

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Locals, adults and children alike, are seen enjoyably participating in the tug-of-war contest to call for rain in Mandalay on 2 May.

Myanmar's intangible cultural heritage: Preserving tug-of-war competitions amidst constructive criticism

As an intangible cultural heritage of Myanmar, tug-of-war contests should be preserved, and people should avoid irresponsible criticism, Ko Htake Tin Sithu Hein, a great-great-grandson of King Mindon, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Tug-of-war competitions to call for rain in the hot weather have been seen in some cities, causing a backlash among Myanmar netizens. He commented on criticism by saying it was just a concept of degeneration.

“Bad habits in Myanmar’s culture must be discarded. This tug-of-war contest doesn’t hurt anyone. Reciting the Ngayantmin (king snakehead fish) mantra

to call for rain is a custom based on Buddhism. It is not common in lower Myanmar, and it is believed to be in the dry zones of Anya (upper Myanmar). They believe it will rain in the next few days. So, they keep on believing. The exact starting period cannot be traced back, but this custom has been found since the Inwa and Nyaungyan eras. It is a thousand-year-old custom. This heritage should not die out in our time,” he said.

Some people said that the tug-of-war contest was just for fun, but deep believers in it replied that they arranged such a contest after communicating with the Nat (spirit) of Moekhaung Kyawswa.

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Over 450 companies still fail to repatriate export earnings in 2021

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NATIONAL

Myanmar's intangible cultural heritage:...

FROM PAGE-1

"Chanting the Ngayantmin mantra is a tradition where water is poured on the image of Buddha-to-be in life of snakeheaded fish with reverence. It is a miracle that it rains the next day. This is an intangible cultural heritage. It is an abstract thing in people's minds — not a concrete thing. Our people usually claim that our culture is stolen only when other citizens show it. However, they cannot even appreciate a real heritage by irresponsibly accusing it of being an unnecessary activity. It is contradictory," he said, explaining his views. A tug-of-war contest that calls for rain is meant to show the strength of unity and can be adopted as a sport.

"Whether it rains or not, it is adorable. It shows the added strength of united efforts. It is a competition among local people in their own village or ward. You could say it is a kind of sport. During the competition, people make offerings to Moekhaung Kyawswa Nat (spirit). They play tug of war. Then, they chant the Ngayantmin mantra and pour water on the image of Buddha-to-be. We should not allow these customs to disappear. As a nation, Myanmar must continue to preserve this tradition," he told the GNLM. — Thit Taw/ZN

Mandalay's oxygen cylinder rentals surge as elderly grapple with low O2 levels amid heat wave

AS a consequence of the overheating in Mandalay Region, older people suffered from low oxygen levels, leading to a rise in the number of cylinder rentals, according to the Mani Zala social welfare association.

"Some old people with underlying diseases could not withstand the heat and died. Elderly patients these days said they had suffered a sharp drop in oxygen concentration. So, a lot of oxygen tanks are being rented out," said an official of the association.

With very high temperatures during April in Myanmar, the number of heat stroke patients hospitalized and death cases increased, and the association as-

sisted in 53 cremations, including heat stroke deaths in April, significantly higher than in March, he said.

These cases include dropped deaths while working and the deaths of the elderly in sweltering weather.

"Our association delivered bodies 27 times in March. But we helped with 53 cremations in April, including heat stroke deaths. The number of cases in April is much higher than in March. Victims aged between 50 and over 90 are the most common. Some died a drop death while working. More patients fainted or died of heat stroke in April," he said. — MT/ZN



People with urgent heat-related illnesses are cared for by social associations and sent to hospitals.

Summer revellers flock to Dokhtawadi River for water play



People are enjoying water playing in the Dokhtawadi River on 1 May.

SEVERAL hundred people come to the Dokhtawadi River near Taungkaing village in Mandalay Region's Amarapura Township to enjoy water play in the river, trying to beat the summer heat, according to residents in the region.

The place is located on the bank of the Dokhtawadi River near Taungkaing village, which is about 45 minutes from Mandalay. Especially on weekends and public holidays, the number of visitors is between 300 and 400, and they come to enjoy water play. Most of the visitors are from Mandalay and nearby villages and towns.

"There are numerous people who come to take baths in the river in order to escape the summer heat. The number of visitors is larger on weekends and holidays. The summer is scorching, so they come to enjoy water playing in the river as an activity to beat the heat. We went there on 1 May, and the number of visitors is

estimated to be around 400 on that day. There are visitors too on other days. Most of them are from Mandalay and nearby areas. As an activity to evade the heat, people go to other local beaches," said a spokesperson from the Myanmar Rescue Organization (Mandalay Region Committee).

Along the river, the water is cold, and it is a mountain stream in which some parts are shallow and some parts are deep. Therefore, parents need to be careful if they bring children, he said. There are restaurants near the river, and people go boating along the river.

"There is no admission fee but a car parking charge," said a resident.

This summer, people go to temperate destinations in an attempt to escape the heat. At the same time, some are eager to grow trees, and such activities have been recently discovered. — MT/ZS



Snake Princess Ma Shwe Lei is seen together with a snake she caught.

POISONOUS animals, including snakes, have entered homes to seek refuge from the fierce heat, Ma Shwe Lei, chairperson of the Shwe Myitta Parahita Association, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

With high daytime temperatures, underground temperatures rise at night, forcing the snakes to leave their nests.

"It is now scorching during the day and a bit cold at night. The snakes are more active at night. There is a lot of heat being released underground. Another point is that we can quite often see the snakelets at this time. Not very long after hatching, baby snakes tend to move around everywhere.

Snakes seek shelter indoors to escape intense heat

We had to move many snakelet groups," said Ma Shwe Lei, famous as "Snake Princess" for her active role in catching snakes for public safety.

Since snakes and other poisonous animals can hide in cool places inside a house, people should be vigilant, she said. "Over the past few days, we had to frequently move the snakes that were hiding under doormats, in toilets, between toilet seats and lids, and near toilet-use water pots. These are places where people would not normally notice. People do not feel comfortable because of the intense heat. So do the snakes and other poisonous animals, and they find fewer hot places. The one I had to remove yesterday was coiled up under the linoleum. It was a cobra. So, people should be careful. They should not hold a pile of clothes until they have thrown them out. A snake could be hiding there," she said. — Thit Taw/ZN

NATIONAL

147th Anniversary of Myanmar Railways marked

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications celebrated the 147th anniversary of Myanmar Railways at Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station on 4 May.

The ceremony was attended by SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo along with deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, heads of department under the ministry, the managing director, departmental officials and staff of Myanmar Railways.

General Mya Tun Oo first delivered a speech to commemorate the 147th anniversary of Myanmar Railways.

In addition, the Managing Director of Myanmar Railways explained the department's activities during the 2023-2024 financial year and played a video



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport & Communications General Mya Tun Oo speaks on the occasion of the 147th anniversary of Myanmar Railways yesterday.



to commemorate the 147th anniversary.

The SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister and the Union

Minister, the Deputy Minister and the Managing Director of the Myanmar Railways presented the best performance awards

for each divisions, factory, and hospital of the Myanmar Railways during the financial year 2023-2024.

The ceremony ended after taking the commemorative photos with attendees. — MNA/TKO

59th Myanmar Gems Emporium Day 2: 182 pearl lots sold

ON the second day of the 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium yesterday, 182 out of 200 pearl lots have been sold, reports said.

The emporium showcases precious stones, including pearl and jade. Merchants are allowed to inspect each piece before discreetly submitting their proposed prices into tender boxes.

The prices are set in US dollars, but foreign traders can also pay in euros, yuan, or baht, and local merchants can pay in kyat. On the third day, 200 more sets of pearls will be sold through open tender again.

The emporium, scheduled from 3 to 12 May at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw,

will offer 400 pearl lots, 160 jewellery and 4,550 jade lots through open tender. Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, who is also patron of the emporium's central committee, graced the second day of the event with his presence. — MNA/NT



Gem merchants look into the pearl lots at the 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium.

Students sit for 2024 special matriculation exam

SOME students who registered for the 2024 matriculation exams and were unable to take them due to safety concerns are provided with an exceptional opportunity to sit for the exams again at designated schools, with assistance from the respective state and regional governments.

