

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Prospects Brighten: State economy set to thrive, currency value to surge in post-sanctions and trade challenges



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Union government meeting 4/2024 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

If people can overcome difficulties in commodity flow due to economic sanctions and committing lack of peace and stability, State economy will improve with a better trade process, increasing the value of national currency, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Union government meeting 4/2024 took place at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

In his speech, the Senior General revealed that the government is striving to foster peace and stability with the rule of law, managing fair prices of foodstuffs and personal goods and ensuring the country's strong currency value.

He continued that Myanmar is facing economic sanctions and blocking trade routes to delay commodity flows due to a lack of peace and stability committed by some unscrupulous persons.

The Prime Minister recounted that the country experienced a shortage of rice and paddy, similar to regional countries in the 1967-68 financial year due to climate change, yielding just 28.3 baskets of paddy per acre.

As such, he added that the governments in successive eras have been striving to boost the per-acre yield of paddy.

He pointed out that if farmers can systematically develop cropping patterns, agricultural productivity will improve in the nation to ensure food security at home and support food supplies to the international community.

In the cooking oil sector, the Senior General also instructed officials that a high per-acre yield of oil crops will help fulfil cooking oil requirements at home, reducing spending on foreign currency.

With regard to the cotton cultivation sector, the Prime Minister pointed out that manufacturing quality threads from

cotton wool at home can minimize the import volume of threads and textiles.

Moreover, he stressed that individuals need to establish forests in relevant village-tracts to reduce natural disaster risks to some extent while preventing deforestation through the national spirit.

In the education sector, the Senior General said that basic education schools in some regions are facing delays in learning for various reasons and need to make preparations for the reopening of schools and resumption of learning.

SEE PAGE-3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Union government meeting 4/2024

- The government manages fair prices of foodstuffs and personal goods and ensures the country's strong currency value.
- Myanmar is facing economic sanctions and blocked trade routes to delay commodity flows due to a lack of peace and stability committed by some scrupulous persons.
- If farmers can systematically develop cropping patterns, agricultural productivity will improve in the nation to ensure food security.
- Individuals need to establish forests in relevant village-tracts to reduce natural disaster risks to some extent.
- A plan to confer deserved degrees for the training courses conducted by relevant ministries.

NATIONAL

PAGE-2



Palin River View Elephant Camp attracts thousands during Thingyan festival

NATIONAL

PAGE-5



Discovery and preservation of ancient cultural heritage in Bago Region

BUSINESS

PAGE-7



Strong bean export trades elevate Mandalay market in post-Thingyan

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order 33/2024

14th Waxing of Tagu 1386 ME
22 April 2024

Retirement from duties allowed

THE State Administration Council has allowed Vice-President U Henry Van Thio to retire from his duties for health conditions under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By Order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

3 special criminal cases, 7 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 7 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hone, U Thaug Naing and Daw Pyone Pyone Aye was convened Monday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements for three special criminal appeal cases — Nos 9/2023 (Sagaing), 10/2023 (Sagaing) and 12/2023 (Kachin), and seven special civil appeal cases – Nos 32/2023 (Kayin), 44/2023 (Shan), 1/2024 (Mandalay), 19/2022 (Ayeyawady), 52/2023 (Kachin), 3/2024 (Mandalay) and 4/2024 (Mandalay).

In addition, a total of seven special civil appeal cases were heard, such as Nos 45/2023 (Yangon), 46/2023 (Mandalay), 47/2023 (Mandalay), 48/2023 (Mandalay), 49/2023 (Shan), 7/2024 (Yangon) and 10/2024 (Ayeyawady). — MNA

Palin River View Elephant Camp attracts thousands during Thingyan festival

DURING the Thingyan water festival, approximately 4,000 holidaymakers visited the Palin River View Elephant Camp in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

Situated near Palin Village on the Myingyan-Pakokku Road in NyaungU Township, the camp offers stunning views of the Ayeyawady River. Travellers on their way to the Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone often make a stop at the camp to observe elephants,

feed them, ride them, or explore the elephant anatomy museum.

The camp boasts various attractions, including a scenic bridge, playground, and elephant bathing facilities. The traditional long-legged houses also offer excellent sightseeing opportunities.

Of the visitors during Thingyan, 1,320 were either clergy members or children under the age of ten who could enjoy the camp's attractions free of charge. — Dipa Lin/NT



Visitors delight in elephant rides at Palin River View Elephant Camp during Thingyan festivities.

Ngwetaung Beach welcomes 47,700 domestic visitors during Thingyan period



The photo depicts the Ngwetaung beach crowded with visitors during the Thingyan holidays.

NGWETAUNG Beach in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, received 47,700 domestic visitors during the 2024 Thingyan festival, as reported by Daw Ni Ni Mar, an Executive Officer of the Myanmar Tourism Federation (Ngwetaung Beach).

The beach's proximity to the Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda attracts both domestic and foreign visitors, making it a popular destination year-round. The majority of visitors in February came from Yangon

Region and Nay Pyi Taw.

Daw Ni Ni Mar remarked, "The beach hosted approximately 47,700 visitors during the Thingyan festival. Ngwetaung Beach attracts visitors throughout the year, with most coming from Yangon Region, often visiting the Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda."

Visitors to the beach can rent bicycles, motorboats, and horses, enjoy locally produced food, and purchase souvenirs. — ASH/MKKS

COVID-19 report, 22 April 2024

NEW TESTS	15,820
NEW CASES	31
CASUALTIES	Nil

Statement

MYANMA Post, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, makes efforts to develop libraries across the nation and raise the reading rate of the public. Therefore, it is announced that those who want to donate books to community centres (libraries) established by the Ministry of Information can send books to the libraries free of charge by Myanmar Post.

NATIONAL

Prospects Brighten: State economy set to thrive, ...

FROM PAGE-1

Moreover, he disclosed a plan to confer deserved degrees for the training courses conduct-

ed by relevant ministries and uplift the nation's sports standards, enhancing the qualification of coaches.

Union ministers discussed efforts for manufacturing cotton oil mills and cotton ginners at home, and production of cook-

ing oil and quality threats from cotton crops, financial measures and sending labourers abroad. The meeting was also at-

tended by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and region and state chief ministers through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Basic, advanced maritime youth courses begin in Hainggyikyun

THE opening ceremony of the basic maritime youth course and advanced course No 1/2024 was organized at Pammawady Naval Region Command Headquarters in Hainggyikyun of Patheingyi District in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

Commodore Tin Maung

Than first made a speech and encouraged the trainees to become skilful people in serving the state responsibilities in the future and highlighted the role of the marine transport sector in building a modern nation.

He also provided the trainees with books and stationaries.

Trainees then observed the displayed scale models of naval vessels and recorded photos of Tatmadaw (Navy) and other maritime-related materials.

The training will run for four weeks for 155 trainees. — Hlaing Myo Aung (Hainggyikyun/IPRD)/KTZH



Photos (from above and right from top to down) showcase course learning, documentary photo, and activities for basic and advanced maritime youth trainees yesterday.



Temporarily displaced people seen receiving provision of rice on 12 April 2024.

Temporarily displaced persons provided with rice in Buthidaung

THE ceremony to provide rice bags for the temporarily displaced persons who are taking shelter in three temporary camps in Buthidaung Township of Rakhine State due to the attacks with heavy weapons and arson attack of AA terrorists targeting Kuntaing, Ywet-

nyotaung and U Hla Pe villages on 12 April was conducted at the Basic Education High School No 1 of that township yesterday.

Officials from regional military station, departments, town elders and household members of temporarily dis-

placed persons attended the event.

Then, the officials handed over 1,000 bags of rice provided by the Rakhine State government to 955 households, with one bag and one Pyi of rice for each household, and gave proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Basic aviation youth training No 1/2024 launched in Yangon

THE opening ceremony of basic aviation youth training No 1/2024 initiated by the Commander-in-Chief (Air) Office was organized at Aircraft Production and Maintenance Airbase in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein first highlighted the intention of Tatmadaw (Air) to conduct the basic aviation courses and the subjects to be taught to the trainees during the

training days. He then handed over the cash assistance for the young trainees to the deputy commander of the base.

