

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## EEC Minister in Charge for Integration & Macroeconomics pays courtesy call on SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

**T**HE delegation led by Mr Sergei Glazev, member of the Board - Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission, paid a courtesy call on the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine, the Russian delegation members and officials from the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Myanmar.

During the meeting, Myanmar and EEC exchanged views on matters relating to the mutual export of goods, direct payment issues, technical cooperation in agricultural production, tourism sector development, direct flights, production of petroleum as high-grade finished products, cooperation in the textile industry, and collaboration in other sectors between Myanmar and the Eurasian Economic Commission.

After the meeting, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Mr Sergei Glazev, Eurasian Economic Commission, Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics, exchanged souvenirs and posed for the documentary photo. — MNA/TS



State Administration Council Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Mr Sergei Glazev, Eurasian Economic Commission and Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics exchange souvenirs yesterday.

## Chinese investments propel Myanmar's garment industry despite challenges

ACCORDING to Mr Sui Xigang, Vice-chair of the Chinese Business Association's Garment Industry branch in Myanmar, China primarily invests in Myanmar's CMP garment industry, which employs over 400,000 local workers.

As of the 2023-24 financial year, Myanmar hosts over 300 Chinese CMP garment factories, all registered with the Myanmar Investment Commission.

"The major investors in Myanmar's garment industry are China, Korea, Japan, and Myanmar. China contributes over 60 per cent of these investments, ensuring industry stability," Mr Sui Xigang stated. "Exports from Chinese CMP factories reached US\$3.5 billion in the last financial year. These factories not only produce quality goods but also contribute to the

development of skilled labour in Myanmar."

Together with the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, we showcased over 100 brands and companies from China, Europe, Japan, and South Korea at an exhibition featuring Made in Myanmar garments, shoes, hats, and travel bags, presenting Myanmar's quality products to the global market," added Mr Sui Xigang.

Despite challenges such as foreign currency control, electricity shortages, and fluctuating orders due to European and American sanctions, Myanmar's abundant young workforce, reasonable labour costs, and manufacturing capacity remain competitive advantages not only in Southeast Asia but also globally. — ASH/ TMT

### INTERVIEW

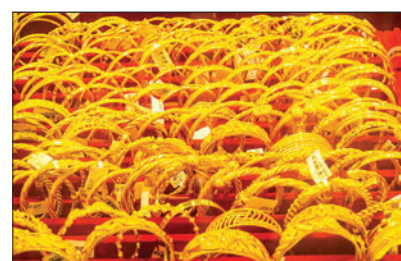
PAGE-5



C Max production industry for promoting State economy

### BUSINESS

PAGE-7



Domestic gold price hits record high on spot gold rally, kyat depreciation

# 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*

## 1,000 trees to be planted in Toungoo District for early monsoon environmental protection

WITH an aim to protect the environment, around 1,000 shady trees will be planted in Toungoo district starting from the early monsoon in 2024, according to the Save the Trees Environmental Protection Association.

From June, when it starts raining, they will plant trees in the vacant and virgin land around schools, monasteries and village treks, said an official from the association.

“We will grow trees in Toungoo district. We will start in June when it begins raining. We will mainly plant in the vacant areas of schools, monasteries, and villages, as well as along the sides of village roads. We plan to plant only about 1,000 trees that we can take care of their growth,” he said.

The objectives of this tree-planting campaign are to raise public awareness about environmental conservation, climate change and deforestation and to promote public appreciation of plants.

“We are focusing on developing self-awareness among people and children, and they all need to join in preserving and cultivating trees by themselves to conserve the environment and to protect against climate change rather than greening a large area with lots of plants.

Another point is to create a green and peaceful environment in the future with the help of the shade provided by the trees we grow,” he added.

Before COVID-19, they used to grow 2,000 to 6,000 trees a year. After a pause of a few years during the pandemic, they plan to resume the activity this year, which will also include maintenance and preservation schemes for the continued growth of existing live plants in public areas.

