

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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Photos showcase the Up and Down trains that run the Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon railway.

## New Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon train services start on 13 May

The new Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon Up and Down trains commenced operations on 13 May, according to the head of Mawlamyine Railway Station. In addition to the regular Down

train that departs Mawlamyine for Yangon at 8:30 am, a new Down train will also run at 9:15 am.

Similarly, the regular Up train leaves Yangon for Mawlamyine at 6:15 am, and a new Up train will additionally run at 7:30 am.

Tickets for the extended train journeys can be booked one day in advance. Tickets for the regular trains are available from 7 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 3 pm.

Furthermore, upper-class tickets can be booked three days in advance, while ordinary-class tickets can be booked one day in advance. — ASH/TRKM



## Myanmar's fishery exports hit US\$55M in one month

MYANMAR'S fishery exports moved up to over US\$54.98 million as of 3 May in the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The figures reflected an increase of \$25.5 million compared to \$29.46 million recorded in the corresponding period of the FY 2023-2024.

At present, fishery exports are regularly occurring, yet the volume of fishery exports is still lower than that recorded in the pre-pandemic period.

Myanmar sends fisheries such as fish, crab, and shrimp to neighbouring countries (China and Thailand) through Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Sit-tway and Maungtaung border posts. They



Diligent workers in action on the fishery processing line.

are shipped to Japan, European countries, China, Thailand, and other regional countries via maritime channels.

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

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



# NATIONAL

MYANMAR GAZETTE

## Transfer and appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed Dr Thidar Kyu, Rector of Monywa University of the Economics of Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, as Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations with effect from the date she assumes the charge of her duties.

## False matric exam result announcements ordered deleted from social media



Fake news on the matriculation exam results spreading on social media.

ANNOUNCEMENTS on matriculation exam results that have been spread on social media pages are fake, the Department of Myanmar Examinations announced.

The department responded to some fake news saying that the 2024 matriculation exam results would be released on 7 June.

This announcement is just false, and it is an edited report published in last year's newspaper. The Ministry of Education has requested that it be deleted from social media pages to prevent

the spread of fake news.

Concerning the release of the matriculation exam results, respective officials never make the announcement a month in advance, and if it is ready, they release it without delay. False news spreads every year over the matriculation exam results, so everything for the public to know, including the exam results, will be announced without delay, it said.

Only announcements, which would be published by state-owned newspapers, television channels, the department's website, and Facebook page, are official, so the public needs to be aware of fake news, it urged.

The public can visit the department's Facebook page to check on the news about the matriculation exam results and verify whether they are correct or not. — TWA/ZS

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Statement of the Union Election Commission

14 May 2024

1. Those who want to establish a political party are applying to the Union Election Commission by stating the name of the party they wish to develop. To date, 15 groups have applied for the right to establish a party. Among the groups that applied for this, 12 political parties were allowed to establish, while two parties were denied the right to set up.
2. According to the verification responses of the relevant ministries on the application of the remaining Chin People's Party for permission to establish, it was found that it did not comply with the provisions of Section 4 of the Political Parties Registration Law. Today, the Union Election Commission announced that the party's application to establish a party was rejected in Form (C) of the Political Parties Registration Rule.

Union Election Commission

## Indian medical delegation boosts Myanmar's healthcare services

INDIAN Medical Delegation visited Myanmar from 6 to 10 May with the aim of assisting Myanmar medical services in enhancing understanding, training, and setting up a "Liver Transplant and Gas-

troenterology Department" at Myanmar Hospital. During this visit, Indian and Myanmar delegates discussed liver transplant experiences, various medical cooperations, and specific assistance with

training aids for capability development. This initiative will enhance the capabilities and capacities of Myanmar medical services to provide better healthcare facilities in the future. — MNA



The Indian medical delegation is pictured during their visit to Myanmar Hospital.

## Over 100 donors contribute K20M to Pyinmana Sangha Hospital in April

MORE than K 19.4 million was donated by 105 well-wishers to the renal department of the Pyinmana Sangha Hospital, according to Dr Than Min Htut, superintendent of the hospital.

In April, the hospital's renal unit provided kidney dialysis 563 times to 92 patients, the poorest of whom were treated free of charge depending on the availability of funds, the doctor shared on his Facebook page.

"A dialysis patient is a person whose kidneys have stopped working. When the kid-



Some patients are in the renal unit of Pyinmana Sangha Hospital. PHOTO - THAN MIN HTUT

neys stop working, they can't urinate. If a person doesn't urinate for two or three days, their whole body gets swollen with oedema, and we feel unfortunate to see their pain. After kidney dialysis, the toxic urine is excreted, and so they recover immediately, and their pain disappears in no time," he explained.

Kidney patients have to undergo dialysis twice a week, eight times a month, at a cost of K55,000 each time for medicines only; the weekly price is K110,000, and the monthly fee

is K440,000 for a patient who needs it eight times. As this amount is a considerable burden for people, people who live from hand to mouth, teachers, office clerks, hawkers, and taxi drivers, like a raging fire every month, the doctor expressed his special gratitude to all donors who helped to extinguish this fire, he said.

One hundred and five donors contributed K19,439,500 in April 2024, and thanks to this fund, kidney patients will continue to survive, he posted. — MT/ZN



# NATIONAL

## Campaign to develop libraries, raise reading habits held in Yangon

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended a ceremony to launch the “developing libraries and raising reading habits campaign” at the Yangon Region government office in Dagon Township yesterday.

In his opening speech, the Union Minister, who is also Chairman of Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, said a book donation ceremony was organized on 3 April and the Prime Minister and his family donated 4,500 books of Public Science Treatises Volumes 1, 2, and 3. The ministry donated 5,500 books and journals, totalling 10,000 copies.

Similarly, the ceremony to donate books and publications to libraries held on 10 April across the nation received over K1,000 million in cash donations and 85,540 copies of books.

Moreover, the State Administration Council organized the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, which aimed to improve read-



Developing libraries and raising reading habits campaign is launched yesterday, attended by Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.

ing habits, utilize cash donations effectively, classify books, and conduct donation ceremonies every month.

He continued that there were over 6,000 ward/village libraries in the country, and there are only 3,000 currently, while 2,500 of them suspend the library

processes for various reasons.

The Head of the State also conducted sector-wise development projects such as the construction of dams, bridges, strategic roads, and inter-district or inter-township roads and also called for turning out more educated persons and human re-

sources for the development of the country. Therefore, 24 special development zones were designated to establish universities and colleges, including ward and village libraries, as per his guidance.

The Union minister also highlighted the setting up of

self-reliant libraries in rural areas as a national project starting from 2004, the critical role of libraries for students, duties of relevant offices to draw the students in reading with various possible ways such as literary talks, prompt talks, quiz shows, among others.

He then said that on 9 May, well-wishers donated K2,205 million to 147 libraries in the campaign to develop libraries and improve reading habits in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Then, the Union minister handed over K30 million for repair works of six libraries in Yangon and K75 million to construct five new libraries, totalling K105 million, to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein.

The Union minister, Myanmar Libraries Foundation Patron U Kyaw San and relevant officials received cash donations from the well-wishers. The Union minister and party observed the books and publications displayed at the event. — MNA/KTZH



A glimpse of the Seventh Global Chinese Language Prose Reading Competition.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Global Chinese Language Prose Reading Competition held in Yangon

ACCORDING to the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, the Seventh Global Chinese Language Prose Reading Competition took place at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Yangon, with more than 500 Myanmar students participating.

The event, held in honour of the China-Myanmar friendship, ran from mid-April to 12 May.

Over 500 Myanmar students from 11 Chinese language schools in Myanmar took part in the contest, with 49 students reaching the final. — ASH/TMT

## 146 Myanmar nationals repatriated from Middle East in 3 years

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that 146 distressed Myanmar citizens have been repatriated from Middle Eastern nations between 2021 and 2024.

The Myanmar Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, revealed its collaborative efforts with local authorities and employment

agencies to rescue Myanmar nationals facing difficulties in the Middle East from 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Recent cases include Ma Thein Shwe and Ma Ohnmar Myint, who experienced hardships while working in Saudi Arabia. With assistance from

the Myanmar embassy and Saudi Arabian officials, they have safely returned home.