Tatmadaw (Air) will give training for 850 trainees at 17 training camps in Taunggyi, Mandalay, Kengtung, Mawlamyine and Pyay this year — 750 youths for basic aviation training and 100 youths for advanced aviation training. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/KTZH



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials view round the display at yesterday's opening event.

Counter-argument to false information

Denial: Tatmadaw uses chemical gas bombs

THE malicious media, Khit Thit, intentionally spread false information, claiming that Tatmadaw had used chemical gas bombs in Kawkareik Township of Kayin State on 20 April, and terrorists and people had been suffering from dizziness and vomiting.

Tatmadaw conducts anti-terrorism activities in Kawkareik with the participation of locals, causing heavy casualties of terrorists in air attacks and ground operations. Terrorists spread false information that Tatmadaw used chemical gas bombs via malicious media outlets whenever encountered such heavy casualties.

Subversive media outlets spread fake news on social media to impose threats among the public and mislead the people about Tatmadaw. — MNA/KTZH



The screenshot validates misinformation.

Khit Thit media spreads false news regarding military conscription

THE Khit Thit media outlet is fabricating and circulating fake news claiming that around 80 people riding motorcycles were arbitrarily arrested and forcibly taken for military service on 21 April in Pyu Township, Bago Region.

Since the activation of the People's Military Service Law by the government, subversive media outlets and terrorists opposed to community peace have been spreading false information. They aim to scare people by alleging that security forces and ward administrators are forcefully conscripting individuals and unjustly arresting innocent civilians. Additionally, they are threatening and even killing those involved in

the conscription process. This misinformation campaign has already caused widespread concern among the public.

Malicious media outlets are also inventing stories about security forces conducting routine security opera-

tions in towns and villages across Bago Region. Efforts are underway to raise awareness through State-owned media channels and newspapers in order to counteract the spread of fear and panic resulting from misinformation. — MNA/TKO



The screenshot validates false claims.

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

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



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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

Write for us

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

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

Discovery and preservation of ancient cultural heritage in Bago Region

ANCIENT historic cultural heritage in Bago Region is identified for conservation, according to the Bago Region government.

One of these activities is unearthing the ancient heritage to preserve.

“There are current activities. It is historical in our time. It is an ancient cultural heritage. We are unearthing the sites such as moats, city walls, and brick barriers. We are dredging the moat on the side of the Theinni Bridge. We are unearthing the elephant enclosure where the temporary palace of King Bayintnaung is located. We recovered various kinds of ancient heritage. We are doing our best to preserve cultural heritage during our time,” said U Tin Oo, Bago Region Minister for

Economy.

The Bago Region chief minister inspected the location of the ancient elephant enclosure of the Hanthawady era near Bago on 21 April.

During the visit, the chief minister instructed the officials to properly maintain ancient teak pillars in the elephant enclosure in their authentic conditions, to unearth the brick walls around the elephant enclosure systematically, and to exhibit a model of the elephant fence as per the original audience platform based on the unearthed evidence.

Moreover, he also suggested the creation of trips for the public to visit this destination after coordinating with the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. — Thit Taw/ZN



Officials inspect the site where the ancient elephant enclosure of the Hanthawady era was unearthed.

Shwedagon Pagoda set for major renovation in 2024-25FY



The photo shows maintenance works at Shwedagon Pagoda.

SHWEDAGON Pagoda, Yangon's iconic landmark, is scheduled for a major renovation in the upcoming financial year 2024-25, as announced by U Bo Thin, a trustee of the pagoda.

The renovation plans include comprehensive gilding of the entire structure and restoration work on the two staircases, ensuring their original designs remain in-

tact. The gilding process is typically undertaken every five years, alongside comprehensive maintenance.

The trustee explained: “Before gilding the pagoda, it is customary to apply gold leaves to the surrounding stupas on the terrace and the Naungdawgyi Stupa one year in advance. Additionally, we will renovate heat-resistant tiles on the pagoda platform

in two phases.”

Currently, the first phase of tile renovation has been completed, with approximately 90 per cent of the second phase already finished. Furthermore, maintenance works on the southern and western stairways are nearing completion, and the lion statues at the gates and entrance to platforms have also been refurbished. — ASH/NT

Unearthing Beikthano's western wall: Forgotten site nears rediscovery

IT is close to unearthing the forgotten western wall of Beikthano, an ancient city, said the Ministry of Religious and Culture, Bagan Branch's director U Kyaw Myo Win.

Researchers have been carrying out excavations many times to discover the ancient city, and a brick row containing about ten layers of brick was found at the shore of old Yanpel Creek in a previous excavation. However, Excavations at Beikthano by Sayagyi U Aung Thaw, written in English, didn't feature it, U Kyaw Myo Win wrote on his Facebook account.

“Excavations have resumed in ancient Beikthano city after stopping in around 1993. In late

excavations, KKG, which was previously used for excavated field number, is no longer used and replaced with BTO, an acronym of the ancient city name, and the project was restarted from BTO 1. Sixty-nine mounds were completed throughout the excavation project and in excavation from BTO 11 to BTO 21 in 2003, we led the excavation of 6 mounds from BTO 15 to BTO 19 and BTO 35 to BTO 38 in 2011,” he wrote.

In their research, he initiated a geographic information system (GIS) as a coordinated approach to data compilation and carried out a feasibility study on the western wall, he said.

“During research, we taught

young excavation team members GIS, RS and GPS technologies. Now, we are close to unearthing the ancient city of Beikthano's western wall, which was forgotten. The next generations, who previously teamed up with me, have continued the discovery. Along the area which is feasible to have the western wall, 5 test pits and four excavated areas, and we already have concrete shreds of evidence to prove the existence of the wall,” he wrote.

A gate at the northern wall of Beikthano was also discovered, and new technologies have shown that there was a lake that is believed to be larger many times than the existing one at the west of the city, he said. — MT/ZS



Parts of the unearthing project of Beikthano.

PHOTO - U KYAW MYO WIN

NATIONAL

Onion prices surge in Yangon in post-Thingyan holiday

MOST wholesale shops in Yangon reopened on 22 April after the Thingyan holiday.

Between 18 and 20 April, approximately 360,000 visses of onions from various cities and towns arrived in the Yangon market, with prices increasing.

On 22 April, a total of approximately 200,000 visses of onions arrived, priced at K2,400 per viss for large-sized Seikphyu.

On 12 April, before Thingyan, 30,000 visses of onions arrived, and the prices between 2 April and 12 April were Seikphyu K1,600-K2,000-K2,100-K2,100; Taungdwin K1,600-K2,100-K2,100; and Myittha K2,300-K2,800-K3,000-K3,000 respectively.

On 18 April, the prices

were Seikphyu and Taungdwin K1,600-K2,100-K2,100-K2,100; Myittha K2,300-K2,800-K3,000-K3,000; and on 20 April, Seikphyu K1,700-K2,200-K2,200-K2,300 and Myittha K2,800-K3,000-K3,000 respectively.

The prices surged on 22 April to K1,700-K2,300-K2,300-K2,400 for Seikphyu and Taungdwin; K2,500-K2,700-K2,900-K2,900 for Shwebo; K1,700-K2,350-K2,450-K2,500 for Myingyan; and K1,800-K2,300-K2,350-K2,350 for Pyawbwe respectively.

On 18 April, a total of 7,000 visses of onions entered the Pakokku market, with K1,500 per viss for Yaw and K1,875 for Pale. On 21 April, 130,000 visses arrived in the Pakokku market,

with K1,950 for Yaw and K2,075 for Pale.

Previous price records were K1,200-K1,450-K1,400-K1,250 per viss for Seikphyu and K1,500-K2,000-K2,100-K2,000 per viss for Myittha on 22 April 2023 after last year's Thingyan Festival.