On the fifth day of the matriculation exam, 442 students registered to sit for the Physics subject. Of these, 240 students, totalling 54.30 per cent, ultimately attended the exam. Similarly, for the History subject, 93 students registered, but only 37 of them, representing 39.78 per cent, sat for the exam, according to the Ministry of Education. — MNA/TRKM

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

Kayin State Chief Minister makes inspection tours in Hpa-an

KAYIN State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo inspected the collective cleaning activities in Hpa-an Township yesterday.

A total of 1,500 people, including members of the Police Force and fire fighters as well as departmental staff and locals, participated in this activity at No 2 BEHS, No 7 BEPS, No 10 BEPPS, No 2 BEHS (branch) and Tayokthla Sanyya BEHS. There, the chief minister gave the necessary instructions.

He then proceeded to Lunnya Blue Lake, where the destination development committee reported on the upgrading works. He also paid homage to the Lunnya Monastery Presiding Sayadaw and donated the offerings.



Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo provides rice bags to temporarily displaced persons at the religious hall of Lunnya Monastery yesterday. PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)

He attended the ceremony to assist the temporarily displaced people organized

by the National Disaster Management Committee at the religious hall of Lunnya

Monastery.

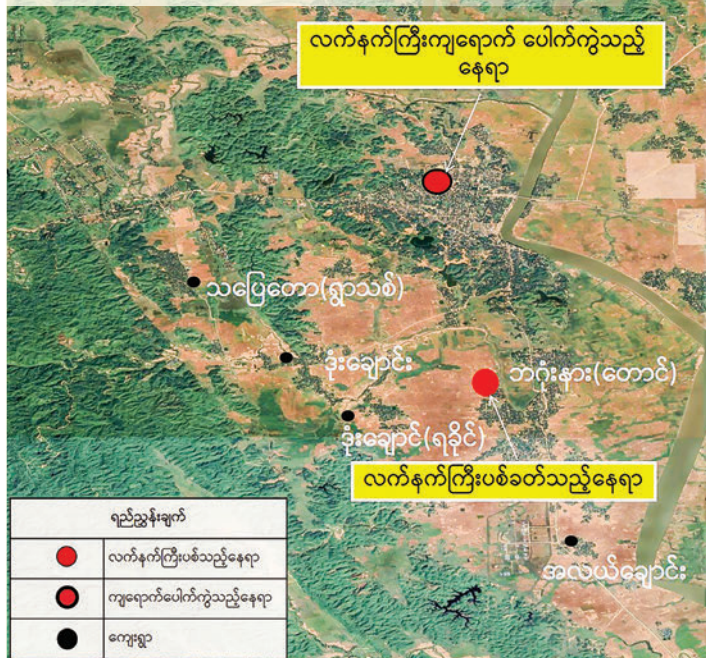
He provided a total of 1,484 people from 348 households

with 1,043 bags of rice who are temporarily sheltering in Eindu, Khaya Atwin, Kawkada, Lunnya, Kawsein Bannauk, Zathapyin and Naunglone village-tracts.

The State Security and Border Affairs Minister also handed over 2,575 bags of rice provided by the National Disaster Management Committee for 3,663 people of 933 households in Thamanya Village.

The chief minister inspected the construction of a steel structure school building in Khaneindo village and 211 acres of summer paddy plantation in Kawma village of Nauklon village-tract of Hpa-an township and made proper instructions. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/KTZH

AA terrorists intentionally launch heavy weapons on IDPs



Innocent injured locals by attacks of AA terrorist's heavy weapons take medical treatment at local military hospital in Buthidaung.

AA terrorists intentionally fired heavy weapons at a school building of internally displaced persons in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, resulting in the deaths of two civilians and injuries to 15 civilians, including underage children.

Terrorists launched two heavy weapons from Bagonnaung village, located approximately four kilometres south of Buthidaung, on 4 May. Subsequently, relevant officials transported the injured persons to the Tatmadaw hospital to receive medical treatment. — MNA/TKO

The location map of attacks with heavy weapons committed by AA terrorists.

Counter-argument to false information

False news: 3 citizens from Pyasakan village die from heavy weapons by security forces

MALICIOUS media outlets are propagating false news to create misunderstanding about the security forces, alleging that they attacked Pyasakan village in Thandaunggyi Township of Kayin State with heavy weapons on 2 May, resulting in almost three deaths and significant injured. According to a security official from the relevant area, the news is untrue, and there were no heavy weapons attacks by the security forces on that day.

Hence, this is merely a deliberate circulation of misinformation on social media platforms by subversive media aimed at politically damaging



The screenshot validates false claims.

and tarnishing Tatmadaw's reputation while sowing discord among the public. — MNA/TRKM



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



A glimpse of an aircraft from Mann Yadanarpon Airlines.

Irrawaddy dolphin population reaches 16 in Mingun

THE number of Irrawaddy dolphins near the Mingun protected area in Ayeyawady River has reached 16 individuals, according to the Irrawaddy Dolphin Protection Group of the Fisheries Department (Mandalay Region).

The group monitors the status of dolphins in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung area in the Ayeyawady River three times a month. U Maung Maung Lay, chairman of the group, said: "When we inspected the

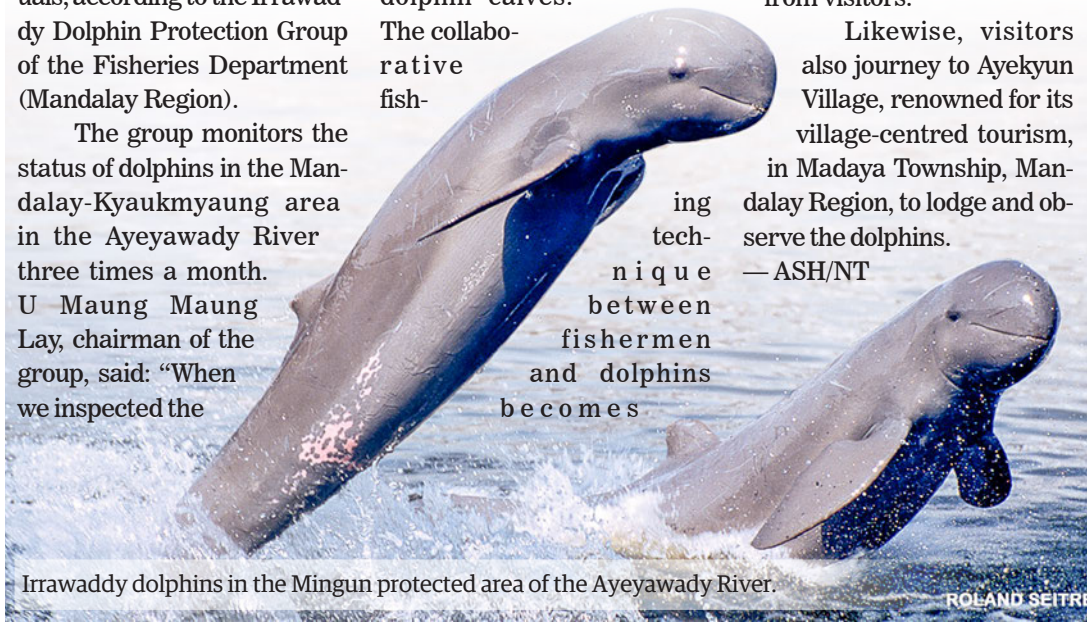
area on 1 May, we spotted 16 dolphins near Mingun. We requested fishermen and villagers to inform us when they spot dolphin calves."

The collaborative fish-

more prominent in the Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung area in the Ayeyawady River. This activity draws significant attention from visitors.

Likewise, visitors also journey to Ayekyun Village, renowned for its village-centred tourism, in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, to lodge and observe the dolphins.

— ASH/NT



Irrawaddy dolphins in the Mingun protected area of the Ayeyawady River.

ROLAND SEITZ

Mann Yadanarpon Airlines to expand 14 new domestic flights

MANN Yadanarpon Airlines will expand its schedule to include 14 new domestic flights based in Yangon, Mandalay, and Heho in May, according to the airline.

In May, the new flight schedules based in Yangon will operate flights to Mandalay, Sittway, Heho, Kengtung, Tachilek, Dawei, and Myitkyina, while those originating from Mandalay will serve Myitkyina, Kengtung, and Tachilek. Flights based in Heho will operate to Kengtung, Tachilek, Nay Pyi Taw, and Yangon.

Daily flights from Yangon to Mandalay, Sittway, Heho, and Myitkyina, as well as flights from Mandalay to Myitkyina, will be available. Similarly, flights from Yangon to Kengtung, Mandalay to Kengtung, and Heho to Kengtung will operate from Monday to Thursday.

