

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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Myanmar imports 1.047 million tonnes of fertilizers in 2023-24 FY

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, a total of 1.047 million tonnes of fertilizers were imported in the 2023-24 Financial Year.

The Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee reported that it scrutinized and recommended the issuance of import licences for two million tonnes of fertilizers and 37,000 tonnes of pesticides in the aforementioned FY.

A total of 4,900 tonnes of urea fertilizer and 21,000 tonnes of compound fertilizer are designated for use in 120,000 acres of cultivation across 12 states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw, in the winter edible

oil crop project. Additionally, 36,000 tonnes of urea fertilizer and 36,000 tonnes of compound fertilizer are allocated for use in 720,000 acres of summer paddy across six regions and states, also including Nay Pyi Taw.

Moreover, a total of 74,000 tonnes of fertilizers, including over 3,700 tonnes of urea fertilizer and 37,000 tonnes of compound fertilizer, are anticipated to be required in ten states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw, for the monsoon paddy project. These required fertilizers are considered essential input factors for projects funded by the State economic promotion fund. For projects not covered by this



Bags of imported fertilizers in the domestic market.

fund, authorities have arranged affordable prices for fertilizers for farmers.

To meet the input requirements for the 2024-25 Financial

Year, earnings from rubber exports can be utilized to purchase the necessary imported input products. The reference rates of these input factors,

which will be sold to farmers, are regularly announced. In the 2023-24 Financial Year, a total of 27,129.24 tonnes of pesticides were imported. — TWA/TMT

NATIONAL

Alternate daily newspaper publishing planned for New Year holiday

DAILY newspapers of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be in alternate circulation during the holidays of the Myanmar New Year. The Myanma Alinn Daily will be published from 13 to 16 April, whereas the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will take holidays. The Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will be in circulation from 17 to 21 April, while the Myanma Alinn daily will take a break.

The Ethnic Sector in the Shan Language by the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi), published every Thursday, will take a holiday on 18 April; the Ethnic Sector in Mon, Skaw Kayin, Poe Kayin and Pa-O languages published every Sunday by the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) will take holidays on 14 and 21 April; the Ethnic Sector in the Kachin Language by the Sub-Printing House (Myitkyina) published twice a week will take a holiday on 20 April. After the Thingyan holidays, all dailies will be published regularly. However, advertisements will be accepted throughout the holidays.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

New postage stamp to be released in April

MYANMA Post, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, is set to issue a new postage stamp featuring the common yellow swallowtail, a species of butterfly found exclusively in Myanmar, according to records from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The new postage stamp worth K200 will be sold simultaneously at the Central Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw, the General Post offices in Yangon and Mandalay and post offices in other regions and states at 9:30 am on 10 April.



Sample of new postage stamp featuring the common yellow swallowtail, a species of butterfly.

As a special programme, the date will be sealed on the postage stamps purchased at the Central Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw and General Post offices in Yangon and Mandalay on 10 April. — MNA/MKKS

MoALI Deputy Minister meets with entrepreneurs, farmers from livestock industry



The meeting between Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi and entrepreneurs, farmers and potential investors in the livestock industry in progress on 6 April 2024 in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi met with entrepreneurs, farmers and potential investors in the livestock industry who operate businesses with the State economic promotion fund on 6 April at the meeting room of the General Administration Department of Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

The deputy minister stressed the formulation of a robust market for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. He also mentioned ongoing livestock industry development projects funded by the State economic promotion fund aimed at producing quality products. Livestock breeding

villages are being established in states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw, to develop the livestock industry and increase the production of nutritious meats.

Additionally, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and the Myanmar Livestock Federation are overseeing, monitoring and reviewing processes to ensure a convenient supply chain and provide necessary support to farmers for optimal benefits.

The regional official for livestock industry development explained the progress of livestock projects implemented with the State economic pro-

motion fund within Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw and the director-general and officials from the Fisheries Department and the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department discussed potential assistance of the departments. Farmers who attended the meeting proposed and presented difficulties and requirements encountered in the operations to the deputy minister.

Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi and officials then observed a farmhouse in Kanzunihin Village in Lewe where 5,000 CP broilers are raised and a farmhouse which farms 6,000 CP broilers and pigs with State economic promotion fund in Rathedaung Village in Lewe.

The deputy minister addressed prioritizing biosafety, increasing incomes from two sectors by conducting multisector agriculture and livestock systems, producing animal feedstuffs from agricultural produce, producing fertilizers from animal waste, and urging the recycling system to be applied efficiently. He also called on collaboration between departments and private sectors since the development of the meat manufacturing industry depends on the private sector's development to ensure the production of livestock products for domestic sufficiency. — MNA/ TMT

No video censorship required if standards met

THE Ministry of Information has announced that creators need not submit their music videos to the censorship board if they adhere to the six-point censorship standard.

The music videos are required by the Television and Video Law to be submitted to both the Motion Picture and Video Censorship Boards before airing. However, the announcement came after music video makers claimed responsibility for their own creations.

In addition, if individuals want to submit to the censorship board to get permission, it will be done quickly as previously announced, the statement said.

Filmmakers, actors, and broadcasters have been informed by the Ministry of Information that failure to adhere to censorship requirements while filming and broadcasting will result in legal action being taken against them. — TWA/MKKS



NATIONAL

Union Minister for Commerce inspects commerce journal press, fish shipping process

UNION Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn visited the Commerce Journal press in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon Region on 6 April to inspect the printing process of commercial publications, magazines, and journals. During the visit, the Union minister emphasized the importance of accurate trade information, increased printing and publishing, and prioritizing fire safety measures.

Additionally, the Union minister and officials conducted an inspection at Aung Mingala Port in Kyimyindine Township to look into the shipping conditions of surplus fish from Maubin and Twantay townships for export.

The inspection aims to ensure local fish sufficiency and price stability. Furthermore, the Union minister directed the Department's One-Stop Services (OSS) to conduct thorough in-



Union Commerce Minister U Tun Ohn views shipping of fish for export purpose at Aung Mingala Port in Kyimyindine Township.

spectations to ensure compliance with export regulations. This included streamlining export

processes to reduce delays, improving fish quality and ensuring accurate weighing, ex-

ploring new foreign markets for export, and prioritizing maritime safety. — MNA/TKO

Hotels and motels in Bagan-NyaungU area fully booked for Thingyan holidays

OFFICIALS from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan branch) have reported that all 90 hotels, motels, and lodges in the ancient cultur-



The entrance to Bagan ancient cultural zone. PHOTO: DIPA LINN

al zone of Bagan are fully booked via the online booking system for the upcoming Thingyan holidays.

The Bagan-NyaungU area, renowned for its ancient cultural heritages, is expected to receive a large number of visitors and pilgrims during this period. Local tourist guides and residents are providing assistance to visitors, while security forces are ensuring their safety and maintaining peace.

Moreover, businesses offering vehicle rentals for transportation and restaurants are experiencing a boost in income due to the influx of tourists and pilgrims arriving in the Bagan-NyaungU ancient cultural zone using various facilities of transport.— Dipa Linn/TRKM



Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung visits Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge in Kenglat of Tachilek yesterday.

Shan State Chief Minister inspects Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge

SHAN STATE Chief Minister U Aung Aung, accompanied by ministers, the state advocate-general and officials, inspected the Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge in Kenglat of Tachilek Township, Shan State (East), yesterday to promote bilateral border trade and facilitate trade process in the border region.

The Chief Minister and party met with relevant departmental officials serving their duties at the border gate of the friendship bridge, and urged them to promote border trade. The Chief Minister discussed the necessary arrangements and fulfilled the needs presented by the officials before inspecting the relevant offices at the border checkpoint.

After that, the Chief Minister and the commander of Triangle Region Command donated K18.3 million and rice and cooking oil for internally displaced people to Dr Bhaddanta Puññananda, the abbot of Thiri Yadana Mansu Monastery in Lashio Township. — Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)/TH

Rice assistance provided to IDPs in Sagaing District

ON 7 April, it was reported that internally displaced people in Sagaing District received rice assistance through funding from the National Disaster Management Committee.

A total of 11,772 individuals, including displaced persons and government employees, have been provided with rice to last for three months. Initially, rice was distributed to displaced people from Thawtapan and Htonbo wards. Reportedly, a plan is underway to provide rice to those from the remaining wards. — Zaw Myint Naing (Sagaing IPRD)/TRKM



IDPs gathering to take out rice assistance in Sagaing yesterday. PHOTO: ZAW MYINT NAING(SAGAING IPRD)

NATIONAL

YCDC to generate electricity with methane gas from landfills

ACCORDING to the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), electricity will be generated with methane gas released from the final landfills.