“Before, we used to grow at least 2,000 to 6,000 trees. We stopped in COVID-19. Since we are only going to start again this year, we won’t grow many plants. We will cultivate as many as we can to take care of their growth. Besides, we also have some plans to do, such as preserving the existing plants in public areas and objecting to the cutting down of trees. Cutting down one tree may not make a big difference, but if many people cut down trees, there will be fewer shady areas. Houses surrounded by the shade of trees and bamboo will be peaceful because trees can reduce the temperature to some extent. So, planting trees is not enough, and we also need to educate people not to destroy or cut down existing trees,” he said. — MT/ZN

## Ancient Mon-era pagodas in Yangon Region: Sapagan Pagoda stands out



The Sapagan Pagoda.

ACCORDING to the Twantay Township Cultural Heritage Trust, among the ancient Mon-era pagodas spread across Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyangon townships in Yangon Region, only the Sapagan Pagoda remains preserved in its original state.

U Saw Myint Swe, the central working executive of the trust, explained that Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyangon townships were

once home to ancient Mon cities. The principal pagoda, Twantay Shwesandaw, known as Kyaikkaytha in the Mon language, is accompanied by nine other pagodas from the same era. However, the Sapagan Pagoda is the sole pagoda preserved in its original form.

Dating back to approximately the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Sapagan Pagoda boasts a distinctive Mon-style brick structure in its architec-

tural design.

Situated along the Twantay-Kawhmu-Kungyangon road, the cluster of pagodas marks the route through which the eight strands of sacred relic hair were transported to the construction site of the Shwedagon Pagoda. Consequently, these pagodas are renowned as "Sandawkyo", meaning "ushers of the sacred relic hair." — ASH/NT



Some members of the Save the Trees Environmental Conservation Association seen growing trees.

## Libraries must be encouraged to educate people: SG

**O**PERATION of libraries must be encouraged for disseminating knowledge and information to the people, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

A ceremony to donate cash and books to libraries across the nation for their development took place at the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

In his speech, the Senior General disclosed that the Information and Public Relations Department currently runs 410 libraries at district and township levels in 801 towns across the nation, where more than 3,500 libraries are being operated by Myanmar Libraries Foundations, well-wishers and residents. Libraries must be facilitated with necessary infrastructures and books.

The Senior General stressed the need to uplift economic knowledge for the socioeconomic development of rural people by establishing libraries as the easiest way.

He continued that libraries



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the display of books at yesterday's event.

in Myanmar must conform to actual conditions.

With regard to knowledge of the people, the Senior General assessed that the 2019 interim census counted 46.463 million

people above five years old. Of them, 8.1 million people had not attended the schools at all, he added.

In sharing knowledge with the people, despite publishing State-owned and private newspapers, the senior general highlighted that these newspapers are less capable of reaching all parts of the nation and have fewer readers.

He added that newspapers are posted online so that people can read them as quickly as possible. Information and articles in the newspapers must really benefit the people with understandable presentations.

The Senior General request-

ed that all donate books and publications to libraries to share knowledge for the benefit of the nation. The Senior General and attendees watched a video clip on library sharing knowledge.

The Senior General accepted cash, books, and publications for the development of libraries, which union-level organizations, ministries, and well-wishers donated.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Ko Ko explained the donation of books and publications to libraries.

After the ceremony, the Senior General visited the e-library and reading room of the National Library and displays of books.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and council members, union-level dignitaries, union ministers, officials and well-wishers.

At the ceremony, Union-level organizations, ministries, regiments and units of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), departmental organizations and well-wishers donated K560,087,500 and 48,357 copies of fiction and non-fiction books. At the same time, region and state governments hosted donations of K343,058,900 and 18,278 books. So, total contributions amounted to K903,146,400 and 66,635 copies of books. — MNA/TTA

### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General in the book donation ceremony

- IPRD runs 410 libraries at district and township levels in 801 towns across the nation.
- Myanmar Libraries Foundations, well-wishers and residents run more than 3,500 libraries.
- The establishment of libraries is the easiest way to share economic knowledge for the socioeconomic development of rural people.
- Everybody needs to donate books and publications to libraries to share knowledge to benefit the nation.

## Regions & states host book distribution ceremonies

WITH the aim of developing libraries throughout Myanmar, donation and book distribution ceremonies were held yesterday in states and regions.

At the ceremony, the regional and state chief ministers gave speeches and accepted the donations and books donated by the donors. For the development of libraries throughout Myanmar,

the Kachin State Government and donors donated K10 million, while the Kayah State Government and donors donated K16.5 million and 200 books.

