rise above their present water levels by about 6 feet to 8 feet at Bhamo, Shwegu, Katha, Thabeikkyin, Mandalay, Sagaing and Myinmu during the next 1 to

7 days, about 8 feet to 10 feet at Pakokku, Nyaung Oo, Chauk, Minbu, Magway and Aungmyan during the next 8 to 11 days, about 6 feet to 7½ feet at Pyay, Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun during the next 11 to 13 days.

According to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkamti is 502 cm and the water level rose about (13) feet within (36) hours. The water levels, which rose at upper Chindwin river,

may rise above their present water levels by about 10 feet to 11 feet at Homalin, Phaung Pyin and Mawlaik during the next 1 to 4 days, about 8 feet to 10 feet at Kalewa, Minkin, Kani and Monywa during the next 4 to 6 days.

It is advised that the vessels running along the river and those who made plantations on sandbank during these period should make precaution measures for the rise of water level.

## Holes found in black screen blocking viral Mt Fuji photo spot

HOLEs have been found in a large black screen set up by a central Japan town to block a scenic view of Mt Fuji after criticism of tourists' behaviour at the viral photo spot, the town said Tuesday.

After setting up the screen on 21 May to prevent visitors from flocking to the site in front of a Lawson convenience store in Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi Prefecture, the town confirmed the first hole the following day, and the number has since increased to roughly 10.

"We thought this might happen someday, but not this soon," a town official said.

The town plans to repair the screen promptly while posting a notice asking visitors not to touch it. — Kyodo



Mt Fuji is seen on 24 May 2024 through a hole opened on a black screen set up by Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

## 11<sup>th</sup> Intl Festival for Drums and Traditional Arts kicks off in Cairo

EGYPT'S 11<sup>th</sup> International Festival for Drums and Traditional Arts kicked off here on Sunday night, attracting participants from 30 countries and regions.

Under the slogan of "Drums for Peace Dialogue", the festival, which runs through 1 June, calls on artistic groups from many countries to share their musical vision, encourage cultural dialogue and embrace peace and inclusiveness worldwide.

The festival's events will be held in various venues in Cairo, including the Northern Wall Theatre, the Cairo Opera House, the Sinnari House in Sayyida Zainab neighbourhood, and Prince Taz Palace. During the opening ceremony at the Northern Wall Theatre in old Cairo, Intisar Ab-

del-Fattah, president and founder of the festival, held an artistic workshop in the presence of all participating teams.

Noting that the festival reflects Egypt's openness to others throughout history and is a journey through which different cultures meet, Abdel-Fattah said the heritage of drums is evoked and presented in renewed artistic forms.

"The festival represents a distinguished artistic platform that seeks to promote positive spiritual values, by embracing traditional arts and presenting them as a means of strengthening relations between people," Rafiq al-Tawil, head of Palestine's Falouja troupe for traditional arts, told Xinhua. — Xinhua

## Paris film fans embrace "Tora-san" as appetite for Japan movies grows

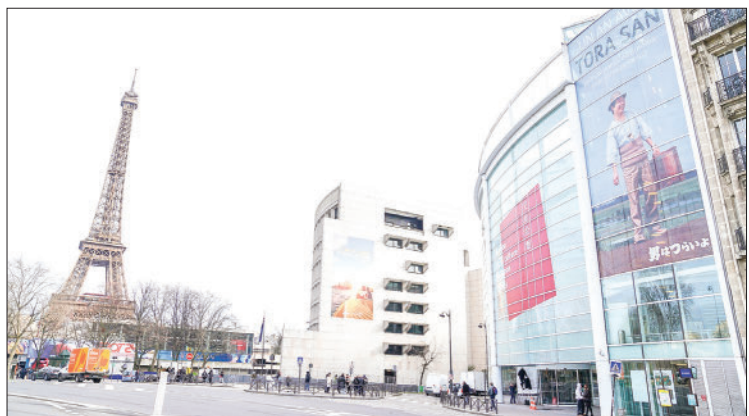
IN March, film buffs in Paris descended on the Maison de la Culture du Japon for the final instalment of a Japanese movie series about a travelling salesman who is unlucky in love that had run for decades in its homeland.

The 280-seat hall was filled to near capacity, and after enthusiastic applause at the end, many in the audience expressed sadness that after 50 films, the "Otoko wa Tsurai yo" series, had finally reached its conclusion.

In all, the showing of what was one of Japan's most popu-

lar movie franchises drew over 10,000 filmgoers to the cultural institute over its more than two-year run, in some of the clearest evidence yet that French interest in Japanese cinema, long restricted to arthouse classics, is now broadening to more mainstream releases.