Reportedly, the YCDC and Korea's GES Co, Ltd have discussed a plan to purify methane gas from the final landfills with an operation to generate electricity. On 3 April at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon, a discussion emphasized the cooperation of YCDC and Korea's GES Co Ltd in working to purify methane gas from the final waste dump, and

a generator.

At the final landfills, composting process is also underway to reduce the volume of waste due to rare land plots.

It is reported that methane gas from landfills is released through pipes to prevent outbreak of fire due to heat.

So, the discussion focused on using the methane gas efficiently.

The volume of waste in Yangon City is increasing year by year, and the whole city disposes about 2,500 tonnes per day. — TWA/TKO



Hteinbin landfill in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon.

Counter-argument to false information

Subversive media spreads misinformation of Daungtha Village, Pauk Township

SUBVERSIVE media are circulating fake news misleading the people by alleging security forces that the security forces lunched bomb attacks on Daungtha village in Pauk Township, Magway Region, leaving nine civilians wounded on 6 April.

Malicious media are intentionally spreading misinformation on social networking sites in order to mislead the people and commit fear and misperception of the security forces. According to a security official, the incident is also a false accusation to mislead the people against the security forces which are taking security measures near Daungtha village, Pauk Township, Magway Region.

Security forces are protecting people's lives and property and are working together with the local people to ensure the security of the territory and the peace of the community, however the illegal subversive media and those who do not want the peace of the community are circulating such fake news. — MNA/TKO



K554 mln worth of smuggled goods seized in various townships in two days

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee initiated 29 cases and confiscated smuggled goods valued at K554.5 million on 4 and 5 April. In Lewe Township, the Nay Pyi Taw Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 1.05 tonnes of teak worth K158,110 on 4 April. The suspects are facing charges under the forest law.

On the same day in Sagaing Region, the regional Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated unlicensed KENBO 125 and TARYAN 125 motorcycles worth K550,000 in Monywa Township. Authorities have taken action against the suspects in accordance with export/import law.

The Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 180 bags of undocumented REPOL Polypropylene Homo-polymer valued at K13.5

Authorities have filed charges against the suspects under customs procedures.

Similarly, the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force nabbed K33.8 million worth of eight undocumented commodities including TS spanners and light bulbs, along with K84 million worth of three vehicles used for transportation at the Ywathagyi Dry Port on 5 April. The team also seized K6 million worth of unlicensed Honda Insight and Toyota Mark II in Dagon Myothit (North) and North Okkalapa townships. Suspects are facing charges under customs procedures and export/import law.

On 5 April, the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 11 varieties of undocumented goods and four vehicles used for transportation,



million, along with a Yutong Bus worth K40 million used for transportation at the Nyaunghkarshay checkpoint on 4 April.

On 5 April, the special task force confiscated 720 undocumented five-litre bottles of edible palm oil worth K19.9 million and a Mitsubishi Canter valued at K20 million used for transportation on the road from Thaton to Bago. Additionally, 80 undocumented used tyres valued at K6.4 million and a Pyay Truck (K20 million) used for transportation were seized at the Nyaunghkashay checkpoint.

totalting K252.4 million in Lashio Township. Authorities have taken action against the suspects in accordance with customs procedures.

Additionally, on 5 April, the Customs Department and officials confiscated five kinds of commodities, including China-made ceramic tiles and Alpha-branded cement bags, worth K57.7 million from eight containers at the Myanma Industrial Port. Authorities have taken action against the suspects under customs procedures. — MNA/NT

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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.

NATIONAL

Social associations to launch public awareness campaigns on heat protection during Thingyan



Ye Thurein auxiliary fire brigade and social association served free Royal D cold drinks to passers-by in Sangyoung Township on 6 April.

SOCIAL associations in Yangon Region say they will conduct awareness campaigns on heat protection during Thingyan period.

“We will hold charity feasts for all in Thingyan. Another activity is to give oral rehydration solution and ordinary non-iced purified water to the workers, individual rubbish collectors and elderly people passing by. We will do more activities in Thingyan,” said Daw Shwe Lei, chairperson of Shwe Myitta social association.

Due to El Niño conditions, daily temperatures are rising in Myanmar, and social associations have been seen helping people suffering from heat stroke.

“We conduct awareness campaigns for the public during this Thingyan. When it is very hot, they are advised to stay in the shady places. In case anything happens, they are reminded to contact the nearest social association offices and health clinics,” said an official from Hlaing Myitta

social association.

Since heat waves can cause sore throat, loss of voice, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, burning eyes, and even sudden haemorrhagic stroke in the elderly and children, people should not be reckless, according to social associations.

“What you should do is take a bottle of water with you. Normal water is better than icy water. When it is very hot, take lukewarm water to balance body pressure. Drink water frequently whenever you remember to. Install blinds in your home. Wear light, sweat-wicking and well-ventilated clothing. Reduce alcohol consumption for a while. Reduce strenuous gym exercises. Wear sunglasses and sun creams every two to three hours.

“Don’t forget to use umbrellas and wear hats. Don’t cool yourself directly with air-conditioning and fans. If you suddenly go out after getting cold, you may get a shock. The best advice is not to go out unless it is unavoidable,” Hlaing Myitta social association posted on its social media page. — Thit Taw/ZN

Dala property market amid exchange rate surge and bridge project nearing completion

WITH the global gold price and oil price, the currency exchange rate has been gradually mounting and at the same time, the cable installation of Yangon-Dala Bridge Project has begun in Dala since early April this year, resulting in more and more increase in estate prices in Dala, according to Dala real estate market.

The Dala project, which is now 70 per cent complete, has helped the township’s property market to increase sales and prices have risen enormously.

“It is because of speedy completion of Dala bridge project in phases. At present, land plots are selling well and prices are skyrocketing month by month.

A land, which was previously offered at K80 million, is now nearly K150 million,” said Ko Tu, a Dala-based real estate agent.

The township’s property market has been active at present and it is more active especially in its commercial areas including Tabin Shwehtee ward and Kyansittha ward which are located at the end of



Cables are being installed in Dala, as a part of Dala-Yangon Bridge project.

the bridge, according to estate agents.

Dala-Yangon Bridge, which is one of the biggest and longest bridges in Myanmar, which began in May 2019, is reportedly scheduled to be completed in late 2024, and with this news, property transactions in the township have started increasing since the beginning of the year. — Htun Htun/ZS

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 7 April 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 8 APRIL 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing Region and Kachin and Chin states and isolated in Mandalay and Taninthayi regions and northern Shan State. Degree of certainty is 80%. Weather partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in the Sagaing Region and Kachin and Chin states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 APRIL 2024: Partly cloudy.

A Myanmar national died in bus accident in Malaysia

A Myanmar national working in Kuantan, Malaysia died in a passenger bus accident on the highway, and the funeral service will be held on 7 April, according to Myanmar social welfare association (Malaysia).

Ko Htay Min Aung, 27 from Thayintaw village of Natmauk township in Magway Region, died on 19 March.

“We need to do other necessary measures. That is why we didn’t make such an incident public immediately. The funeral will be held to-

morrow. We have already informed his family. His injuries were very severe so we couldn’t save his life,” said an official from the association.

The dead body will be cremated at Cheras Cemetery at 9:30 am on 7 April. The Myanmar social welfare association invited the deceased’s colleagues and friends. The Kepong Free Funeral Services which is Myanmar social welfare association in Malaysia (Malaysia) in Kapong helps Myanmar nationals working in Malaysia regardless of race and religion. — MT/ZS

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

NATIONAL



The photo depicts a Mon traditional adorned bullock cart competition in previous year.

Buddha Pujaniya festival of Kamamo Pagoda in Mon State to include adorned bullock cart competition

ACCORDING to U Min Aung Ngwe, a member of the organizing committee of the Mon traditional adorned bullock cart competition, the competition will be held during the Kamamo Pagoda Festival in Mon State's Chaungzon Township, aiming to preserve the tradition of the Mon nationality.

The competition is scheduled to take place on 22 April, with the aim of preserving the cultural tradition of using adorned bullock carts for pilgrimages to Chaungzon Township's Bilugyun Pagoda in ancient times. The competition follows five different scoring criteria, each worth 10 points. The cart with the highest total score will be awarded the first prize.