Additionally, flights from Yangon to Tachilek, Mandalay to Tachilek, and Heho to Tachilek will run from Friday to Sunday.

Similarly, the Yangon-Dawei flight, originating from Yangon, will operate on Tuesdays and Saturdays, while the Heho-Nay Pyi Taw flight, originating from Heho, will operate on Wednesdays. — ASH/TKO

Myanmar explores collaboration opportunities with Common Fund for Commodities

AMBASSADOR U Soe Lynn Han, Head of the Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the European Union, as well as Myanmar's Ambassador to the Netherlands, and Mr Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Managing Director of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), met to discuss potential cooperation between Myanmar and CFC.

The discussion took place at the headquarters of the CFC in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 2 May, as stated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The discussion focused on poverty reduction schemes and other related programs implemented by the CFC for people from Commodity-Dependent Developing Countries

during the global polycrisis, alongside potential collaborations between Myanmar and the CFC, which might entail the provision of financial and technological assistance by the CFC to Myanmar.

The report states that the CFC has previously undertaken projects in Myanmar's agricultural sector. The managing director of the CFC discussed how poverty could be eradicated in other developing countries by leveraging the successes of these projects with the right policies. He added that Myanmar and other member countries could apply for funding from the CFC if they are willing to implement similar projects. These initiatives would support countries



U Soe Lynn Han and Mr Sheikh Mohammed Belal shaking hands at the meeting on 2 May in the Netherlands.

in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through investments in the commodity value chains of small and medium-sized companies. — ASH/TMT

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Myanmar allocates capex budget for Hluttaw renovation

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Construction, the Presidential Retreat, Hluttaw buildings, and associated structures located within the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw compound in Nay Pyi Taw will be renovated with the Capital Expenditure Budget (Capex budget) of this financial year.

The body of maintaining Hluttaw and associated structures has invited tender for renovation works of Hluttaw with the Capex budget of the

2024-25 FY.

The renovation and maintenance tender involves the renovation of ceramic tiles and roof slabs of buildings A as well as I-2, I-3, I-5, I-6, I-10, I-13, I-14, I-15, I-16, and I-19.

The following works include painting the external walls of the G building (Presidential Retreat), renovating and painting the bell-shaped walls of the portico, polishing the wooden ceilings, inspecting

and refurbishing the glass walls of buildings C, F, I-1, I-5, I-6, I-7, I-11 of the Pyithu Hluttaw, and expansion and installation of IP CCTV cameras within the Hluttaw compound for tightened security.

Tender forms for the abovementioned maintenance works can be bought at the relevant divisions of the ICT-2 of the body of maintaining Hluttaw and associated structures. — TWA/TMT



Hluttaw buildings in Nay Pyi Taw.

1,105 traffic accidents claim 585 lives in 2024's first three months

ACCORDING to the Road Transport Administration Department, there were 1,105 traffic accidents, resulting in 1,556 injuries and 585 deaths nationwide from January to March of 2024.

The most traffic accidents occurred in the Yangon region, totalling 206 incidents, leaving 249 hurt and 102 dead. Similarly, there were 44 traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, in which 29 died and 92 were wounded.

In the same period in



The photo shows an accident in which a car hit a tree because of the heavy rain on the Salin-Sinphyukyun road in Magway Region on 3 May. **PHOTO: FSD**

2023, a total of 1,263 traffic accidents occurred, with casualties of 674 deaths and 1,711 injuries. — TWA/TRKM

Drugs seized in Ywangan, Kalaw townships

A combined team of anti-narcotics police officers stopped and searched a Toyota Fielder passenger car near Myotgyi Village, Myotgyi Village-Tract, Ywangan Township, at 2:30 pm on 2 May.

Officials seized 7.2 kilograms of raw opium from Ma Mu Pyone Cho (aka) Py-

one Cho and Ma Nang Khan Bo during the inspection.

Similarly, officials stopped and searched a Toyota Alphard driven by Nyi Nyi Myint accompanied by Thant Zin Tun on board near Kyauktan Village, Loian Village-Tract, Kalaw Township, at 4:15 pm on 3 May and found 4,000 stimulant pills.

Officials also searched a motorbike driven by Nay Win Tun (aka) Ko Ye near Loisiton Village, Wamlon Village-Tract, Tachilek Township, at 5 pm on the same day and seized 10,000 stimulant drugs. The action is taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KZL

NEWS In BRIEF

Ten Sayadaws receive Ovadacariya certificates

THE Sule Pagoda Trust offered Ovadacariya certificates to State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw and nine Ovadacariya Sayadaws on 4 May. The Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw gave back Ovada Katha. The trustees and patron also donated alms to attending Sanghas.

Maha Bawdi Myaing Sayadaw's final rites to be held for 2 days

THE final rites ceremony (funeral reception) of the Maha Bawdi Myaing Sayadaw, who passed away at the age of 83 on 30 April, will be held on 9 and 10 May, according to his disciples. His remains will not be cremated but instead displayed in a monastery.

Challenges persist for merchants as Myawady border trade resumes

DESPITE the reopening of Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridges 1 and 2 after a temporary closure due to armed conflicts in Myawady Township, Kayin State, trade flow continues to face obstacles due to the damaged Asian Highway, says a merchant.

"Appropriate" financial policies under implementation to curb inflation

THE Central Bank of Myanmar indicates the US government's rising interest rates and following dollar rise, falling regional countries and developing countries' currency values, rising import expenditures, and addressing trade deficits by purchasing currency from the market as triggers for inflation. It announces that "appropriate" financial policies are being implemented to tackle inflation. Its announcement further mentions that it is assessing the country's economic growth, monetary conditions, bank loans and GDP ratio, and household loans and GDP ratio to subdue inflation to some degree.

Edible palm oil mandated to be sold at 2% profit

MYANMAR Edible Oil Dealers' Association has instructed dealers to sell palm oils at a two per cent profit above the weekly reference rate in an attempt to stabilize oil prices. The announcement is a timely response to instances of dealers selling edible oils at high prices. It also warns against adulterating the oil with any substances.

Schools set to open 3 June

AT the online meeting with state and regional education officials on 3 May, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe declared that all universities, degree colleges and basic education schools will commence on 3 June simultaneously. — Htun Htun/NT

CBM implements monetary policies to curb inflation

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) uses monetary policies to control inflation and achieve price stability to a certain extent on 3 May.

CBM is laying down monetary policies to effectuate economic growth after analyzing the gross domestic product growth, currency situation, bank loans to GDP ratio, household debt to GDP ratio, etc. Additionally, among monetary policies, instead of raising interest rates, hiking the minimum reserve requirement ratio of the private banks in Myanmar currency and paying interest on excess reserves are also practised.

At present, bank deposits and loans are increasing. However, in order to control an increase in currency-in-circulation and cut inflation, the minimum reserve requirement ratio was increased to 3.75 from 3.5 per cent. Interest on excess reserve was also raised to 3.8 from 3.6 per cent in May 2024.

The increase in interest on excess reserves might support the annual interest rate for saving deposit accounts and contribute to more financing for the private sector. It can decrease the amount of money in circulation and reduce inflation pressure when banks

make more deposits in current CBM accounts.

CBM tends to control inflation by raising interest rates. This way, the US dollar gains, whereas the currencies of regional countries depreciate. Myanmar also suffers high imports with kyat devaluation against the currencies of trading partners' rising consumer price index amid the trade deficit.

CBM announced that it has been closely monitoring the domestic and international market climates to find causes of inflation and set appropriate monetary policies. — NN/EM



A bird's-eye view of containers of shipping lines at Yangon Port's container yard.

Over 450 companies still fail to repatriate export earnings in 2021

THE Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated that more than 450 companies have yet to repatriate their export earnings in 2021.

Those companies still failed to repatriate over US\$462 million as of 26 April.

Export earnings must be deposited into the domestic bank accounts within 45 days for the goods to be exported to Asian countries and within 90 days for other countries outside Asia.

Those who fail to make compulsory repatriation will face action under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, according to Notification 27/2022 of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The exporters can contact the

Foreign Exchange Management Department at 067 3418754 and the Trade Department at 067 3408258 and 067 3408281 to make further inquiries.