Titled in English "It's Tough Being a Man", the series had 48 instalments between 1969 to 1995 in Japan and starred Kiyoshi Atsumi as Tora-san, who is invariably left brokenhearted at the end of each episode. — Kyodo



The Tora-san billboard (R) is displayed at the Maison de la Culture du Japon in Paris in February 2024 during the screening of the Tora-san series. PHOTO: KYODO

## Indian climber dies after Everest bid, eighth death this season



This photograph taken on 4 May 2024 shows mountaineers during their ascend to Mount Everest's summit, in Nepal. PHOTO: AFP

AN Indian climber rescued from Everest has died in hospital, a Nepali tourism official said Tuesday, taking the number of fatalities this season on the world's highest mountain to eight.

Banshi Lal, 46, was plucked from the mountain last

week and taken to a hospital in Nepal's capital Kathmandu.

"He died at the hospital yesterday," Rakesh Gurung of the tourism department told AFP.

Three people — a British climber and two Nepali guides — among the eight are listed as

missing but presumed dead.

The latest fatality comes as the Everest mountaineering season nears its end, with the death toll relatively low compared to other years.

Last year was the deadliest season on the mountain with 18 fatalities. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Tourism trade show looks to tap Chinese market further

A major business-to-business travel trade show dedicated to helping tour operators and industry professionals tap further into the Chinese tourism market opened on Monday in Shanghai.

Running from 27 to 29 May, ITB China 2024 boasts a lineup of over 600 exhibitors from more than 80 countries and regions. This year's event is themed "Thrive in Transformation, Reach New Heights. Together," reflecting the importance of adaptability and innovation in the travel industry, as well as the huge, untapped potential of the Chinese travel market. ITB China 2024 has expanded by 60 per cent from last year and is hosting a variety of keynote speeches, panel discussions and dialogues to foster collaboration and mutual support.

"Since 2023, China's travel



People visit a booth of Malaysia at ITB China 2024 in Shanghai, east China, 27 May 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

market has been on a steady positive trajectory, and with the impact of improved visa policies and increased flight capacity, China's travel market is showing strong signs of growth at the start of 2024," said David Axiotis, vice-president for the China market at Messe Berlin GmbH.

Noting that the buyer's market this year is buzzing with even stronger demand and a much greater number of participants, Axiotis said the event is expected to support the company's global partners in "finding their Chinese counterparts and reaching new heights for their China travel business in the coming years".

Shanghai welcomed nearly 1.9 million inbound visitors from January to April this year, an increase of 205 per cent year on year. — Xinhua

## Locals get richer via caterpillar fungus harvest in SW China's Sichuan



People dig caterpillar fungus in Shade Town, Kangding City, Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province, 23 May 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province. Found only at high altitudes, caterpillar fungus, known in China as "winter-worm summer-grass", is said to be effective in boosting the immune system.

During the harvest season, the locals will start heading for alpine ground over 4,000 metres above sea level to collect the fungus. The caterpillar fungus harvest time can last over 40 days. For the locals, collecting this precious fungus offers them seasonal jobs and helps increase their income. — Xinhua

FROM early May to late June every year, caterpillar fungus enters its harvest season in Garze Tibetan Autonomous

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Export by S Korean small, mid-sized companies rises in Q1

EXPORT by South Korean small- and medium-sized companies (SMEs) rose for the second straight quarter due to strong demand for cosmetics and plastic products, government data showed Tuesday.

Outbound shipment by the SMEs increased 3.6 per cent from a year earlier to US\$27.76 billion in the January-March quarter, after growing 1.6 per cent in the previous quarter, according to the Ministry of SMEs and Startups.

The proportion of SMEs export to the total shipment declined to 17.0 per cent in the first quarter from 17.7 per cent a year earlier.

Cosmetic products export by the SMEs surged 30.1 per cent to 1.55 billion dollars in the first quarter compared with the same quarter 2023. — Xinhua

#### Cambodia, Pakistan sign MoU on trade, investment promotion

CAMBODIA and Pakistan on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of a joint trade committee.

The deal was inked in Phnom Penh between Cambodian Minister of Commerce Cham Nimul and Pakistani Ambassador to Cambodia Zaheeruddin Babar Thaheem, said a news release from Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce.

"This MoU will significantly contribute to the elevation of the two countries' relations, particularly on trade and economic cooperation," Nimul said at the event.