Kayin State government organizations and donors donated K10.055 million and 2,148 books, while Chin State government and donors donated K12.78 million, Sagaing regional government

and donors donated K81,216,100 and 2,230 books while Taninthayi region government and donors donated K22,810,000 and 647 books. The Bago Region government and donors donated K42.3 million and 3000 books, while the Magway Region government and donors donated 356 books and K32,390,000. The Mandalay Region government and donors

donated K20,810,000 and 4,008 books, while the Mon State government and donors donated K30 million and 500 books.

The Rakhine State government donated K11.9 million and 297 books, while Yangon Region government, organizations and donors donated K82,740,000 and 4,820 books. The Shan State government and donors donated

K42,411,580 and 2,035 books, and Ayeyawady Region government and donors donated K9,165,000 and 10,613 books.

Region and state chief ministers and officials accepted and returned certificates of honour to donors. After the ceremony, regional and state chief ministers and officials viewed the displayed books. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

## MoI marks 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Minister's Office

THE Ministry of Information's Minister's Office celebrated its ninth anniversary at its assembly hall yesterday, attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, along with Deputy Ministers U Ye Tint and Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun and other relevant officials.

The event kicked off with the screening of a documentary titled "Strong Cooperation, Minister's Office's Capability".

During his address, the Union Minister highlighted the ministry's primary duty of disseminating information, as well as its role in developing the motion picture, music, and literary sectors. He stressed the importance of thorough verification processes to combat fake news effectively.

Furthermore, he discussed



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn delivers a speech at the ninth anniversary ceremony of the Office of Ministry of Information yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

the People's Military Service Law and encouraged attendees

to share knowledge to address concerns arising from misinformation.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint

expressed gratitude for the hard work of the employees. At the same time, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun emphasized the minister's office's role in coordinating various ministry tasks and acknowledged the efforts of the staff.

Following the speeches, the Union minister and deputy ministers honoured outstanding employees from different departments with awards. A lucky draw was also held, offering cash prizes, followed by a photo session.

The Minister's Office oversees the management of Myanma Radio and Television, Information and Public Relations Department, Printing and Publishing Department, Media Development Department, and News and Periodicals Enterprise. — MNA/NT

### Counter-argument to false information

## Misleading news regarding Nay Pyi Taw employees disproved

THE Nation Voice media outlet reported that an officer of MRTV said that employees in Nay Pyi Taw were packing their belongings for an emergency without mentioning the name of that officer.

Regarding this news, it was verified and found that no Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) officer made such statements and no one made any phone calls or sent any phone messages to the director-general.



A screenshot of misinformation by The Nation Voice.

It has become evident that the subversive media outlet, The Nation Voice, is spreading fabricated and false news with the intention of undermining the upcoming Myanmar Traditional Thingyan festival in Nay Pyi Taw and disrupting the peace and joy of the public.

— MNA/TKO

## MoE Union Minister receives EEC Minister in Charge of Integration & Macroeconomics

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin met Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mr Sergei Glazev and his delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed various topics, including enhancing energy collaboration between Myanmar and member countries of the Eurasian Economic Commission, strategically constructing an oil refinery in Myanmar and distributing and selling petroleum products, importing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and exploring potential markets for selling LNG domestically and to regional countries,



Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin and Minister in Charge of Integration and Macroeconomics of the EEC Mr Sergei Glazev pose for the group documentary photo yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

research plans for increasing productivity of petroleum and natural gas in potential

blocks, and investment plans of Russian companies in the energy sector. — MNA/ TMT

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# INTERVIEW

## C Max production industry for promoting State economy

Interviewer - Thein Tun Aung



U Thiha Baw Zan, owner of C Max production industry in Paukgon ward of Mingaladon Township, gives an interview to Thein Tun Aung. **PHOTOS: HTAY LINN**

**T**HE State Administration Council is invigorating Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for the fortification of the export sector, leveraging the momentum of the thriving economic landscape. Mingaladon township in Yangon Region is an industrial zone with industries and factories improving the socioeconomic status. Here is an interview with U Thiha Baw Zan, owner of C Max production industry in Paukgon ward of Mingaladon Township.

**Q: When did you start producing commodities?**

**A:** I started the C Max business in October 2022, and now it is over one year. I mainly focus on marketing and distribution. The production is operated by my wife Daw Tin Moe Wai, and she operates the production processes using her own formula.

