

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Myanmar's traditional handicrafts are seen being displayed at the Annual International Cultural Festival in New Delhi, India, on 27 April 2024.

Myanmar traditional handicrafts showcased at New Delhi Cultural Festival

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi showcased traditional Myanmar handicrafts and products at the Annual International

Cultural Festival held at the International Student House of the University of Delhi in New Delhi, India, on 27 April.

Traditional Myanmar handicrafts, including

lacquerware, the Myanmar harp, and Patheingyi parasols, were among the items exhibited at the festival, which saw participation from 10 countries.

— ASH/ MKKS

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Schools to reopen on 3 June, enrolment to begin on 23 May

BUSINESS

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CBM sells 5M yuan, 30M Thai baht on 2 May

NATIONAL

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Japan to recruit more than 1,100 Myanmar workers

Myanmar exports 140,000 tonnes of pulses in last three weeks

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The value of Myanmar's pulses exports hit over US\$1.48 billion from over 1.76 million tonnes in the previous FY 2023-2024. A worker organizing export pulse bags in the warehouse.

NATIONAL

Stone caves possibly used for combat against Mongols discovered near Myinsaing ancient city



Wall paintings at Seiktagot Cave



Wasae Hill and caves



The stone base of a collapsed pagoda found at Wasae Hill. **PHOTOS-KO AYE MIN**

AT Wasae mountain, which residents called Taungkyun, located near the ancient city of Myinsaing in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, stone caves believed to have been used in fighting with Mongols long ago were unearthed.

Only some caves are possible to enter, and the rest collapse or are blocked at entry, according

to Ko Aye Min, a resident who posted about it on social media.

At Myinsaing, pagodas, temples, and lakes remain in ancient art, and this area is well-known for defending Mongolians by digging caves. Myinsaing-era wall paintings remain inside Shwe Oo Min Cave and Seiktagot Cave on the Shwe Oo Min mountain range.

"The place, which is believed to be the palace wall, is now Kalaykyau village. The whole village is located inside the palace wall. According to historians, the palace wall naturally looks like a fort due to steep hills. That hill is located at the east of Kalaykyau village, and caves are dug up the hill. Entries are very narrow, but the inside is vast.

Some caves collapsed. As far as I know, there are a total of about 20 caves. Some caves look invisible because you can't see them even if you are above them. Even residents are lost there. According to hearsay, there are huge snakes inside caves, so people dare not to enter. Most of the caves at Wasae Hill collapsed," he said.

Among many reasons that

caused caves to collapse, coal mining is included, and the weather is another factor, he said.

"Just 3 out of 10 caves are possible to enter by crouching or crawling. There are caves collapsed from the entire floor. At a cave, a wall painting in Kanote flowers that remain just faint is found," said Ko Aye Min. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

Nationwide biodiversity preservation knowledge-sharing programmes launched

THE Forest Department has initiated knowledge-sharing programmes focusing on forest and biodiversity preservation in cities and towns nationwide since late April.

U Mya Aung, assistant director of the Forest Department of Mandalay District, stated that these programmes are tailored for middle school and high school students during the

summer holidays. They aim to impart knowledge on preserving the forest ecosystem and demonstrate systematic plantation techniques.

The seminars and demonstrations involve participation from officers and staff of Forest Departments from various states and regions, as well as principals, supervisors, teachers, and students. — ASH/TMT



Forest and biodiversity preservation knowledge sharing programme in progress in Mandalay Region.

Kachin State Cultural Museum to expand with touch screen integration

ACCORDING to U Moe Min Thein, the Kachin State Social Affairs Minister, an extended exhibition hall will be added to the Kachin State Cultural Museum in Myitkyina Township. This extension will feature a small model representing the traditional Manaw dance of the Kachin people, along with displays showcasing the culture of various ethnic nationalities, accessible through touch-screen interfaces.

Currently, the museum exhibits the costumes, tools, and customs of six Kachin tribes and five Shan tribes. Within its eight exhibition halls and a library, visitors can explore both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The new hall will employ modern technology to present cultural traditions in innovative ways.

Museum officials are col-



Traditional costume exhibition hall and the Cultural Museum.

laborating with the Kachin Literature and Culture Association to acquire materials related to traditional dances.

Established on 6 November 1994, the museum is situated between Aungsan Road

and Thakin Nat Pe Road. It houses displays of Kachin traditional costumes, looms, silverware, jewellery, utensils, musical instruments, weapons, and models of Kachin houses. — ASH/NT

NATIONAL

Myanmar Fire Brigade Day: MoHA Union Minister encourages blood donors, public services



STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae yesterday encouraged members of regular and auxiliary fire brigades who donated blood and sanitize hospital grounds as a gesture of hailing the 78th Myanmar Fire Brigade Day, which will take place on 5 May 2024, at the

Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1,000-bed).

The Union minister and party viewed round 63 firefighters donating blood and 300 troops clearing the undergrowth and cleaning drains and garbage in the hospital compound. He provided nutritious food to collective blood donors and clean-up volunteers.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general, Fire Services Department Director-General U Myat Thu, senior officers, and members of the regular and auxiliary fire brigades. — MNA/TS

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae (2nd L) views members of the fire brigade, who donate blood yesterday.

Myanmar exports 140,000 tonnes of pulses in last three weeks

FROM PAGE-1

MYANMAR bagged US\$56 million from about 140,000 tonnes of pulses exports in the first three weeks of the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's seaborne trade recorded over 136,218 tonnes of pulses exports worth \$113.24 million, whereas over 3,738 tonnes of pulses worth \$3.38 million were sent to the neighbouring countries between 1 and 19 April this FY.

The value of Myanmar's pulses exports hit over \$1.48 billion from over 1.76 million tonnes in the previous 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.

The prevailing market prices hit K3.135 million per tonne of black grams (urad) and K4.04 million per tonne of pigeon peas (tur), according to figures released by the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The prices hit a record high of K3.5 million per tonne of black grams and K4.197 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 5 February.

The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

MoHT Union Minister heads to Indonesia for tourism conference

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine departed for Indonesia yesterday to participate in the Second Conference on Empowering Women in Tourism in Asia and the Pacific at the invitation of Indonesia's Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy and the Secretary-General of the

United Nations Tourism Organization.

The conference, themed "Woman-Led Initiatives Shaping the Future of Inclusive and Sustainable Tourism", will take place from 2 to 4 May at the Bali International Convention Centre (BICC) in Nusa Dua Bali.

Officials from the Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels

and Tourism saw the Union minister and her delegation off at Yangon International Airport. Dr Thet Thet Khine will engage in a ministerial dialogue during the conference, which aims to spotlight women-led initiatives and their potential to foster growth and sustainability within the tourism sector. — MNA/TS



Officials see off Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine before the departure for Indonesia yesterday.

NATIONAL

Commander-in-Chief (Air) leaves on friendship visit to Thailand



A Tatmadaw (Air) delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung embarked on a friendship visit to Thailand on 30 April to promote friendship and cooperation between the air forces of Myanmar and Thailand. This visit comes in response to an invitation extended by Air Chief Marshal Punpakdee Pattanakul.

The delegation was bid farewell at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, along with senior Tatmadaw officers and staff.

Accompanying the Commander-in-Chief (Air) are senior officers from Tatmadaw (Air). During their visit, discussions will focus on enhancing friendship and cooperation between the air forces of the two countries. — MNA/TKO

A Tatmadaw (Air) delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung leaves to pay a friendship visit to Thailand on 30 April 2024.

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: 9 men from YeU arrested for military service

MALICIOUS news media are spreading false information that nine men from two neighbourhoods in YeU, Sagaing Region, were arrested at their homes on the night of 29 April to serve in the military.