Therefore, this year's onion price is K1,000 per viss, which is higher than last year's.

Based on the market situations of 2022 and 2023, onion prices are expected to exceed K5,100 per viss in late 2024 if external demand is higher.

Onions are arriving in the market in large numbers after the Thingyan Festival, and prices in Yangon and other cities and towns are higher than in previous years. — TWA/TMT



The photo shows the Pakokku onion market on 22 April.



A glimpse of Myanmar's pearls.

Myanmar pearl production surpasses annual target, spurs job growth

THE Myanmar Pearl Enterprise reports that pearl production has exceeded the annual target. Pearls are cultivated across 12 pearl culture camps in the Myeik archipelago of the Taninthayi region, owned by both public and private sectors.

U Myint Thu, General Manager of the Myanma Pearl Enterprise, stated that efforts are underway to surpass production targets in the 2022-2023 financial year. The target for this peri-

od is set at 699,500 momme of pearls. Between April and October 2022, a total of 792,298 pieces of pearls weighing 468,019.88 mommes were produced, representing approximately 67 per cent of the annual target.

Pearl farming relies more on manual labour than machinery, resulting in cost savings, environmental conservation, and the creation of numerous job opportunities. — TWA/MKKS

29,000+ tonnes of corn set for April shipment to Thailand

DURING the third week of April, more than 29,000 tonnes of corn seeds will be shipped to Thailand by sea. On 21 April, 19,300 tonnes were shipped, with an additional 2,700 tonnes and 7,150 tonnes scheduled for shipment on 22 and 25 April respectively.

Previously, most corn seeds were exported to Thailand via the Myawady border. However, due to difficulties in transport facilities, they are now being exported by sea.

Myanmar's corn is typically exported to India, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, and various African countries. Thailand, Viet Nam, and Laos are frequent buyers of Myan-



High quality of Myanmar's corn.

mar corn due to the growing annual demand.

Myanmar produces approximately 2.3 million tonnes

of corn annually, with domestic food production industries consuming 1.2 to 1.5 million tonnes of it. — TWA/TKO

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm

Contact us to buy newspaper
09 454237515

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

ဆက်သွယ်ရန် ဖုန်းနံပါတ်
09 454 237 515

Strong bean export trades elevate Mandalay market in post-Thingyan



MANDALAY bean traders report brisk trading in export beans at the Mandalay market during the New Year period following the Thingyan festival.

“The Mandalay bean market is bustling with activity after Thingyan. Various export beans such as black grams, pigeon peas, and chickpeas are fetching better prices than before the Thingyan period,” said U Soe Win Myint, owner of Soe Win Myint brokerage house in Mandalay.

“Trading is progressing

smoothly, with bean prices increasing rapidly. Export beans command good prices in the Mandalay market. Black grams, in particular, are in high demand in India. With prices steadily rising, growers are enjoying higher profits. Beans from all over the country are traded daily between buyers and sellers,” he added.

The price of black grams has risen from K290,000 per three-basket bag before Thingyan to K305,000 after Thingyan. Similarly, the price of pigeon peas increased from K360,000 to K400,000, and chickpeas from K245,000 to K257,000. Trading conditions are reported to be favourable, with prices on the rise. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/MKKS

Pulse merchants gather to evaluate beans and pulses at the Mandalay market.

Low bell pepper demand due to sharp price drop in source market

WITH the demand for bell peppers low in the market, the price is falling sharply in the source market, according to vegetable brokers' sales centres.

Despite increasing supply, demand in the market has been low.

“A viss of bell pepper has sharply dropped from K6,800-K7,000 to K2,700-K2,500. It is Aungban's market style. The reasons are rising supply and less buying,” said an official from the Aungban wholesale centre.

The rise and fall of commodity prices usually happen before and after Thingyan, and while some crops are predictable, others are difficult to forecast under the current circumstances.

“It is normal for the price of some crops to go up and down during and after Thingyan,” he said.

Primarily grown as a vegetable mixed with another in multiple cropping and locally called paprika or sweet pep-



Harvested bell peppers from the fields in Pindaya Township.

per, it usually sells for a good price. Although bell pepper is a healthy produce to eat, its low heat and high water content make it susceptible to spoil-

age, so more precautions need to be taken with logistics and harvesting only when the heat of the sun is reduced. — Thit Taw/ZN

Chinese cabbage prices soar in post-Thingyan Festival

AS a result of high demand, the price of Chinese cabbage has increased after the Thingyan Festival, according to the vegetable market.

“Chinese cabbage price was K400-K500 a viss before Thingyan and now K1,500. The supply has been low, and demand has been high, so the price goes up nearly triple,” said an official from the vegetable wholesale centre.

It is predicted that prices will continue rising until May, and such fluctuation in prices will cause many difficulties for farmers and vegetable traders, said traders.

“It is expected that the price will go up until May. When there is an influx of supply, the price will plunge down again. We need to handle this market carefully,” said a farmer.

Although Chinese cabbage can be grown anywhere, it is primarily planted in areas with moderate climates. It is included in cabbage species and likes cold weather. Chinese cabbage is grown throughout the year in areas with moderate rain levels. — Thit Taw/ZS



Chinese cabbages are displayed for sales at a market.

OPINION

Protect books and copyright to come out masterpieces

EVERY year, UNESCO, one of the agencies under the United Nations emphasizing the development of children's affairs, invites us to celebrate World Book and Copyright Day on 23 April by sharing visual materials and spreading quotes, poems, and messages that symbolize the power of books and encourage reading. In its press release, UNESCO emphasized that sharing knowledge, readings, and books helps build community and connect readers across the world, offering a remedy for loneliness.

World Book and Copyright Day, commemorated globally, highlights the importance of championing children's reading choices and making reading enjoyable. Books, across various genres, are essential tools that illuminate the path towards achieving our goals. They offer readers an infinite wealth of knowledge, allowing them to savour the delicacy of literature and broaden their understanding of the world.

Authors, often referred to as literary creators, infuse their heartfelt emotions into their works, drawing inspiration from the vast array of literature they have read. It is this depth of experience that enables them to create masterpieces. These books, therefore, serve as invaluable resources for the next generations, expanding their horizons and enriching society as a whole.

Recognizing the connection between creative works and their creators is crucial for the betterment of society. It is essential for everyone to acknowledge and credit these creator authors for their masterpieces in literary works. Furthermore, it is important to respect the copyrights of these literary works, as they originate from the hearts and minds of those creator authors.

By honouring authors and respecting copyright laws, everybody not only acknowledges the effort and creativity invested in these

works but also ensures that future generations can continue to benefit from them. Many global countries celebrate World Book and Copyright Day, aimed at promoting literacy, fostering creativity, and safeguarding the invaluable contributions of authors to collective cultural heritages of relevant countries.

In fact, books are special ladders for new generations to climb the upstairs of society. Only when they can climb upstairs can they step up more layers by applying incredible knowledge obtained from books they have read in their childhood. As books and copyrights will play a crucial role in all eras, all readers and people have to pay back gratitude to the creators while improving the literary realm and copyright process in order to create more and more masterpieces of literary works for society.

Journey Through the Timeless Tea Legacy

TUCKED away in a heritage shophouse on Mosque Street in Singapore's Chinatown, Pek Sin Choon is a must-stop for any tea lover heading to that island nation. Outside the shop, you're welcome to take a sample from the teapot, which they refill several times a day for all passersby. Wander in to see the older "aunties", as they're often called, packing their unique blends of tea by hand in pink paper. These women, many of whom are older than age 60, average 2,000 packages of 15 grammes of tea per eight-hour day.

Yuen Eng Wah, their general manager, will likely be on hand to serve you their classic Nanyang tea, an oolong blend for which they're famous, at the shop's traditional wooden brewing station in the front. The business's name is taken from their founder's family name, Pek, and "sin choon", meaning "new spring", which expresses their hope for good tea harvests.