"In Chaungzon Township's Bilugyun, the pagoda festivals are also known as the 64-Village Pagoda Festival because there are 64 villages in the area. These festivals are held annually, beginning on the eve of Thingyan and proceeding according to each village's schedule. The Kamamo Village Pagoda Festival will also feature the traditional Mon adorned bullock cart competition. Contestants are required to decorate the carts, with local bombshells dressed in Mon ethnic costumes riding in them to participate in the competition," said U Min Aung Ngwe.

More than 40 carts competed in the Mon traditional adorned bullock cart competition last year. — ASH/TH

Yangon Zoo to remain open throughout Thingyan Festival with special water-play areas

DURING the Thingyan festival, the Yangon Zoo will remain open every day, with no closures, as confirmed by the warden of Yangon Zoological Gardens, U Than Myint Tun. Water-play areas will be set up in the zoo for visitors to enjoy during the festivities. The zoo's operating hours during Thingyan will be from 8 am to 5 pm, and there will be no increase in entrance fees.

U Than Myint Tun stated, "Thingyan festival marks the Myanmar New Year, and to celebrate, we are setting up water-play areas for visitors to enjoy the festival atmosphere in the gardens. Due to the summer holidays, we're experiencing higher visitor numbers than usual. Normally, we have around 100 visitors per day, but during the holidays, we're seeing between 3,000 to 5,000 visitors at the gardens".

The Yangon Zoo, established in 1906, holds the distinction of being the longest-running establishment of its kind in Southeast Asia. It spans 57 acres and is home to approximately 1,400 animals representing 350 species. Additionally, the Elephant Museum has been expanded, alongside the Aquarium, within the Yangon Zoological Gardens.

Entrance fees are set at K2,500 for adult, K1,500 for child, and K7,000 for foreigner adult and K5,000 per foreigner child. Monks and nuns are granted free entry to the Yangon Zoo. — ASH/ TRKM



Visitors seen at Yangon Zoological Gardens.

Inlay region prepares for floating Thingyan festival

FROM PAGE -1

In anticipation of the upcoming Thingyan water-throwing festival, Inlay Lake in southern Shan State has made arrangements to donate rice to members of the Sangha and host Dhamma ceremonies. Furthermore, the festival will include water splashing from boats, musical entertainment, and traditional dances, as stated by U Htin Aung Naing, director of the Shan State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. These festivities will last from the Akyo day of Maha Thingyan festival to the Myanmar New Year Day on a grand scale.

Cities in southern and eastern Shan State will also set up pavilions for water splashing and entertainment.

The director remarked, "Shan State has experienced a significant increase in tourist arrivals throughout the year. For this year's Thingyan celebration, we intend to organize grand festivities in Taunggyi, Kalaw, Inlay, Aungban, Pindaya, Tachilek, and Kengtung. Additionally, we aim to revive the tradition of the floating water festival in Inlay Lake from 13 to 16 April". — ASH/NT



Inlay floating Thingyan in previous year.

Rice market dynamics and price trends ahead of Thingyan Festival in Yangon

WITH the Thingyan holidays approaching, the price of new summer non-premium rice is declining in the Yangon market, although monsoon rice (both non-premium and premium) prices remain high, as per the market reports. However, a rice trader from the Padauk Street of Bayintnaung wholesale market, Ko Kyaw, informed the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) that the domestic rice market is stagnant with low turnover.

In the week leading up to the long Thingyan holiday, the transportation of rice to Yangon from other towns and cities is decreasing. Furthermore, the distribution of rice from Yangon to other areas is also lower compared to the previous year.

In the first week of April 2024, the price of new summer non-premium rice was K76,000 per bag, which declined from K80,000 per bag at the end of March. Currently, non-premium monsoon rice was priced at K86,000 per bag, newly-har-



Rice sale centre of Myanmar Rice Federation which sells rice at fixed prices.

vested monsoon non-premium rice (90-day variety) at K93,000, and old 90-day monsoon non-premium rice at K110,000 per bag. New Pawkywe rice was priced at K100,000 per bag, Ayeyawady Pawsan ranged be-

tween K123,000 and K141,000, and Shwebo Pawsan between K150,000 and K160,000 respectively.

The rice wholesale markets will be closed for a week starting from 10 April, as stated in the

report. Additionally, rice transportation to Yangon from other towns and cities would also be suspended during the days leading up to the Thingyan Festival.

According to previous rice price statistics, in the first week

of April 2023, new summer non-premium rice was priced at K53,000 per bag, 90-day rice at K60,000, and Ngasein rice at K54,000. Pawkywe rice was K65,000, Ayeyawady Pawsan was between K75,000 and K80,000, and Shwebo Pawsan K97,000 per bag.

Before the 2024 Thingyan Festival in the Yangon rice market, the price of non-premium summer rice was K20,000 higher per bag compared to the same period the previous year. Ayeyawady Pawsan and Shwebo Pawsan were K50,000 higher per bag, while Pawkywe rice K30,000 higher than last year. In 2023, the price of sticky rice before Thingyan was K90,000 per bag. This year, sticky rice prices was ranged from K85,000 to K93,000 per bag.

Rice traders forecast that demand for both non-premium rice and Pawsan rice would be high after Thingyan, leading to an expected increase in prices. — TWA/TMT

Seasoning chicken powder shortage spurs price increase

MONOSODIUM glutamate (MSG), which is used in cooking as a seasoning powder, has been sold well in the market, and chicken powder prices have been on the rise due to the shortage of supply, according to groceries.

Chicken powder, which is the favourite seasoning powder for housewives, has been in short supply in the market, and because of it, MSG sales have increased.

“A small pack of chicken powder is worth K350, up from K200. It has been a month since the price climbed up. Chicken powder has been in short supply in the market. So, homemakers who enjoy using chicken powder in cooking have to choose MSG. It has been a month since big packs of chicken powder have been available in the market,” said the owner of San San Win grocery.

Chicken powder is mainly imported from Thailand, and despite there being other types of seasoning powder, housewives have now chosen MSG again.

“Previously, I used chicken powder, but now I have to switch to MSG because I can't find and buy chicken powder. Just small packs of chicken



An MSG brand which is now used in place of chicken powder.

power are available. I used to use MSG before, so I use it again now,” said a homemaker.

However, there are different seasoning powders, such as chicken powder, fish seasoning powder, and vegetable seasoning powder, which are available at supermarkets and groceries. Chicken powder is the most consumed seasoning. — Thit Taw/ZS

CBM revokes licences of six more money changers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar revoked the licences of six more money changers on 5 April as they failed to comply with the rules, guidelines and directives issued by the CBM.

CBM cancelled the licences of five foreign exchange companies: New World Financial Group of Co Ltd, GST Travels & Tours Co Ltd, Prima Win Co Ltd, Great Jewel Star Co Ltd, Shwe D P Co Ltd and JMJ International Co Ltd starting from 5 April 2024 for non-compliance.

CBM vowed to conduct surprise inspections at money changers in order to stabilize foreign exchange rates in line with the stipulations of the existing laws, the CBM announced on 11 March.

CBM initiated an online trading market in which ex-

porters, importers, and private banks are engaged, with a view to developing the FX market. Additionally, the authorized money changers sell the foreign currency as petty cash to those going abroad, according to the CBM's notification.

Moreover, the surprise visits are being undertaken at money changers to ensure they abide by the directive issued by the Foreign Exchange Management Law. A combined team led by the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market, comprising competent authorities from CBM, Yangon City Development Committee, the Department of General Administration and law enforcement agencies, has been conducting the surprise inspections. — NN/EM

OPINION

Let people enjoy Maha Thingyan festival happily

With the traditional Maha Thingyan festival of Myanmar drawing near, excitement permeates the air as people of all ages eagerly anticipate its arrival. The lively tunes of Thingyan songs echo throughout the land, signalling the imminent festivities.

However, the true spirit of the Maha Thingyan celebrations necessitates a tranquil and stable environment. It is essential to create an atmosphere where revellers can engage in the customary dousing of water and partake in dancing and singing performances at various pavilions without any apprehension.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon individuals and organizations alike to eschew feelings of animosity, grudges, destructive behaviours, and negativity. Instead, all stakeholders should focus on enhancing societal cohesion during the Thingyan period, promoting acts of kindness and compassion towards one another.

In fact, the theme of the Maha Thingyan festival in Myanmar is straightforward and transparent. It never upholds wicked and dangerous things. It brings happiness and peace to society. As such, all relevant organizations should let all innocent people be joyful in the coming Maha Thingyan festival to shape society with physical and mental well-being.

At present, many individuals are burdened by a plethora of worries, suffocated by negative thoughts and precarious circumstances stemming from the absence of the rule of law, peace, and stability, compounded by the escalating prices of commodities. The looming threat posed by unscrupulous individuals further exacerbates the sense of fear among the populace, who find themselves grappling with the decision of whether to participate in the Maha Thingyan festival amid such uncertainties.