Regarding the news, an administrative official in the relevant township was contacted and informed that the people who are responsible for serving in the military are cooperating, that there is no use of threats, violence or coercion to serve in the military, and that they are only acting in accordance with the law on serving in the military.

Malicious news media and those who dislike community peace are spreading misinformation and fabricated stories about the implementation of the People's Military Service Law in order to mislead the public. — MNA/KZL

The screenshot validates misinformation.



Taunggyi outstanding students camp closing ceremony held



Outstanding students launch lanterns during the closing ceremony for the 2023-2024 Academic Year Outstanding Students Camp in Taunggyi yesterday. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THAN

THE closing ceremony for the 2023-24 Academic Year outstanding students camp in Taunggyi took place at the residence of the Shan State Chief Minister on the evening of 30 April.

During the ceremony, Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung expressed gratitude to those who contributed to the successful execution of the event, from the welcoming arrangements to all necessary

preparations for the students and the organization of the closing ceremony. He also congratulated the Grade 10 multi-skilled outstanding students and encouraged them to apply the knowledge gained during their time in Shan State for both personal and national development.

Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung and his wife presented crystal trophies to the outstanding students and

supervisors. Additionally, the wife of the Commander of the Eastern Command and the Chief Justice of the Shan State High Court, along with their spouses, presented gifts to the students.

Maung Khant Zin Nyein, a two-time winner of the outstanding student award from the Yangon Region, extended words of appreciation on behalf of all the students. — Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)/TMT



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NATIONAL

MSME products exhibition held in Nay Pyi Taw to commemorate Labour Day

THE micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) products exhibition was held in Nay Pyi Taw to commemorate Labour Day yesterday.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo first mentioned the efforts of the State Administration Council to pro-

mote agricultural production industries and meat-fish-based production sectors as per the significant points — to encourage local products, substitute the imports and lure the exports, and to penetrate the local and foreign markets.

He then talked about the

advantages of the products exhibition and inaugurated the ceremony, following the ceremonial procedures.

A total of 50 booths of MSME entrepreneurs will be exhibited at the expo from 1 to 5 May. — MNA/KTZH



Officials cut the ceremonial ribbon of the MSME products exhibition held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

International Workers' Day celebrated in Hpa-an with MSME expo



Officials visit the exhibition booths of MSMEs during International Workers' Day ceremony in Hpa-an yesterday.

THE International Workers' Day ceremony and MSMEs products exhibition were held in Hpa-an Township yesterday.

First, Kayin State

Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior Gener-

al Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing.

He then awarded the outstanding people in local services and manufacturing sectors and observed 28 booths at the exhibition.

Similarly, he also attended the collective blood donation ceremony marking the 78th anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day at the General Hospital (Hpa-an). — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/KTZH

Mon State Chief Minister attends International Workers' Day ceremony

MON State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein presided over a ceremony to mark International Workers' Day in Mawlamyine yesterday.

He then read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing.

After the ceremony, the chief minister and party observed the products, local traditional foods, and types of machines manu-



Officials visit the exhibition booths of MSMEs during International Workers' Day ceremony in Mawlamyine yesterday.

factured by MSMEs.

The chief minister also proceeded to Sasana 2,500 monastery in Mawlamyine to pay homage to the presiding sayadaw and

met internally displaced persons from Dhammathet village who are sheltering in Mawlamyine and Chaungzon townships. — Sithu (IPRD)/KTZH

Exhibition booths opened in regions/states to commemorate Intl Workers' Day



Kengtung, Shan State



Myitkyina, Kachin State



Haka, Chin State



Tachilek, Shan State



Taunggyi, Shan State



Monghsat, Shan State

NATIONAL

Sugar price shows uptick in Yangon market in late April

YANGON'S sugar wholesale market witnessed a slight increase to K4,750 per viss from 27 April, The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) quoted traders engaged in the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market as saying.

The prices fluctuated around K4,600 per viss in April. U Soe Lwin, a trader, said there is a price difference of K100 between the Yangon and Mandalay markets.

Sugar produced by the mills from northern Shan State fetched the highest price in the domestic market. Those from the Bago Region are slightly



Sugar production process at a mill.

lower than those from Shan State.

The wholesale price of sugar is likely to hit up to K5,000 per viss, Ko Mn, a trader forecast.

For the 2024 sugar season, sugar production is estimated to be about 500,000 tonnes, and 100,000 of them are shipped to foreign markets. Prior to the sugar milling season, sugarcane was priced at only K130,000 per tonne. Some sugar mills offered up to K150,000 per tonne. At that time, sugar hit only K3,800 per viss in Yangon's wholesale market.

The sugar prices were up

by K1,000 per viss during the October-April period when the sugar mills ran operations.

The sugar price rose fivefold in the past five years. The sugarcane price was only K38,000 per viss in late 2019.

There is a potential for price rise in the upcoming months as sugar mills shut down operations, prompting some traders from delta regions to store the stocks, according to Yangon's sugar depots.

Traders who keep the sugar stocks in hand reaped a handsome profit in the first four months of this year. — TWA/KK

YCDC collaborate with private sector to construct Tamway Super Market



Memorial photo of signing agreement by Markets and Commodities Centre Department Head (Deputy Director-General) U Than Htaik and One One One Co Ltd Managing Director U Ye Yint Aung.

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has announced that the construction of the new Tamway Super

Market will be a collaboration between the YCDC and the private sector.

On 30 April, the YCDC and

One One One Co Ltd signed a joint venture agreement for the construction of the market. — TWA/TKO

Schools to reopen on 3 June, enrolment to begin on 23 May

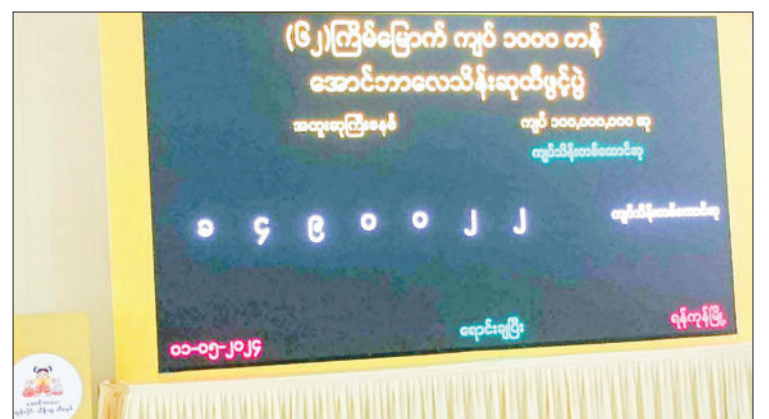
ACCORDING to the Ministry of Education, schools will resume on 3 June, and registrations for the academic year 2024-25 will be open from 23 to 31 May.

Essential school items such as stationery, textbooks, and uniforms will be provided free of charge on the enrolment day.

During the academic year 2023-2024, students who were delayed in enrolling for various reasons were accommodated until the end of June. Approximately 7 million students attended schools across the country during that year. — TWA/TKO



The school enrolment processing for the 2023-2024 academic year in 2023.



The lottery ticket number for the K100 million prize for the 62nd Aungbarlay lottery is revealed to the public.

IRD announces 62nd Aungbarlay Lottery winners

THE Department of Internal Revenue declared the 62nd Aung Bar Lay Lottery jackpot winner, who held ticket number C185677, for a K500 million prize.

The ticket numbers of other lottery prizes are I926578 for K200 million and B490022 for K100 million.