This family-owned business was founded in 1925 by Bai-Zhuang Dan Niang and her son, Pek Kim Aw. After the death of her husband in 1910, Bai-Zhuang and Pek emigrated from China, where, as a woman, she wouldn't have been allowed to open her own business, says Yuen. However, she could go to Singapore with her young son's help. Locally, Pek soon came to be known as "Buffalo Head" because of his upright character. Carrying tea on a shoulder pole, he pedalled it door to door and later married an Indonesian-Chinese woman. The buffalo head became the brand's mascot.

Fourth-generation descendant Peh Ching Her, known as Kenry, now runs the tea business, which is mostly wholesale but also sells to walk-in customers. They've been sourced, blended, and roasted in the same ways for almost 100 years and are particularly known for their distinctive Nanyang tea. The term refers to this area of Asia where Chinese immigrated to these South Seas, including the southern coast of China and across Southeast Asia, following periods of unrest between the 17th and early 20th centuries.

At the tea station, Yuen waits for the water to come to 100° Celsius (212° Fahrenheit), which increases the tea's fragrance and eagerly shares stories of the purveyor's entrepreneurial past. In the early 1900s, business letters and tea shipments from the mountains of China through Malaysia could take months to years to arrive, depending on the weather and other factors, and tea often came damp. The purveyors, who imported from China's Fujian Province, had to think creatively to ensure a steady supply to their customers. Cleverly, they began to blend the older tea on hand with the newly arrived teas and roast them together.

"They had to harmonize the new and old tea because of survival. They had no choice," explains Yuen. "The taste that eventually came up seemed to suit this area, a land of many immigrants. Their blending, much of which is still done on-site by hand in large bamboo bowls, balanced the fragrant Southern oolong teas with the

strong minerality and "mouthfeel" of the Northern oolongs, adding "another layer in both palate and after-taste", Yuen says.

In its marketing, Pek Sin Choon emphasizes tea's wellness aspects. The label on their first blend, Wuyi Iron Arhat, features a well-muscled man juggling iron balls, which they say "pays tribute to the labourers who built our nation".

In the 1950s, after the Japanese occupation of World War II, they developed a tea with a high, indefinable scent they referred to as an "unknown fragrance". When they asked a friend to help name it, he suggested they keep that moniker, and they added "renowned" as a prefix to make it sound famous, which it became. Like most Chinese tea drinkers, Yuen adds nothing to the Renowned Unknown Fragrance as he pours it into small cups. He recommends steeping the tea for one minute and using the same tea leaves up to four times for a slightly different taste of this lightly caffeinated tea each time. Renowned Unknown Fragrance also pairs perfectly with a popular local dish, bah kut teh, or pork bone soup with rice, which could be a tad oily and peppery. In the shops, Yuen shares, customers would say, "Pour a buffalo out" when they ordered that tea with the soup. Singapore is known for its food perfection culture, and gourmet-level street hawker stands, and visitors who opt to try bah kut teh at popular restaurants, like Song Fa, will find Pek Sin Choon's Nanyang tea in their pot. Yuen also recommends



PHOTO CREDIT: TEA TIME FEB 2024

that their teas accompany other local favourites, such as chicken rice, laksa, and dim sum.

With each passing decade, Pek Sin Choon has resourcefully read the cultural situation while also following their established tea traditions. In 1959, when China won its first table tennis world male singles championship, the tea makers were so elated that they created a celebratory champion, "ping pong" tea. Optimistically, they featured a female player on the package as inspiration, and several years later, a Chinese woman won the championship. In 1976, they introduced Preeminent Fragrance, "very high in fragrance," which was inspired by a

Mongolian princess character in a popular Hong Kong drama series.

Preserving their unique fragrances is so vital to them that some teas are wrapped twice in wax paper. Initially, they used white wax paper, like most others. During World War II, though, they faced a shortage, so they switched to pink paper acquired from the hospital. After the war, they retained this newer colour tradition.

"Pink is more auspicious and reminds us of what our forefathers went through," says Yuen. While the store is moving toward semi-automation, they remain true to their storied roots and continue the hand packing, which tourists love to see.

After you sip a cup of tea, Yuen will show you where the tea is hand-blended and roasted on-site. When he was young, Kenry Peh learned to "blend tea the old-school way", says Yuen, from "Mr Poh", their master tea blender for four generations. Peh had to observe Poh in action for several hours a day for four years before being allowed to try himself. These days, Yuen is doing most of the blending and then putting it on trays in their 50-year-old oven to roast. The leaves are then left to cool for at least a week before being packaged. As part of the yearly Singapore Heritage Festival, Pek Sin Choon often hosts a Nanyang Tea Challenge, during which con-

testants correctly identify their tea varieties, create their own blend, and suggest a suitable accompanying dish.

Pek Sin Choon is committed to sharing the delights of Nanyang tea with new generations and visitors who wander into their charming shophouse.

In wandering the whole text, nestled within the charming lanes of Singapore's Chinatown, Pek Sin Choon emerges as a timeless beacon for tea enthusiasts worldwide. By stepping through its doors, visitors are enveloped in an atmosphere steeped in history and tradition. The aroma of freshly brewed Nanyang tea wafts through the air, a testament to the legacy crafted by generations of artisans. Here, amidst the hustle and bustle of modernity, time seems to stand still as elderly "aunties" delicately package tea blends by hand, their movements a graceful dance preserving a bygone era. It is in this sanctuary of serenity that one finds solace, connecting with a tradition that transcends geographical boundaries and temporal constraints.

As Yuen Eng Wah, the general manager, regales visitors with tales of the establishment's founding, a rich tapestry of heritage unfolds. Founded in 1925 by Bai-Zhuang Dan Niang and her son, Pek Kim Aw, Pek Sin Choon stands as a testament to perseverance and entrepreneurial spirit. Emigrating from China in search of opportunity, Bai-Zhuang defied societal norms to realize her vision, laying the cornerstone for what would become an iconic tea

house. Through trials and tribulations, the family's commitment to their craft remained unwavering, a beacon of hope amidst turbulent times. Today, under the stewardship of fourth-generation descendant Peh Ching Her, fondly known as Kenry, Pek Sin Choon continues to flourish, bridging the gap between tradition and modernity with finesse.

In sum, in a rapidly evolving world, Pek Sin Choon stands as a bastion of tradition, its storied legacy a testament to the timeless allure of tea culture. With each sip of Nanyang tea, patrons embark on a journey through time, tracing the footsteps of generations past who toiled tirelessly to perfect their craft. As the aroma of fragrant blends fills the air, it serves as a reminder of the enduring bond between humanity and nature, encapsulated in a humble cup of tea. As visitors bid farewell to the hallowed halls of Pek Sin Choon, they carry with them more than just packets of tea; they carry the spirit of resilience, innovation, and heritage that defines Singapore's rich tapestry. In a world characterized by flux and uncertainty, Pek Sin Choon stands as an anchor, offering solace and continuity in an ever-changing landscape. As the sun sets over Chinatown, casting a golden hue over the heritage shophouse, one cannot help but marvel at the timeless allure of Pek Sin Choon, a beacon of tradition amidst the tides of change.

house. Through trials and tribulations, the family's commitment to their craft remained unwavering, a beacon of hope amidst turbulent times. Today, under the stewardship of fourth-generation descendant Peh Ching Her, fondly known as Kenry, Pek Sin Choon continues to flourish, bridging the gap between tradition and modernity with finesse.

In sum, in a rapidly evolving world, Pek Sin Choon stands as a bastion of tradition, its storied legacy a testament to the timeless allure of tea culture. With each sip of Nanyang tea, patrons embark on a journey through time, tracing the footsteps of generations past who toiled tirelessly to perfect their craft. As the aroma of fragrant blends fills the air, it serves as a reminder of the enduring bond between humanity and nature, encapsulated in a humble cup of tea. As visitors bid farewell to the hallowed halls of Pek Sin Choon, they carry with them more than just packets of tea; they carry the spirit of resilience, innovation, and heritage that defines Singapore's rich tapestry. In a world characterized by flux and uncertainty, Pek Sin Choon stands as an anchor, offering solace and continuity in an ever-changing landscape. As the sun sets over Chinatown, casting a golden hue over the heritage shophouse, one cannot help but marvel at the timeless allure of Pek Sin Choon, a beacon of tradition amidst the tides of change.