Despite these challenges, it is crucial for people to come together and celebrate the Maha Thingyan festival, fostering a sense of unity and community spirit. By prioritizing the well-being of society, individuals and organizations can contribute to the shaping of a society characterized by both physical and mental wellness. Through collective efforts and acts of kindness, the Maha Thingyan festival can serve as a beacon of hope and joy for all.

In fact, the theme of the Maha Thingyan festival in Myanmar is straightforward and transparent. It never upholds wicked and dangerous things. It brings happiness and peace to society. As such, all relevant organizations should let all innocent people be joyful in the coming Maha Thingyan festival to shape society with physical and mental well-being.

IDIOMS and expressions are really important in everyday talk. They give us a peek into different cultures and make language more interesting. They help us create strong connections with others and make conversations stick in our minds.

Using idioms makes our language more colourful and diverse, and it helps us understand other cultures better, making it easier to talk to people from different backgrounds.

When we talk to each other, it's like we're dancing with words, bringing us closer and helping us understand each other better.

Language helps us connect with others, express ourselves, and share our thoughts and feelings. It's like a pathway that brings people together, helping us all go on this journey of life together.

- လက်ဖျားခါ (lakhpya:hka)
- အလှူခံအမင်းအံ့ပြသသည်။
- ဥပမာ - ဥရောပတိုက်သားတို့ပင် လက်ဖျားခါ၍ အံ့ပြသကြရသည်။

အထင်ကြီးလောက်သော အောင်မြင်မှု တစ်ခုကို တွေ့ကြုံရသောအခါတွင် အံ့ပြသော ငေးကြည့်ခြင်း သို့မဟုတ် အလိုလို လက်ကို မြှောက်ကာ လက်ဖျားခါထိမ်းမြားမှုကို လှုပ်ယမ်းခြင်းဖြင့် ၎င်းတို့၏ အံ့ပြမှုကို ဖော်ပြလေ့ရှိသည်။

“လက်ဖျားခါခြင်း” ဟူသော စကားစုသည် အံ့အားသင့်မှုကို ပြသခြင်းနှင့် အမိပွါယံ တူသည်။

- To shake off the fingertips

DEFINITION

In Myanmar, when individuals witness an impressive achievement, they commonly express their awe by either gazing in wonder or spontaneously raising their hands and shaking their fingertips. Hence, the phrase “shaking the fingertips” is synonymous with showing amazement.

- In English, when people witness an impressive accomplishment, they might express their awe by saying, “Wow!” or “Bravo!” Similarly, the phrase “jaw-dropping moment” is synonymous with showing amazement.

Here are the expanded versions:

“Knock one’s socks off”
Definition: To greatly impress or astonish someone.
Example: Her performance

Idiom Explorations Edition 5

Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

By Augustin

on stage really knocked our socks off; we were all speechless.

“Blow someone away.”

Definition: To impress or overwhelm someone with amazement.

Example: The beauty of the landscape blew me away; I had never seen anything like it before.

“Drop one’s jaw.”

Definition: To react with astonishment or disbelief.

Example: When she revealed her hidden talent, everyone in the room dropped their jaws in amazement.

“Leave someone speechless.”

Definition: To amaze or astonish someone to the point where they cannot articulate a response.

Example: The magician’s trick left the entire audience speechless; nobody could figure out how he did it.

“Take one’s breath away.”

Definition: To amaze or astonish someone so profoundly that it feels as if their breath is momentarily taken away.

Example: The view from the mountaintop took my breath away; it was absolutely breathtaking.

“Stop someone in their tracks.”

Definition: To cause someone to pause abruptly due to shock or amazement.

Example: His incredible singing

- အပြင်းအနံ့ရှိသော နားထောင်သူသည် စကားလုံးကို ကွဲပြားစွာ အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖွင့်ဆိုနိုင်ပြီး စကားပြောသူအား အမှားဟု သတ်မှတ်နိုင်သည်။
- တမင်တကာ လွဲမှားစွာ အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖွင့်ဆိုခြင်းကို “အကျကောက်ခြင်း” ဟု သတ်မှတ်နိုင်သည်။
- အထူးအနုကောက်

“Twisting someone’s words”
- Distorting or misinterpreting what someone says. Example: I hate it when people twist my words and make me out to be the bad guy.

“Putting words in someone’s mouth”
- Falsely attributing statements to someone. Example: Stop putting words in my mouth! I never said I agreed with you.

“Hearing what you want to hear.”
- Interpreting information in a way that confirms your preconceptions or desires. Example: Don’t just hear what you want to hear; listen to what’s actually being said.

“Taking something out of context”
- Misunderstanding due to not considering the surrounding information. Example: You’re taking my comment entirely out of context. You need to consider what I said before and after.

“Lost in translation”
- Misunderstanding or misinterpretation due to language differences. Example: The joke didn’t translate well into English; it’s one of those things that gets lost in translation.

“Barking up the wrong tree”
- Pursuing a mistaken or misguided course of action.

Here are the expanded versions:
“Reading between the lines”
- Inferring meaning that isn’t explicitly stated. Example: She’s always reading between the lines and assuming the worst.



လက်ဖျားခါ (lakhpya:hka)



အကျကောက် (a.kya.kauk)



အရှူးလွယ်အိတ် (a.ru.lwaiit)

Example: If you think I’m the one who took your keys, you’re barking up the wrong tree. I haven’t left my desk all day.

“Jumping to conclusions”
- Forming opinions or making decisions hastily without all the facts.

Example: Don’t jump to conclusions about why she’s upset. There could be many reasons.

“Seeing things through rose-coloured glasses”
- Having an overly optimistic or idealized perspective.

Example: You see the situation through rose-coloured glasses if you think everything will work out perfectly.

“Getting the wrong end of the stick”
- Misunderstanding or misinterpreting a situation.

Example: I think you’ve got the wrong end of the stick. Let me explain what I really meant.

အရှူးလွယ်အိတ် (a.ru.lwaiit)
တွေ့ကရာ ပေါက်ကရု ပစ္စည်းမျိုးစုံ ထည့်ထားသောအိတ်။
ခိုင်းနှိုင်းရာ၌ သုံးသည်။
ဥပမာ -- မင်းရဲ့အိတ်ကလည်း အရှူးလွယ်အိတ် ကျနေတာပဲ။

- grab-bag; miscellany; odds and ends.

DEFINITION

Someone who is not very wise may collect lots of different things they like as they go about their day. They might put these things in a bag they carry over their shoulder. This bag ends up holding all sorts of stuff, from little gadgets to random bits and bobs.

Similarly, a person who learns a lot about many different things is sometimes compared to a “fool’s bag” or a “sling-bag of a

fool.” This means their mind is like a bag full of all kinds of knowledge. Just as you can pull things out of a bag, others can learn from this person’s wide range of knowledge on different topics.

Here are the expanded versions:

“Jack of all trades, master of none”

“A person who dabbles in many things but doesn’t specialize in any is often termed as a ‘jack of all trades, master of none’.”

“A rolling stone gathers no moss.”

“Someone constantly on the move, never settling in one place or profession, is said to be like a ‘rolling stone, gathering no moss.’”

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”

“The notion that what may be deemed worthless by one can hold great value for another is captured in the saying, ‘one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.’”

“A mind like a sponge”

“A person with an insatiable appetite for learning and absorbing new information is often described as having ‘a mind like a sponge.’”

“A library of knowledge”

“Someone who possesses a vast reservoir of information across diverse subjects can be likened to ‘a walking library of knowledge.’”

“A wealth of information”

“Individuals who have amassed a significant amount of valuable knowledge are often referred to as being ‘a treasure trove of information.’”

“A Renaissance man/woman”: This term refers to someone who is knowledgeable and skilled in many different areas, similar to the polymaths of the Renaissance period.

Example: “He’s not only an excellent musician but also a skilled painter and writer; he’s a true Renaissance man.”

- “A Renaissance man/woman”
- “Those who exhibit mastery and versatility in numerous fields, much like the polymaths of the Renaissance era, are often hailed as ‘modern Renaissance men or women.’”

Each of these variations captures the essence of the original text, depicting individuals who possess a wide range of knowledge or interests.

EXAMPLES

Example: “He’s always travelling and trying new jobs; he’s like a rolling stone, gathering no moss.”

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure” This saying implies that what one person considers worthless may be highly valued by someone else.

Example: “She collects old books and antiques; as they say, ‘one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.’”