The Trade Department stated on 6 October 2023 that CBM should send the list of companies that fail to deposit export earnings within a repatriation timeline to the Ministry of Commerce and inform the respective authorized dealers (banks) about the list simultaneously. The Trade Department will notify the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) of the list so that they can make a deposit again. Additionally, the Trade Department will suspend the exporter/importer

registration for two weeks after the notice to those companies if the export earning is not repatriated. Only when CBM informs the Trade Department about the companies whose export earnings have been settled can the export and import registration be restored.

Those companies that continue to fail to deposit export earnings even after the suspension of registration will face legal action under Section 42-a of the Foreign Exchange Management Law. The Trade Department notified the exporters on 6 October of the mandatory rules to repatriate export earnings within a specified period. — NN/EM

HK Food Expo Pro invites Myanmar F&B entrepreneurs

MYANMAR entrepreneurs are invited to exhibit at Food Expo Pro, which will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Hong Kong SAR from 15 to 17 August 2024, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The expo will help F&B industry players to explore opportunities and build connections. They will showcase their food and beverage products, food packaging, labelling and logistic services, food processing products, machinery and related services, food science and technology, and halal food and beverage products. The first two days will include business matching, networking and industry seminars. The last day is the physical exhibition with participants featuring F&B products worldwide.

Four exhibitors of four Turnkey booths can get a discount of US\$4,383 for nine square metres. The early bird discount for the new exhibition is \$219 (five per cent of the total cost).

Four exhibitors who joined the expo with two standard booths (4.5 square metres per booth) will have a chance to get a discount of US\$4,455 for nine square metres out of a total of 18 square metres. Early bird discounts for the new exhibition can enjoy a five per cent (\$222) discount on the total cost.

In addition to the exhibition cost, each exhibitor will cost a total of \$420 for the default online package and booth setting. They can also participate in online business matching from 8 to 24 August and Hktde.com sourcing from 15 July to 14 September.

The 2023 Food Expo Pro attracted over 600 exhibitors with 21 booths. The turnout is estimated at 20,100 buyers from 69 countries. Domestic and international trade promotion organizations joined the expo as well. The participating countries are mainland China, ASEAN members, Japan, South Korea and European countries.

To enquire about further details of the expo, businesspersons may contact the Trade Promotion Organization through email at event.td.myantrade@gmail.com and phone numbers 067 408622 and 067 408623.

— NN/KK

OPINION

Recognize sacrifices of firefighters for the motherland

FIRE, a natural danger, poses a significant threat to society, capable of engulfing lives and property within seconds. Despite efforts to control it since ancient times, outbreaks of fire may remain unpredictable and, to a large extent, uncontrollable.

The outbreak of fires can be attributed to various reasons, ranging from negligence to short circuits and even natural causes like embers. While humans have some control over accidental fires, forest fires continue to ravage millions of hectares of forest land worldwide every year.

The All Burma Fire Brigade Conference, held in Kandawgale of Yangon on 5 May 1946, marked the inception of Fire Brigade Day in Myanmar. Since then, 5 May has been commemorated to honour firefighters across the nation. Fire brigades are organized into three categories: government fire brigade members, local auxiliary fire brigade members, and separate fire brigade members, particularly for factories, industries, and businesses.

In commemorating Fire Brigade Day, it is essential to recognize and appreciate the sacrifices made by firefighters in protecting Motherland Myanmar and its people from the ravages of fire. As such, individuals need to help raise the socioeconomic life of firefighters and their society as part of standardizing the fire services of the nation.

Under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Department of Fire Services is responsible for fire prevention, preparedness for natural disasters, rescue and relief operations, and various public welfare tasks. With a focus on management, fire safety, rescue operations, and reviews, the department aims to protect lives, property, and production capital against fire outbreaks and to provide emergency rescue and relief during natural disasters.

Firefighters undergo rigorous training to efficiently operate modern fire extinguishers, rescue vehicles, and equipment. They are required to adhere to prescribed laws, rules, and disciplines to become proficient firefighters. Since its establishment, the Fire Brigade has served the interests of the State and its people, devoid of any political affiliations.

In 2023, Myanmar experienced over 1,300 fire incidents, with Yangon Region being the most affected, experiencing 232 incidents. These devastating incidents resulted in the loss of 77 civilian lives, with 193 individuals sustaining injuries and property damage amounting to K35 billion.

Despite the risks involved, permanent, auxiliary, and separate firefighters selflessly serve their duties for the State and its people, often foregoing the chance of securing honorary titles and medals. It is imperative for firefighters to continuously update their knowledge of firefighting techniques and apply them effectively for the safety of the nation's citizens.

In commemorating Fire Brigade Day, it is essential to recognize and appreciate the sacrifices made by firefighters in protecting Motherland Myanmar and its people from the ravages of fire. As such, individuals need to help raise the socioeconomic life of firefighters and their society as part of standardizing the fire services of the nation.

Commemorating Dr Than Tun's 101st birthday and his 'amateur poem'

By Myint Zan



Historian Sayagyi Dr Than Tun's (6 April 1923-30 November 2005) 101st birthday was on 6 April 2024. Though the historian had written many learned treatises in both Burmese and English, I have not seen poems composed by him in the vernacular or in English.

A year or so ago, on social media, I saw a post by another person who was a poet. This poem in English was composed by Dr Than Tun.

If one dares to comment, Sayagyi Dr Than Tun was a historian, not (quite) a poet. The following poem in English apparently was composed by Dr Than Tun on 23 February 1983. And it is reproduced here exactly as it was posted on social media.

QUOTE
Neither poetic nor romantic
How could I expect
How could I expect
A poem?
Wonder of wonders
It did arrive.
In reply I could compose a poem
Jeer nor sneer, I don't care.
Old city faded out
Yielding place to new.
Why?
As a historian I would know
Poor me: I don't.
Now, now a professor
professes nothing.
The blame is on you
for asking.

Sincerely yours,
Than Tun.

UNQUOTE
As a person with a dilettante interest in things Than Tun's words 'poetic', I venture to rewrite the above poem.

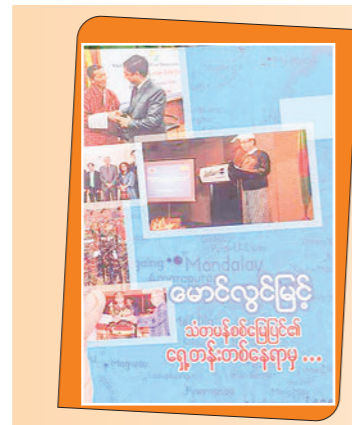
Rewrite by Myint Zan
'Tis that I am not a poet
or a romantic
so, I did not expect
why should I expect
a poem to reach me?

Wondrously
a poem reached me:
in response

Dr Than Tun's poem is rewritten by Myint Zan, who is trying to 'capture' what he wants to say.

I would try to devise one:
Others may jeer or sneer at this:
I don't care
the old city is fading away
yielding to a new one
Why thus?
Some may say
as a historian, I should know
pity me
I don't

Now, now a professor
professes nothing:
'tis you that are to be blamed
for such a presumption



Book Title - Thantaman Sitmyaybyin Ei Shaydan Taneyarhma
Author - Maung Lwin Myint
Publishing House - Ko Lat Sarpay
Publication Date - May 2024 (1st Edition)
Price - K20,000

Thantaman Sitmyaybyin Ei Shaydan Taneyarhma

AT the very beginning of May, an interesting book was published. Maung Lwin Myint wrote the book under review, and the title of the book can be roughly translated into English as "From the Forefront of the Diplomatic Battlefield".

Before reviewing this book, it is worth mentioning the interpretation of the word diplomat. According to a Myanmar language dictionary, a diplomat is a person who is sent abroad by the king of the sending country to be engaged in the affairs of the state of the sender's nation. Additionally, a diplomat is a person who is assigned the duties to

represent the head of state of the sending country. In other words, a diplomat plays a significant role in bilateral ties.

A diplomat is an important person acting on behalf of the Head of State of the sending state, and the nations have prescribed the desired qualifications for the ambassadors.

In the days of Myanmar monarchs, the desired qualifications for the ambassadors were prescribed by Raja Niti as follows:

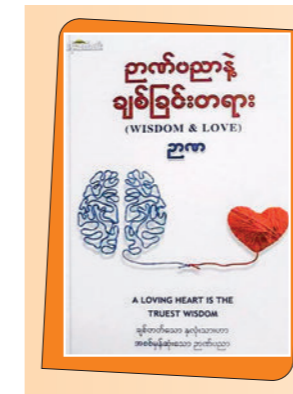
- (1) Pannava - having wisdom;
- (2) Vakyacheka - excellent communication skills;
- (3) Sura - having the courage;

- lacies and discrepancies whatsoever;
- (5) Vinnata - ability to read between the line the message;
- (6) Vinnapeta - ability to deliver himself very well;
- (7) Sahita sahita kusala - ability to differentiate between the good and the bad and
- (8) Nocakala hakaraka - ability to avoid heated arguments and quarrels.