The embassy urges Myanmar migrant workers to abide by the laws and respect the cultures, traditions, and customs of their host countries. — ASH/NT



Ma Ohnmar Myint and Ma Thein Shwe speak to the media upon their arrival at Yangon International Airport.



# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister meets literati doyen, inspects Photolitho Printing Press, Global New Light of Myanmar daily



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn meets doyen of the literati yesterday in Yangon.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met members of the National Literary Award Selection Committee and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee yesterday in Yangon.

In his speech, the Union Minister said the committees

should select the winners of the National Literary Award, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement systematically, and the literary award ceremony will be held in Nay Pyi Taw this year.

He continued that literature

has become sensitive today, and it is also the life of the country. He highlighted the guidance of the Head of State in raising reading habits.

He concluded the meeting after hearing the reports made by the attendees.

On the same evening, the

Union Minister headed to the Photolitho Printing Press and The Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper publishing house on Ngahtetgyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township of Yangon.

He inspected the printing processes, met the staff and mentioned the guidance of the Head of the State to print the books that use the State budget at the printing houses of the Min-

istry of Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Education and Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare starting from this year.

He then called on the attendees to ensure the printing quality, complete the printing services without any errors in time and be aware of the waste of raw materials. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the printing press of The Global New Light of Myanmar.

### Counter-argument to false information

## Malicious media blames security forces for casualties in Monywa

SOME media outlets with malicious intentions have accused security forces of firing heavy weapons into the Mohnyin Thanbuddhay Pa-

goda compound in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region, on 13 May, resulting in one death and injuring seven residents.

However, confirmed reports from reliable news sources indicate that, based on a resident's tip-off about PDF terrorists operating near Mohnyin Thanbuddhay Village, security forces conducted counter-terrorism operations. The only casualties from these operations were terrorists, with no residents harmed.

Terrorists often take cover behind public places such as schools, hospitals, and religious buildings during confrontations. Certain media outlets with ill intentions are spreading misinformation to sow discords and create misunderstandings between the public and security forces. — MNA/NT



The screenshot validate false claims.

## Subversive media circulate false reports on conscription in Aunglan

THE malicious media outlet Khit Thit fabricated news stories, claiming that authorities summoned a family member to serve conscription on behalf of a 27-year-old man from Tayawgon Ward, Aunglan Township, Magway Region, who had died of colon cancer six months ago.

However, it has been confirmed that this report is entirely false and intentionally misleading, as no such person in Tayawgon Ward has died

from colon cancer.

Similarly, the same media outlet falsely reported that Tatmadaw security forces arrested seven youths and their relatives in Oakpho, Bago Region, for refusing to serve in the military.

In reality, these malicious media are spreading propaganda to instigate fear and concern among the public about conscription. — MNA/TMT



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# NATIONAL

**M**YANMAR boasts wildlife sanctuaries, lakes, marine national parks and ASEAN Heritage Parks. The endangered species inhabits Myanmar, and the Snow Leopard can be seen in snow-capped mountain areas like Phonkanrazi and Gamlangrazi snow-capped mountains.

The Gamlangrazi snow-capped mountain in the northernmost part of Myanmar is covered with snow the whole year round, and it is the highest mountain in Southeast Asia. It is 19,259ft high and is home to Snow Leopard. The mountain area shares a border with India and Tibet, where the Snow Leopard inhabits among 12 countries, and is located about 15 kilometres from that tri-junction.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launches the conservation of Snow Leopard yearly. If Myanmar is listed as one of the countries where Snow Leopard lives, the country will become the 13<sup>th</sup> country in the world.



Myanmar, and we don't have a record photo. According to my experience, there might be snow leopards," said Daw L Kay Si Yoon, head of Khakaborazi Wildlife Sanctuary.

The snow leopards are referred to as "ghosts of the mountains" and "kings of the mountains" by the researchers. Their habitat range stretches across parts of countries – Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Their habitat covers a range of 772,204 square miles, and 70 per cent remains unexplored.

The snow leopard population declined year by year, and it was found first that the snow leopards and common leopards shared the same habitat on the Tibetan plateau in 2017. Their pasturelands are disappearing due to the climate change. The 12 countries cooperate to save the big cats.

The world's endangered snow leopard species face various threats, including hunting, illegal wildlife trading, mining, and infrastructure construction. The melting of glaciers is another threat to snow leopards and other animals. UNEP has noted that the decline of snow leopards around the world may be a reason why people forget about them. Moreover, it is estimated that two-thirds of the habitats of this majestic species are expected to be lost by 2070.

UNEP launched the Vanishing Treasures Project, aiming to ensure the peaceful living of wildlife and humans, find possible ways to make extra income and reduce human-wildlife conflict.

China is home to over 60 per cent of all snow leopards in the world, so the snow leopards indeed live on Phonkanrazi and Gamlangrazi snowcapped mountains. Research on the existence of snow leopards can be done only once in the northernmost part of Myanmar. If the study is conducted continuously, their habitat can be known clearly, benefiting the country in the tourism sector and showcasing the beauty of Myanmar to the world.

Myanmar is ready to work with the 12 countries that boast snow leopards to prove the existence of the big cats one day.

*Translated by KTZH*

## Myanmar's snow-capped north, a haven for snow leopards

By NyaungU Phee

The snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), occasionally called ounce, is a species of large cat in the genus *Panthera* of the family *Felidae*. The species is native to the mountain ranges of Central Asia. Snow leopards are medium-sized cats that are well adapted for life in the cold mountains. Their coat is pale grey or cream-coloured with smoky grey or blurred black markings, allowing them to camouflage in their mountain habitat. The markings on their coat are arranged in distinct rows and get paler in the winter. After a gestation period of 100 days, a female will have two to three cubs.

The snow leopard is about 1.4 metres long and weighs 75 kilogrammes; they have short forelimbs and long hind legs, which allow them to traverse and stay agile in their steep and rugged environments. Powerful chest muscles also make snow

leopards good climbers.

The Cooperation in Snow Leopard in Myanmar was conducted between 8 June 2017 and 30 June 2018 by the experts of the US and Forest Department of Kachin State with the support of Panthera Cooperation. The project included conducting training to watch the snow leopards and prey that can be hunted by the snow leopards in snow-capped mountain areas of Kachin State, studying knowledge of locals regarding the snow leopards, reviewing the chances to raise awareness on environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in coexistence between the human and wild-

life and reporting the findings and suggestions -

tions to keep carrying out the research and conservation measures to the Forest Department and relevant governmental departments.

Although the camera traps were placed in the project areas, no snow leopard was recorded, but other endangered species were recorded. The locals and researchers still believe that there will be snow leopards on 10,000 feet high snowcapped mountains for the record of inhabitant of snow leopards in India, Bhutan and China and the finding of locals on Phonkanrazi and Gamlangrazi snow-capped mountains.

"The snow leopard research was conducted once with PC. They live over 10,000 feet high, so it is not easy to conduct research with the staff separately.

It costs a lot. There is only news that there are snow leopards in the snowcapped mountains of





# NATIONAL

## Shwedagon Pagoda to host 41<sup>st</sup> Kason water pouring festival



Devotees are seen pouring water onto the Maha Bodhi tree in the previous year.

THE 41<sup>st</sup> Kason Water Pouring Festival will be held at the Shwedagon Pagoda, as announced by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The ceremony will commence at 7 am on 22 May at the Bodhi tree located at the southeast corner of the pagoda. It will be attended by the Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Shwedagon Pagoda, members and staff of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, and various religious organizations.

Religious organizations and staff will assist pilgrims in participating in the water pouring festival at the Bodhi trees situated at the four corners of the Pagoda. — TWA/MKKS

## Myanmar entrepreneurs invited to MoHA construction projects

PRIVATE entrepreneurs from Myanmar are invited to carry out necessary construction works for the forces/departments of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

For the financial year 2024-2025, the submission of proposed tenders for the necessary construction work for the forces/departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs is invited to submit proposals and tenders. Regarding the tender forms, the profiles of successful companies are invited to visit the relevant forces/departments (headquarters) from 13 May.