“A mind like a sponge”: This phrase describes someone who absorbs information or knowledge quickly and eagerly.

Example: “She’s always reading and learning new things; she has a mind like a sponge.”

“A library of knowledge”: This expression refers to someone who has a vast amount of information or expertise on various subjects.

Example: “With his years of experience and extensive reading, he’s become a walking library of knowledge.”

“A wealth of information”: This phrase describes someone who possesses a large amount of valuable knowledge.

Example: “She’s been studying history for years; she’s a wealth of information on the subject.”

“A Renaissance man/woman”: This term refers to someone who is knowledgeable and skilled in many different areas, similar to the polymaths of the Renaissance period.

Example: “He’s not only an excellent musician but also a skilled painter and writer; he’s a true Renaissance man.”

SOURCES:
 • မြန်မာ စာလုံးပေါင်း သတ်ပုံ ကျမ်း (မြန်မာစာအဖွဲ့၊ ၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)
 • Myanmar Idioms, written by Saya Hla Thamein
 • THEIDIOMS.COM
 • MMPROVERBS.PRO

SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

Russia's Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft brings 3 cosmonauts back to Earth

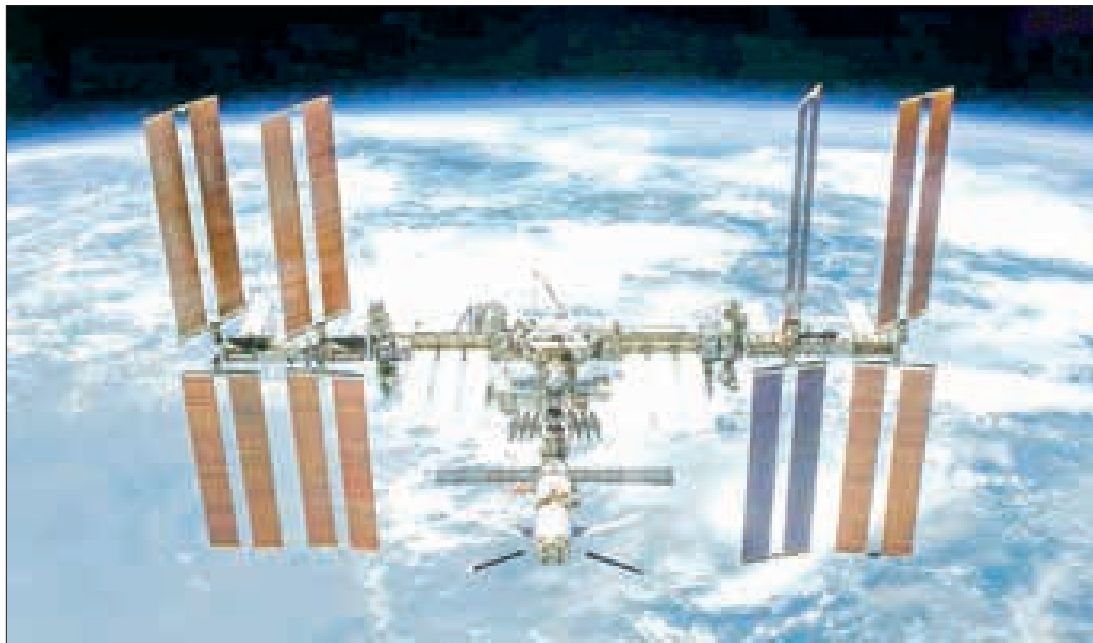
The returning crew comprised Russian cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy, Belarusian spaceflight participant Marina Vasilevskaya, and NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara. Before returning, the spacecraft undocked from the Rassvet research module of the International Space Station's Russian segment and completed its deorbiting and descent in normal mode.

THE Russian Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft, carrying an international crew of three cosmonauts, has successfully returned to Earth on Saturday.

The spacecraft landed at 10:17 Moscow time (0717 GMT) on Saturday near the Kazakh city of Jezkazgan, bringing home Russian cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy, Belarusian spaceflight participant Marina Vasilevskaya, and NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara.

The spacecraft had previously undocked from the Rassvet research module of the Russian segment of the International Space Station. The deorbiting and descent to Earth were completed in normal mode.

Oleg Novitskiy and Marina Vasilevskaya spent 14 days in orbit, while Loral O'Hara completed a 204-day mission.



The spacecraft successfully undocked from the Rassvet research module of the Russian segment of the International Space Station before completing a normal deorbiting and descent back to Earth. **PHOTO: CCO/SPUTNIK**

This marks Novitskiy's fourth time in space to 545 days. For Vasilevskaya and O'Hara, this mission concludes their first spaceflights. — Xinhua

China's central bank unveils relending facility for sci-tech innovation

CHINA'S central bank on Sunday said it had established a special relending facility worth 500 billion yuan (about 70.47 billion US dollars) to support sci-tech innovation, technical transformation and equipment renewal.

The interest rate of the one-year facility stands at 1.75 per cent. It can be extended twice, with a one-year term each, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said in a statement.

The facility aims to guide financial institutions to step up credit support for sci-tech-oriented small and medium-sized firms in their early stage of development or in growth stage, and for technical transformation and equipment renewal projects to help key sectors become more digitalized, smart, advanced, and green, according to the PBOC. — Xinhua

Malaysia making progress in combating plastic pollution: official

An official announcement signals Malaysia's progress in combatting plastic pollution through the formulation of a national policy.



The global plastics treaty (GPT) mandates the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to create binding rules based on the best available science, traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ VERI SANOVRI/XINHUA**

MALAYSIA is making progress in combating plastic pollution as it formulates a national policy on plastic production, use and waste, an official said on Friday.

The policy includes nego-

tiations and consultations with various stakeholders to ensure results in compliance with the Global Plastics Treaty (GPT) which is currently being negotiated, Natural Resources and

Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said in a statement.

"The GPT, once in force, will lead to a decrease in unnecessary plastic consumption via a just transition. Malaysia has so far taken part in four rounds of international negotiations on the GPT at the inter-governmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment," he said.

The negotiations for a global plastics treaty stem from the adoption of a landmark resolution at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2022. — Xinhua

Meta to begin labelling AI-generated content from May to counter manipulated media

META will begin labelling a wider range of video, audio and image content as "Made with AI" on its platforms, including Facebook and Instagram starting in May to counter manipulated media, according to its official statement.

Meta's new policy is a response to feedback from its independent Oversight Board, which

urged an update to the current policy.

"We are making changes to the way we handle manipulated media based on feedback from the Oversight Board and our policy review process with public opinion surveys and expert consultations," Meta said. — ANI



Meta's new policy is a response to feedback from its independent Oversight Board, which urged an update to the current policy. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

International tattoo convention brings artists from Asian sub-continent to Nepal

Contemporary tattoo preferences lean towards impressions of gods and goddesses mixed with personal elements, reflecting a cultural evolution in the ancient practice.

HUNDREDS of tattoo artists from the Asian sub-continent have arrived in the Heritage Garden of Lalitpur, Nepal to showcase their skills at the 11th International Nepal Tattoo Convention 2024.

The convention hosts over 95 stalls, with hundreds of tattoo artists showcasing their art on the bodily canvas.

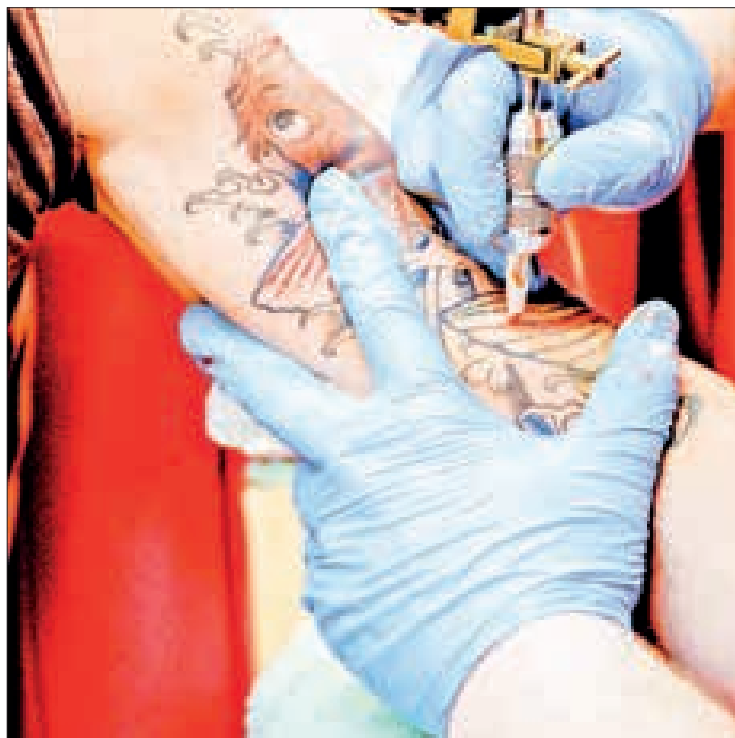
The 11th edition of the National Tattoo Convention started on Friday and will conclude on Sunday, as per the organisers.