Reference: Tea Time Feb 2024



Job fairs are held across Japan, kicking off the job-hunting season for students graduating from universities. PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/KYODO/FILE

Japanese AI tool predicts when recruits will quit jobs

By feeding data on new hires, the AI predicts the likelihood of an employee leaving in percentage points.

BOSSES worried about turnover or wondering how long a new hire will stick around can now turn to AI for a heads-up on who might be next out the door.

The artificial intelligence tool was developed by Japanese researchers to try and help managers provide targeted support to staff to stop them from quit-

ting.

It crunches data on employees at a company, from their attendance record to personal information such as age and gender, and was created by Tokyo City University professor Naruhiko Shiratori with a start-up based in the Japanese capital.

The tool also analyzes data on employees who left the com-

pany, or took a leave of absence, to create a turnover model for each firm.

Then when fed data on new recruits, it predicts who is at risk of quitting "in percentage points", Shiratori, a media education expert, told AFP on Friday.

"We are currently testing the AI tool with several companies,

creating a model for each one."

Bosses could use the results to "suggest to the high-risk employee — without showing a raw figure, which could be shocking to him or her — that the company is ready to offer support, because AI suggested they may be facing difficulties", Shiratori said.

To create the tool, the researchers built on a previous

study using AI to predict the characteristics of university students likely to drop out.

Now they are planning an upgrade so that the AI tool can suggest suitable assignments for new employees by analyzing information from job interviews, as well as their characteristics and personal histories.

Japanese businesses tradi-

tionally all hire graduates at the same time each year, but about one in 10 recruits fresh from college quit their jobs within a year, government data shows.

Around 30 per cent leave their company within three years, according to the labour ministry.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Massive visitor arrivals in Bagan during Thingyan holidays



The photo shows some travellers visiting Bagan and Mount Popa in Thingyan. **PHOTO-ZARTI MYAY TRAVELS AND TOURS**

A massive influx of visitors to Bagan was seen in Thingyan, and the number seemed larger than last year, according to residents and some visitors.

Since the beginning of the tour season, the number of visitor arrivals, both foreigners and locals, to Bagan has been mounting, and even most of the hotels were full in Thingyan, said an employee from a travel service agency in Bagan.

“Most hotels were full in Thingyan. The number of visitors was huge, but it just became

sparse after they returned,” he said.

People from all parts of the country, including Yangon and Mandalay regions, come to make pilgrimage tours of pagodas and temples in Bagan. “It seemed this year’s visitor number was larger than last year because there were day-trippers too. The visitor arrival was enormously large,” he said.

An increase in the number of pilgrims helped residents enjoy job opportunities, and vendors could also earn more

from selling souvenirs.

It is assumed that this year’s travel was more extensive than last year’s, and it especially reached the highest in Thingyan holidays, said Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association Chair U Naung Naung Han. Among popular destinations, many visitors made pilgrimage tours to Bagan, Mandalay, Inlay and Kalaw and visiting Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung, and other newly developed beaches have also been increasing, he said. — MT/ZS

Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia unite for Thingyan Festival in Kuwait

MYANMAR, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia held a joint New Year Thingyan festival with teeming crowds at the Royal Thai Embassy to Kuwait on 18 April, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It was co-hosted by the embassies of these four countries to Kuwait.

The festival featured choral dances by Myanmar nationals in Kuwait, traditional Thai dance and Muay Thai (kickboxing) demonstrations by Thais, and video clips of the great event held jointly by four nations in English.

The Myanmar Embassy to

Kuwait served the guests attending the Maha Thingyan Festival with traditional Shan noodles and sago with sweet potatoes. At the same time, the Thai, Lao and Cambodian embassies also provided their respective traditional foods.

This four-country festival was attended by Mr Khalid Jassim Al-Yassin, Deputy Assistant Minister, Asia Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Ambassadors from ASEAN countries, chargés d’affaires, diplomats, Myanmar community in Kuwait and invitees. — ASH/ZN



Guests attending the New Year Maha Thingyan Festival organized and held by four countries in Kuwait.

Public Notice

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

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer “1111” to fight against corruption
Answer “1111” to improve services

Confiscations of illegal items: Timbers and vehicles

ON 22 April, combined on-duty teams, managed by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force, confiscated two Yutong buses (estimated value K70 million). One bus was travelling from Thamanya to Yangon, while the other was en route from Hpa-an to Mandalay. These buses were found carrying seven types of goods, valued at K12.85 million, including 6,000 bottles of Lactasoy without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station.

Additionally, illegal teak weighing 1.764 tonnes, illegal hardwood weighing 0.656 tonne, and other illegal timbers weighing 2.251 tonnes, valued

at K1.468 million, were seized in Bago, Toungoo, and Pyay districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported seven arrests made on 22 April, with an estimated value of K84.318 million. — MNA/MKKS



Officials inspect confiscated teak logs in Bago Region.

12-year-old Japan dancer wins top prize in youth ballet competition

A 12-year-old female Japanese ballet dancer has won the top prize for her age group for classical dance at a major international ballet competition for young dancers.

Yuna Yamada, a junior high school student from Sapporo, Hokkaido, northern Japan, on Saturday topped the category for girls aged 9 to 11 in classical dance at the Youth America Grand Prix, known as the world's largest student ballet scholarship competition.

"I am very happy because I was able to demonstrate the results of my hard work," Yamada said, adding that she hopes to become a ballet dancer who can bring joy and smiles to audiences.

Other young Japanese dancers excelled on the big stage as well, with 12-year-old Kohaku Kihara from Kyoto finishing second in the contemporary dance category for boys and Yuto Teranishi, a 10-year-old from Nagoya, coming in third for boys in classical dance.

Anne Takahashi, a 12-year-



Undated photo shows Japanese ballet dancer Yuna Yamada performing at the Youth America Grand Prix in New York. (Photo courtesy of LK Studio) **PHOTO: KYODO**

old from Saitama who was competing in the ages 9-11 division, finished third in both those categories for girls. Contestants are classified by their ages as of 1 January.

For the 12-14 age group, where no distinctions are made between the two dance categories, Eita Akita, a 14-year-old from Osaka Prefecture claimed the third place among boy contestants. — Kyodo

Rome celebrates 2,777th birthday with parade, events

ITALY'S capital celebrated the city's 2,777th birthday Sunday, the annual retrospective of the city's long history that in recent years has grown increasingly popular with tourists.

On Sunday, the city erupted with concerts, exhibits, ceremonies and a parade of more than 2,000 people marching as legionaries, centurions, Senators, gladiators, vestals, priestesses, and nobles, all dressed in full Roman-era costumes.

"It's a way to pay tribute to our city's history while enjoying ourselves and showing off to visitors and students," Marco Contarini, a 29-year-old coffee bar worker who participated in Sunday's parade dressed as a centurion, told Xinhua.

According to tradition, Rome was founded on 21 April 753 BC.

Sunday's celebration was held in Circus Maximus, a former Roman-era racetrack that lies in a low area between the Palatine and the Aventine, the hills with a deep connection to the city's history.

Preston Juan Loria, a



People take part in a parade to celebrate the 2,777th birthday of Rome in Rome, capital of Italy, 21 April 2024. The city of Rome celebrated its 2,777th birthday on Sunday with a weekend of historical re-enactments of ancient Roman rituals. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

49-year-old project manager from Florida, the United States, said that discovering the day's festivities was a happy coincidence while on vacation in the city.

"We didn't plan to come to Rome for the city's birthday but seeing all this is a great way to spend part of a day, taking it all in," Loria told Xinhua. "I especially enjoyed seeing the contrasts, the period costumes in a modern city."