The companies that have to submit the price submission tender form must submit the price proposals according to the construction work groups of the forces/departments at Dekkhinathiri District Fire Station near the Sutaungpyae Monastery, Tawun Yadana Street, Htantabin Kyaukmyat Kwathit, Kyapin Quater, Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 21 May from 10 am to 4 pm.

For more detailed information, interested people can contact the Minister's Office, the Myanmar Police Force, Bureau of Special Investigation, the Correctional Department, and the Fire Service Department. — TWA/KZL

## MoIP to enforce action against fake UID holders

THE Ministry of Immigration and Population has announced that action will be taken against individuals found to be holding fake Unique Identification (UID) numbers in accordance with the law.

The ministry is currently implementing the process of issuing UID numbers by collecting personal and biographical information from individuals residing in the country, utilizing electronic technology to enhance public safety and promote social welfare.

UID numbers are being issued free of charge by the relevant immigration and population offices, as well as mobile teams conducting field operations. However, there have been reports of individuals employing brokers to obtain



The photo shows the queue of people who are waiting to get UID numbers in Sangyoung Township.

UID numbers.

A UID number serves as a national identification card containing personal and biometric data, including facial features, fingerprints of all ten fingers, and pupil information. Therefore, individuals are required to visit their respective township immigration and population offices in person to undergo the necessary

processes for obtaining a UID number.

Furthermore, individuals encountering difficulties or facing demands for payment while attempting to obtain a UID number are encouraged to contact and report such issues through the Facebook page of the Electronic Registration System Department – eIDDept. — TWA/TRKM



The photo shows the Dekkhinathiri Fire Station, where the tender form is to be submitted.

## YU to open diploma course in applied geology

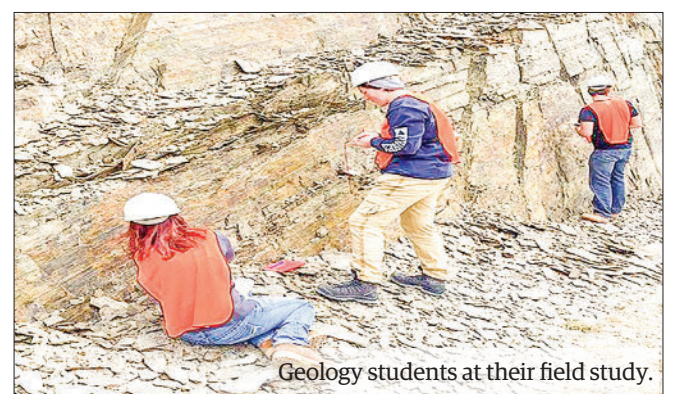
YANGON University is set to commence a one-year diploma course in applied geology for the academic year 2024-2025.

The course will cover a range of specialized subjects, including Economic and Mining Geology, Exploration Geochemistry, Exploration Geophysics, Gemology, Hydroge-

ology, Engineering Geology, and Petroleum Geology.

Prospective students interested in enrolling in any of these specialized courses must hold a bachelor's degree in geology, be eligible for a Master's degree, and be citizens of Myanmar. Government employees with a BSc in geology

who are working in geology-related departments must have a minimum of two years of service and obtain official permission from the director-general or managing director. Applications must be submitted to the Student Affairs Department of Yangon University no later than 20 May. — TWA/MKKS



Geology students at their field study.



## India may raise urad import quota from Brazil to 50,000 tonnes this FY



India has been partnering with Myanmar for the black gram trade for a long time.

INDIA, the leading buyer of Myanmar's black gram (urad), is possibly to bring in 50,000 tonnes of urad from Brazil, citing news reported by the Hindu Businessline.

India has growing consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India is to import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-

2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota.

At present, Brazil and Argentina are also expanding black gram cultivation. India is likely to deal with them. Brazil is expected to ship at least 50,000 tonnes of black gram to India in June-July this year, Bimal Kothari, chair of India Pulses and Grains Association-IPGA, said.

Last year, India imported 5,000 tonnes of urad from Bra-

zil. A delegate led by Kothari encouraged Brazil's counterparts to ramp up pulse production. As India's pulses output dipped in the 2023-2024 financial year amid climate-crisis hurdles in monsoon and winter seasons, the urad import remarkably increased. Consequently, India's urad import rose to 623,000 tonnes in the 2023-2024 FY from 344,000 tonnes in the 2022-2023 FY, showing an increase of 19 per cent. India extended the free import policy of black gram (urad) and pigeon peas (tur) up to March 2025.

Agriculture Ministry of India forecast that India's urad output dipped to 205,500 tonnes in the 2023-2024 FY from 263,100 tonnes recorded last year.

India has been partnering with Myanmar for the black gram trade for a long time. Now, they are exploring new market sources from potential South America. Despite India's decline in urad output, they are fulfilling requirements with imports from Myanmar and other countries. Myanmar's black gram production is estimated at 660,000 tonnes. — NN/EM

## Thai and Bangladeshi buyers visit Myanmar for coconuts

BUYERS from Thailand and Bangladesh have even come to make purchases of Myanmar coconut inside the country through networking with local traders, according to coconut traders.

"Traders from Thailand and Bangladesh have come to the local market to buy coconut. So, coconuts have become scarce in the local market as a result of high foreign demand. Coconuts are mainly produced in Ayeyawady Region as well as from Mawlamyine. Coconuts from there are also reportedly exported to overseas markets," said the owner of the Ma Phyu Lone coconut trading in Meiktila township.

Despite an increase in

foreign demand, the coconut market still needs to rely more on domestic consumption due to rising transportation and labour charges.

"At present, the major buyer is Bangladesh, though there

are Thai buyers," he said.

A virtual meeting to present the prospects of the coconut market, which has been promising as an export item, was held at Myanmar Trade Promotion in April. — Thit Taw/ZS



Green coconuts are on sale at a market in Dhaka, Bangladesh. PHOTO: XINHUA

## YU to offer three-month certificate course in food technology

THE University of Yangon will open a three-month certificate course in food technology starting from the first week of June.

Those who have passed the ninth grade are entitled to attend the course. The registration form is available at the Student Affairs Department of the YU from 13 to 31 May.

The course will kick off on 3 June. The course is from 7 to 9 am. The course fee is K100,000.

The Industrial Chemistry

Department will share know-how of food manufacturing, storage, packaging, distribution, food safety, quality control and nutrient sufficiency. The attendees will receive the Certificate in Food Technology upon completion.

For further details of the course, individuals can dial the department through contact numbers 09 5013871 and 09 964096211 within office hours. — NN/KK

## ASEAN-Korea Startup Innovation Week 2024 welcomes Myanmar IT startups to join pitch competition

MYANMAR IT startups are invited to participate in the pitch competition of the ASEAN-Korea Startup Innovation Week 2024, which will be held from 21 to 23 October, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The Innovation Week 2024 invites ASEAN early-stage startups. The selected startups must initially attend the acceleration program and business meetings virtually from 2 to 13 September. Then, they must be present at the event in Korea. The pitching contest is in which the selected startups must prove themselves by pitching their solutions to the judging panel, which will ask questions on 21 October. The top-seed startups will attend the award ceremony and fireside chat session on 22 October and join the Korean Startup Ecosystem Tour on 23 October.

The ASEAN-Korea

Center will cover accommodation and round-trip flights for each selected startup for the event. The respective embassies of the ASEAN member countries in Seoul are asked to propose two startups. They must be qualified to meet eligibility and application requirements. Additionally, the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME) can recommend one entrepreneur for each ASEAN country. Furthermore, the participants must have the ability to comprehend English. Those interested in IT startups can send registration forms to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization by 17 June 2024. To enquire about the pitch competition, individuals can contact the MTPO through email at event.td.myantrade@gmail.com and contact numbers 067 408622 and 067 408623. — NN/EM



# OPINION

## Protect migratory birds by providing hibernation

IT IS a Myanmar proverb that guests flood the country, filling the roads with Myanmar people and offering them full hospitality. Like this, all parts of Myanmar's environment are ready to allow the hibernation of migratory birds, which come from various parts of the world, to take shelter and habitats during the cold season in Myanmar.