**Q: Where did you buy the raw materials for your business?**

**A:** We ordered Thai-made raw chemicals under a direct import system, but we have to make orders of bottles, pumps, logo and others from China.

**Q: How is the market situation?**

**A:** According to the current market situation, it is better than the previous year when we started operating. Here, imported shower cream, shampoo, and facial foam are costly, so the grassroots and middle-class people cannot afford them. Therefore, the transactions of our products, such as shower cream, shampoo and facial foam, especially detergent oil for washing clothes and dishes, are on the rise in the market.

**Q: How many products are you producing currently?**

**A:** Our C Max industry produces 11 types of soaps: five kinds of shower cream, three kinds of facial foam, rice water shampoo, detergent oil for washing dishes and laundry, and detergent-inspired fragrance oils.

**Q: How do you produce shower cream and facial foam?**

**A:** Among the shower creams, green apple and pearl jasmine shower creams contain Collagen. The original shower creams are magical orchid, blueberry and sakura. Although they do not contain Collagen, we use vitamin E, olive oil, and the best perfume to ensure the best fragrance for these five shower creams. We produce three kinds of facial foams: honey and turmeric foam, gold and cactus foam and muskmelon foam. The honey and turmeric foam is aimed at those with freckles, moles and dark spots from sunburn on the face. The gold and cactus form is very good at removing the dead cells on the face as it contains gold. The cactus helps hydrate the skin and tightens the face skin. The strange point about gold is that it slows down the ageing process. The muskmelon contains oil of Acacia concinna, the natural Collagen and so it can remove the wrinkles on the face. It can reduce the dead cells and prevent

aging to a certain extent. We mainly use all-natural ingredients for three facial cleansers.

**Q: How do you produce shampoo and detergent oil?**

**A:** The rice water shampoo is produced mainly based on the rice. The characteristics of rice are that it can reduce the hair loss and prevent dandruff formation. It is a natural product as it is also suitable for those with splits and those who



have to dye their hair frequently to prevent it from thinning hair. Our products can compete with foreign-made rice water shampoo in effectiveness, quality and fragrance. The dish detergent oil does not contain chemicals, so it is not harmful to people. It can be used for washing vegetables and crops. The prices will be very cheap when compared with the famous brands in the market. Nothing will be left while washing the steel and chinaware products. The cloth detergent oil is 3 in 1 product, and we do not need to use any

fragrance oil for laundry. It is very good at removing dirt and making foam. The scents are expected to stay on the clothes after washing and ironing. All the products we produce go well with any water.

**Q: How is your distribution process?**

**A:** In Yangon, there are retailers in the Mingaladon industrial zone, Kantalabaung, Htaukkyant, Thakayta and Shwepaukkan, such as Nay Pyi Taw and Myitkyina. For online shopping, City Mall Online runs 24/7 and distributes by a door-to-door system. Moreover, we distribute via Shop.com, our Facebook and C Max Facebook page.

**Q: Are the employees from this ward?**

**A:** Yes, they are. My wife, me and two locals of this ward, totalling four, run the operation normally.

**Q: What is the effect of this industry on the residents?**

**A:** The residents can use the CMax products at fairer prices. The employees can save on transport and meals, and they can also get job opportunities just in their hometown. It can also help them make ends meet for their family. We also open training courses occasionally and share knowledge to prevent facing occupational accidents.

**Q: What is the profit of your business?**

**A:** According to the current inventory, we do not face losses based on the annual statistics. We get proper profits. We can run the operation as usual using the initial capital amount without using extra money. Now, it has been over one year and five months.

**Q: What are the challenges of this business?**

**A:** The case we face when running this business is that the customers' trust in the locally produced products is low. On the other hand, we have no opportunity to display at the shopping centres. We will try hard to overcome such challenges gradually.

**Q: What are your expectations for your business?**

**A:** Currently, the business is running on a manageable scale. I intend to hand the business down to my generation. Now, we want to expand the business scale, and if the lab tests of products are successful, we will try hard to become a reliable industry that promotes the state economy.

*Translated by KTZH*



# NATIONAL

## Eye patients treated for 5<sup>th</sup> time at Sitagu Eye Hospital in Yangon



Patients with eye diseases receiving treating for the 5<sup>th</sup> time at Sitagu Eye Hospital.