A total of 552,276 ticket booklets were sold for the 62nd Aungbarlay lottery from the alphabet A to I.

Seventy per cent of earnings of Aungbarlay lottery sales worth over K3.865 billion and

K250 million revenue were returned as lottery prizes.

The 62nd Aungbarlay lottery covers one K500-million prize, one K200-million prize, one K100-million prize, four prizes for K50 million, five for K20 million, nine for K10 million, 12 prizes for K5 million, 16 for K2 million, 14 million for K1 million and other small prizes, including K3 million prizes, 300 prizes for K200,000, 3,000 prizes for K100,000, 20,000 prizes for K50,000 and 100,000 prizes for K10,000. — TWA/KK

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CBM hikes minimum reserve requirement ratio

WITH a view to taming inflation and controlling the increase in cash in circulation, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) raised the minimum reserve requirement ratio of local currency from 3.5 to 3.75 per cent in liquid assets, according to a directive (4/2024) dated 30 April 2024.

This amendment of the minimum reserve requirement ratio will be effective from 3 May 2024.

Therefore, the state-owned banks, private banks and foreign bank branches are entitled to put three per cent of Cash at the Bank (CAB) into the Central Bank's deposit account and hold 0.75 per cent of CAB.

Furthermore, the interest on average excess reserve was set at 3.8 per cent to facilitate banking operations. The banks that hold an average excess reserve exceeding seven billion kyats are at least entitled to enjoy the interest. Excess reserves held by the banks are limited to K50 billion.

The financial institutions must hold the specified ratio of the deposits into CBM and the average until the last day of the reserve maintenance period.

Failing to do so is liable to penalties of CBM.

According to CBM's directive dated 5 April 2023, the minimum reserve requirement ratio was set at 3.5 per cent, with three per cent deposit into the CBM account and 0.5 per cent CAB. The interest rate on the average excess reserve was set at 3.6 per cent. CBM set a new minimum reserve requirement ratio, and the latest directive has superseded the earlier one, No 9/2023, dated 5 April 2023. — NN/EM

CBM sells 5M yuan, 30M Thai baht on 2 May



Central Bank of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will sell five million yuan and 30 million Thai baht for importers and exporters through online trading platforms on 2 May 2024.

CBM injected US\$3 million, two million yuan and 54 million Thai baht into the financial market in April. It also sold \$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 peaked at some K3,970 at the over-the-counter market at present. The exchange rates currently stand at K106 for a Thai baht and K538 for a yuan.

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

Dried bitter bean seeds sell but lag behind fresh beans in sales

ALTHOUGH medicinal dried bitter bean seeds are selling well in the market, they are not selling as well as fresh beans, according to the bean sellers' circle.

As this is the season to sell dried bitter bean seeds, they sell well, but in the pre-Thingyan period, it was the season of fresh bitter beans, which sold better.

"Bitter beans sell well now. They are mainly delivered to Yangon. Now, the fresh beans' season has ended, and the dried seeds' season has begun. It is sold based on the number of cans of condensed milk. Fresh beans' season is from January to April. The rest of the year is dried seeds' season. Many people buy it for its medicinal properties. We deliver to Toungoo and other townships. We also sell a lot to PyinOoLwin. In the pre-Thingyan period, there was



Medicinal dried bitter beans and seeds in the market.

still a fresh beans market, so they sold better. In the season for dried seeds, it doesn't sell

as much as the fresh season," said a bitter bean trader. A piece of bitter beans costs

K100 and K250, respectively, at the wholesale and retail markets in PyinOoLwin and dried

seeds sell for K1,500 to K2,000 per condensed mile can.

Bitter beans or stink beans are popular in Myanmar's neighbouring countries, such as India, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, and Singapore, and India imports these beans from Myanmar every year. Recently, it has spread to the domestic market, and there are now many consumers in Myanmar.

Being green, about the size of a lablab bean, and having a similar flavour and taste to djenkol beans, bitter beans are a favourite djenkol bean substitute for some people and are mainly eaten as fries, mixed salads to go with salty sauce and main dishes with pork, prawns, tomatoes, and fish sauce. These beans are rich in protein, good fats, sugar, fibre, iron, calcium, potassium, magnesium, zinc, copper and many vitamins. — Thit Taw/ZN

OPINION

Encourage electrification for rural and urban development

ELECTRICITY is the cornerstone of socioeconomic development, fostering various businesses and improving the standard of living. It plays a vital role across all sectors, enhancing living standards and facilitating industrial growth, which in turn boosts the production of quality goods for export, thereby bolstering the nation's income.

As part of the National Electrification Project (NEP), aimed at nationwide coverage, the Department of Rural Development has announced plans to implement single-house solar power systems and small-scale electrification projects in approximately 900 villages during the 2024-25 financial year.

The government has allocated K20 billion annually for rural electrification projects. These projects are currently underway and funded by government allocations and contributions from the respective villages, ensuring their successful completion.

The Ministry of Electric Power aims to electrify off-grid areas located more than 10 miles away from national grids within 10 to 14 years. That will be achieved through single-house solar power systems and small-scale electrification projects in the coming financial years.

Initiated by the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development in the 2016-17 financial year, these electrification systems have already brought electricity to 418,363 houses in 9,163 villages through single-house solar power systems and to 38,913 houses in 162 villages through small-scale electrification systems within six years, spanning from 2016-17 FY to 2021-22 FY.

During the 2022-23 financial year, a total of 43,728 houses in 919 villages have the opportunity to benefit from electricity through single-house solar power systems, along with 2,835 houses in 14 villages through small-scale electrification systems. These rural electrification projects typically span two years to ensure the completion of all project components.

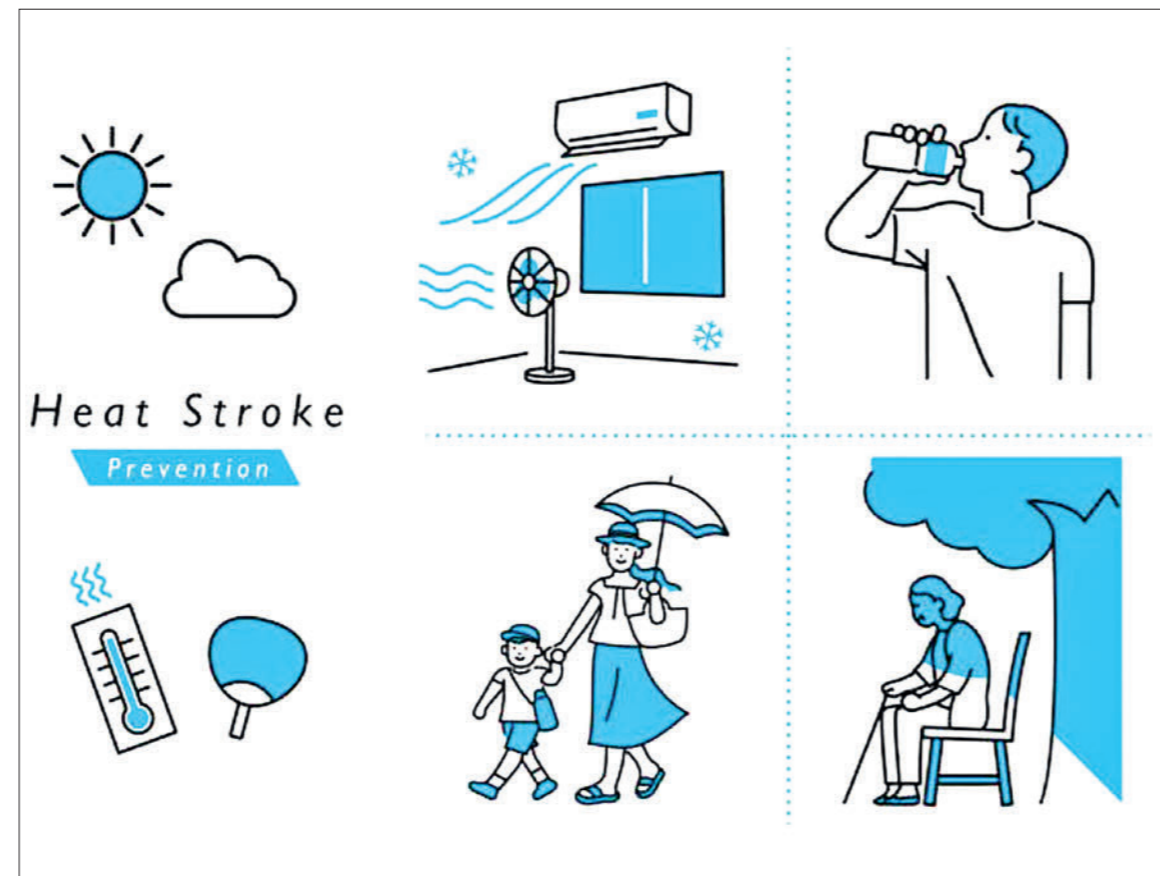
On the other hand, people need to use electricity in a systematic manner. If not necessary, all bulbs and lighting should be switched off. They have to be swift when lighting is necessary. All people need to avoid switching on lighting in unnecessary areas and unnecessary time. If so, electricity can be fed at full capacity to the relevant regions in turn. Hence, people need to consume electricity efficiently to reduce the expense of generating electricity and charges of electric bills.