In fact, Myanmar is endowed with natural resources such as forests, hills and plains as well as natural water areas, including creeks, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, in addition to wildlife sanctuaries and Ramsar sites to admit migratory birds. Various species of migratory birds arrive in Myanmar through the Central Asian and East Asian-Australasian Flyways on a yearly basis for their shelters.

The World Migratory Bird Day campaign set by the UN Environment Programme in 2024 will focus on the importance of insects for migratory birds and highlight concerns related to decreasing populations of insects. In accord with the campaign slogan "Protect insects, protect birds", all global people need to mark World Migratory Bird Day to accommodate migratory birds so as to conserve the environment of society.

the Black Sea-Mediterranean Flyway, the Mississippi-America Flyway, the Atlantic-America Flyway, the Pacific-America Flyway, the West Pacific Flyway, the East Asia-Australia Flyway, the Middle Asia Flyway, and the West Asia-East Africa Flyway.

As part of protecting migratory birds of various species and providing shelter in their hibernation period, relevant habitats in Myanmar are home to these migratory birds safely. Thanks to these birds, Myanmar's society will be perfected in terms of environmental conservation activities. Such interrelated moves must be lasted to protect habitats and migratory birds forever.

The World Migratory Bird Day campaign set by the UN Environment Programme in 2024 will focus on the importance of insects for migratory birds and highlight concerns related to decreasing populations of insects. In accord with the campaign slogan "Protect insects, protect birds", all global people need to mark World Migratory Bird Day to accommodate migratory birds so as to conserve the environment of society.

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)

At this point in the process, things might look pretty good for the people getting scammed. You've sent a bit of money to a legitimate-looking site through an account that you control, and your new friend's trading tips seem to be working, so maybe you send a little bit more and pretty soon, you might have a fair amount of money tied up on this trading platform. But when you eventually go to withdraw it, that is where we hit the final step of this process.

Remember that woman mentioned earlier whose online friend claimed that he was from the same town where she was born. She even convinced her father to invest as well. They had seemingly made a bunch of money, and then this happened. By December of last year, their accounts showed a combined balance of \$1.2 million. That's when she decided it was time to cash out. That is when the site told her before she could withdraw her money, she'd have to pay a hefty tax bill of around \$380,000. That's when she eventually realized something was not right; it was not a real cryptocurrency investment after all, and all her and her father's funds had gone into the scammer's pockets - all in all, \$390,000 stolen. The tax bill was just the ultimate attempt to squeeze them dry one last time!

This isn't the only brutal story. One woman lost \$350,000, another guy lost \$300,000, and the first woman victim who fell for Jimmy sent him two and a half million as she was dealing with terminal cancer herself. It is traumatic and

humiliating, and it took extreme courage for those people to come forward.

That is partly why experts think the \$3 billion per annum figure that they have estimated is way too low. Most people who've been scammed like them simply do not report their losses out of embarrassment. At this point, you have every right to be furious with the people on the other end of all of these messages. You want to see them taken down, at the very least.

**Who's behind it?**

Reasonable people could also fathom that the persons on the other end of that phone (the scammers) might not be the ones you should be mad at because these post-Covid scams were being done in former casinos of Southeast Asia by organized Chinese crime syndicates. It turned out they were not great bosses after all, as one Indian man named Rakesh recalled. He said he was forced to work for more than 11 months without pay for a Chinese criminal gang.

Rakesh said he first flew to Thailand for what he thought was an IT job. Instead, he says he was tricked into crossing the border to Myanmar, where a Chinese gangster told him to work or else. He threatened to kill him. The job required Rakesh to spend 16 hours a day on social media with a fake profile targeting Americans. It would be complete torture to be forced to spend 16 hours a day on social media unless you love it or because you are 15 years old and the Facebook algorithm has addicted you to it. A lot of these

organizations are using people who've been human trafficked after being lured to these compounds of organized crime under false pretences. People like Rakesh are actually the victims of scams themselves. They might see job ads for skilled positions as translators or IT specialists in another country. They then go through a whole application process, with some going through up to four seemingly legitimate online interviews, and fly to their new job. At this point, they suddenly learn that their new bosses have their travel and other documents confiscated, and they cannot leave.

Back in 2022, Rakesh estimated that tens of thousands of people had been tricked in this way, and a more recent UN report estimated that hundreds of thousands of people had been forcibly engaged in this scheme. UN also said most victims are confined to the scam compounds, and the members of the organized crime groups constantly monitor their screens. Once they are inside, they have been provided with fake profiles to try and hook people in.

Rakesh found himself acting out like a Russian girl all day, every day, using the fake profile of a beautiful Russian girl. He said he needed to scam the people posing as a Salt Lake City-based investor named Clara Simonov. Rakesh then flirted online with potential targets. 70 to 80 per cent fall for fake love. Even after scamming as many people as he possibly can, Rakesh's boss would not let him leave the job.

The whole operation is highly organized and set up to get around

the usual ways that you might detect a scam. For instance, some of these crooked organizations generate their own photos for their profiles so that they cannot be reverse-image searched via Google. Employees are given detailed manuals that guide them

es in their so-called clients, e.g., be funny, make clients fall in love with you so deeply that they forget everything. The chilling thing is if you are funny enough, you can make people forget a lot of things, whether it's common-sense internet safeguards, lessons from pre-

came instead. They apparently knew that he had called the police. The managers then sold him to another scamming company because he had called the police. The managers of the scam centre said they had to take care of the police with at least \$4,000, and I had to pay for that, too. Hence, the sale of Lee!

The authorities were not going to help him, which actually makes sense when you learn that according to UN estimates, Pig Butchering scams in Cambodia bring in an amount equivalent to half the country's GDP, which is worrisome because if something generates that much money for a country, you do not shut it down. You spin it off and pray the magic works a second time.

The conditions in these compounds can be brutal. That trafficked man took photos of abuse of how some coworkers had been beaten. Even some Facebook videos in Myanmar showed workers being chained to beds at night and being tasered with electric rods when they failed to meet targets or misbehaved the slightest.

Lee, who managed to get out of the scam centre now, works to free others. The stories of what he's seen are warning for others and hard to watch, such as a man getting beaten up very badly and having injuries all over his body. Lee contends it was this man who was reportedly found hanging just hours thereafter. His phone is full of messages from Chinese citizens desperate to be set free from the shackles of scam companies. There were also videos of abuses Lee said he received directly

from victims inside the scam industry or found them posted in Social Media Group chats. To say they are shocking and absolutely horrifying would be a complete understatement.

**And what can we do to protect ourselves and our loved ones from getting scammed in the future?**

When you know all of this, it starts to change who exactly you are mad at because suddenly, the individuals on the other end of the phone do not seem to be having fun sending out messages to scam you. From now on, whenever you get a sexy text from a new stranger, good luck not thinking, is this a man who was just beaten in a border work camp in autonomous and EAO-controlled regions in Myanmar?

We cannot say that every scammer is someone who was kidnapped, tortured and forced to swindle, but even if not everyone who is doing this is trapped or coerced, the very fact that many fall into this category is still a huge problem. What we can do here when it comes to those imprisoned in these compounds is going to take collaboration between international law enforcement agencies. So unless you are the head of Interpol, there's not much you can personally do now from wherever country you are in.

Platforms like Facebook should be doing way more to prevent the creation of fake accounts that target people because it's happening on their watch. Scammers are using sponsored posts. Perhaps the most effective way

to stop this from happening is to make it less lucrative by having fewer people fall for it. Awareness of this scam is key. This is one of those rare cases where raising awareness is in itself genuinely useful. Hopefully, you've read this in the paper today, and this could happen to someone you know. This has not just sucked in old people or those who are not tech-savvy. It managed to reel in a bank CEO in the first-world country of the USA. Everyone has an image of the type of person who is susceptible to getting scammed in their heads, but unless that image is in a mirror standing right in front of you, you might be wrong.