Though the origins of Sun-

day's celebrations date back centuries, the events have caught on with travellers as tourism in Italy has recovered from the setbacks of the coronavirus pandemic.

There are no official estimates for the number of people who participated in Sunday's activities, media reports said the city had deployed extra police for security and traffic control. Hotel bookings were higher than usual for the weekend, media reports said. — Xinhua

8th Aswan intl women film festival opens in Egypt

THE eighth edition of the Aswan International Women Film Festival (AIWFF) opens Saturday night in Egypt's city of Aswan by the Nile River with a red-carpet ceremony.

The annual event, attended by dozens of Egyptian and foreign artists, filmmakers and critics, sheds light on women's causes and rights in Egypt and the Middle East region through filmmaking.

This year's festival runs until Thursday, attracting 76 selections of feature films and short films from 35 countries to rival in various competition sections.

"The AIWFF is the first festival with a specialized programme of filmmaking workshops for the youth in the region, led by industry profes-



Guests attend the opening ceremony of the eighth edition of the Aswan International Women Film Festival (AIWFF) in Aswan, Egypt, 20 April 2024. The eighth edition of AIWFF opened Saturday night in Egypt's city of Aswan by the Nile River with a red-carpet ceremony. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

sionals, bringing the educational opportunities and skills needed to Aswan," AIWFF director Hassan Abu-Ela told Xinhua.

This year's edition has special programmes for Sudanese and Palestinian films with a focus on women.

Palestinian film director Rashid Masharawi said it is important for the Arab world's patriarchal society to shed light on the issues and problems facing women through cinema and film festivals.

"The AIWFF is developing rapidly and the participation of movies, filmmakers and workers in the field is increasing notably every year, which means the festival is a real success," Egyptian film director Hala Khalil told Xinhua. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Russia, China shift almost all mutual payments into national currencies — lavrov

MORE than 90 per cent of Russian-Chinese financial settlements are conducted in national currencies, while bilateral economic cooperation is actively progressing, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday.

“Russian-Chinese trade and economic cooperation is actively developing, and this is despite the persistent attempts of the states of the collective West to put sticks



Rubles and yuans. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

in the wheels. There has been an almost complete de-dollarization of bilateral economic ties. Today, more than 90 per cent of mutual settlements are converted into national currencies,” Lavrov said at the meeting of the Council of Heads of the Russian regions.

Russian-Chinese energy cooperation is progressing “steadily,” the foreign minister added.

In December 2023, Rus-

sian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said Russia and China had achieved almost complete de-dollarization in their bilateral payments.

In August 2023, Lavrov said that BRICS member states were focused on working out mechanisms of mutual trade that would end their dependence on alien reserve currencies such as the US dollar. — Sputnik

China's Erenhot port handles 1,000 China-Europe freight trains within year

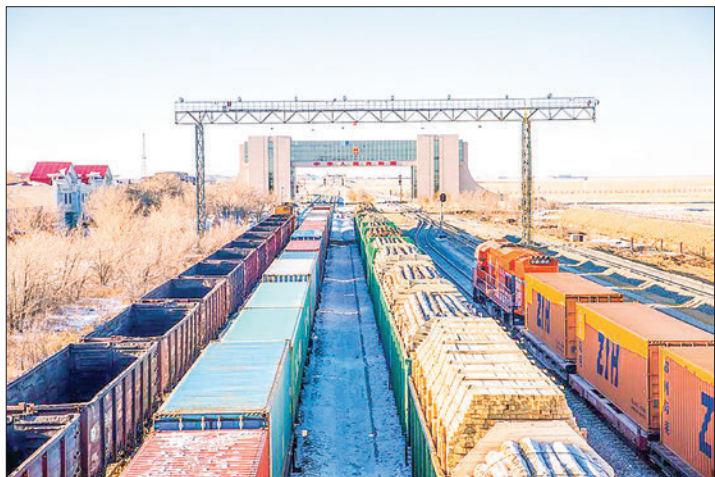


Photo taken on 8 January 2021 shows freight trains at Erenhot Port in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE 1,000th China-Europe freight train passed through the border port of Erenhot in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on Sunday.

“It used to take at least sev-

en or eight hours to go through procedures for inbound cargo trains. After the digital port system was put into use, customs clearance has been shortened to about two hours,” said Wang Hongwen with the port.

The proportion of high value-added and high-tech goods such as automobiles, computers and robots has increased to more than 40 per cent. Since the beginning of this year, the export of domestic automobiles has climbed to 12 per cent of the total export goods, registering a record high in history of the same period, according to port's figures.

Erenhot Port is an important land port for the export of Chinese goods to Mongolia, Russia and Europe. Since the beginning of this year, a total of 1,001 China-Europe freight trains have passed through the Erenhot railway port, carrying 113,000 TEU of cargo, up 7.8 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively, reaching record highs in the same period. — Xinhua

Indonesia's trade balance surplus surges to US\$4.47 bln in March

INDONESIA registered a trade balance surplus of 4.47 billion US dollars in March, surging from 870 million dollars in the previous month, Statistics Indonesia (BPS) reported on Monday.

The figure marked Indonesia's 47th consecutive month with a trade balance surplus since May 2020.

The total export value fell

4.19 per cent year on year to 22.43 billion dollars, while import value dropped 12.76 per cent year on year to 17.96 billion dollars, showed the BPS data.

“Primarily, the surplus from the oil and gas sector was 6.51 billion dollars, although this was reduced by the oil and gas sector deficit of 2.04 billion dollars,” said

acting head of BPS Amalia Widayanti at a press conference.

In the cited month, the export of gold and gems products increased sharply by 206.58 per cent month on month to 925.8 million dollars, while for the import, cereals logged a rise of 25.97 per cent to 182.2 million dollars. — Xinhua

Stock markets rally, oil prices drop on easing Middle East fears

MAJOR stock markets mostly rallied Monday and oil prices retreated as Middle East worries subsided and traders looked ahead to the release of key US inflation data and corporate earnings.

London led the way in Europe, with its FTSE 100 up 1.5 per cent to above 8,000 points around the half-way stage, closing in on a record high.

The benchmark index benefited also from a weaker pound as the Bank of England is seen cutting interest rates in the coming months as UK inflation cools.

The dollar rose across the board, while haven gold came off the boil.

In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng stocks index closed with a gain of 1.8 per cent.

On Wall Street, the Nasdaq tumbled Friday, partly owing to a poor response to Netflix earnings.

This week sees earnings

updates from more US giants, including Google parent Alphabet, Tesla and Microsoft.

“The week starts with a relief rally in equities following a calm weekend on the geopolitical scene,” noted Ipek Ozkardeska, senior analyst at Swissquote Bank.

With Iran downplaying the recently-reported Israeli attack on the country, which came days after a drone and missile strike on Israel by Tehran, tensions between the regional foes appeared to have cooled.

While the situation remains tense, the lack of escalation over the weekend provided traders with an opportunity to pick up equities after losses last week.

Investors are setting their sights on the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) index, the Federal Reserve's preferred gauge of inflation, which is due Friday. — AFP



An electronic board displays a share price of the Nikkei index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 19 April 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Google pressed to reform search ad practices in Japan



An official of the Japan Fair Trade Commission holds a press briefing in Tokyo on 22 April 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S antitrust watchdog said Monday it has asked Google LLC to voluntarily reform its business practices after finding that it imposed unfair restrictions in its search advertising agreement

with Yahoo Japan. The Japan Fair Trade Commission concluded that the practices by the US search giant compromised the fairness of the digital advertising market. It is the first ad-

ministrative step taken by Japanese authorities against Google.

The commission said Google has submitted proposals to improve its practices and that it has accepted them, exempt-

ing the company from facing fines or other punitive measures under the antimonopoly law.

The commission will continue investigating as Google is also suspected of preventing fair competition in search services.

The regulator began its probe in 2022, and notified Google of possible violations of the law in March this year. It concluded that Google's practices could amount to private monopoly or interference with competitors' transactions.

Google said in a statement that it has not been found to have violated the law. But it also said it will implement the improvement plan steadily.