"The joint trade committee established under this memorandum will serve as a mechanism that allows both sides to explore ways to create favourable conditions for businesses and investors and to diversify economies, expand production bases, and foster bilateral trade," she added. — Xinhua

## Tokyo stocks end mixed on rising interest rates, firm US futures

TOKYO stocks ended mixed Tuesday on concerns over the adverse impact of rising long-term interest rates in Japan, while sentiment was supported by positive US stock futures.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 44.65

points, or 0.11 per cent, from Monday at 38,855.37. The broader Topix index finished 2.14 points, or 0.08 per cent, higher at 2,768.50. On the top-tier Prime Market, decliners were led by metal product and pharmaceutical issues, while electric power

and gas, and nonferrous metal issues led the gainers. The US dollar moved little in the upper 156 yen range amid caution over a potential yen-buying intervention by Japanese authorities to halt the yen's slide, dealers said. — Kyodo

## New Zealand Reserve Bank activates debt-to-income restrictions

THE Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) has confirmed the activation of Debt-to-Income (DTI) restrictions and loosening of Loan-to-Value Ratio (LVR) restrictions at the settings that were consulted on earlier this year.

The new DTI restrictions will create limits on the amount of high-DTI lending that banks can make, which means the borrower has taken on a high amount of debt relative to their gross, or pre-tax, income, an RBNZ statement said on Tuesday.

LVR restrictions limit the amount of

low-deposit lending that they can make, it said.

DTIs and LVRs are complementary “macro-prudential policy tools”, said RBNZ Deputy Governor Christian Hawkesby.

“LVRs target the impact of defaults by reducing the amount of potential losses in the event of a housing downturn, while DTIs reduce the probability of default by targeting the ability of borrowers to continue to repay debt,” Hawkesby said, adding both act as guardrails reducing the build-up of high-risk lending in the system. — Xinhua

## Stock markets swing before key inflation data

ASIAN and European stock markets wavered Tuesday as investors geared up for key inflation numbers later in the week, while London returned to action after a three-day long weekend.

With Wall Street also shut Monday for a holiday, there were few catalysts to drive business, though comments from European Central Bank (ECB) officials reinforced optimism over a eurozone interest-rate

reduction in June.

“Risk sentiment has faltered in recent weeks, and global stock markets have experienced a mild sell off as the focus shifts to a plethora of economic data that is released this week” concerning inflation, commented XTB research director Kathleen Brooks.

“The focus will be the eurozone’s first reading of May CPI and the US core PCE index, both released on Friday.” — AFP



The headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB, C) in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, is pictured on 11 April 2024. PHOTO: AFP

## Toyota, Mazda, Subaru to develop new engines in hybrid push

TOYOTA Motor Corp, Mazda Motor Corp, and Subaru Corp said Tuesday that they will each develop engines to enhance the performance of their electrified vehicles, including hybrid and plug-in hybrid models, as part of efforts to increase the competitiveness of their gasoline-electric line-ups.

With the shared goal of achieving carbon neutrality, the three Japanese automakers aim to develop smaller, more efficient engines with higher output than existing models while also collaborating on the use of carbon-neutral fuels, they said.

Such engines will enable vehicles to carry more batteries and emit less carbon dioxide, allowing them to operate like EVs most of the time while providing engine power for long-distance travel, they said.

“We will develop engines that perfectly fit the era of electrification,” Toyota CEO Koji Sato said at a joint press conference.

“As technologies for all-electric vehicles advance, we need to think about plug-in hybrid vehicles that centre around electric power rather than



(From L) Subaru Corp CEO Atsushi Osaki, Mazda Motor Corp CEO Masahiro Moro and Toyota Motor Corp CEO Koji Sato hold a press briefing in Tokyo on 28 May 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

internal combustion engines,” he said.

The announcement comes as global EV sales have been slowing. Despite early adopters driving a rapid rise in the genre, many consumers remain hesitant to buy all-electric vehicles due to their limited range and a lack of charging stations.

To achieve carbon neutrality, the three companies are concentrating on offering a diverse range of green vehicles rather than solely focusing on

manufacturing all-electric cars.

Toyota Chief Technology Officer Hiroki Nakajima emphasized at the press conference that the new engines will lead to more flexibility in vehicle development, enabling the firms to strike the right balance between electric and gasoline power, depending on each market’s energy situation.

Toyota Chairman Akio Toyoda has highlighted the need to maintain the development of engines despite

the industry’s rapid shift towards EVs, saying they still play an important role in the era of decarbonization by expanding power train options.