Thus, as a general rule, whenever a stranger online says either I love you or recommends crypto within a month of talking to you, worry honestly even if they do not turn out to be scammers. Those are pretty good red flags to be looking for. It's worth telling your friends and family about Pig Butchering, too. If you know someone who's been scammed like this, try to be kind. It is just human to want companionship, and it's actually an excellent quality to be trusted by people. It sucks that the Internet, which should be a way to alleviate loneliness, can be turned into a tool to exploit it. Maybe if we all look out for one another, we can ensure that the worst mistake anyone ever makes on the Internet might just be inadvertently buying an excellent Christmas tree for something totally different upon arrival. I am pretty sure you have all experienced that in life, just like myself. ■

## Silence of the Pigs

By U AC

through every step of the scam process. They were told to target people who looked wealthy and successful. One advises even on daily activities for scammers - on the first day, talk about things like your name, age, occupation and hobbies, then the next day, talk about your emotional experience with a message divided into two paragraphs and then on the third day, talk about your entrepreneurial experience, etc. They're even given tips on how to break down people's defences. Several of these manuals carefully explain how to build trust and exploit weakness-

vious relationships or that they've been accidentally learning about financial fraud and human trafficking for the last twenty minutes. And if you are thinking, why don't authorities just shut these compounds down, sometimes they themselves are in on it.

One Chinese man named Lee, who was trafficked to a scam centre in Cambodia, explained what happened when he did the obvious thing on his second day in captivity. When he emailed the Chinese Embassy, he was advised to call the civil police, but the police never came. The property management

## Global scientists join hands to rebuild DNA tree of life for plants

“Scientists have unveiled a groundbreaking DNA tree of life for flowering plants, shedding light on Darwin's 'Abominable Mystery'.”

SCIENTISTS have recently revealed a vast DNA tree of life for flowering plants, which represents a pioneering step for illuminating Darwin's "Abominable Mystery".

The study, jointly conducted by an international team of researchers from the Kew Gardens, British Royal Botanic Gardens, the Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB) of the Chinese Academy of

Sciences and other institutions and universities, has been published in the journal Nature.

The flowering plant tree of life, much like the family tree of humans, can help demonstrate how different species are related to each other. The tree of life is revealed by comparing DNA sequences between different species to identify changes that accumulate over time, much like a

molecular fossil record.

Researchers recently achieved a vast DNA tree of life by bringing open access DNA sequences of more than 9,500 flowering plants together, enabling them to answer key questions about modern plant life and delve into its origins.

One key advantage of this approach is its ability to sequence a wide range of plant material, both old and new, even in cases where the DNA is badly damaged. The vast treasure troves of dried plant material in the world's herbarium collections, which include nearly 400 million scientific plant specimens, can now be studied genetically.

Using such specimens, the researchers sequenced a sandwort specimen (*Arenaria globiflora*) collected nearly 200 years ago in Nepal and,

despite the poor quality of its DNA, were able to place it in the tree of life.

They even analyzed extinct plants, such as the Guadalupe Island olive (*Hesperelaea palmieri*), which has not been seen alive since 1875. In fact, 511 of the species sequenced are already facing the threat of extinction, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, including three more like *Hesperelaea* that are already extinct.

Of the 9,506 species sequenced for this study, over 3,400 were derived from material sourced from 163 herbaria in 48 countries, with additional material from plant collections around the world such as DNA banks, seeds, and living collections.

SOURCE: Xinhua



This photo taken on 7 October 2019 shows a new species of impatiens named *Impatiens beipanjiangensis* in Panzhou City, southwest China's Guizhou Province. PHOTO: GUO YING/XINHUA



# NATIONAL



## People's military servants training No 2 begins across various commands

The Training No 1 for people military servants was successfully conducted in regions and states.

Eligible citizens for Training No 2 arrived at the respective military stations, and the opening ceremonies were organized yesterday.

The principals of respective military training schools made opening speeches, and the regional and state chief ministers, commanders and relevant officials attended the opening ceremonies and cordially met with the trainees.



I believe that a citizen must do the people's military service, and the enactment of law is for the sake of the country and all the citizens. The law was drafted previously, and it has come into force recently. I affirm that I will serve my duties fully after the training and guarantee the security of all people.

I voluntarily joined Training No 2, and I want to learn military skills. I also envy my friends who joined Training No 1. I will try my best to defend the State. MNA/ KTZH

They also provided cash assistance to the trainees.

The heartfelt words of the trainees for Training No 2 are as follows: -

THE People's Military Service Law was enacted as Law No 27/2010 in November 2010, and the law came into force on 10 February 2024. The People's Military Service Law was enacted

as every citizen is under a duty to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Photos depict the opening ceremonies and related activities of the Training No 2 for people military servants.



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.



## Teleworking in Japan shrinks after COVID, hybrid working on rise: Government survey

*Teleworking gained popularity during the pandemic as part of the government's efforts to reduce the spread of infections. However, the ministry noted a shift in this trend.*

THE ratio of teleworkers in Japan continued to fall as the COVID-19 pandemic wanes while more turn to "hybrid work" combining remote work and in-office work, a fiscal 2023 government survey showed.

The online survey, conducted by the transport ministry in October and November, found that 5,832 of the 36,228 respondents, or 16.1 per cent, worked from home or elsewhere outside the office in the last year, down 2.7 percentage points from the previous survey.

Teleworking became popular during the pandemic under the government's drive to re-

duce the flow of people to slow the spread of infections, but the ministry noted a slight shift in the trend.

Citing the survey, Kyodo News said the ratio was 21.4 per cent in the fiscal 2021 survey and dropped to 18.8 per cent the following year.

The latest survey showed the average frequency of teleworking was 2.3 days per week, unchanged from a year ago.

After the government downgraded the legal status of COVID-19 in May last year, roughly aligning it with seasonal influenza, the change in teleworking patterns became notable. — ANI



The survey indicated that the average frequency of teleworking remained unchanged at 2.3 days per week compared to the previous year. **PHOTO: KYODO**



Students play volleyball during a physical class as a daycare service during summer vacation provided by Shuanghe No 2 High School in Huaying City, southwest China's Sichuan province, 22 July 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA / FILE**

## Health experts urge scientific interventions to combat obesity

*Projections suggest that the overweight and obesity rate among Chinese adults could reach 65.3 per cent by 2030, posing a significant health challenge.*

THE 10<sup>th</sup> China Obesity Science Conference, jointly organized by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) and several other organizations in Beijing, concluded on Saturday.

The two-day event underscored the seriousness of obesity as an escalating public health concern and the importance of scientific interventions and proper policies to tackle it.

According to a 2020 report by China's National Health

Commission (NHC), 34.3 per cent of the country's citizens aged 18 and above were overweight and 16.4 per cent were obese. Research predicts that the overweight and obesity rate among Chinese adults might reach 65.3 per cent by 2030.

Overweight and obesity are regarded as a major obstacle to realizing China's long-term health goals, such as raising the average life expectancy to 79 by 2030, as proposed in the country's Outline of Healthy

China 2030.

Speaking at the conference, Guo Yanhong, director of the Health Emergency Response Office of the NHC, said that addressing obesity is a key point in preventing and treating chronic diseases, and stressed the necessity to promote healthier lifestyles.

In February, the NHC released two dietary guidelines aimed at addressing obesity in both adults and children. — Xinhua

## Nepal's mountaineer Kami Rita summits Mt Everest for a record 29<sup>th</sup> time

NEPAL'S Kami Rita Sherpa also known as 'Everest Man' on Sunday morning broke his record by climbing the world's highest peak, Mount Everest for the 29<sup>th</sup> time.

The 54-year-old Sherpa climber and guide in the last spring season had climbed the 8848.86 metres tall highest peak two times within a week setting a record for the 28<sup>th</sup> summit. But the climber has hinted at his plans to climb the peak twice this time again.

Before the summit, Kami Rita had stated that he "has no plan of

climbing Sagarmatha (Nepalese name for Mount Everest) for any specified number of times."

As per the officials from the Department of Tourism, the record-setting climber reached the summit of Everest at 7:25 am (NST) on Sunday while guiding an expedition organized by the 'Seven Summit Treks'.