Yahoo Japan, now LY Corp, said it will refrain from commenting. — Kyodo

World's largest private firms fail to set climate targets: report

ONLY 40 of the world's 100 largest private firms have set net-zero carbon emissions targets to fight climate change, according to a report released Monday, lagging far behind public companies.

But for the world to meet the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global warming 1.5 degree Celsius, all companies need to

reduce their planet-heating emissions, the report by the group Net Zero Tracker noted.

The lack of market and reputational pressures on private firms compared to those publicly-listed, along with an absence of regulation are to blame for their slow uptake of climate commitments, John Lange of Net

Zero Tracker told AFP. "I think things are changing on all three of those fronts," he added.

The report compared 200 of the world's largest public and private companies based on their reported emissions reductions strategies and net-zero targets.

It found that only 40 of the 100 private firms

assessed had net zero targets, compared to 70 of 100 publicly-listed companies.

Of the private companies that have set targets, just eight have published plans on how they will meet them.

"A pledge without a plan is not a pledge, it is a naked PR stunt," the report said. — AFP

Denmark launches its biggest offshore wind farm tender

THE Danish Energy Agency on Monday launched its biggest tender for the construction of offshore wind farms, aimed at producing six gigawatts by 2030 — more than double Denmark's current capacity.

Offshore wind is one of the major sources of green energy that Europe is counting on to decarbonize electricity production and reach its 2050 target of net zero carbon production, but it remains far off the pace needed to hit its targets.

Denmark's offshore wind parks currently generate 2.7 gigawatts of electricity, with another

one GW due in 2027.

The tender covers six sites in four zones in Danish waters: North Sea I, Kattegat, Kriegers Flak II and Hesselø.

"We are pleased that we can now offer the largest offshore wind tender in Denmark to date. This is a massive investment in the green transition," Kristoffer Bottzauw, head of the Danish Energy Agency, said in a statement.

Investment in offshore wind plummeted in Europe in 2022 due to supply chain problems, high interest rates and a jump in prices of raw materials, before bouncing back in 2023. — AFP

'Tomb Raider' owner Embracer splits into three companies

SWEDEN'S Embracer, owner of the "Tomb Raider" franchise, announced Monday it would split into three separate companies in a major reset for one of Europe's biggest video game groups.

Following the announcement, the company's shares rose over 10 per cent in the early hours of trading on the Stockholm stock exchange. The new entity, Middle-earth Enterprises & Friends, will manage the group's most well-known and big budget game studios — such as Crystal Dynamics, Dambuster Studio and Eidos-Montreal — representing net sales of 14.1 billion kronor (\$1.3 billion).

"As a standalone company, 'Middle-earth Enterprises & Friends' will operate as a more transparent entity, offering a better structure to maximize the potential of its highly strategic franchises," Embracer said in a statement. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MANALI VOY.NO. (2403)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MANALI VOY. NO. (2403)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:
M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

Notice for change of distributor

We, **UPI Cropscience Co., Ltd**, would like to change the distributor of the following products; **Natchevin 50 WG, Sharword 240 SC and Jubitar 5 GR**, which were registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar as follow respectively. If any objection or enquiry, please contacts to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration No.	New Distributor
1	Close Friend Co., Ltd	Natchevin 50 WG	Trifloxystrobin 50% WG	Full	F2023-4322	Friends Helper Co., Ltd
2		Sharword 240 SC	Spiromesifen 24 % SC	Full	F2023-4331	Charoen Pokphand Produce Myanmar Co., Ltd
3		Jubitar 5 GR	Phoxim 5 % GR	Provisional	P2019-4806	

Friends Helper Co., Ltd

Address: No. FG-65, Sein Lae Kanthar Street, FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph no: 09-421111797

Charoen Pokphand Produce Myanmar Co., Ltd

Address: 18/B, Oak Pon Seik Street, Quarter 8, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph no: 09-962759971

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Poland 'ready' to host nuclear weapons: president

POLAND is ready to host nuclear arms if NATO decides to deploy the weapons in the face of Russia reinforcing its armaments in Belarus and Kaliningrad, President Andrzej Duda said in an interview published on Monday.

Poland, a NATO member, and a staunch supporter of Ukraine, shares a border with both Russia's Kaliningrad exclave and with Belarus, Moscow's ally.

"If our allies decide to deploy nuclear arms on our territory as part of nuclear sharing, to reinforce NATO's eastern flank, we are ready to do so," Duda said in an interview published by the Fakt daily.

Moscow in response warned it would take steps to "ensure its security" if Warsaw had the weapons.

Duda spoke to the Polish media after a visit to New York, where he held meetings at the UN and discussed the war in



(FILES) Polish President Andrzej Duda attends the acceptance of the first South Korean K2 battle tanks and South Korean K9 howitzers for Poland in 6 December 2022 at the Baltic Container Terminal in Gdynia. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ukraine with former US president Donald Trump.

In March, he visited Wash-

ington DC, where he met US President Joe Biden.

Discussions about nuclear

cooperation between Poland and the United States have been ongoing "for some time", he said.

"I have already talked about this several times. I must admit that when asked about it, I declared our readiness," Duda said.

"Russia is increasingly militarising Kaliningrad. Recently it has been relocating its nuclear weapons to Belarus," he added.

The Kremlin said it would respond if Poland hosted nuclear weapons.

"The military will of course analyze the situation and in any case will take all necessary response steps in order to ensure our security," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

In June 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed that Russia had sent tactical nuclear arms to Belarus, which borders Ukraine and Poland.

During the last NATO summit in Vilnius, the allies pledged to "take all necessary steps to ensure the credibility, effectiveness, safety and security of the nuclear deterrent mission". — AFP

Israeli military intelligence chief resigns as Gaza pounded



People walk with salvaged items past destroyed buildings in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on 22 April 2024 amid the ongoing conflict in the Palestinian territory between Israel and the militant group Hamas. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAEL'S military intelligence chief has resigned after taking responsibility for failures leading to the Hamas attack on 7 October, the military said on Monday, as Israel carried out more shelling in war-battered Gaza overnight.

General Aharon Haliva is the first top Israeli official to step down for failing to prevent the Hamas attack, which

triggered the war in Gaza and brought the government and military under intense scrutiny in Israel.

"The intelligence division under my command did not live up to the task we were entrusted with," Haliva said in his resignation letter. "I carry that black day with me ever since."

Israel has meanwhile lashed out at reports that

its top ally the United States was considering sanctioning the military's ultra-Orthodox Netzah Yehuda battalion over alleged human rights abuses in the West Bank from before the war.

"At a time when our soldiers are fighting the monsters of terror, the intention to impose a sanction on a unit in the IDF (army) is the height of absurdity and a moral low," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu posted on X.

Netanyahu said late Sunday that the Israeli military would increase military pressure to "deliver additional and painful blows" to Hamas in the coming days, without elaborating further.

The prime minister has repeatedly said Israel will launch a ground assault on Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, despite international concern about the majority of the territory's population who have taken refuge there.

— AFP

Russian FM says West teetering on brink of direct nuclear conflict

THE West is teetering on the brink of a direct military clash between nuclear powers with its support for Ukraine, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Monday.

Such a tendency is "fraught with catastrophic consequences" and indicates "serious strategic risks", Lavrov said during a video message to a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in Moscow.

He noted that the world

is now experiencing a crisis in arms control, disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Lavrov called for joint efforts to build a renewed international security architecture based on the principles of multilateralism, equality and indivisibility.

The foreign minister said Russia is ready to discuss ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as soon as the United States does the same. —

Xinhua

Opening statements due at Trump's trial

THE criminal trial of Donald Trump moves to opening statements Monday, kickstarting weeks of salacious evidence centred on a porn star and alleged fraud that will run in parallel with his attempt to retake the White House.

The historic case being heard in a Manhattan courtroom poses substantial risks for Trump

less than seven months before election day.