The effort will benefit Japan’s auto supply chains, which were built around gasoline-powered cars and are currently struggling with the global shift to EVs. “We won’t leave anyone behind in our effort to achieve carbon neutrality,” Subaru CEO Atsushi Osaki said at the press conference. — Kyodo

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB420A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB420A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3412S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3412S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-5-2024** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

# ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

## Deadly Bangladesh cyclone one of longest seen

BANGLADESHI weather experts said Tuesday that a deadly cyclone that carved a swath of destruction was one of the quickest-forming and longest-lasting they'd experienced, blaming climate change for the shift.

Cyclone Remal, which made landfall in low-lying Bangladesh and neighbouring India on Sunday evening with fierce gales and crashing waves, left at least 38 people dead, destroyed thousands of homes, smashed seawalls and flooded cities across the two countries.

The toll includes 12 workers who died on Tuesday when a quarry collapsed in India's Mizoram state, which the government attributed to torrential rains as the storm progressed inland.

"In terms of its land duration, it is one of the longest in the country's history," Azizur Rahman, director of the state-



This aerial photograph shows deluged land after cyclone Remal's landfall in Patuakhali on 28 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

run Bangladesh Meteorological Department told AFP, adding it had battered the country for more than 36 hours.

In contrast, Cyclone Aila,

which hammered Bangladesh in 2009, lasted around 34 hours.

Cyclones have killed hundreds of thousands of people in Bangladesh in recent decades,

and the number of superstorms hitting its densely populated coast has increased sharply, from one a year to as many as three, due to the impact of cli-

mate change.

Slow-moving and longer-lasting storms bring greater destruction.

"I've seen many storms in my life but nothing like this cyclone", said Asma Khatun, an 80-year-old widow who lives with her son, a fisherman in Bangladesh's hard-hit coastal town of Patuakhali.

"Before, the storm came and went away... now it doesn't seem to go away. The incessant pouring and heavy wind kept us stuck for days".

Rahman said the cyclone triggered massive rains, with some cities receiving at least 200 millimetres (7.9 inches).

Storm surges breached multiple embankments, meaning seawater flooded into farmland, damaged freshwater fish farms common along the coast, or corrupted drinking water. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### DPRK military reconnaissance satellite launch ends in failure: KCNA

THE launch of a military reconnaissance satellite on Monday by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) suffered a failure, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The National Aerospace Technology Administration (NATA) of the DPRK conducted the launch of reconnaissance satellite Malligyong-1-1 aboard the new-type satellite carrier rocket at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground in Cholsan County of North Phyongan Province on Monday, the KCNA report said.

The launch failed due to an air blast of the carrier rocket during the first-stage flight, an official from the NATA was quoted by the KCNA as saying.

A preliminary conclusion was made by the experts from the field headquarters of the non-permanent preparatory committee for launching satellites, attributing the cause of the accident to the reliability of operation of the newly developed liquid oxygen and petroleum engine, the report said. — Xinhua

#### Thousands being evacuated from still-active landslide in PNG

THOUSANDS of residents are being evacuated from the still-active massive landslide in Papua New Guinea's remote Enga province on Tuesday, after parts of a mountain collapsed early Friday, burying over 2,000 people.

Nearly 8,000 people have been told to be on standby for evacuation from the landslide-prone area, Radio New Zealand Pacific reported on Tuesday.

Enga provincial disaster committee chairperson and provincial administrator Sandis Tsaka said some were already being evacuated, but the number was unclear. — Xinhua

## Trump judgment looms as historic trial reaches finale



People hold up signs reading "Free Ross" as former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump arrives to address the Libertarian National Convention in Washington, DC, 25 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

PROSECUTORS in the trial of Donald Trump will make a final pitch to the jury Tuesday, in their historic pursuit of the first ever criminal conviction of a former US president.

Less than six months before American voters choose whether to return Trump to the White House, the stakes riding on the verdict are hard to overstate — for the 77-year-old personally, but also for the country as a whole.

Trump is accused of falsifying business records to buy the silence of adult film star Stormy Daniels over a 2006 sexual encounter between them that could have damaged his 2016 presidential bid.

If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison on each of 34 counts, but legal experts say that as a first-time offender he is unlikely to get jail time.

Crucially, a conviction would not bar Trump from

appearing on the ballot in November as the Republican presidential challenger to Democrat Joe Biden.