A diplomat or an envoy shall possess the military outlook, political outlook, and diplomatic outlook, in addition to the aforesaid abilities and qualifications. More importantly, the diplomats must be able to exercise restraint, not revealing their anger and, dissent or dissatisfaction.

The writer of this book is Maung Lwin Myint, who has been on a diplomatic mission in Bangladesh. He writes this book based on the experiences he has gained during his assignment in Dhaka.

There are 17 episodes in this book, which bears over 600 pages of A 4 size. This book is believed to give some knowledge on foreign affairs and diplomacy. Last but not least, this book is worth reading, for it is entertaining.



Book Title - Nyanpyinnya Ne Chit Chin Taya
Author - Nyana
Publishing House - Pann Sett Lann
Publication Date - March 2024 (2nd Edition)
Price - K6,000

Nyanpyinnya Ne Chit Chin Taya

THIS book is written by a young woman named Nyana. Her writings are focused on the promotion of mental power or willpower as well as the amendment of the mentality or mindset. What makes me interested in her books is that her writings are all based on Buddhist philosophy. She is said to have started to study Buddhism at the age of 16. She holds the title, "Samyuttagama Gunavisittha Pariyatti Visarada Sasana Mamaka." She has sat the Five Nikayas Examinations and passed the examinations with distinctions in all five disciplines viz Nidanavagga Samyutta, Khandavagga Samyutta, Salayatanavagga Samyutta, Mahavagga Samyutta and Sagathavagga Samyutta. What is more, she has also

passed the Abhidhamma Examinations held by the Religious Affairs Department. She has already finished the study of Abhidhammatthasangaha Text and Visuddhi Magga Text 1 and Text 2.

The back cover of the book said that a person ought to be able to strike a proper balance between wisdom and love or metta in Pali parlance and that people should be able to differentiate between the good and the bad and the truth and the untruth. More importantly, we human beings must possess a kind heart and be ready to assist those in need. She urges the readers to lead a noble life.

The writer has emphasized the need for people to become good and able persons in her

foreword to the book under review. She said that it is undeniable that a person will become a great man if he is possessed with a high IQ and that he will, however, not be able to maintain his status if he is not possessed with a high EQ. Her reason is that the people around him do not like those who are not good-hearted, and so he cannot maintain his success for a long time as he will not receive the support of the people who are dealing with him. She encourages the readers to become excellent and able persons.

Concerning optimism, she quotes the saying, "Every cloud has a silver lining." This quotation dates back to the 17th century. Regarding teamwork, she has used the phrase "Sa-

ARTICLE POEM/ BOOKRACK

Talks



By Chit Ko Pe

*Obtained at the base are bits of glittered gold,
when soil is stratified with water flow.*

*A need for fresh water is pleased and fulfilled,
when seawater is refined and distilled.*

*The energy of electricity is well-gained,
when sunrays fall on the solar panes.*

*Whilst inventions satisfy the needs in nature,
my dear's sweet talks are absorbed by the atmosphere
might be salvaged and recovered, I wonder.*

စကားသံ

စိမ့်စိမ့်မြေ ရေကျစ်စစ်တော့
ရွှေသစ်ရွှေစ ရသတုံး။

ပင်လယ်ရေ ပေါင်းခံကျီတော့
ရေချိုရေကောင်း ပြောင်းသတုံး။

နေရောင်ခြည် ဆိုလာပြားနဲ့
စွမ်းအားလျှပ်စစ် ဖြစ်သတုံး။

သဘာဝကို နည်းနာနဲ့
လိုတာရှာ အပိုင်ရပေါ့
ဆိုးစမဲ့ လေတစ်ကြောမှာ
စီးမြောသွား သူ့စကားသံ
ပြန်ဆယ်ရနိုင်ကောင်းပါလို့။ ။

ချစ်ကိုပေ

hajata Annamanna." The pali word Sahajata suggests working in a team. She is totally against the individualism. She is correct because a great job cannot be done by an individual alone. To achieve big objectives, the team spirit or esprit de corps is indispensable. We need support from our fellows and guidance from the mentors. She points out that even Lord Buddha needs supporters who will contribute towards His fulfilment of Paramis. Kalyanamittasampada, as expounded by Lord Buddha, means having good friends to accomplish things.

When it comes to influencers, she lays emphasis on metta or loving-kindness, which influencers must possess. I agree with her because if influencers cannot win the love and trust of people, how can they impose their opinions or ideas on other people? These days, the social influencers play a paramount role in the social media. The more followers, the more tremendous success they achieve. In this regard, it is of vital importance for social influencers to impose only positive views and ideas upon their followers. In a nutshell, they must have genuine love for their followers.

NATIONAL Entertainment

Actor Aung Ye Lin gets ready for new series

ACTOR Aung Ye Lin will star in the "Ma Chit Thint Thaw" movie produced by Hsaung Nya Pyatho Production.

Mu Paing Hninzi created the story, and the scriptwriter was written by Moe Ni Lwin. Director Nyan Htin will direct the movie. "It is about a tripartite love

story, and fans can get different tastes. They can see who the real red flag is," said Aung Ye Lin.

The filming of the series will begin in Yangon and Ngwehsaung Beach on 2 May, and it will have 20 episodes. The cast includes Aung Ye Lin, Ye Yint Thaw, Thane Mwae Than-

zin, Ye Mon, Zaw Win Maung, Lin Zarni Zaw, Lin Lin (Make-up), Han Lay, Su Htet Kaday, Htet Yan Aung, Henry San, Pyae Phyo San, Sai Bhone Min Thant and Aung Khant Kyaw. — ASH/KTZH

The debut ceremony of shooting the news series and its artistes.



May Grace

MODEL May Grace celebrated her 29th birthday on 2 May with The Sai at Khine Hnin Wai Children Centre. She made a comment saying all the children at the centre are charming and lucky to have had chances to shelter at Khine Hnin Wai's centre.



Celebrity Brief

Designer by Thein Zaw Win-The Atelier
Make up by April Thuta
Photo by Aung San Thit

U Kyi Soe Tun

MYANMAR Motion Pictures Organization held a ceremony to provide cash assistance to those from the movie industry with chronic disease on 2 May. Those who received cash assistance were U San Tin, U Shwe Sin, U Kyi, U Kyaw Nyunt, Daw Thin Thin Lei, Daw Lei, U Kyaw Min, U Ohn Maung and U Than Nyunt. Each of them received K300,000 provided by MMPO and K100,000 by Mingala U Zaw Min. MMPO Chair U Kyi Soe Tun thanked the media for covering that news.



Kyaw Kyaw Bo

ACTOR Kyaw Kyaw Bo, a member of theatrical performer Shwe Mann generation, made a birthday wish for his father, the great Myanmar traditional dancer U Win Bo, on 3 April. Actor Win Bo passed away at 72 on 11 January 2016. U Win Bo is the second son of Shwe Mann U Tin Maung, younger brother of academy U Nyunt Win and older brother of U San Win, U Win Maung and U Chan Thar.



Chaw Yadana

ACTRESS Chaw Yadana starred in the new series 'Little Home', taking on the role of Nweni Lin. The story and script were written by Moh and directed by director Aung Myauk. The cast includes Sithu Maung, Chaw Yadana, Sulat Yadana and Hein Thant Zay. The series, containing 25 episodes, is available on the Chit MayMay application.



Director Joe

DIRECTOR JOE, who worked together with late actor Dwe for an extended period, responded to the negative comment regarding Dwe, saying Ko Thar Gyi had no kind of mindset to influence the directors. He just had a positive attitude towards his colleagues. Director Joe created famous "Original Gangsters" movies and others.

Po Po

SINGER PO PO attended the wedding reception of Irine Zin Mar Myint and Joseph Yazar Soe Moe (aka) Swan Htet on 1 May. She posted a congratulatory message for the wedding on her Facebook page. - Htun Htun/KTZH



Indian Navy begins trials in Rs 60,000 crore tender for 6 advanced submarines

Trials commenced in March with a team from the Indian Navy visiting Germany to assess the Air Independent Propulsion system by ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems.