Electrification is crucial for the overall development of both rural and urban areas. It signifies the modernization of a nation and its people, enabling the transition from underdeveloped to developing status. As such, encouraging electrification is vital for the advancement and prosperity of the country.

H EAT is the number one weather-related killer. Heat kills by pushing the human body beyond its limits. In extreme heat and humidity, evaporation is slowed, and the body must work hard to maintain an average temperature. Most heat disorders occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has over-exercised for their age and physical condition. Older adults, young children and those who are sick or overweight are more likely to capitulate to extreme heat.

The conditions that can induce heat-related illnesses include atmospheric conditions and poor air quality. Consequently, people living in urban areas may be at greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas. Asphalt and concrete also store heat longer and gradually release heat at night, which can produce higher nighttime temperatures, known as the Urban Heat Island Effect.

A heat wave is an extended period of extreme heat and is often accompanied by high humidity. These conditions can be dangerous and even life-threatening for people who do not take precautions. Preparing for extreme heat is crucial for staying safe and healthy, especially as temperatures continue to rise due to climate change. The following



Heat stroke is a medical emergency that can lead to serious complications or even death if not treated promptly. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXTASTOCK**

are some advice to help you prepare: -

- **Stay Informed:** Keep track of weather forecasts, especially during periods of extreme heat. Stay updated on heat advisories and warnings issued by local authorities.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid

alcohol and caffeine, as they can dehydrate you.

- **Stay Cool:** If possible, stay indoors during the hottest parts of the day, typically from late morning to early evening. Use fans, air conditioning, or cool baths and showers to lower your body temperature.
- **Dress Appropriately:** Wear

lightweight, light-coloured, and loose-fitting clothing. This helps your body stay cool by allowing sweat to evaporate more easily.

- **Protect Your Skin:** Apply sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor to protect your skin from sunburn, which can make it harder for your body to regulate its temperature.

- **Plan Outdoor Activities Carefully:** If you need to be outdoors, try to schedule activities during the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late evening. Take frequent breaks in the shade or indoors to cool down.
- **Check on Vulnerable Persons:** Keep an eye on children, the

elderly, and pets, as they are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. Make sure they have access to relaxed environments and plenty of water.

- **Avoid Strenuous Activities:** Limit outdoor exercise and strenuous activities during extreme heat. If you must exercise, do it during cooler times of the

day and listen to your body.

- **Know the signs of Heat-Related Illness:** Familiarize yourself with the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heatstroke, such as heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea, and confusion. Seek medical attention immediately if you or someone else experiences these symptoms.
- **Prepare Your Home:** Keep your home cool by closing blinds or curtains during the day and using fans or air conditioning. Consider installing window shades or awnings to block out the sun.
- **Stay Connected:** Keep in touch with friends, family, and neighbours, especially those who may need assistance during extreme heat. Offer to check in on them regularly to ensure they're doing okay.

By following this advice and taking proactive measures, you can better prepare yourself and your loved ones for extreme heat and reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses.

Reference
<https://www.wunderground.com/prepare/extreme-heat>

ARTICLE

How to Prepare for Extreme Heat

Heat-related illnesses can be induced by atmospheric conditions and poor air quality. Urban areas pose a greater risk during prolonged heat waves due to factors like the Urban Heat Island Effect.

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

EXPERTS are developing revolutionary immune-enhancing medicines known as host-directed therapies, which employ the body's immune system to target TB, to tackle even drug-resistant strains of the illness.

Associate Professor Susanna Brighenti, Centre for Infectious Medicine (CIM), ANA Futura at the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, will give a presentation at this year's ESCMID Global Congress (formerly ECCMID) in Barcelona.

The reported global number of people newly diagnosed with TB was 7.5 million in 2022, causing an estimated 1.3 million deaths. An estimated 410 000 cases and 160 000 deaths were due to multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB).

"Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) have evolved a remarkable ability to manipulate the human immune response and undermine

Experts developing immune-enhancing therapies to treat TB: Study

While some new antimicrobial therapies are emerging, antibiotic treatment for tuberculosis (TB) remains lengthy and intensive, even for drug-susceptible forms of the disease.

antimicrobial effector functions in host immune cells," explains Assoc Professor Brighenti.

Antimicrobial therapies

"While some new antimicrobial therapies are coming through, treatment with antibiotics remains an intensive and long process even for drug-susceptible forms of the disease. Importantly, mutations conferring antibiotic resistance are intrinsic properties of mycobacteria that effectively develop resistance to old as well as new groups of antibiotics, accentuating the need for adjunct treatments.

Thus, new treatments are going to be absolutely vital in the battle against TB."

Host-directed therapies (HDT) aim to strengthen the body's immune responses and represent an underexplored opportunity to improve treatment of TB, particularly MDR-TB. HDT are designed to target several immune pathways in infected cells to restore or induce antimicrobial functions instead of inhibiting bacterial growth directly.