"Congratulations to Kami Rita Sherpa @kamiritasherpa a senior guide at Seven Summit Treks for the 29<sup>th</sup> successful ascent of Mt Everest this morning at 7:25 am,

12 May 2024. This ascent earns Kami Rita the title of 'Most Successful Ascent of Mt Everest by an Individual,'" the Seven Summit Treks shared in an Instagram post on Sunday morning breaking the news about the successful summit.

Sherpa at the end of May had begun his expedition from Kathmandu accompanying a mountaineering expedition team comprising about 28 climbers. Kami Rita has been climbing Sagarmatha as a guide for the climbers. — ANI



The 54-year-old Sherpa climber and guide achieved this feat after having climbed the world's highest peak two times within a week during the last spring season, setting a record for the 28<sup>th</sup> summit. **PHOTO: ANI**



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Business community strikes confident tone on Britain-China trade relations

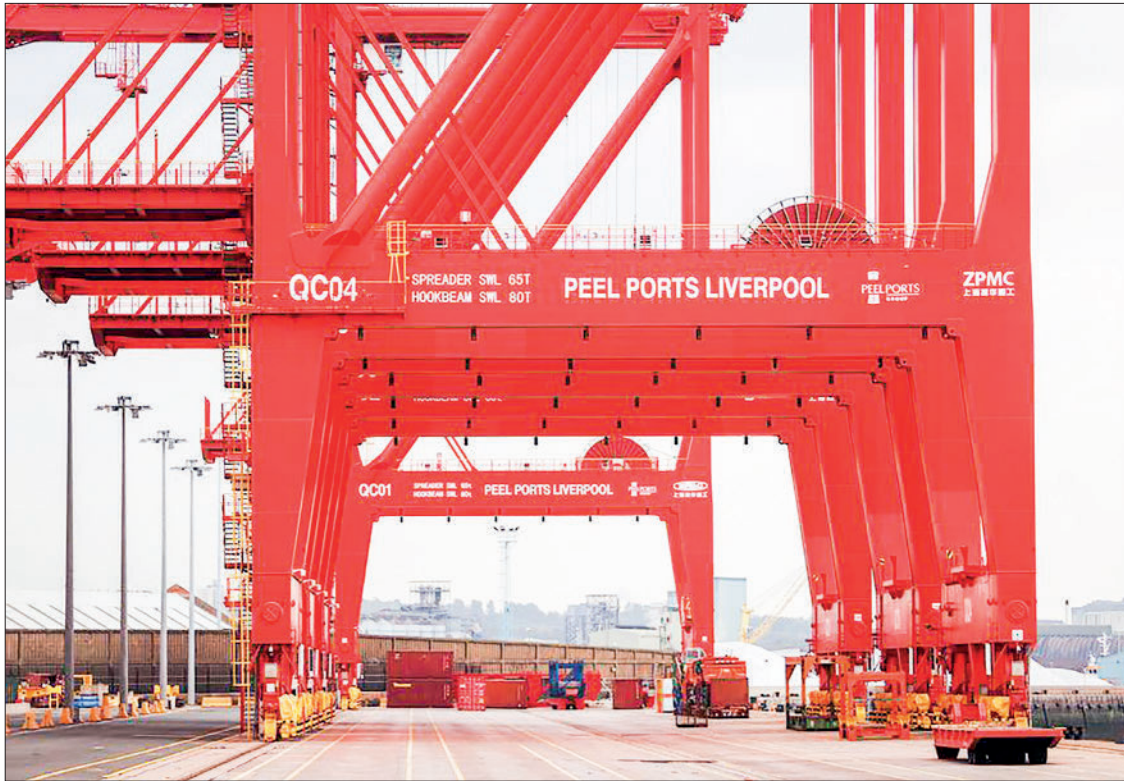


Photo taken on 26 April 2022 shows a view of the Port of Liverpool, in Liverpool, Britain. PHOTO: XINHUA

BUSINESS leaders projected confidence in Britain-China trade prospects during a recent trade expo held here.

The Global Britain Trade Expo 2024, an expo to promote Britain as a global trade and business destination, took place on Thursday at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London, with over 800 business leaders, 70 exhibitors and 30 speakers attending.

"China, in many ways, is a very good place to do business," said Vince Cable, former secretary of state for business, innovation and skills, and leader of the Liberal Democrats.

"It's a very big market, with fantastic infrastructure," said Cable.

James Palmer, chair of the East Powerhouse, cited the example of Geely, a leading Chi-

nese electric vehicle manufacturer which invested billions in Lotus, one of Britain's oldest and most renowned vehicle brands.

"Following huge investment from Geely, Lotus is set to increase its sports car production from 1,500 cars a year in 2018 to over 15,000 cars a year by 2028," Palmer said in his speech at the event.

"With 85 per cent of those cars manufactured in the UK heading overseas, Lotus is a prime example of what foreign investment can achieve, and because of international investments, Lotus is able to compete at the highest level," added Palmer.

Many business leaders also noted signs of more future collaboration between the two countries. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Malaysia natural rubber production falls 9.2% in March

MALAYSIA'S natural rubber production decreased by 9.2 per cent in March to 26,966 tonnes as compared to 29,691 tonnes in February, official data showed Monday.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement that year-on-year comparison showed that the production of natural rubber decreased by 0.8 per cent from 27,188 tonnes in March of 2023. According to the DOSM, total stocks of natural rubber in March fell 3.3 per cent to 222,455 tonnes as compared to 229,940 tonnes in February. Meanwhile, exports of Malaysia's natural rubber amounted to 58,965 tonnes in March, up seven per cent as against 55,083 tonnes in February.

China remained the main destination for natural rubber exports, which accounted for 48.9 per cent of total exports in March, followed by Germany (9.3 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (9.2 per cent), India (6.9 per cent) and Pakistan (4.5 per cent). — Xinhua

#### India signs deal with Iran to operate Chabahar port for 10 years

THE Indian government said it has signed a 10-year contract with Iran to develop and operate the Chabahar port.

India's Federal Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal visited Chabahar in Iran on Monday to witness the deal for the development of Shahid Beheshti port terminal in Chabahar.

The contract was signed between India Port Global Limited and Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran. — Xinhua

## Asian traders bide their time ahead of key US inflation data

INVESTORS shifted cautiously Tuesday ahead of the release of key US inflation data that could have a huge bearing on the fate of Federal Reserve interest rate cuts this year.

The tepid performance mirrored an uninspiring day on Wall Street, where the Dow fell after an eight-day winning streak, though a strong showing for Chinese tech firms helped Hong Kong extend a

rally that has seen it power around 30 per cent higher from its January low.

A recent run of soft US jobs data has lifted spirits on trading floors that the Fed will be able to reduce borrowing costs this year.

However, this week will provide a key test of that optimism with the release of April's consumer price index (CPI) on Wednesday, which

follows Tuesday's release of producer prices.

The readings come after forecast-beating figures for the first three months of the year that have seen investors whittle down their expectations for the number of rate cuts — from six in January to at most two now.

Analysts said a miss in either direction on CPI could have a big impact on markets, with JPMorgan Chase & Co's Andrew Tyler saying "the key risk is a hotter CPI print".

"But upcoming macro data creates a two-tailed risk — with one tied to stronger-than-expected growth fuelling inflation concerns and the other being weaker growth fuelling either recession or 'stagflation' concerns," he said.

The reports come after a survey by the New York Fed showed inflation expectations among US consumers had climbed to their highest level since November. — AFP



This photograph shows the Euronext's stock price indicator display at Euronext building in La Defence, on the outskirts of Paris, on 10 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP





(FILES) This photo taken on 31 October 2022 shows a woman walking past the Sony logo outside the company's headquarters in Tokyo. Japan's Sony said on 14 May 2024, that annual net profit fell 3.5 per cent year-on-year to 6.2 billion USD in 2023-24, beating the company's forecast of 920 billion yen **PHOTO: AFP**

## Sony net profit dips on-year but beats estimate

SONY said Tuesday that annual net profit dipped 3.5 per cent on-year but beat its forecast as takings in games and music offset losses in the financial and chip sectors.

The entertainment and electronics behemoth has been in the spotlight after reports said it was working with Apollo Global Management on a poten-

tial joint bid for US film and television giant Paramount Global.