It has taken nearly five weeks, the testimony of more than 20 witnesses and a few courtroom fireworks to reach closing arguments — the last chance for the prosecution and defence to impress their case on the anonymous, 12-member jury. As expected, Trump chose not to testify in his defence — a move that would have exposed him to unnecessary legal jeopardy and forensic cross-examination.

Instead, he was forced to sit and listen while Daniels recounted their alleged encounter in sometimes graphic detail.

Speaking to reporters before and after each day in court, Trump launched regular tirades against Judge Juan Merchan — calling him "corrupt" and a "tyrant" — and condemned the whole trial as "election interference" by Democrats intent on keeping him off the campaign trail. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Team Myanmar sails hard for World Cup Qualifiers against Japan, N Korea



Myanmar footballers seen taking training ahead of the World Cup qualifiers. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar national team has been training since yesterday evening for the remaining two group matches of the 2026 World Cup Asian zone qualifiers against Japan and North Korea, which will be played in June.

The Myanmar national

team is composed of 33 preliminary players and will have nine days to prepare for the match against the Japanese team.

Most of the players participated in the first practice programme of the Myanmar national team, and only some

of those playing in foreign clubs could not come to join.

The Myanmar squad will play at home against the Japanese team on 6 June as a World Cup qualifier and will play away against the North Korean team on 11 June. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Bochum secure top-flight status via penalties at Duesseldorf

BOCHUM will play first-division football again next season after coming from three goals down and beating second-division Fortuna Duesseldorf away via a penalty shoot-out in Monday's relegation play-off second leg.

Trailing 3-0 after the first leg at home, Bochum had little hope but were dragged back into the tie thanks to a superb performance from out-of-contract midfielder Kevin Stoeger, who laid on two goals before winning and converting a penalty.

Bochum led 3-0 at full-time and the match went to penalties after a goalless extra period.

Andreas Luthe saved Duesseldorf's first spot-kick but Florian Kastenmeier then saved one of Bochum's to keep the hosts in the shoot-out.

Players from both sides then converted spot-kicks until Takashi Uchino blasted his side's seventh over the bar, meaning Bochum stay in the top flight for a fourth straight season.

"We were in such a good position, we were so close, that's why it



Bochum players including Bochum's German goalkeeper (16) Andreas Luthe and Bochum's Japanese forward (11) Takuma Asano celebrate after winning the penalty shoot-out of the German Bundesliga relegation play-off 2nd-leg football match Fortuna Duesseldorf vs VfL Bochum on 27 May 2024 in Duesseldorf, western Germany. Bochum's penalty shoot-out win keeps them in the Bundesliga first division next season. PHOTO: UWE KRAFT / AFP

hurts even more," said Duesseldorf's sporting director Klaus Allofs. "We didn't play well but I don't know why — we have no idea". — AFP

## Aston Villa coach Unai Emery signs deal until 2029

ASTON Villa coach Unai Emery has signed a new five-year contract after leading the club to qualification for next season's Champions League, it was confirmed on Monday.

Emery has completely changed Villa's fortunes after replacing Steven Gerrard in October 2022 when they were just one place above the bottom three of the Premier League.

The 52-year-old quickly brought results and Villa finished seventh last season to qualify for the Conference League, while this season they got to the semi-finals of the European competition and finished fourth in the Premier League.

Emery's previous contract still had three years to run, but now the club has assured his long-term future after rumours of interest from other big clubs in Europe.

"I am very happy to take this step and the responsibility of leading this club. There's a great chemistry in Aston Villa. And the element of the fans' support also makes the difference to feel like home".

"We are really excited to continue this journey with no limits to our dreams," said Emery on the club's website. — Xinhua



Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return to Alexander Zverev of Germany during the men's singles 1st round match at the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros, Paris, France, 27 May 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Nadal suffers potential farewell defeat, Swiatek dominates to advance

RAFAEL Nadal's glorious French Open career very likely came to an end as the 14-time champion suffered his first ever opening-round-defeat on Monday, losing to Alexander Zverev in three straight sets.

Women's defending champion Iga Swiatek kicked off her campaign in style

in an earlier action at the Philippe-Chatrier Court as she dismissed French qualifier Leolia Jeanjean 6-1, 6-2 to extend her winning streak at Roland Garros to 15 matches.

Fourth-seeded Zverev handed Nadal a 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 defeat in the most mouthwatering clash of the first round,

maybe also the most remarkable one of this stage in the tournament's 134-year history. The 27-year-old German became the first man to defeat Nadal before the fourth round at Roland-Garros and joined Robin Soderling and Novak Djokovic as the third man to defeat Nadal on the Parisian clay. — Xinhua

## ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Deadly Bangladesh cyclone one of longest seen

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# WORLD

**I**SRAEL again bombarded Gaza's far-southern Rafah area on Tuesday despite a global storm of outrage over a strike that set ablaze a crowded tent city, killing 45 people according to Palestinian officials.