The convention is organised annually by Nepal Tattoo and features competition amongst

the exhibitors daily. This competition not only promises to be a feast for the eyes but also a testament to the artists' creativity and skill under pressure.

According to the organizers, they are the first to organize a gathering of tattoo artists in the sub-continent and are proud to invite, host and showcase the ocean of tattoo artists, piercing and body-mod artists and enthusiasts from all over the globe.

The art of tattooing, which dates back centuries and is associated with culture, is now being transformed with modernization.



The art of tattooing, which dates back centuries and is associated with culture, is now being transformed with modernization. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

As per the artists of the convention, tattooists in modern times prefer to ink impressions of gods and goddesses with objects of their liking.

Sujan Budhathoki, one of the Nepali tattoo artists, said that according to his experience, most of the customers prefer tattoos mixing with the gods.

"Some of the tattooists prefer Japanese sleeves, some prefer traditional tattoos, especially those of gods and goddesses. In my personal experience, most of the customers want tattoos mixing with the gods," Budhathoki told ANI.

Moreover, the artists are assigned in their respective stalls to paint tattoos on the bodies of customers, assigning certain measurements and utilising the permitted ink. — ANI

TikTok's digital safety training empowers 116,000 Kenyans

The training, aimed at learners, parents, and educators across 21 counties, provides essential digital safety knowledge.



Awadh Salim (R), a 26-year-old photographer, takes a photo of a client in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, on 12 November 2023. **PHOTO: CHRISPINUS OMAR/XINHUA**

SHORT video-sharing platform TikTok said Thursday that its digital safety training conducted jointly with Nairobi-based Eveminet Communications Solutions Limited, an information and communications technology consultancy firm in Kenya, has empowered 116,000 Kenyans since October 2023.

NAIROBI, 5 April (Xinhua)

— Short video-sharing platform TikTok said Thursday that its digital safety training conducted jointly with Nairobi-based Eveminet Communications Solutions Limited, an information and communications technology consultancy firm in Kenya, has empowered 116,000 Kenyans since October 2023.

Fortune Mgwili-Sibanda,

director of government and public policy for Sub-Saharan Africa at TikTok, said that the training has engaged participants, including learners, parents and educators across 21 of Kenya's 47 counties, who have benefited from hybrid sessions to equip them with digital safety knowledge within their communities. — Xinhua

'Our version of Formula 1': Cambodian villagers race ox-carts

VILLAGERS aboard Cambodian-flagged wooden carts ran their oxen at high speed on Sunday in an annual race to safeguard the centuries-old tradition as concerns mount over development encroaching on racing grounds.

Despite scorching sun, hundreds of people flocked to see 46 pairs of oxen take part in the competition, which took place at an empty field in Kampong Speu province, west of capital Phnom Penh.

The oxen, adorned with colourful masks or headgear, must sprint around a one-kilometre (0.62-mile) dirt track.

"It is our version of Formula 1," organizer Khat Sokhay told AFP.

"We race ox-carts because they are on the brink of disappearance."

The event is held every year to mark the end of the rice harvesting season and to welcome the Khmer New Year in mid-April. — AFP



A participant races his ox-cart in Kampong Speu province on 7 April 2024, as part of festivities for this year's Khmer New Year which falls on 13-16 April. **PHOTO: TANG CHHIN SOTHY / AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD

Chinese vice premier holds talks with US treasury secretary

Focused on implementing key consensus between the two countries' leaders, discussions were candid, pragmatic, and constructive, covering macroeconomic situations, economic ties between China and the US, and global challenges.



Containers of China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited are seen at the Port of Long Beach in Los Angeles County, the United States, 27 February 2019. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/LI YING/XINHUA**

HE Lifeng, Chinese vice premier and Chinese lead person for China-US economic and trade affairs, held several rounds of talks with US Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen, also US lead representative, on Friday and Saturday in the city of Guangzhou in south China.

Focusing on the implementation of the important consensus between the two countries'

heads of state, the two sides had candid, pragmatic and constructive discussions on the macroeconomic situation of the two countries and the world, the economic relationship between China and the United States, and global challenges. The two sides agreed to discuss issues such as balanced growth of the United States, China and the global economy, financial

stability, sustainable finance, and cooperation in countering money-laundering under the China-US economic and financial working group. The Chinese side expressed grave concern over US economic and trade measures restricting China and responded fully to the issue of production capacity. Both sides agreed to continue to maintain communication. — Xinhua

Zimbabwe launches new gold-backed currency



Most Zimbabweans prefer to do business, get paid and hold their savings in US dollars. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ZIMBABWE'S central bank launched a new "structured currency" backed by gold on Friday, as it seeks to tackle sky-high inflation and stabilize the country's

long-floundering economy.

The ZiG — short for Zimbabwe Gold — will replace the Zimbabwean dollar which has tumbled in value over the past

year, pushing inflation through the roof, Reserve Bank governor John Mushayavanhu said.

"With effect from today... banks shall convert the current Zimbabwe dollar balances into the new currency," he said, presenting a monetary policy statement.

He also announced a drastic cut in the bank's main interest rate, from 130 per cent to 20 per cent.

The ZiG will be "fully anchored and fully backed" by a basket of reserves comprising foreign currency and precious metals — mainly gold, Mushayavanhu added. — AFP

Israel signs US\$ 1.7 billion deal for public housing management and maintenance

Notably, it introduces long-term rental services, allowing Amidar to rent apartments on the free market and lease them to eligible individuals receiving housing assistance from the state.

ISRAEL'S Ministry of Construction and Housing signed an agreement with the Amidar company for the management and maintenance of public housing in the amount of approximately 6.2 billion Shekels (US\$ 1.7 billion) for 7 years.

The agreement includes a variety of areas of activity in which Amidar will act as the executive arm of the ministry in order to ensure the well-being of the public housing residents. Also, the agreement includes for the first time the provision of long-term rental services according to which Amidar will rent apartments on the free market and rent them to those eligible for housing assistance from the state.

In addition, within the framework of the agreement,

Amidar will rent the apartments to those entitled to public housing, will be responsible for managing the apartment inventory, carrying out renovations and maintenance procedures, promoting urban renewal projects and projects in the field of rental housing for those entitled on behalf of the state.

The agreement places the highest priority on the service for the residents of the public housing and is expected to lead to a significant upgrade in the field, in which the handling times for defects in the apartments will be updated, waiting times at the branches and the call center will be shortened, service will be implemented in a variety of languages and the satisfaction indicators of the tenants with the service will be defined. — ANI



A housing project in Hertzliyah. Herzliya is an affluent city in the central coast of Israel, at the northern part of the Tel Aviv District, known for its robust start-up and entrepreneurial culture. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ CC-BY-2.5/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Afghanistan seeks diplomatic, economic ties with all nations: Supreme Leader

THE Afghan caretaker government's Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada on Saturday said that Afghanistan seeks diplomatic and economic relations with all nations.

"We seek diplomatic and economic relations with all nations, ensuring that Afghanistan's security, stability, and prosperity

serve as a favorable opportunity for others," Akhundzada said in a congratulatory message for the arrival of the Eid al-Fitr festival. "In the realm of international relations among all countries, we aim to pursue a balanced and economically-focused policy in the light of the holy religion of Islam," he noted. — Xinhua

Oil price exceeds \$90 per barrel in biggest weekly rally since early February

Brent crude reached \$87.50 in New York, its highest level since 23 October, while US crude tied to the West Texas Intermediate benchmark hit \$87.49, the loftiest level since 23 October as well.

CRUDE prices broke above \$90 per barrel on Friday, giving the oil rally its biggest week since early February.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, reached as high as \$87.50 by 1:00 pm in New York, marking a peak not seen since the \$92.45 reached on 23 October. For the week, Brent was up 5 per cent, the most since a 6.3 per cent rally since the week that ended on 2 February.

US crude, tied to the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) benchmark, hit a session high of \$87.49 — the loftiest level since the \$88.29 high on 23 October. The WTI benchmark gained 5 per cent on the week-, the most since a 6.3 per cent rise during the week that ended on 2 February.