This may involve enhanced production of immune peptides or toxic molecules that contribute to

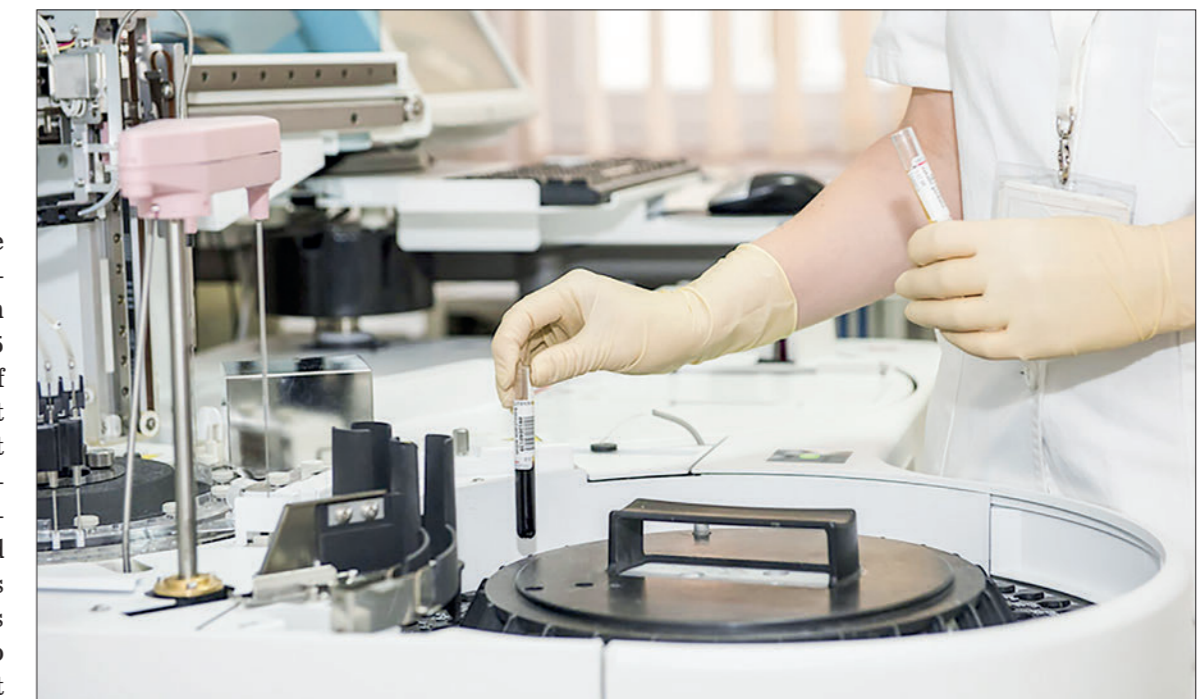
bacterial killing, but it could also include rebalancing of inflammatory responses. Assoc Professor Brighenti will explain how her research collaboration has generated a platform for immune reconstitution in TB, using small molecule compounds including histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors.

Transcription of genes

"These drugs can regulate transcription of genes in cells such as those in the immune system, and thus enhance the expression of proteins associated with the

antibacterial host defence. We have identified several HDAC inhibitors that reduce Mtb growth inside immune cells by some 50-75 per cent, even in the absence of antibiotics," she explains. "That may not sound so impressive, but these immunomodulatory compounds could work well as a complement to standard therapy and exert additive or synergistic effects together with the antibiotics. This would provide the possibility to reduce the dose and treatment length required with antibiotics to improve patient outcomes."

SOURCE: ANI



Experts are working on innovative immune-enhancing medicines called host-directed therapies to combat tuberculosis (TB), including drug-resistant strains. **ILLUSTRATION: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES/UCT**

NATIONAL

Mine blast derails train on Yangon-Mandalay rail section



Photos show the No 901 Up train derailed by mine explosion planted by insurgents while passing through Kanyutkwin-Nyaungbintha railway stations on the Yangon-Mandalay railways yesterday.

THE No 901 Up train for the Mahlwagon-Mytngge trip on the Yangon-Mandalay rail section derailed after the mine explosion planted by insurgents while passing through Kanyutkwin-Nyaungbintha railway stations yesterday.

Therefore, the two express trains — No 11 Up train from Yangon carrying 288 passengers and No 12 Down train from Mandalay carrying 174 passengers — suspended their trips temporarily. Regional officials and security

forces members proceeded to the site in a timely manner for inspection and the MR staff pulled up the derailed locomotives and carriages to reopen the railway section as quickly as possible.

Since 1 February 2021, terrorist groups have been perpetrating 131 mining attacks and explosions within railway areas and stations, 54 blasts on railway bridges, and 12 instances of blazing stations and employee housings. Their terror acts are aimed at destabilizing the rule of law and endangering the safety of travellers, drawing widespread condemnation from the public. — MNA/KTZH

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers, consumer goods, auto parts, motorbikes and vehicles

DURING inspections on 27 and 29 April, authorities seized two types of goods valued at K18.2 million at Yangon International Airport's Import Desk. This included 60 John Langford of London T-shirts lacking official documents. Additionally, 15 types of goods worth K4.158 million, including 480 sets of Riko Oil Filter from China, were found to exceed the quantity mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal. The action was conducted in accordance with Customs procedures.

On 29 April, combined teams supervised by the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated a Chenglong tractor head with a trailer, valued at approximately K75 million, en route from Hpa-an to Yangon. The trailer was carrying 100 West Lake brand tyres from China without official documents at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Furthermore, on the same day, an unregistered Honda Insight (estimated value at K8 million) was seized at the Ayeyawady Bridge combined checkpoint in Magway. Likewise, an unregistered Toyota Alphard (valued at K15 million) was intercepted at the junction of the suspension bridge on the Pathein-Chaungtha-Ngwehsaung road in Ayeyawady Region. The action was carried out under the Export and Import Law.

Additionally, on 30 April, two unregistered vehicles (estimated total value K14 million) were apprehended at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing. Meanwhile, an unregistered Yamaha Ray Z motorbike (valued at approximately K800,000) was captured in Kalay township. The action was also taken under the Export and Import Law.

On the same day, a total of 1.082 tonnes of illegal hardwood and 2.107 tonnes of timber were seized in Toungoo district under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that nine arrests were made on 27, 29, and 30 April, amounting to K136.18 million. — MNA/MKKS

Terrorists target infrastructure: Bridge destroyed; railway damaged



Nganuthan Bridge between Kanyutkwin and Nyaungpintha towns destroyed by land mine planted by terrorists from KNLA and PDF terrorists yesterday.

TERRORISTS from the KNLA and PDF terrorists affiliated with the NUG and CRPH reportedly planted explosives on the Nganuthan reinforced concrete bridge along the Yangon-Mandalay highway between Kanyutkwin and Nyaungpintha towns early yesterday morning.

The bridge measures 70 feet in length and 64 feet in width. Following the explo-

sion, a section of the bridge measuring 50 feet in length and 50 feet in width was destroyed.

Similarly, they allegedly planted mines on the Yangon-Mandalay railway, 700 metres northwest of the bridge. The explosion damaged approximately 10 feet of the two iron rails on the old railway and 20 feet of the two iron rails on the new railway.

Currently, the roadways have been closed, and officials from the Road and Bridge Department, along with staff, are actively involved in repairing the damages. Security forces are conducting counter-terrorism operations.

PDF terrorists have been accused of committing war crimes as they targeted non-military entities. — MNA/NT

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

Kyaikto health authorities, NGOs unite to aid TB and HIV patients

THE township health department and NGOs will identify and help TB and HIV patients in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, according to the Kyaikto Township General Hospital.

The hospital announced this as good news for HIV/TB patients. NGOs to join this campaign in identifying and helping HIV/TB patients include IOM and Myittar Cetana.

This campaign will help both outpatients and inpatients who cannot afford X-rays, blood tests, diagnosis and travel costs. Patients with lung diseases will be provided with necessary nutrition until they are fully recovered, the hospital said.

According to the WHO

Global Tuberculosis Report 2023, Myanmar is one of the 30 high-burden countries with the highest number of drug-resistant TB patients. WHO estimated that the rate of new TB cases and deaths in Myanmar in 2022 was 475 and 80 per 100,000 population, respectively.