The Japanese company has declined to comment on the reports, which cited anonymous sources saying Sony and Apollo have made a \$26 billion proposal to buy Paramount, the owner of CBS, Comedy Central and MTV.

Such a takeover could

strengthen Sony's massive movie sector behind the mega-grossing "Spider-Man" films, including the Oscar-nominated "Across the Spider-Verse".

On Tuesday, Sony logged a net profit of 970.6 billion yen (\$6.2 billion) for 2023-24, beating the company's forecast of 920 billion yen.

Sony said it had en-

joyed "significant increases in sales" in its game and music sectors, boosted by the weaker yen.

Revenue was also up for sensors — used in iPhone cameras — and financial services, although operating income decreased in these segments. For the current financial year, Sony forecast net profits of 925 billion yen. — AFP

## China's tech giant Huawei hosts cloud database summit in Thailand

CHINESE technology giant Huawei hosted the Cloud Database Summit Thailand 2024 here on Monday, aiming to enable the public and private sectors to access next-generation database technologies and accelerate digitalization in the Southeast Asian country.

The summit launched a pioneer programme to promote innovation and application of artificial intelligence-native database technologies in the kingdom, with about 20 experts from 15 industries, including local customers and partners, sharing their insights and experiences through keynotes, panels, and a hands-on lab programme.

The Thai government released a digital strategy last year with the goal of becoming a data-driven country. To achieve this, a prosperous database ecosystem rooted in local system integrators, software developers, and applications is essential for implementing the national digital

blueprint, said David Li, CEO of Huawei Thailand.

The digitalization trend that has swept across all industries demands a robust local ecosystem. With experience investing in database technology for 20 years, the company's latest distributed database technology will offer Thailand a powerful solution to unlocking the full value of data, Li said in his opening speech.

Since entering the Southeast Asian market in 2019, Huawei's public cloud services have grown 20 times in the past four years, making it one of the fastest-growing mainstream cloud vendors in the region. The company has established digital transformation cooperation in multiple industries, such as government, finance, the internet, and retail, said Zeng Xingyun, president of Huawei Cloud Asia Pacific.

Southeast Asia is experiencing rapid digitalization, and data security is of paramount importance. — Xinhua

## IT promotion to play pivotal role in Pakistan's economic uplift: minister

PAKISTANI Minister of State for Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said that promotion of information technology would play a pivotal role in the country's economic uplift.

"Pakistan has a lot of potential to boost its IT exports to 25 billion dollars in two to three years, the government has been taking all necessary measures to achieve the important target," the minister said while addressing a conference

on IT.

She said that technology has a very important role in every field as no section can progress without technology, adding that bottlenecks are being removed as part of the government's efforts for increase in IT exports.

Talking about the role of Pakistani youth in promoting IT in the South Asian country, the minister said that Pakistan has a young, tech-savvy population, a dynamic startup ecosystem and growing appetite for digital solutions. — Xinhua

## France announces 'record' foreign investments worth 15 bln euros

FRANCE has received combined investment commitments from foreign companies of more than 15 billion euros (\$16.2 billion), President Emmanuel Macron's office said

on Monday.

The announcement came as Macron kicked off a day of meetings with foreign business leaders at the Chateau de Versailles, called "Choose France".

The biggest single commitment is by Microsoft, which on Sunday announced four billion euros in investment to develop data centres. Microsoft's president Brad Smith told

AFP the move to strengthen its artificial intelligence and cloud computing infrastructure was the tech giant's biggest-ever investment in France since its arrival 41 years ago. — AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ARBAHAM M VOY.NO. (04/2024)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ARBAHAM M VOY.NO. (04/2024)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (118N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (118N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**



# ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

## OpenAI gives ChatGPT new powers to see, hear

OPENAI on Monday released a higher performing and even more human-like version of the artificial intelligence technology that underpins its popular generative tool ChatGPT, making it free to all users.

The update to OpenAI's flagship product landed a day before Google is expected to make its own announcements about Gemini, the search engine giant's own AI tool that competes with ChatGPT head on.

"We're very, very excited to bring GPT-4o to all of our free users out there," Chief Technology Officer Mira Murati said at the

highly anticipated launch event in San Francisco.

The new model GPT-4o — the "O" stands for omni — will be rolled out in OpenAI's products over the next few weeks, the company said, with paid customers having unlimited access to the tool.

The company said the model could generate content or understand commands in voice, text, or images.

"The new voice (and video) mode is the best computer interface I've ever used. It feels like AI from the movies," said OpenAI CEO Sam Altman in a blog post.



In this photo illustration, Open AI's newly released text-to-video "Sora" tool is advertised on their website on a monitor in Washington, DC, on 16 February 2024 **PHOTO: AFP**

Altman has previously pointed to the Scarlett Johansson character in the movie "Her" as an inspiration for where he would like AI interactions to go.

"Talking to a computer has never felt really natural for me; now it does," he added. Murati and engineers from OpenAI demonstrated the new powers of GPT-4o at the virtual event, posing challenges to the beefed-up version of the ChatGPT chatbot.

The demo mainly featured OpenAI staff members asking questions to the voiced ChatGPT, which responded with jokes and human-like banter. — AFP

## Putin to visit China at invitation of Xi Jinping on 16-17 May – Kremlin

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will visit China at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, the Kremlin press service said.

"At the invitation of Chinese

President Xi Jinping, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin will pay a state visit to the People's Republic of China on 16-17 May as his first foreign trip after taking office,"

the statement said.

Following the talks, it is planned to sign a joint statement by the heads of state and a number of bilateral documents, the statement read, adding that the leaders will determine the directions for further development of cooperation and discuss most pressing issues.

Additionally, Putin will visit Harbin, where he will take part in the opening ceremony of the eighth Russian-Chinese EXPO, meet with students and teachers of Harbin Institute of Technology.

Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping will attend a gala evening to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the opening of the Russian-Chinese Years of Culture. — SPUTNIK



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech during a meeting with his election campaign agents at the Grand Kremlin Palace, in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

## Tehran says no changes made to Iran's nuclear doctrine

IRAN has not made any changes to its nuclear doctrine, with the country's position on the matter expressed by its leadership more than once, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday.

Last week, the head of the Iranian Strategic Council

on Foreign Relations, Seyed Kamal Kharrazi, told Qatari broadcaster Al Jazeera that Tehran did not plan to build an atomic bomb.

However, if the country's existence is threatened, the Iranian authorities will be forced to change their doctrine, he added. In 2015, Iran signed

the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the involvement of the European Union. The deal committed Iran to scaling back its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. — SPUTNIK

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### New COVID-19 sub-variant unlikely to cause infection peak in China: experts

THE KP.2 sub-variant of COVID-19, which has become increasingly prevalent on a global scale, is unlikely to cause a new infection peak in China in the near future, the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration said on Tuesday.

As of Sunday, KP.2-sequenced cases accounted for 0.05 per cent to 0.30 per cent of all locally sequenced cases reported each week in China, which is at an "extremely low" level, according to experts from the administration.

KP.2, a descendant of the currently prevalent JN.1 variant, has rapidly increased in proportion among globally prevalent COVID-19 strains reported since February this year.

However, experts have noted that KP.2 shows no notable changes in terms of its pathogenicity and immune escape capabilities.

They have advised the public to maintain good personal hygiene, wear face masks when necessary, and follow healthy diets. — Xinhua

#### Israeli tanks march towards centre of Rafah: source

ISRAELI tanks on Tuesday marched towards the centre of Rafah, the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip, as tens of thousands of residents fled to evade an Israeli ground offensive, a local source reported.

The source told Xinhua that the tanks had reached the Al-Geineina neighbourhood and were advancing towards the city centre "amid heavy gunfire".

Nearly 450,000 people have been forcibly displaced from Rafah since 6 May the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East said in a statement on Tuesday.