Prosecution witnesses are expected to include adult actor Stormy Daniels — who says she had a sexual encounter with Trump in 2006, a claim he denies — and Trump's former fixer Michael Cohen, offering an insight into the 77-year-old tycoon's personal and business habits. — AFP

SPORTS

MNL Cup group matches to resume on 25 April

GROUP matches of the MNL Cup 2024 were temporarily suspended during the Maha Thingyan holidays starting from 6 April, and they will resume on 25 April. The remaining group matches will take place from 25 April to 21 May.

In group match 6, Maha United will play against University FC at Thuwunna Stadium, and Shwepyitha FC will take on Yangon United at YUSC on 25 April.

On 26 April, Rainbow FC will meet with Shan United at Padonma Stadium and Rakhine United will play with Glory Goal FC at Thuwunna Stadium.



The photo depicts players from Dagon Star United, which leads Group-C of the MNL Cup 2024 with four wins. PHOTO: MNL

The match of Silver Star FC versus Hanthawady FC will be held at Thuwunna Stadium, and Dagon Star United versus

Dagon Port at University Stadium on 27 April.

University Stadium will host Rakkhapura United versus ISPE FC on 28 April, whereas Myawady FC will face Thitsa Arman FC at Padonma Stadium.

On the standing table after the first leg, Yangon United and Dagon Star United scored 12 points each, ISPE FC 10 points, Maha United, Shan United, Rakhine United, Kachin United, Ayeyawady United, and Yadanabon FC nine points each.

At the same time, Shwepyitha United, Rainbow FC and Silver Star FC have not scored any points. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA



Kazuto Ioka. PHOTO: KYODO

Boxing: Ioka, Martinez set for super flyweight unification bout

JAPAN'S Kazuto Ioka and Argentina's Fernando Martinez will put their respective WBA and IBF super flyweight championship belts on the line in a 7 July meeting in Tokyo, the bout's organizers said Monday.

The unification bout at Ryogoku Kokugikan will be the 35-year-old Ioka's second defence of the WBA title. Ioka and Naoya Inoue are the only Japanese boxers who have won world titles in four weight divisions.

Ioka won his first world crown in 2011 in the WBC minimumweight category and went on to grab his fourth in 2019 in the WBO super flyweight division.

Inoue won his fourth last July, knocking out American Stephen Fulton for the WBC and WBO super bantamweight titles. — Kyodo



Real Madrid's English midfielder (5) Jude Bellingham celebrates victory at the end of the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and FC Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 21 April 2024. Real Madrid won 3-2. PHOTO: AFP

Late Bellingham goal gives Real Madrid 'Clasico' win to leave title in their grasp

JUDE Bellingham scored an injury time goal to give Real Madrid a 3-2 win at home to FC Barcelona to decide the 'Clasico' and all but seal this season's La Liga title.

The England midfielder finished Lucas Vazquez's cross at the far post after a run from Brahim Diaz had worked space in the Madrid attack.

The win leaves Real Madrid 11 points clear of Barcelona with just six games.

Real Madrid was without Ferland Mendy and Dani Carvajal through injury, so Vazquez and Eduardo Camavinga played as full backs, while Xavi Hernandez preferred a more defensive midfield of Andreas Christensen and Frenkie de Jong, with Pedri starting on the bench.

Barcelona struck first after six minutes when Andriy Lunin flapped at a corner and Christensen outjumped Toni Kroos to make it 1-0. — Xinhua



Players of Bayer 04 Leverkusen greet the spectators after the first division of Bundesliga football match between Borussia Dortmund and Bayer 04 Leverkusen in Dortmund, Germany, 21 April 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Leverkusen stays unbeaten in Bundesliga

NEWLY-CROWNED Bundesliga champions Bayer Leverkusen extended their record unbeaten run to 45 games after securing a late 1-1 draw with Borussia Dortmund thanks to Josip Stanisic's last-gasp equalizer on Sunday.

Leverkusen took the reins from the start and came close through Jeremie Frimpong, who pulled wide twice in the opening stages.

The spectators had to wait until the closing stages of the first half as Alejandro Grimaldo narrowly missed the tar-

get in quick succession, while Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky had to show a quick reflex to deny Marcel Sabitzer's dangerous shot from the edge of the box.

Both sides staged a slow start again after the restart, but Gregor Kobel had to be on guard to defuse the promising efforts from Grimaldo and Nathan Tella.

However, Dortmund broke the deadlock in the 81st minute when Sabitzer's cross into the box found Niklas Fullkrug, who volleyed past Hradecky from

close range.

It looked like the Werksself would suffer its first defeat of the season, but Xabi Alonso's boys had the last laugh and flabbergasted Dortmund with the equalizer after Stanisic nodded home Florian Wirtz's corner kick in the last action of the match.

"It was a game with only a few goalscoring opportunities. It wasn't the best performance by both teams. The draw feels like a defeat and a loss of two points as we took the lead very late," commented Dortmund coach Edin Terzic. — Xinhua



North Korea fires salvo of short-range ballistic missiles



People watch a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a railway station in Seoul on 22 April 2024. PHOTO: AFP

NORTH Korea has fired several short-range ballistic missiles, Seoul's military said on Monday, the latest in a volley of tests by Pyongyang this year.

The launch comes after UN sanctions monitoring against the nuclear-armed nation was upended last month by Pyongyang's ally Russia.

South Korea's military said it had detected the launch of "several short-range ballistic missiles" from the Pyong-

yang area, which flew around 300 kilometres (186 miles) before splashing down into waters east of the Korean peninsula.

"This missile launch is a blatant provocation that threatens peace and stability of the Korean peninsula," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, adding that the military was maintaining "full readiness".

Tokyo also confirmed the launch,

with Japanese government spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi saying one missile had a maximum altitude of 50 kilometres and landed outside of the country's EEZ.

The launch is the second in less than a week by Pyongyang, which on Friday tested a "super-large warhead" designed for a strategic cruise missile, state media said. Seoul's military confirmed it had detected cruise missile launches at the time. — AFP

Education leaders to discuss improving teaching at Singapore summit

SENIOR education officials and representatives of teachers will expound on ways to strengthen the teaching profession and raise student achievement at a global summit in Singapore from Monday to Wednesday.

Fundamental shifts, including technological innovation and the need for lifelong learning, will shape education in years to come, said Singapore's Education Minister Chan Chun Sing, at the opening ceremony of the 14th International Summit on the Teaching Profession.

Given the changes, Chan called on the education sector to embrace the science of learning, build robust social and family environments for learning, and identify the future skills needed to match demand.

Themed "Reimagining Education, Realizing Potential," the event features discussions including the future of learning, the role of technology in transforming education and vocational training, and the importance of partnerships to support learning for life.

The summit involves education officials, heads of teacher unions and teacher leaders from 18 delegations across Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania. The delegates will visit Singapore's primary and secondary schools, institutes of higher learning and other training institutions during the event. — Xinhua



A visitor experiences domestic brain-computer interface system at the booth of Beijing Tiantan Hospital during the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) at Shougang Park in Beijing, capital of China, 5 September 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

Brain-computer interface tool improves motor function of stroke patients: study

A team of Chinese scientists have found during a clinical trial that brain-computer interface (BCI) rehabilitation can improve upper limb motor function in patients with stroke.

BCI is a kind of communication system that converts the "ideas" in the brain into instructions and has been used in stroke rehabilitation.

The researchers from the Beijing Tiantan Hospital under Capital Medical Universi-

ty led an investigator-initiated, 17-centre clinical trial in China, in which 296 patients with ischemic stroke were randomized to receive BCI or traditional rehabilitation training for one month.

The primary efficacy outcomes showed that the score change from baseline of BCI group was noticeably higher than that of control group, according to a study recently published in the journal Cell Med.

There are nearly 200 medical brain-computer interface enterprises in China, with 25 per cent of those enterprises working with implantable technology and 75 per cent working with non-implantable technology, according to the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology's report on the development and application of brain-computer interface technology (2023). — Xinhua