FROM 1 to 5 April, experts performed surgeries for 313 patients with eye diseases at Sitagu Eye Hospital, located near the Bailey Bridge in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon.

Since the programme's

inception in January 1993, this marks the fifth time patients have received treatment at the hospital. Prior to this round, a total of 6,124 eye patients had been examined, with 1,681 undergoing surgery, and 119 receiving laser treatment. With

this latest session, the total number of surgeries performed has now surpassed 2,000.

Sitagu Sayadaw established approximately 50 eye hospitals nationwide, resulting in over 200,000 patients regaining their eyesight. — TWA/KZL

## Books, cash donated for library development across country



A donor from Yangon Region is seen donating books to libraries across the country.

THE Yangon Region Government held a ceremony on 10 April at the Mingala Hall of the

government office for the donation of books and cash to support the development of libraries across Myanmar.

The video clip titled "Towards the Development of Literature" was first shown. In his opening remark, the chief minister of Yangon Region said: "Literature is the soul of a race, and a race without literature is like a body without a soul. Races with flourishing literature can stand as dignified races. Developed and developing countries are constantly working to promote the development of literature and knowledge. The government is implementing a literacy project, as the literacy rate of rural people is poor. Literacy benefits not only individuals but also the social, economic, political, and cultural aspects of the community and the country. From literacy, we must develop the habit of reading literature".

Afterwards, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Htay Aung explained the development activities of libraries in the region, and donors donated cash and books. — TWA/TH

## Mandalay City Development Committee plans traditional walking Thingyan

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) has announced that the Mandalay Walking Thingyan will take place, showcasing traditional dressing styles from four different eras.

Participants of the Walking Thingyan will have the oppor-

tunity to take photos wearing attire representing each of the four eras.

The construction of 13 large water-play pavilions and 14 small pavilions has been approved for the Mandalay Thingyan Festival.

— TWA/TKO

## Shwedagon Pagoda witnesses surge in pilgrimage visitors



The 2,612<sup>th</sup> Buddha Pujaniya Festival in March.

ACCORDING to the pagoda trustee board, over 800,000 domestic and foreign pilgrims visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in March.

Pilgrimage numbers to the Shwedagon Pagoda have been notably higher on weekends and public holidays, with approximately 150 foreign pilgrims daily.

Among them are visitors from America, Europe, and Africa, with the majority coming from China, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The pagoda extended its opening hours for pilgrims from 5 am to 9 pm, effective from 1 January 2024, to facilitate peaceful paying of respects. — TWA/TKO

## Yangon faces power reduction due to gas pipeline maintenance

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) has announced a week-long decrease in power supply across Yangon. This reduction is necessary due to maintenance work on the natural gas pipelines of the Yadana offshore block.

According to YESC, repair work on the Yadana offshore natural gas pipelines, which supply

gas to power plants in Yangon Region, is scheduled from 10 to 17 April.

During the maintenance period, the capacity for power generation and transmission will be reduced. As a result, emergency load reduction measures will be put in place, leading to temporary power outages in some townships in Yangon. — TWA/MKKS

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# Domestic gold price hits record high on spot gold rally, kyat depreciation

THE domestic gold price rally extended, reaching a fresh peak of K4.84 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on 10 April as spot gold price hit a high of approximately US\$2,350 per ounce and kyat depreciated to K3,870 against a US dollar.

Despite the record-high gold price, the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the reference price at K3,997,900 per tical, showing a large gap of over K840,000 per tical with the actual market value.

YGEA notified on 30 March that inspections were underway against those allegedly manipulating the market through a verbal deal.

Seven big gold shops in Yangon issue daily market prices

three times a day. Nonetheless, those price speculators are attempting to raise the price by misleading price information that is not an actual transaction rate in the market. The YGEA condemned those unscrupulous traders and their dishonest acts. The YGEA asked its members to inform law enforcement agencies of the news regarding those manipulators.

The authorities are inspecting those alleged price speculators with the verbal deal in the market.

The CBM initiated an online trading market in which exporters/importers and private banks are engaged, with a view to developing the foreign exchange market and stopping price ma-



A sale person arranges the gold jewellery at a jewellery shop in Yangon. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

nipulation. The market exchange rates are officially announced on the online trading platform of the foreign currency market. Additionally, CBM let the authorized money changers sell the foreign currency as petty cash

to those studying abroad, going on a pilgrimage and working abroad, according to the CBM's notification on 30 March.