The strike, which Gaza medics said also left hundreds of civilians with shrapnel and burn wounds, drew condemnation from world leaders and was set to be discussed at an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council from 1915 GMT.

The sight of the charred carnage, blackened corpses and children being rushed to hospitals led UN chief Antonio Guterres to declare that "there is no safe place in Gaza. This horror must stop".

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the strike a "tragic accident" but also vowed to push on with the military campaign to destroy Hamas over the 7 October attack and bring home all the hostages.

More air strikes and shelling rained down overnight on besieged Gaza -- including Rafah's Tal Al-Sultan area where the displacement camp went up in flames near a facility of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

"The situation is very dangerous," said one resident, Faten Jouda, 30. "We didn't sleep all night. There was random bombing from all directions, including artillery shelling and air bombardment as well as firing from aircraft.

"We saw everyone fleeing again," she told AFP. "We too will go now and head to Al-Mawasi because we fear for our lives," she said, referring to a nearby coastal area Israel has declared a safe "humanitarian zone".



Smoke billows following Israeli strikes in Rafah city in the southern Gaza Strip on 28 May 2024 amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas militant group. The UN Security Council was set to convene an emergency meeting on 28 May over an Israeli strike that killed dozens in a displaced persons camp in Rafah, as three European countries were slated to formally recognize a Palestinian state.

PHOTO: AFP

## Israel again bombs Rafah as Security Council to discuss camp blaze

### Palestinian statehood

More than seven months into the bloodiest ever Gaza war, Israel has faced ever louder international opposition, as well as cases against the country and its leader before two international courts based in the Netherlands.

In a landmark political move on Tues-

day, Spain as well as Ireland and Norway were to formally recognize Palestinian statehood, a step so far taken by over 140 UN members but few Western governments.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on national television that "recognition of the state of Palestine is

not only a matter of historic justice... it is also an essential requirement if we are all to achieve peace".

"It is the only way to move towards the solution that we all recognize as the only possible way to achieve a peaceful future: that of a Palestinian state living side-by-side with the state of Israel in peace and security." — AFP

## Iran says approach to sanctions removal talks remains unchanged

IRAN'S Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday that his country's approach towards the indirect talks on lifting sanctions and facilitating the

return of all parties to the 2015 nuclear deal remained unchanged.

He made the remarks at a weekly press conference in the Iranian capital Tehran, responding to inquiries about potential changes to Iran's negotiating team after Ali Bagheri Kani, the country's chief nuclear negotiator, was appointed as caretaker foreign minister after the death of Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and questions about the prospect of postponing relevant negotiations until after Iran's presidential election on 28 June. He dismissed Western media reports alleging "secret" indirect talks between the United States and Iranian officials, including Bagheri Kani, in Oman earlier in the month, saying they lack credibility and were inaccurate.

He said that the exchange of indirect messages between Iran and the American side on sanctions removal had been ongoing without interruption. However, such interactions had focused solely on areas concerning the lifting of the embargoes and nuclear issues and had never gone beyond that framework. — Xinhua



A man reads the Iranian newspaper Etemad, with the front page title reading in Farsi "The night of the end of the JCPOA", and cover photos of Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his deputy and chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani, in the capital Tehran on 16 August 2022. PHOTO: AFP

## COVID-19 antibodies top 60% across Japan for 1st time

THE rate of antibodies found in people in Japan who have been infected with the coronavirus has exceeded 60 per cent for the first time, according to two recent surveys conducted by the health ministry.

The ministry presented the results of two surveys conducted in March this year to a panel of experts on Monday. In one survey covering all age groups, the antibody possession rate was 60.7 per cent, while in another survey targeting blood donors aged 16 to 69 nationwide, the rate reached 64.5 per cent.

The survey covering all age groups analyzed data on 3,947 people across 22 prefectures. For those aged between 5 and 19, the antibody rate came to over 85 per cent, while those aged 70 and above showed a rate in the 30 per cent range.

In the other survey, which targeted a total of 18,048 blood donors across all of Japan's prefectures, the antibody rate exceeded 60 per cent in a total of 38 prefectures including the northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido and Tokyo. The highest rate was seen in the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa at 77.6 per cent and the lowest in Akita Prefecture at 50 per cent. — Xinhua