THE Indian Navy has begun trials for building six highly advanced submarines in the country in a Rs 60,000 crore tender, as it is working towards the modernization of its conventional submarine fleet.

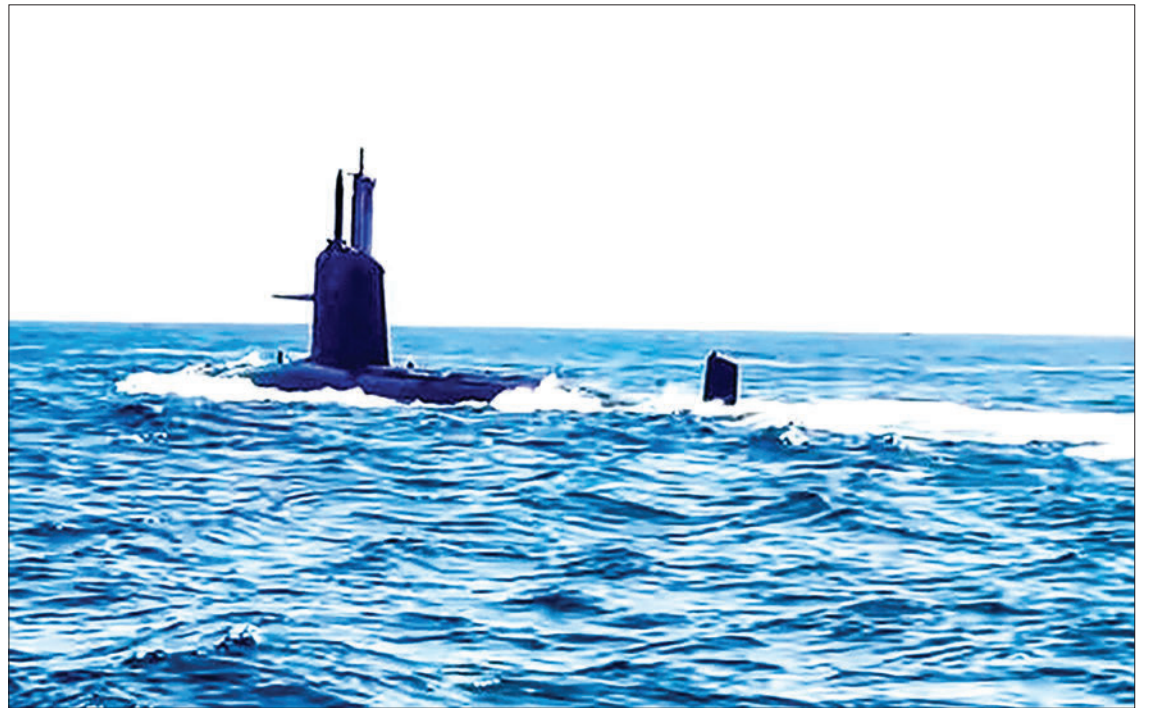
Indian Navy has issued a tender to Indian shipyards Mazagaon Dockyards Limited and Larsen and Toubro for building six submarines in partnership with foreign vendors.

The trials began in March this year when a team of Indian Navy visited Kiel in Germany to

look at the Air Independent Propulsion system of the German submarine manufacturer ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems at a German Navy facility, defence industry officials told ANI.

The German firm is partnering with the Indian Defence Ministry's shipyard Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) for the mega tender.

MDL is the prime partner in the tender where the indigenous content in the vessel would be more than 60 per cent. — ANI



The Indian Navy has initiated trials for constructing six advanced submarines domestically, as part of a tender worth Rs 60,000 crore aimed at modernizing its conventional submarine fleet. **PHOTO: ANI**

NEWS ROUNDUP: WORLD

UK's ruling Conservative Party suffers heavy losses in local elections

BRITAIN'S ruling Conservative Party has suffered one of its worst ever election days as massive numbers of voters switched their allegiance in town hall elections across England.

By Friday evening, results had been declared in 100 of the 107 councils in England that held elections on Thursday, and the Conservatives have so far lost 433 seats in council chambers, while the main opposition Labour Party have gained 169 seats.

The Conservatives also lost seats at the expense of minority parties, with the Liberal Democrats gaining 94 seats, while the Green Party gaining 66 seats.

One example of the changing political fortunes was at Adur Council in West Sussex where Labour won eight seats to take control of the council chamber from the Conservatives for the first time since the council was created 50 years ago. It was one of eight councils where the Conservatives have so far lost control. — Xinhua

Brazil's Southern region grapples with deadly rains

IN what authorities are describing as the worst disaster in its history, Brazil's southern state of Rio Grande do Sul is reeling from the devastating effects of heavy rains and mudslides.

The death toll has surged to 37, with 74 individuals reported missing, according to the state's civil defence agency, Al Jazeera reported.

Rescue operations are underway as emergency responders race against time to locate survivors trapped amidst the debris of collapsed homes, bridges, and roads. Governor Eduardo Leite declared a state of emergency as the region grapples with the aftermath of the catastrophic weather event. — ANI

Japan, Brazil agree to jointly protect Amazon rainforest

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva agreed Friday to strengthen efforts to combat climate change, including enhancing the protection of the

Amazon rainforest. During their talks in Brasilia, Kishida and Lula signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement on decarbonization and other environmental issues.

The Green Partnership

Initiative agreement features financial contributions and assistance for regenerating degraded farmland to prevent deforestation and promote sustainable agriculture. — Kyodo

Hamas delegation heading to Cairo for Egypt-proposed Gaza truce – sources

HAMAS has sent a delegation to Cairo in response to an Egypt-proposed initiative for a truce with Israel in the besieged Gaza Strip, two Egyptian sources told Xinhua Saturday on condition of anonymity. "Egypt was informed by Hamas that a delegation from the movement was heading to Cairo on Saturday with the intention of concluding and implementing a truce agreement with Israel," they said. Hamas responded to the initiative proposed by Egypt after getting Egyptian guarantees that it could lead to stopping the conflict in Gaza, they added. — Xinhua



On Wednesday 10 April, activists from Palestine Action and Youth Demand as well as other protesters marched through central London, to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the two way arms trade with Israel. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

ECONOMY WORLD

Western banks pay over \$850 mln in taxes in Russia in 2023

Raiffeisen Bank International accounted for over half of the tax payments in 2023, according to the report.

THE largest European banks that continue to operate in Russia paid more than 800 million euros (\$857 million) in taxes in 2023, which is four times more than before the start of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, the Financial Times reported on Monday.

Raiffeisen Bank International, UniCredit, ING, Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, Intesa Sanpaolo and OTP reported that

their combined profits in 2023 amounted to more than three billion euros, which is three times more than in 2021, the report said. More than half of tax payments in 2023 correspond to Austria's Raiffeisen Bank International, the report read.

The report noted that the payment of taxes by European banks is an example of how foreign companies remaining in Russia help the country main-

tain financial stability, despite a large-scale sanctions campaign against Moscow.

At the same time, foreign creditors benefited not only from the increased interest rate, but also from sanctions against Russian banks, as they lost access to international payment systems, which increased the attractiveness of Western banks for clients in Russia, the newspaper reported. — SPUTNIK



In 2023, Raiffeisen Bank International, UniCredit, ING, Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, Intesa Sanpaolo, and OTP collectively reported profits exceeding three billion euros, triple the amount from 2021. Deutsche Bank at Ludwigsplatz. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

NEWS ROUNDUP

China's green loans see record-breaking quarterly surge in Q1

CHINA'S green loans logged an increase of 3.7 trillion yuan (about 520.66 billion US dollars) in the first quarter of 2024 (Q1), hitting an all-time high, the country's central bank said.

According to data from the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the balance of China's green loans in local and foreign currencies stood at 33.77 trillion yuan at the end of Q1 – up 35.1 per cent

year on year.

The growth rate was 25.9 percentage points higher than the overall figure for all forms of loans, the central bank added.

Specifically, green loans allocated to projects directly or indirectly contributing to carbon reduction amounted to 11.21 trillion yuan and 11.34 trillion yuan, respectively. — Xinhua

OECD raises 2024 global growth outlook, cuts Japan view sharply

THE Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on Thursday upgraded this

year's global economic growth outlook to 3.1 per cent from 2.9 per cent, sounding more upbeat

about the United States, China and the euro area due to slowing inflation and resilient demand.