This week's run-up in oil, the second in a row,



Analyst Jim Ritterbusch, from Ritterbusch and Associates, mentioned that the possibility of ongoing limited Russian product exports may tighten US petroleum supplies, prompting reassessment for the rest of the month and beyond. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

came as Russian energy facilities faced new threats from Ukrainian drone attacks, while the conflict in the Middle East appeared to escalate. Both events have a bearing on oil, with Russia being one of the largest exporters of the

commodity and the Gaza conflict zone being in the proximity of some of the biggest energy producers. "The likelihood that continued restricted Russian product exports could further tighten US petroleum supplies has suddenly

forced recalculation of US [oil] balances across the rest of this month and possibly beyond," analyst Jim Ritterbusch said in a note issued earlier this week by his Ritterbusch and Associates company. — SPUTNIK

'Market of Fakes' in Naples, capital of counterfeits and Camorra

AS top brands like Gucci and Prada prepare to report billions in sales this month, luxury fakes on the streets of Naples are also yielding a jaw-dropping cash stream — for the mafia.

The teeming southern metropolis is ground zero for Italy's estimated 6-7 billion euro (\$6.5-7.5 billion) counterfeit market, where fake handbags, sunglasses, clothing and shoes flourish, hawked in plain sight to buyers willing to score a knockoff



Counterfeit sports shoes. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

bargain.

"Which brand do you like? What colour, what model?" asks a persistent

seller at the "Market of Fakes" spread out over back alleys near the gritty city's central train station.

Men arrive hauling overstuffed blue plastic bags, from which emerge Gucci baseball hats, Fendi wallets, Hermes belts and bright orange Louis Vuitton shoeboxes, sold from rickety tables at a fraction of the price of their originals.

Counterfeits are a global phenomenon, whether fake fashion, toys, electronics, food or pharmaceuticals, estimated by the OECD to represent 2.5 per cent of world trade. — AFP

Shipping companies' fiddling with tracking data to avoid Houthi attacks has opposite effect

THE Yemeni militia effectively shut down the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait to Israeli, British and US commercial maritime traffic via a campaign of hijackings, missile and drone attacks. The US and Britain began a relentless bombing campaign in January to try to deplete the group's capabilities, but have reportedly had little luck to date.

Efforts by shipping companies to disguise their vessels' identity and origin from the Houthis by manipulating data shared with the Automatic Identification System (AIS) may be having the opposite effect, turning them into priority targets for the militia, Hellenic Shipping News has reported.

Pointing to the es-

calating cost to Western economies of taking the long way around Africa for cargoes being shuttled between Europe and Asia, the outlet indicated that the "seemingly random missile strikes against ships with even a subtle connection to Israel, the US or the UK" by the Houthis bear little in common with traditional pirate activities in the area because the militia has no interest in holding ships for ransom.

Some shipping companies risking attack to sail through the Red Sea have resorted to manipulating data shared with the AIS — a short-range automatic coastal tracking system which supplements marine radar to help avoid collisions at sea. — SPUTNIK

Receptionist cum Telephone Operator Required for a Diplomatic Mission

The candidate should be Graduate or above, age 22-35, Burmese National, fluent (spoken & written) in Burmese and English, having 2/3 years of experience with good computer skills in MS Office. Attractive salary will be offered.

Detailed CV may be submitted to the:-

Embassy of Pakistan, A4, Pyay Road, Diplomatic Quarters, Dagon Township, Yangon within 15 days of the publication of the advertisement or Email to: accttpakembygn@gmail.com, Ph: (01222881)

Ministry of Cooperative and Rural Development Department of Rural Development CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOLAR MINI-GRID PROJECTS

The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperative and Rural Development is inviting interested companies to submit mini-grid proposals for the following projects at Kathabaung village, Bogale Township and Kan Bet village, Labutta Township in Ayeyarwady Region,

Lot-1: Kathabaung Solar Mini-grid Project (Solar-177.6 kW (Minimum))

Lot-2: Kan Bet Solar Mini-grid Project (Solar-202.4 kW (Minimum))

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be delivered to the address below at 10:00 AM Local Time on 9th May 2024

Interested companies should visit the DRD Website (<https://drdmyanmar.org/>) or directly contact the following address for further information:

**Office No.36(B), Department of Rural Development,
Nay Pyi Taw. Tel./Fax: +95 673 418635, 418636**

Email: pl.hq@drdmyanmar.net; drdnepmg@gmail.com;

Tender Committee

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Afghan migrants in Pakistan face uncertainty as the second round of expulsion approaches, prompting concerns voiced by some, while Pakistan's government urges even those with legal documents to return to Afghanistan. **PHOTO: ANI**

Afghan migrants voice concern as second round of expulsion from Pakistan draws closer

AS the second round of the expulsion of Afghan migrants from Pakistan draws closer, some of these migrants have voiced concern about their uncertain fate, Afghanistan-based TOLO News reported.

A number of these migrants said that Pakistan's government, by starting the new campaign, asked Afghan migrants, even those with legal documents, to travel back to Afghanistan at an earliest.

The Taliban-led Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations said that officials of the ministry have held talks with Pakistan's deputy ambassador on setting up a joint mechanism to address the challenges of Afghan migrants

in Pakistan, according to TOLO News report.

Taliban-led Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations spokesperson Abdul Mutalib Haqqani said that the deputy ambassador of Pakistan in this meeting denied creating a deadline for the expulsion of Afghan migrants from Pakistan. Abdul Mutalib Haqqani said, "It was requested from them that the issue of migrants is a common issue between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and based on this, work on a common mechanism should be done, and a committee should be established, and Afghan migrants should be gradually and honorably returned to their homeland." — ANI

Chinese premier meets US treasury secretary

Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in Beijing, emphasizing the importance of the United States adhering to market economy norms, avoiding politicization of economic and trade matters, and recognizing China's contributions to global green energy transition.



US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen (L) meets with Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 7 April 2024. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese Premier Li Qiang sounded a hopeful note on bilateral relations at the start of their 7 April meeting in Beijing, as Yellen begins two days of high-level talks in Beijing. **PHOTO: TATAN SYUFLANA / POOL / AFP**

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang on Sunday met with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in Beijing.

It is hoped that the United States will abide by the basic norms of market economy in-

cluding fair competition and open cooperation, refrain from turning economic and trade issues into political or security issues, and view the issue of production capacity objectively and dialectically from

a market-oriented and global perspective.

The development of China's new energy industry will make important contributions to the global green and low-carbon transition, Li added. — Xinhua

UK sends naval ship, announces support for maritime aid corridor to boost aid for Gaza

AMID the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas, the UK government announced military

and civilian support to set up a maritime aid corridor to Gaza, including the deployment of a

navy ship to join the lifesaving mission in the Eastern Mediterranean.



Here is HMS Trent, observed sailing off the coast of West Africa. **PHOTO: UK MOD/SPUTNIK/FILE**

In a press release, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said, "The UK Government is today announcing a package of military and civilian support to set up a maritime aid corridor to Gaza, including the deployment of a Royal Navy ship to join the life-saving mission in the Eastern Mediterranean."

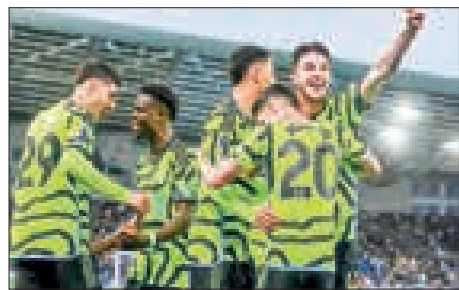
"The ship, alongside new UK aid and British expertise, will support the establishment of an international humanitarian maritime corridor from Cyprus to Gaza, supported by many of our partner governments and

the UN, and is expected to be operational in early May," it added.

Apart from deploying navy ship, the UK government also committed to provide aid deliveries worth up to £9.7 million, equipment support to the corridor, like forklift trucks and storage units and expertise, to maximise the levels of aid reaching those people who desperately need it.

In the press release, the UK government said that it is doing everything possible to get more aid into Gaza by air, land and sea. — ANI

SPORTS



Arsenal's 3-0 victory over Brighton in the Premier League, featuring goals from Saka, Havertz, and Trossard, elevated them to the top of the points table, surpassing Manchester City, and showcasing an impressive display under manager Mikel Arteta. **PHOTO: ANI**

Arsenal moves to top of points table, Man City thrashes Crystal Palace 4-2

GOALS from Bukayo Saka, Kai Havertz and Leandro Trossard helped Arsenal secure a 3-0 win over Brighton in their Premier League match at Amex Stadium on Saturday, helping them move to the top spot in the points tally.