TB activities are being carried out in accordance with the National Strategic Plan 2021-2025, led by the Department of Health's National Tuberculosis Programme, in collaboration with local and foreign partners, and more government funds have been allocated for TB drug procurement since 2015-16 fiscal year, the ministry said. — MT/ZN



Kayikto Hospital officials and NGO staff discussing the provision of health services to the public. PHOTO: KYAIKTO TOWNSHIP PEOPLE'S HOSPITAL



People on the streets after thunderstorms and the storm in 2019 in India. PHOTO: XINHUA

DMH warns of nationwide thunderstorms in May

DEPARTMENT of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) warns about possible thunderstorms that are forecasted to happen in May.

The temperature elevates when the monsoon is drawing near, and cumulonimbus clouds often become strong. Currently, it is extremely hot, so there is a possibility of forming cumulonimbus clouds, said U Hla Tun, spokesperson of the department.

"When the weather is scorching and when the monsoon is drawing near, there is a possibility of thunderstorms as cumulonimbus clouds are strong during such periods.

Roughly saying, it is the early monsoon period in April and May. And temperature increases again when monsoon leaves, so cumulonimbus clouds become strong, resulting in thunderstorms," he said.

As monsoons became weak in previous years, temperature surged, which caused cumulonimbus clouds and increased the number of thunderstorms.

"Generally, the possibility of thunderstorms is low in monsoon season, and almost no possibility of happening. But the occurrence of thunderstorms relates to heat. In recent years, monsoons have

become weak, so the possibility of thunderstorms is high again. If the monsoon is strong, the possibility of thunderstorms is weak. The temperature has risen back in recent years when the monsoon is weak and when the rain level is low, and if so, happening of cumulonimbus clouds becomes strong. So people need to be aware of it nationwide," he said.

In the coming rainy season, the monsoon will arrive late, and it will be moderate in the mid-monsoon period. According to the department, the end of the monsoon season is expected to be early. — Thit Taw/ZS

Japan to recruit more than 1,100 Myanmar workers

UP to 400 Japanese companies will provide jobs for more than 1100 Myanmar workers, according to the statement issued by the Myanmar Embassy in Japan on 30 April.

According to the statement, more than 380 Myanmar male workers and 810 Myanmar female workers, totalling more than 1,100, will be recruited.

Myanmar Embassy verifies whether labour supervisory companies and factories in Japan are officially established and re-submits its findings and remarks to the Ministry of La-

bour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar Embassy has carried out verification of demand letters organized in order of date of receiving the reply from Japanese companies. The statement said about 408 demand letters were received until 19 March 2024. They would be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification, the embassy said on 30 April.

According to the statement on 403 demand letters that were received until 5 March 2024, more than 400 Japanese companies would



The photo shows some Myanmar workers going to work in Japan in 2023.

employ up to 330 Myanmar male workers and up to 940 Myanmar female workers,

totalling more than 1200 Myanmar workers, it said on 12 April. — MT/ZS

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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

ECONOMY WORLD

Cutting-edge technologies, novelties and affordability wows visitors at Beijing auto show

The 2024 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition, running until 4 May, features a remarkable display of 278 new energy vehicle (NEV) models, highlighting the increasing prominence of NEVs in the automotive industry.

THE 2024 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition, an A-list event continuing through May 4, is showcasing an unprecedented number of new energy vehicles (NEVs), with 278 distinct NEV models on display, reflecting the growing dominance of NEVs in the auto industry. The cutting-edge technologies, customer-friendly novelties and affordability have wowed visitors at the show and underlined how the Chinese NEV sector has

succeeded in zooming ahead over the past decade.

A recent report from global market research firm International Data Corporation predicted that the global sales of smart driving cars will maintain rapid growth, and the development of smart driving empowered by AI investment and the expansion of unmanned driving application scenarios are important market trends in the future. — Xinhua



Products related to Bosch's intelligent transportation system are displayed at the 2024 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition in Beijing, China, 25 April 2024. **PHOTO: JU HUANZONG/XINHUA**

Generative AI could boost bank revenues by 6% in next three years: Accenture

BANKS across the globe could witness a substantial increase in revenues over the next three years by incorporating generative AI, as suggested by a recent report from Accenture.

The report highlights that banks embracing this technology could experience a revenue surge of up to 600 basis points (bps) within this timeframe.

Accenture's analysis, which involved studying more than 150 large banks worldwide, including public and private sector banks in India, revealed that the adoption of generative AI could significantly enhance employee productivity by up to 30 per cent.

Additionally, it could lead to a 300 bps increase in return on equity and a 20 per cent rise in operating income.

The report assessed how generative AI would impact various banking tasks based on publicly available employee data. It analysed how the technology could streamline

language-related tasks, thereby freeing up employees' time for more strategic work.

This efficiency improvement could lead to cost savings of one per cent-two per cent and a reduction of up to 400 bps in cost-to-income ratios.

The report also delved into the transformational effect of generative AI on different banking roles. It categorized these roles into three main groups.

Approximately 41 per cent of banking occupations, primarily involving data collection and processing, have a high potential for automation. Generative AI could enhance speed, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness in these tasks.

Around 34 per cent of bank employees, such as credit analysts and relationship managers, who rely heavily on judgment, could be empowered by generative AI tools. — ANI



Bank of India mobile ATM van. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

NEWS DIGEST: ECON

Air cargo posts fourth month of double-digit growth in March

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for March 2024 global air cargo markets, indicating sustained robust annual growth in demand.

Total demand, gauged in cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs), surged by 10.3 per cent compared to March 2023 levels (11.4 per cent for international operations), marking the fourth consecutive month of double-digit year-on-year growth. — ANI

China's trade with other BRICS members up

China's trade with other BRICS members hit 1.49 trillion yuan (about 209.7 billion US dollars) in the first quarter, up 11.3 per cent year on year, according to customs authorities.

The trade value accounted for 14.7 per cent of the nation's total foreign trade value during the same period, said the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

Among BRICS members, China's exports to Brazil and imports from it rose 25.7 per cent and 30.1 per cent year on year, respectively, in the first quarter. — Xinhua

Germany records growth in tourists from India

GERMANY has recorded an over 30 per cent growth in tourism with the European nation country welcoming over 800,000 overnight stays from India in 2023. "The growth in the number of tourists has been surprisingly impressive. We've seen over 30 per cent growth vis-a-vis last year. German tourism is bouncing back from COVID after the COVID restrictions have been lifted..." Germany's Deputy Head of Mission Georg Enzweiler told ANI. — ANI

Beijing eases restrictions on home-buying outside fifth ring road

This policy seems to allow for certain individuals to expand their property ownership beyond the usual restrictions within the city limits.

BEIJING on Tuesday eased home-purchase limits in areas outside the fifth ring road to address the housing demands of its residents, according to a notice issued by the municipal commission of housing and urban-rural development.

Local families with the Bei-

jing hukou, or residence permit, can buy one additional commercial house outside the fifth ring road even if they already own two apartments in Beijing, the notice said.

Single adults with the Beijing hukou and those non-Beijing residents who have a record of paying



Potential homebuyers look at property models in Huaian, Jiangsu province. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ CHEN LIANG/FOR CHINA DAILY**

social insurance or income tax for at least five consecutive years are

allowed to purchase one more property outside the fifth ring

road even if they already own one apartment in the city. — Xinhua

NEWS ROUNDUP

India, Australia forge alliance to empower women leaders in industry

CONFEDERATION of Indian Industry (CII) and Business Council of Australia (BCA) have joined hands to launch the India-Australia Women's Leadership Forum.

In a move towards fostering gender diversity and empowerment in the corporate world, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Business Council of Australia (BCA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish the India-Australia Women's Leadership Forum. The forum aims to promote women leadership in the industry and strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries.