File photo taken in November 2021 shows storage tanks for crude oil and petroleum products in Chiba Prefecture, eastern Japan **PHOTO: KYODO**

The upward revision from its February report came despite a sharp cut in its growth outlook for Japan as rising prices take a toll on consumption.

Japan's economy is forecast to grow 0.5 per cent this year, slower than 1.0 per cent seen in the previous report.

US economic growth will be 2.6 percent, against its earlier forecast of 2.1 per cent. China, a non-OECD member, is expected to see its economy grow 4.9 per cent, faster than the previously predicted 4.7 per cent.

The eurozone economy is likely to expand 0.7 per cent this year, rather than 0.6 per cent.

The Paris-based body expects global growth to be modest and divergent among economies, saying that heightened geopolitical tensions amid the Israel-Hamas war are a "significant near-term adverse risk".

"There are some signs that the global outlook has started to brighten, even though growth remains modest," the report said. — Kyodo

OECD starts review of Indonesia's bid to join, 1st in Southeast Asia

THE Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Thursday it has begun reviewing membership for Indonesia, the first Southeast Asian country to request to join the intergovernmental body.

The OECD said in February that it had opened discussions with Indonesia for its accession to the organization, whose 38 members mostly comprise Western nations. The Japanese government has expressed support for more Asian countries joining the Paris-based body.

OECD Secretary General Mathias Cormann, in a speech Thursday, said the move came as a result of Indonesia's "remarkable economic reform, development and growth journey over the past two decades," as he welcomed the country's progress toward membership.

Airlangga Hartarto, Indonesia's coordinating minister for economic affairs, also noted the historic nature of the accession talks. For Indonesia, joining the OECD – often dubbed the "club of developed countries" – represents a significant step towards achieving its long-held aspiration of becoming an advanced economy. — Kyodo

Spanish beauty group Puig makes market debut

SHARES in Spanish fashion and beauty group Puig, owner of the iconic Nina Ricci, Paco Rabanne and Jean-Paul Gaultier labels, closed Friday at its issue price on its trading debut in one of Europe's largest initial public offerings of the year.

For the family-owned Puig Group, which has expanded rapidly into lux-

ury goods, going public is a big step in its 110-year history which will allow it to compete with the giants of the sector such as Estee Lauder, Hermes, Kering and LVMH.

The move "marks the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in our company's long and proud history," chairman and CEO Marc Puig said in a statement.— AFP



The chief executive officer of Spanish fashion and beauty group Puig, Marc Puig rang the bell during the initial public offering of the company on Friday in Barcelona. PHOTO: AFP

Boeing struggles to ramp up production of 787 jets due to US sanctions on Russia

Boeing's efforts to increase production of its 787 Dreamliner jet have been hindered by US sanctions against Russia, impacting a supplier's ability to provide crucial parts.



Consequently, the delay is not only affecting Boeing's operations but also causing airlines to scale back the number of long-haul flights available to passengers. PHOTO: MARKUS EIGENHEER/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

US aerospace company Boeing is struggling to ramp up production of its 787 Dreamliner jet after a supplier's capability to provide parts for the aircraft was hampered by US sanctions against Russia, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

The report said a supplier of a temperature-regulating part for the 787 jet terminated its Russian operations and moved its production out, but the transition has made it difficult for the company to keep up with Boeing's growing demand. This de-

lay is reportedly not only harming Boeing's business but also airlines, who now have to reduce the number of long flights offered to customers. Boeing did not immediately respond to Sputnik's request for comment on this matter.

Moscow has said that

the sanctions imposed by the United States — and the collective West — on Russia dealt a serious blow to the global economy and have actually increased the prices of electricity, fuel and food products in Europe and in the United States.

— SPUTNIK

BRIEFS: BIZ

Foreign enterprises have more confidence in Chinese market

A survey of more than 600 foreign-funded companies, done by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, showed that these companies have growing confidence in the Chinese market.

More than 70 per cent of the companies surveyed were optimistic about the development prospects of the Chinese market over the next five years, an increase of about 3.8 percentage points compared with the previous quarter. — Xinhua

Reserve Bank of India boosts gold reserves by 5 tonnes

THE Reserve Bank of India added five tonnes of gold to its reserves during March. The gold reserves of the central banks worldwide reported a net increase in their gold reserves.

According to data from the World Gold Council, the total net buying of gold amounted to 16 tonnes during the month. The demand for gold remained robust, with monthly gross purchases staying steady at 40 tonnes. However, this was partly offset by gross sales of 25 tonnes. — ANI

IBM expands software availability to 92 countries in AWS Marketplace

IBM has announced an expansion in the availability of its software portfolio, making it accessible in 92 countries through the AWS (Amazon Web Services) Marketplace. This expansion, which includes India, aims to simplify procurement processes for clients, streamline purchasing, and create new efficiencies while leveraging their AWS committed spend for IBM software purchases.

The move by IBM comes as cloud marketplaces continue to emerge as the fastest-growing route to market for Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) software. — ANI

AWS Marketplace is an online store that allows customers to find, test, buy, and use software and services that run on Amazon Web Services (AWS).

The move by IBM comes as cloud marketplaces continue to emerge as the fastest-growing route to market for Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) software. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (428N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (428N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-5-2024** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (415W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (415W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

World food prices continue to rise in April: FAO

GLOBAL food prices rose for the second consecutive month in April, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported Friday. It was the first time they rose in consecutive months in more than two years, FAO said.

A significant increase in prices for meat, along with modest rises in prices for grains, cereals and vegetable oil offset larger declines in prices for dairy products and sugar.

The overall FAO Food Price Index gained 0.3 per cent in April compared to March. A month ago, the broad index was 1.1 per cent higher than in February, while previously it had declined for seven months in a row.

The last time the Food Price Index climbed in consecutive months was in February and March 2022, when higher energy prices pushed the index to its all-time high of 160.2 points.

Despite the increases over the last two months, the broad index only reached 119.1 points, far below its record high.

It's worth noting that just a month prior, the index had shown a 1.1 per cent increase compared to February, breaking a streak of seven consecutive months of decline.



This rise was primarily driven by a significant uptick in meat prices. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PANAMITSU/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

The FAO said the biggest increase in April was for meat prices, which climbed 1.6 per cent. This was due in part to higher demand for poultry in the Middle East. — Xinhua

Iran releases all crew members of seized vessel

IRAN has released all crew members of the Portuguese-flagged cargo ship MSC Aries, which had 17 Indians aboard among 25 crews.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian held a telephone conversation with its Estonian counterpart Margus Tsahkna on Friday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said. During a telephone conversation between Margus Tsahkna, Minister of

Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, the two sides discussed the latest state of bilateral ties and regional developments. Ann Tessa Joseph from Thrissur, Kerala, one of the 17 Indian crew members of the Israel-linked cargo ship 'MSC Aries' that was seized by Iran on 13 April, returned safely to her homeland on 18 April. — ANI

Security forces conduct mock drills in Delhi following recent hoax bomb threats



These drills, which include schools, airports, metro stations, and government buildings, aim to bolster response capabilities in the event of emergencies, according to officials. **PHOTO: ANI**

AFTER recent hoax bomb threats that targeted over 250 schools in the Delhi-NCR region, security forces have intensified their preparedness through a series of mock drills across various key locations in the city, including schools, airports, metro stations, and government buildings, said officials.

On Saturday, a mock drill took place at Delhi Public School in Delhi's RK Puram area. This drill, involving the

Delhi Police and the National Security Guard (NSG), was designed to test the readiness and response capabilities of security forces in case of emergencies.

Both male and female officials from the police and NSG participated, with NSG vehicles and buses on site for the exercise.

In addition to schools, the security forces have expanded these mock drills to other critical locations. — ANI

BRIEFS: WORLD

Indonesia's volcano eruptions force thousands to evacuate

THOUSANDS of people have been evacuated after Mount Ruang on the northern side of the Indonesian island of Sulawesi erupted intensely since last month.

The multiple eruptions of Ruang have forced the country's disaster mitigation agency BNPB to urge more than 12,000 people to evacuate.

BNPB chief Suharyanto told state news agency Antara on Friday that more than 3,000 people on neighbouring Tagulandang Island, east of the Ruang volcano, have been evacuated to safer places. The evacuation involved navy vessels, civilian ships and one helicopter unit. He expected all people on Tagulandang Island to be evacuated within three days as authorities have issued tsunami alerts in response to eruptions. — Xinhua

Panama to vote in presidential election with 8 contenders

PANAMA votes Sunday in a presidential election with the frontrunner's participation confirmed after a last-minute court decision validated his run against seven other contenders. Conservative lawyer Jose Raul Mulino is far ahead in opinion polls with about 30 per cent of voter intention, but was left waiting until Friday for the Central American country's Supreme Court to rule on whether he would be allowed to participate at all.