Some unscrupulous individuals are attempting to manipulate the market by spreading

misinformation from the verbal deal or sparking public concerns with malicious news about the volatile exchange rate. Some are also engaged in transactions without a valid licence, violating the existing laws.

They will face legal action under the Foreign Exchange Management Law. CBM also informed the people of accurate information and data released by the departments concerned and authorized money changers.

CBM constantly states that it is essential to dispel false news. Upon tips off, the authorities inspect the price speculators, and legal proceedings against them are officially declared, according to its notification released on 30 March. — NN/EM

# Black gram, pigeon pea prices shoot up on positive market sentiment



Samples of beans and pulses showed at a broker house.

THE prices of black grams and pigeon peas resurged on account of the bullish market.

The prices were registered at K3.015 million per tonne of black gram and K3.775 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 30 March and moved up to K3.174 million per tonne of black grams and K4.025 million per tonne of pigeon peas on 10 April. The figures reflected an increase of K159,000 per tonne for black grams and K250,000 for pigeon peas.

The price fluctuation is closely tied to the demand of the main buyer, India and the kyat-dollar exchange rate. The price hit a

record high of K3.5 million per tonne of black gram and K4.197 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 5 February 2024.

India also imports the black grams (urad) from Brazil and other countries. Yet, they prefer Myanmar's black grams on account of better quality and higher availability of supply. India extended the free import policy of black grams (urad) and pigeon peas (tur) up to March 2025.

Myanmar shipped over 1.7 million tonnes of various pulses worth US\$1.484 billion to foreign trade partners in the past financial year 2023-2024 (April-March),

the Ministry of Commerce stated. Myanmar mainly exports black grams, green grams, and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India, while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

India has growing consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that yearly quota. The Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association stated that black grams, which India primarily purchases, are commonly found only in Myanmar; whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. — NN/EM

# Myanmar ships around 80,000-tonne corn to 3 countries

MYANMAR exported about 80,000 tonnes of corn to three foreign countries on 8 April 2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

With Myanmar accelerating efforts to bolster exports for the State's economic growth, Myanmar sent 25,000 tonnes of corn to the Philippines by ship (MV Manta Hatice) through No 6 Sule Wharf, 12,700 tonnes to Thailand by ship (MV Tay Son 4) via TMT Port, 27,500 tonnes to India by ship (MV Seiyō Harmony) through Myanmar Industrial Port 2 and 2,700 tonnes to Thailand by ship (MV MCL 20) via MHM terminal on 8 April respectively.

Additionally, Myanmar delivered 621 containers loaded with fishery products, rice, pulses, clothes, forest products, sugar, sesame, corn, rubber and other goods to Malaysia by a ship (MV Maersu Davao) through Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa 1 and 533 containers with full loads of fishery products, rice, pulse, clothes, forest products, sugar, corn and rubber to Viet Nam by a ship (MV SITC Chenming) through Asia World Port Terminal on that day. A total of 12,000 tonnes of rice were also shipped to Spain and Cameroon by a ship MT Turan C through SPW 3 on 7 April as well.

Moreover, Myanmar exported 5,400 tonnes of corn each to Thailand by two ships (MV MCL 8 and MV MCL 7) through the MHM terminal on 9 April, and 6,600 tonnes of corn were scheduled to be exported to the Philippines by a ship (MV RAINBOW SYMPHONY) through AIPT-3 on 10 April.

Myanmar shipped over two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand, and the remaining went to China, India, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah, and Kayin states as well as Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons: winter, summer and monsoon. Myanmar's annual corn output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/EM

# OPINION

## Let's try to secure a win-win situation in society

**S**TRIVING for win-win outcomes in society is essential for collective progress and harmony. A win-win scenario, by definition, yields benefits for all involved parties. Failure to achieve this can lead to a lose-lose situation, where everyone suffers if the endeavour fails.

According to Wikipedia, a win-win situation arises from a collaborative negotiation approach focused on mutual gains and value creation. When both sides are content with the agreement, the likelihood of sustained success significantly increases. The Cambridge Dictionary further emphasizes that a win-win outcome is advantageous for everyone involved.