The launch event took place in New Delhi, India, where the India-Australia Women's Leadership Forum was officially announced. The forum will be co-chaired by Viji Murugesan, Head of Scaleup Business Transformation at Tata Consultancy Services, and Ravneet Pawha, Asia CEO of Deakin University. — ANI

Japan's Itochu sets up new firm to take over scandal-hit Bigmotor

ITOCHU Corp said Wednesday that it and an investment fund have set up a new company to take over main operations of used car dealership Bigmotor Co, which had been mired in an insurance fraud scandal.

The new company, Wecars Co, will run Bigmotor's core businesses such as used car sales and repair operations, with all management executives of the troubled company dismissed from their posts. Bigmotor was renamed Balm Co and will focus on reparations.

Itochu and its energy unit Itochu Enex Co took a 49.9 per cent stake in Wecars and investment fund J-Will Partners holds the rest, with combined spending of about 40 billion yen (\$250 million).

Itochu hopes to acquire the holdings of J-Will Partners in the future, Itochu Executive Officer Masatoshi Maki said at a press conference. — Kyodo

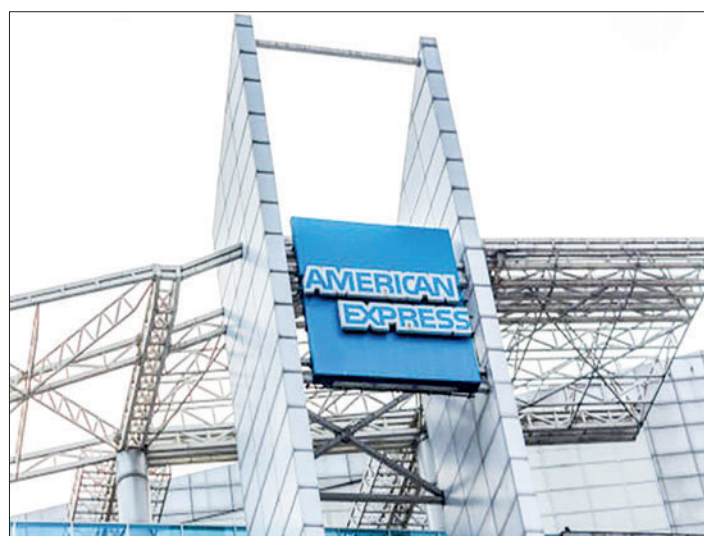
Indonesia to export electricity to Singapore

THE Indonesian government said Tuesday that the country would soon start exporting electricity from its solar power plants to Singapore, hoping to boost the development of the domestic solar panel industry.

The country's Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment revealed that five companies would supply the electricity, including PT Adaro Energy Indonesia Tbk, PT Medco Energi Internasional Tbk

and EDP Renewables. "Five companies have received conditional approvals," said Rachmat Kaimuddin, the deputy for coordination of infrastructure and transportation at the ministry, in a talk show in Jakarta. — Xinhua

American Express to open state-of-the-art campus in India



American Express is preparing to open a state-of-the-art campus in India, showcasing its strong dedication to the country. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / ANI**

AMERICAN Express is set to inaugurate its cutting-edge campus in India, signifying

its steadfast commitment to the country.

According to a press re-

lease, spanning nearly one million square feet, the new facility in sector 74A Gurugram exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to workplace design, sustainability, health, and wellness for its employees.

Colleagues will commence their transition to the new campus in phases, beginning at the end of May 2024. The campus, which has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for Building Design and Construction (BD+C) Core and Shell Development, reflects American Express' dedication to fostering a dynamic work environment. — ANI

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

US yet to see Israel's "credible plan" for entering Rafah

THE United States has not seen Israel's "credible plan" to enter Rafah that is set to address the "varying areas of concerns", said a US State Department official on Tuesday. As tensions persist in the ongoing conflict, the United States has reiterated its stance regarding the situation in Rafah, emphasising the need for a credible plan from Israel before any potential military operation.

Principal Deputy Spokesperson for the US Department of State, Vedant Patel reaffirmed this position, stating, "That is cor-

rect, it continues to be the case that we have not seen a credible plan that would address the varying areas of concerns."

Rafah, a region with over 1 million displaced individuals, remains a critical area for humanitarian aid distribution and a safe passage for foreign nationals. Patel underscored the significance of addressing the serious humanitarian concerns surrounding Rafah, highlighting the necessity for any operation to prioritize the well-being of the population in the region. — ANI

US Senate passes bill banning US imports of Russian uranium, heads to Biden's desk

The legislation prohibits the importation of unirradiated low-enriched uranium produced in Russia or by Russian entities into the US. It also bans imports of low-enriched uranium swapped for the prohibited Russian uranium to prevent circumvention



Starting material containers for uranium dioxide fuel pellet production at the Novosibirsk Chemical Concentrate Works. **PHOTO: RIA NOVOSTI/SPUTNIK**

THE US Senate has approved House-passed legislation to ban US imports of Russian uranium unanimously, sending it to President Joe Biden's desk to be signed into law.

The Senate passed the bill in a unanimous vote on Tuesday night, sending it to President Joe Biden's desk to be signed into law.

The legislation specifically bans US imports of unirradiat-

ed low-enriched uranium that is produced in Russia or by a Russian entity. The bill also prohibits US imports of unirradiated low-enriched uranium that has been swapped for the banned uranium to prevent any efforts to circumvent the ban's restrictions.

However, the legislation notes that the US Department of Energy may issue a waiver to this ban if it determines that

no alternative viable source of low-enriched uranium is available to sustain the continued operation of a US nuclear reactor or nuclear energy company, or if it also determines the US importation of the uranium is in the national interest. Any waiver issued by the Energy Department must terminate by 1 January 2028, while the ban itself expires on 31 December 2040. — SPUTNIK

NEWS SUMMARIES: WORLD

Over 100 arrested at UT-Austin amid pro-Palestinian protest

THE rally started as an event on recent "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" layoffs at the university, and anti-war protesters joined at noon time. Dozens of protesters, chanting "Free Palestine", were attempting to set up an encampment using foldable tables, tents and other barriers on the campus's South Mall park.

More than 100 people were arrested as police and pro-Palestinian protesters clashed on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) on Monday afternoon, local media reported, citing Travis County officials. — Xinhua

Over 2,000 Afghan migrants expelled from Pakistan, Iran

OVER 2,000 Afghan migrants re-entered the nation after being expelled by Pakistan and Iran, TOLONews reported citing the Taliban-led Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation.

As per the ministry, 260 Afghan migrants returned to Kabul from Pakistan after being expelled by the country's police on Monday. Meanwhile, 2,368 Afghan migrants also re-entered Afghanistan from Iran on the same day, reported Khaama Press.

The migrants returned to the country through the Torkham border crossing in Nangarhar province. — ANI



Authorities advised visitors to bring sufficient water and sunscreen for their outings. Additionally, beaches across the Israeli coast were crowded with visitors enjoying the holiday. **PHOTO: ANI**

Heat wave breaks 85-year Tel Aviv record

AS Israel sweltered in a heat wave, the Israel Meteorological Service said Wednesday was the hottest April day recorded in the Greater Metropolitan area in 85 years.

The IMS said today's temperature of 40.7, measured at midday, was hotter than the 40.4 degrees measured in 1939.

It added that similar records were broken in the communities

of Yavne and Nitzan.

Despite the weather, Israelis enjoying a week off for Passover headed off to the nation's parks. The Nature and Parks Authority reported 55,000 people had entered the parks and nature reserves as of midday. The Authority called on people coming out to bring ample water and sunscreen.

Beaches all along the Israeli

coast were also packed.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry called on the public, particularly the elderly and patients and with chronic diseases, to minimize exposure to the sun and avoid unnecessary physical exertion.