Manchester City had moved above the Gunners and had equalled with Liverpool after a 4-2 win over Crystal Palace on Saturday, but Mikel Arteta managed side responded with an excellent performance to seal their top spot.

Arsenal's defence was shaky in the beginning. But in the 33rd minute, Saka converted a penalty after winning one for his side as Tariq Lamptey seemed to touch the ball while attempting to bring down Gabriel Jesus.

At the end of the first half, the scoreline was 1-0 in favour of Arsenal.

An-inform Havertz netted his ninth goal of the season in the 62nd minute. In the 86th minute, Trossard tripled the lead to make sure the Gunners reached the top.

Now in 31 matches, Arsenal has 22 wins, five draws and four losses, with a total of 71 points. Brighton is in the 10th spot with 11 wins, 10 draws and losses, with a total of 43 points.

In the other match, City secured a dominant 4-2 win over Crystal Palace, despite a shocking strike by Jean-Philippe Mateta in the third minute at Selhurst Park that sent City fans into silence. In the third minute, a loose pass into the midfield became an opportunity for Crystal Palace as Adam Wharton assisted Mateta to fire the ball into the net, which was his fifth goal in the nine games this season.

Wharton almost doubled moments later but Kevin de Bruyne came from the left side of the penalty box and found the top corner of the goal with a classy effort to level the scores. — ANI

7 teams to compete in 2024 Myanmar Women's League

THE Myanmar National League officially announced that 2024 Myanmar Women's League will be held with a total of seven teams.

Myawady FC, ISPE FC, Thitsa Arman FC, Yangon United FC and Young Lionesses FC plus two news clubs named Shan United and Ayeyawady FC will compete in the tourney.

The Myanmar National League will hold the women's league this season with a three-round system from 7 May to the second week of November. The Myanmar National League started with a three-round system to allow contending teams to play more games.

The Myanmar National League started holding the Myanmar Women's League at the end of 2016, and this season is the sixth time it has been held. In the last five seasons, Myawady FC has championed thrice and ISPE FC twice. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



The two women footballers vie for the ball during the 2023 version of the Myanmar Women's League.

Karlos Nasar of Bulgaria wins two golds at IWF World Cup

Bulgaria's Karlos Nasar secured two gold medals in the men's 89kg category at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup, while Yeison Lopez of Colombia set a world record of 182kg in the snatch event.



Gold medalist Yeison Lopez Lopez (C) of Colombia, silver medalist Karlos May Nasar (L) of Bulgaria and bronze medalist Li Dayin of China pose during the awarding ceremony for the men's 89kg. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

KARLOS Nasar of Bulgaria won two International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Cup here on Saturday.

Yeison Lopez of Columbia won the snatch event with a world record of 182kg, beating Nasar by 1kg. But the Bulgarian weightlifter lifted 215kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 396kg to bag the other two golds.

It was a dismal night for the Chinese team. Li Dayin, who broke world records of the category in the snatch and in total in the Asian Championships last year, finished with 173kg in the snatch and 210kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 383kg. He won two bronze medals in the snatch and in total.

The other Chinese weightlifter Tian Tao only succeeded in his first attempt to lift 171kg in the snatch. In his last bid, he attempted a world record-breaking 226kg twice in the clean and jerk but both failed.

The IWF World Cup in Phuket runs until April 11 and serves as a qualifying event for Paris 2024. — Xinhua



Runners participate in "Run For World Peace" programme in Lumbini, Nepal, 6 April 2024. A peace marathon was held on Saturday in Nepal's Lumbini, the birthplace of the Lord Buddha and a UNESCO world heritage site, to mark the first Lumbini international peace festival. **PHOTO: YI AJUN/XINHUA**

Nepal's Lumbini holds peace marathon to mark first peace festival

A peace marathon took place in Lumbini, Nepal, the birthplace of Buddha, to celebrate the inaugural Lumbini International Peace Festival. The festival also included an International Meditation Day with over 100 monks, nuns, and 700 practitioners, as well as a peace concert attended by 2,000 spectators.

A peace marathon was held on Saturday in Nepal's Lumbini, the birthplace of the Lord Buddha and a UNESCO world heritage site, to mark the first Lumbini international peace festival.

Hundreds of participants joined the "Run For World Peace" programme, which included 42.195-km full marathon, 21-km half marathon, three-km walka-

thon and five-km run.

The first Lumbini international peace festival also featured an international meditation day, which was held on Friday and involved 100 monks, nuns and some 700 practitioners, and a peace concert that was given on Saturday evening for around 2,000 spectators.

Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha and Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song participated in the programme.

The Lumbini international peace festival was jointly organized by the Nepal Tourism Board, the Chinese Embassy to Nepal, the Lumbini Development Trust, Nepal Olympic Committee and Province Sports Council Nepal. — Xinhua

SECURING RULING COALITION'S CONTROL

Slovakia: Peter Pellegrini wins presidential elections

SLOVAKIA'S Parliament Speaker Peter Pellegrini secured a win against pro-West career diplomat Ivan Korcok for the Slovak presidency in a runoff election held on Saturday, Politico reported.

The election result gives Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico's ruling coalition full control over the executive and legislative branches of government. As 99.9 per cent of ballots have been counted, Peter Pellegrini received 53 per cent of the vote, while Korcok got 47 per cent votes. Pellegrini said, "This victory is an enormous vindication for me."

Korcok accepted the defeat by saying, "I'm disappointed and bummed out, to be honest, but as a sportsman I have to respect the result." He even criticized the aggressive campaign methods of the Pellegrini camp, Politico reported.

Notably, the Slovakian President has limited powers that include appointing ambassadors, returning legislation to parliament and issuing amnesties. — ANI

Why does China-Europe Express Rail expand so fast and become more efficient

This rail service is less vulnerable to extreme weather or geopolitical tensions, ensuring smoother international industrial and supply chains.

ACCORDING to China State Railway Group Co Ltd by the end of February 2024, the railway service connects 120 Chinese cities with 219 cities across 25 European countries.

The China-Europe Express Rail is also less vulnerable to extreme weather or geopolitical tensions, thus better ensuring the unimpeded flow of international industrial and supply chains.

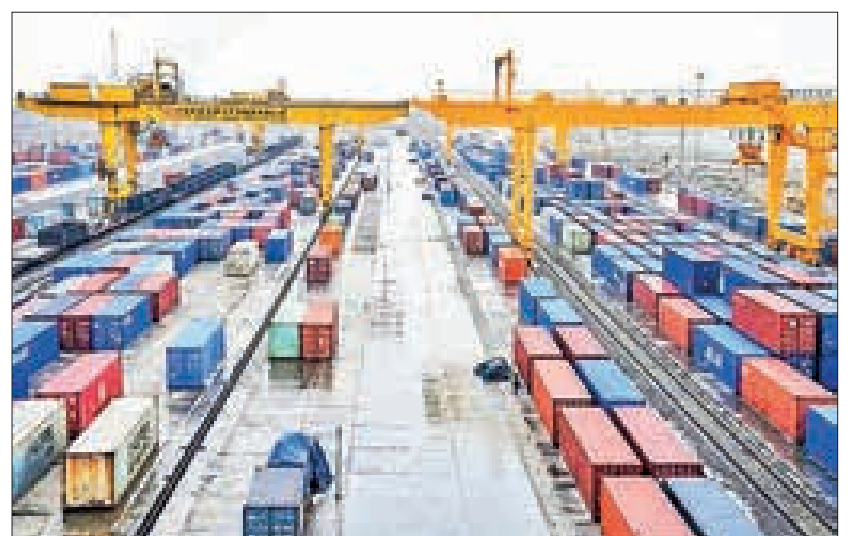
A freight train loaded with containers of goods was departing from China's northern city of Shijiazhuang to the European city of Belgrade, capital of Serbia, in late March.

The train marks the launch of a new route

of the China-Europe Railway Express, also the first direct rail line connecting the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region with Serbia.

The China-Europe Express Rail transport service has witnessed tremendous expansion since its launch in 2011 and has provided transport and logistics support for Belt and Road cooperation over the years.

The China-Europe Express Rail served as a safe and reliable rail line linking Asia and Europe, transporting over 50,000 types of goods, including automobiles, spare parts, clothing, cereals, wine, coffee beans, and timber. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 15 January 2024 shows the load-transfer yard of the Horgos Port in Horgos, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: BAI FENGLIANG/XINHUA**