Mulino replaced ex-president Ricardo Martinelli as the candidate for the right-wing Realizing Goals (RM) party after Martinelli lost an appeal against a money laundering conviction. Mulino's candidacy was challenged on the basis that he had not won a primary vote or picked a running mate, as required by law. — AFP

SPORTS



The referee announces Min Kyaw Za as a winner after beating Japanese fighter Igado in the ONE Friday Fight 61 event at Lumpinee Boxing Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand, on 3 May 2024.

Myanmar's Min Kyaw Za beats Japanese fighter Igado in ONE's fight

MYANMAR fighter Min Kyaw Za defeated Japanese fighter Igado in the ONE Friday Fight 61 event at Lumpinee Boxing Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand, held on 3 May (7 pm Myanmar Standard Time).

Myanmar fighter Min Kyaw Za is a new fighter debuting in

the ONE Championship and is the nephew of the top traditional Myanmar Lethwei fighter Yazar.

Fans thought that ONE would choose traditional fighters Elmwe and Super Yaychan for the match, but they decided on a new fighter, Min Kyaw Za. — TWA/KZL

Alvarez, Munguia make weight for super-middleweight world title bout



Fans turn out for the weigh-in for the super-middleweight world title fight between Saul Alvarez and Jaime Munguia in Las Vegas. PHOTO: AFP

UNDISPUTED super-middleweight world champion Saul "Canelo" Alvarez and unbeaten Jaime Munguia both made weight Friday for their world boxing title showdown in Las Vegas.

Alvarez, who will put his four super-middleweight belts on the line on Saturday, weighed in at 166.8 pounds (75.6 kilogrammes) while fellow Mexican Munguia tipped the scales at 167.4 pounds.

The fighters greeted each other with respect on the stage in front of the T-Mobile Arena, where thousands of fans turned out to record the spectacle with their cell phones to the sound of mariachi music.

"I feel really good," Alvarez said. "I feel in my prime. I feel in my best, because I've got no injuries anymore, so I feel my

best right now.

"I'll show you guys on Saturday night. I'm in my best shape — ever." The 33-year-old champion had surgery on his left hand in 2022 after suffering the second loss of his career, against Dmitry Bivol.

Since then, Alvarez has won three straight decisions but he hasn't added to his tally of knockouts and brings a record of 60-2-2 with 39 knockouts to the bout.

The fight marks Alvarez's first since 2017 against a Mexican opponent, who has drawn plenty of fans himself for the bout coinciding with the Cinco de Mayo holiday.

Munguia, who boasts a record of 43-0 with 34 knockouts, vowed to make the most of his opportunity. — AFP

Youth golfers awarded in 33rd Junior Golf Myanmar Championship

UNDER the supervision of the Myanmar Golf Federation, the 33rd Junior Golf Myanmar Championship organized by Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM) took place at City Golf Resort (Ngwethawta) in Yangon in the second round in conjunction with the awarding ceremony yesterday.

Handicap Committee Chair U Zarni Win explained the course rating process for the world handicap system. MGF President U Ko Ko Aye presented course rating reports to General Manager U Min Nyunt of City Golf Resort and US\$500 to U Zeyar Htut, who passed the R&A Level 3 Tournament Administrators and Referees Seminar with distinction.

Officials of MGF presented first, second and third prizes to Aung Than Htut, Zarni Tun Win and Ye Min Thant in the U12 boys' event and Yu Yu, Thiri



Officials of MGF pose for documentary photos with winners in the 33rd Junior Golf Myanmar Championship. PHOTO: MGF

Khaing Zaw and Moe Makha Kyaw Thu in the U14 girls' event, respectively.

In the U18 women's event, Cho Thar Aung stood first with 159 strokes, followed by Let-yar Lay Phyu with 169 and Hsu Hnin Phyu with 171. In the U14 boys' event, Tun Tun Oo secured the first prize with 165 strokes, Naing Oo Ko the second prize with 167 and Kyaw Than Lwin Hein the third with

169 strokes.

MGF President U Ko Ko Aye awarded the first prize to Min Khant Thaw, who scored 150 strokes in two rounds, the second prize to Lin Pyae Maung with 153 strokes and the third prize to Kyaw Pyae Phyo Kyaw with 158 strokes in the U18 men's event. The 33rd Junior Golf Myanmar Championship took place on 3 and 4 May. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

Three referees, one player suspended in Kenya over match-fixing

KENYAN football authorities have suspended three match officials, a player and a team manager for alleged involvement in match-fixing.

The Football Kenya Federation (FKF) in a statement

issued on Friday said that investigations into the charges against the five accused have been opened by its Integrity Department.

Kevin Olango, a goalkeeper for Nairobi-based FKF Pre-

mier League club Talanta FC, and Abdulkarim Amele, Kibra United's third-tier FKF Division One team manager, have been barred from participating in any football activities until the investigation is completed. — Xinhua

This decline has led to a decrease in the ratio of children to the overall population, which now stands at 11.3 per cent, the lowest since comparable data began in 1950.

Japan renews child population low in 43rd straight year of decline



Photo taken in July 2022 shows a parent and their child playing in a park in Toyokawa, Aichi Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan's estimated child population shrank for the 43rd consecutive year to renew its record low, government data showed Saturday, while Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government scrambles to address the issue through "unprecedented" measures.

The number of children aged 14 or younger, including foreigners, was 14.01 million as of 1 April, down 330,000 from a year ago, according to data released by the Ministry of Inter-

nal Affairs and Communications before the national Children's Day holiday on Sunday.

The ratio of children to the overall population fell 0.2 percentage point to 11.3 per cent,

also the lowest since comparable data became available in 1950. According to UN data, Ja-

pan has the second lowest ratio of children among 37 nations with a population of at least 40 million, only behind South Korea with 11.2 per cent.

Kishida's government seeks to pass into law a bill for tackling the country's rapidly declining birth rate by providing more financial assistance to child-rearing households and expanding daycare services, although critics doubt whether such initiatives can reverse the decades-long trend.

By gender, there were 7.18 million boys and 6.83 million girls.

By age, 3.17 million children were in the 12 to 14 age group compared with 2.35 million in the 0 to 2 age group, indicating a continuing trend of fewer children being born. Japan's child population has fallen since 1982, having peaked in 1954 at 29.89 million, with a second baby boom observed between 1971 and 1974. — Kyodo



The court emphasized the need to limit expedition permits, considering the capacity of the mountain, and to allocate permits for specific time frames. **PHOTO: ANI**

Nepal Apex Court sets limits on climbing permits, including Mount Everest

This decision aims to address concerns about overcrowding and environmental degradation on Nepal's peaks.

NEPAL Supreme Court has issued a mandamus to the government of Nepal, instructing to impose a limit on the number of climbing permits for peaks in Nepal, which include Mount Ev-

erest. A single bench of Justices Sapana Pradhan Malla and Sushma Lata Mathema had issued mandamus to the government directing limitation in expedition permits. The bench issued a di-

rective responding to the writ petition on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Deepak Bikram Mishra.

Earlier this week, a brief summary was published directing the government to issue climbing permits only after considering the capacity of the mountain and to issue for a specific time. — ANI

Indian actress Taapsee shares gorgeous pics from her recent Amsterdam trip

INDIAN actress Taapsee Pannu, who has been grabbing eyeballs ever since marrying her longtime boyfriend Mathias Boe, recently posted a series of pictures on her social media.

Taking to her Instagram handle on Saturday, Taapsee shared the pictures and with a caption that read, "My kind of Amsterdam. Canal, cycling and sibling...."

In the photos, Taapsee can be seen wearing a long

white jacket with a black outfit, while her sister Shagaun wore a white winter wear.

Taapsee Pannu married her longtime boyfriend and Badminton player Mathias Boe in Udaipur in March this year in the presence of close friends and family members.

Among the attendees were Taapsee's 'Dobaaraa' and 'Thappad' co-star Pavail Gulati, writer Kanika Dhillon as well as close friend and director Anurag Kashyap. — ANI



Posting a series of pictures on her Instagram handle, she showcased her love for the scenic city alongside her sister Shagaun. **PHOTO: ANI**