Temperatures are expected to drop slightly on Friday, but still remain higher than usual for this time of the year. — ANI

SPORTS



Vinicius Junior scored twice as Real Madrid grabbed a 2-2 at Bayern Munich in the Champions League semi-final first leg. PHOTO: AFP

Vinicius hits two as Real Madrid eye final after snatching draw at Bayern

REAL Madrid forward Vinicius Junior scored a double, including an 83rd-minute equalising penalty, to snatch a 2-2 draw at Bayern Munich on Tuesday that puts the Spanish side in the driving seat for the return leg of the Champions League semi-final.

Vinicius gave Real the lead after 24 minutes of the first leg but Bayern scored twice in four second-half minutes to wrestle back control, Leroy

The result positions Real Madrid favourably for the return leg, putting them in the driver's seat.

Sane with a stunning opener and Harry Kane converting a penalty.

Kim Min-jae fouled Rodrygo in the box with eight minutes remaining and Vinicius stepped up, drowning out a chorus of boos and whistles to blast home.

"In this competition it's important not to lose, and we're here because we haven't lost yet," said Vinicius. "I'm very happy that I was able to score two goals, and now we need to have a magical night at home," he added. — AFP

Alcaraz crashes, Sinner hobbles out of Madrid

SECOND-SEEDED Carlos Alcaraz saw his title defence and 14-match winning streak in Madrid come to an end at the hands of Andrey Rublev in the quarter-finals on Wednesday while top-seeded Jannik Sinner withdrew from the tournament citing a right hip injury.

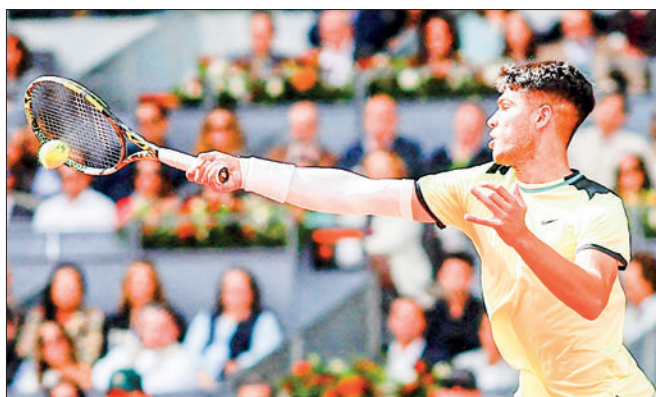
Rublev upset home favourite Alcaraz 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 to reach the semi-finals.

The seventh-seeded Rublev had lost his last five matches against top-three opposition and was 0-1 head-to-head against Alcaraz coming into the contest.

He was also on a four-match losing streak heading into the Madrid Open.

All that seemed like a distant memory in the quarter-finals against Alcaraz as Rublev maximised on his powerful brand of tennis to shock the Spanish world number three and reach the semi-finals at a seventh different Masters 1000 tournament, from a full set of nine.

Alcaraz missed the clay-court tournaments in Monte Carlo and Barcelona last month due to a forearm injury



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns to Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild during the third round of the 2024 ATP Tour Madrid Open tournament tennis match at Caja Magica in Madrid on 28 April 2024. PHOTO: AFP

and needed a third-set tiebreak to squeeze past last year's finalist Jan-Lennard Struff in the fourth round on Tuesday. — AFP

IOC promises innovation at Paris 2024 with help of AI

The collaboration between the IOC and Intel aims to create an unparalleled Olympic experience in Paris, reflecting their joint commitment to leveraging sport for building a better world.



IOC promises innovation at Paris 2024 with help of AI Xinhua | Updated: 2024-04-30 10:20 A model of "Phryges" official mascot of Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games is displayed during the inauguration of the Samsung Galaxy innovation space on the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris, France, 29 April 2024. PHOTO: VIA CHINA DAILY

THE International Olympic Committee has announced that the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games will provide immersive and interactive on-site experiences with the help of AI-driven technologies.

Ilario Corna, IOC's Chief Information Technology Officer, said in an IOC statement, "Our partnership with Intel has propelled us into a realm where emerging technologies, powered by artificial intelligence, are reshaping the world of sport for spectators, athletes, IOC staff and Partners.

Through their AI-powered solutions, Intel has enabled us to deploy AI faster than ever before. Together, in Paris, our collaboration will create an Olympic experience like never before, embodying our shared commitment to building a better world through sport."

Audience will be able to enjoy 8k livestreaming broadcast for the first time at the Olympic Games in Paris this summer. — Xinhua



THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF EL NINO

Philippines mulls cloud seeding to quench drought

A government official said Tuesday that the Philippines is mulling cloud seeding to quench the country's thirst amid the drought caused by the El Nino phenomenon, which has affected 2.9 million people.

Task Force El Nino spokesperson Joey Villarama told reporters that 131 cities and municipalities across the country have declared a state of calamity in response to the devastating effects of El Nino. Villarama said most of the areas under the state of calamity are experiencing drought. The affected areas include the seven provinces across the archipelago, particularly in the central and southern Philippines. Under a state of calamity, the local government can access the calamity fund, which can be used for mitigation and rehabilitation.

The state weather bureau, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, warned that the worst of the El Nino will last until May before the climate pattern transitions to neutral conditions. But Villarama said there is no room for complacency even if it is the tail-end of El Nino, stressing the need to conserve water. He also cautioned that while vital water and food sources remain stable, the prevailing dry conditions pose a significant threat.

The Philippines' Department of Agriculture reported that loss and damages to agriculture had already reached 4.39 billion pesos (roughly US\$ 76 million). — Xinhua



This undated photo shows pieces of Buddha statues discovered at Ta Prohm temple in Siem Reap province, Cambodia. **PHOTO: APSARA NATIONAL AUTHORITY/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

Cambodia unearths over 100 pieces of Buddha statues at temple in Angkor park

Net Simon, an archaeologist at ANA, stated that the statues included various forms, such as those sheltered by a Naga and in a cross-legged position, as well as some with damaged heads and hands.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have unearthed more than 100 pieces of sandstone Buddha statues during an excavation at the Ta Prohm temple in northwest Cambodia's Angkor archaeological park, the Apsara National Authority (ANA) said in a news release on Tuesday.

The ANA is the government agency responsible for managing, safeguarding and preserving the Angkor archaeological park, a UNESCO-listed world heritage site, situated in Siem Reap province.

Net Simon, an archaeologist at the ANA's Department of Conservation of Monuments and Preventive Archaeology,

said the discovered statues included Buddha statues sheltered by a Naga, Buddha statues in a cross-legged position, and Buddha statues with broken heads and hands, among others.

"Some of the statues are about half a metre high and 40 to 50 centimetres in size," she said. — Xinhua



China's third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, sets out for maiden sea trials from Shanghai Jiangnan Shipyard in east China's Shanghai, 1 May 2024. **PHOTO: LI YUN/XINHUA**

China's aircraft carrier Fujian sets out for maiden sea trials

China's third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, embarked on its maiden sea trials from Shanghai Jiangnan Shipyard on Wednesday morning. The trials will focus on assessing the reliability and stability of the carrier's propulsion and electrical systems.

CHINA'S third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, set out for maiden sea trials on Wednesday morning.

The ship left Shanghai Jiangnan Shipyard at around 8 am.

The sea trials will primarily test the reliability and stability of the aircraft carrier's propulsion and electrical systems.

Since its launch in June

2022, the Fujian has completed its mooring trials, outfitting work and equipment adjustments. It has met the technical requirements for sea trials. — Xinhua