"People face constant exhaustion, hunger and fear. Nowhere is safe. An immediate ceasefire is the only hope", the statement added. — Xinhua



# SPORTS

## Medvedev battles past Medjedovic and into Rome last 16

DANIIL Medvedev continued his Rome title defence with Monday's hard-fought 7-6 (7/5), 2-6, 7-5 win over qualifier Hamad Medjedovic as the men's tournament was left wide open by big-name exits, the latest being fourth seed Andrey Rublev.

Russian Medvedev will face Tommy Paul in the last 16 at the Foro Italico on Tuesday after battling past Next Gen champion Medjedovic in a gruelling clash of big hitters.

The second seed has a great opportunity to win his first tournament of the year but will be drained by a match which pushed three hours in length and suggested that 20-year-old Medjedovic is a far superior player than his world ranking of 121.



Russia's Daniil Medvedev hits a return to Serbia's Hamad Medjedovic during the Men's ATP Rome Open tennis tournament at Foro Italico in Rome on 13 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP

"I'm not really pleased. I felt like I started the match well and then in a way it was only going downhill," said Medvedev.

"I'm happy that by not playing my best I could win and tomorrow I'm going to try to find my best tennis."

Rome is missing the world's top three men following Novak Djokovic's third-round elimination on Saturday, with Italian world number two Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz both with-

drawing ahead of the event.

And Russian Rublev, fresh from claiming the Madrid title, suffered a shock third-round defeat by French qualifier Alexandre Muller, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Sixth seed and reigning Monte Carlo champion Stefanos Tsitsipas is still in the fray after beating Briton Cameron Norrie in straight sets 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) but is concerned at the impact of a punishing schedule on the top players. — AFP

## Ma Long set for 4<sup>th</sup> Olympics with Chinese table tennis team roster announced

Ma Long, a legendary figure in Chinese table tennis with three team golds and two consecutive singles titles at the Olympics, is poised to compete in his fourth Olympic Games in Paris.

The Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA) announced its full squad for the Paris 2024 Olympics here on Tuesday, naming 35-year-old Ma for the men's team event, alongside Wang Chuqin and Fan Zhendong, who are currently the top two players in the world rankings. Liang Jingkun will serve as an alternate (P-card holder). Last week, the CTTA named Wang and Fan as the men's singles competitors for Paris, leaving fans disappointed that Ma would not have a chance to defend his singles crown.

On the women's side, Sun Yingsha and Chen Meng will represent China in the singles events. Wang Manyu has been selected for the team event, with Wang Yidi named as the alternate. — Xinhua

## Preview: Wednesday promises key survival battles in La Liga

WEDNESDAY is a key day for the future of three (and perhaps four) clubs battling to avoid relegation from La Liga.

The key game is in Seville, where third-from-bottom Cadiz, who currently occupy the final relegation spot, visit a Sevilla side with little more than pride to play for.

A 1-0 win at home to Las Palmas at the weekend kept Cadiz's survival chances alive and a win would take them to within just two points of Celta Vigo, who kick off their match at home to Athletic Club shortly after Cadiz's game ends.

If Cadiz can take all three points, it would put a lot of pressure on Celta against Athletic Club who have a mathematical chance of still finishing fourth.

Athletic welcome back defenders Yeray Alvarez and Aitor Paredes after suspension for the game, which comes 48 hours after the club bid an emotional 'goodbye' to captain Iker Muniain, who is leaving at the end of the season.

Rayo Vallecano are also in the relegation mix and go into their match at home to already-relegated Granada, with a six-point lead over Cadiz, meaning a win would almost certainly assure their survival thanks to a better goal difference than the side from the south coast.

Granada's relegation has been confirmed ahead of their 4-0 weekend defeat to Real Madrid, but Rayo shouldn't be overconfident after losing to relegated Almeria less than a fortnight ago.

Wednesday's final match is a Madrid derby between Getafe and Atletico Madrid, with Atletico travelling to the south of the city knowing a win would confirm their place in next season's Champions League. — Xinhua

## Barcelona beat Real Sociedad to move second

LAMINE Yamal and Raphinha struck to earn Barcelona a 2-0 win over Real Sociedad on Monday, taking their team second, a point above Catalan rivals Girona. Defeat is a setback to La Real's ambitions of playing Europa League football next season, leaving them seventh behind Real Betis, who won on

Sunday. Last season's champions Barcelona are playing for nothing but pride in the final weeks of a disappointing campaign, and finishing above high-flying minnows Girona is imperative to achieve even a modicum of that. Real Madrid sealed their title win at a canter after Barcelona were beaten 4-2

by Girona little over a week ago. Barca's brightest light Yamal opened the scoring after 40 minutes and Raphinha added a late penalty to seal the win.

"La Real are a great team, it's an important victory for us, we had a good game in general," Barca coach Xavi told Movistar. — AFP



Real Sociedad's Spanish goalkeeper (1) Alex Remiro deflects the ball during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Real Sociedad at the Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys in Barcelona on 13 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP



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# WORLD

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Monkeypox case detected in South Africa

THE South African Minister of Health Joe Phaahla on Monday urged the public to be vigilant as the country has reported a laboratory-confirmed case of monkeypox disease, also known as Mpox.

The National Department of Health headed by Phaahla said the case involves a 35-year-old male, who resides in the Gauteng province and tested positive on 9 May 2024. The patient had no recent history of travelling.

The case was first tested by Lancet Laboratory, one of the leading pathology laboratories in the country, and then confirmed by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), which then alerted the department.

"We urge the public to seek treatment as soon as they see symptoms of monkeypox," health department spokesperson Foster Mohale told Xinhua.

According to the department, Mpox is a rare viral infectious disease in humans caused by the monkeypox virus (MPXV). — Xinhua

### Several hospitals in Indian capital receive bomb threat

SEVERAL hospitals in the Indian capital territory Delhi Tuesday received bomb threat calls, prompting the administration to call the police, officials said. The threat received over emails claimed that explosives were planted on the hospital premises.

Police immediately swung into action and dispatched multiple bomb disposal squads to these hospitals to conduct massive searches. However, nothing suspicious was found.

"Thorough checking of the hospital premises is underway. Police and bomb squad are present here," VK Sharma, security in charge at Hedgewar Hospital told media. "We have tightened our security and intensified the checking." — Xinhua



PM Narendra Modi in Varanasi ahead of filing his Lok Sabha nomination on 14 May. PHOTO: ANI

## LS polls: PM Modi confident of victory, says will participate in G7 Summit after taking oath

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday exuded confidence in his party's win for a third successive time and said that he will participate in the G7 Summit next month following the declaration of results of the ongoing parliamentary elections.

The annual summit of the group of world's largest economies, is scheduled to be held this year in city of Puglia in Italy, which holds the Presidency for 2024. In April this year, PM Modi had accepted the invitation of his Italian counterpart, Georgia Meloni, to attend the G7 Summit Outreach Sessions from 13-15 June.

Ahead of filing nomination from his Lok Sabha

constituency of Varanasi, which he had won the previous two consecutive terms, PM Modi in an exclusive interview to India Today today said, "I've already received the invitation (for G7). I'm preparing for the summit. After the oath-taking ceremony, I'll go".

Earlier this year, PM Modi thanked Meloni for the G7 invite when he called to greet her on Italy's Liberation Day. External Affairs Ministry said a G7 invite had been received and that the matter was under consideration.

Results for the Lok Sabha Elections are scheduled to be declared on 4 June. — ANI



A man looks at a sample under a microscope at a laboratory during a commemoration of the International Day of Plant Health in Gaborone, Botswana, on 13 May 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

## FAO concerned about increasing use of pesticides

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Botswana expressed concern that the extensive use of pesticides to manage pests, weeds, and diseases may increase the risk of harming species essential to ecosystem health.

Speaking at the commemoration of the International Day of Plant

Health in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, on Monday, Lesedi Modo-Mmopelwa, assistant FAO representative, said up to 40 per cent of food crops are lost every year due to pests, weeds, and diseases. "This not only affects the economy but also seriously impacts the country's food and nutrition security, especially for vulnerable groups in

rural communities who are mostly dependent on agriculture."

According to Modo-Mmopelwa, climate change, and human activities are also harming plant health and destroying biodiversity while creating a favourable habitat for pests and diseases, causing them to arise in previously unseen areas. — Xinhua