In Myanmar society, generosity holds transformative power and is capable of overcoming any challenge. While individuals typically aim for victories in all aspects of life, they may concede in certain situations to avoid losses. However, this reluctance to accept defeat prompts negotiations among multiple parties to secure favourable outcomes.

Analyzing win-win situations is imperative for parties in conflict. To achieve victory, they must seek optimal solutions, maintain flexibility and display genuine generosity throughout negotiations. This approach facilitates smoother processes and fosters mutual understanding.

Generosity becomes a catalyst for negotiation, easing challenges across various sectors. It enables parties to overcome obstacles and reach mutually beneficial agreements. Without prioritizing

win-win negotiations, parties may miss out on opportunities for collective success. Generosity plays a pivotal role in societal dynamics, promoting peace and prosperity. It mitigates losses and cultivates a culture of cooperation and goodwill among individuals.

Prioritizing the nature of generosity in pursuit of win-win outcomes is fundamental for societal advancement. Let's embrace generosity as a guiding principle, fostering collaboration and ensuring the well-being of all members of society.

But it is noticeable that everybody needs to avoid all acts of extremism, rigidity and inflexibility, and non-negotiable acts. Whenever anybody grasps aforesaid concepts, they will find it difficult to enjoy the fruits of a win-win situation, and they will fall into the miseries of a lose-lose situation. Hence, everybody has a chance to choose the proper options for all to shape their deserved futures.

As such, generosity is of great importance in the society. It can shape a peaceful and prosperous society. It can easily overcome all forms of loss. It can decorate society with smiles and happiness. So, the win-win situation based on generosity can let doves into the air as a sign of peace for all. Let's uphold generosity to secure a win-win situation in society.

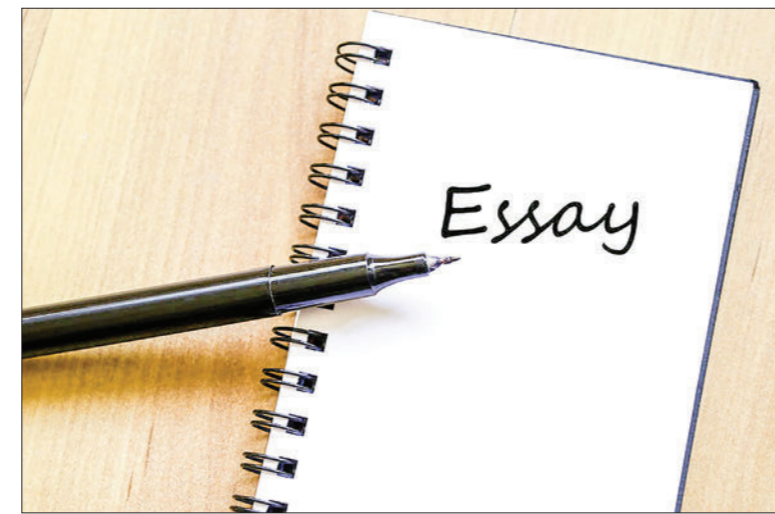
**E**DUCATION and tests go hand in hand very often. As always, tests play an essential role in formulating the education system of a nation. There are many types of tests in exam papers, such as placement tests, and the question items of these tests usually include at least one essay question. The essay tests represent a very flexible format that can potentially measure any skill that is accessible using other written test formats. This test is directly able to determine higher cognitive skills with the ability to communicate ideas in writing. The most notable characteristic of essay tests is the freedom of response they provide, that is to say, creating, organizing, integrating, and expressing the behaviours which call for the production and synthesis of ideas. The freedom of the response permitted by essay tests varies considerably from the range of giving a brief and precise response to determining the form and scope of the answer. Hence, essay tests are subdivided into two types:

- a) Restricted-response questions  
For example, Describe the reading strategies of a book.
- b) Extended-response questions  
For instance, Write an essay on 'Books for All'.

## Rules and Regulations Governing Essay Tests

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

In the restricted-response item of the essay question, the student is more limited and told specifically the context that his answer is to take. The boundaries of the subject matter to be considered are commonly narrowly



defined by the problem, also indicated by such words as 'List', 'Define', and 'Give reasons'. Such questions can be prepared more easily, related more directly to specific learning outcomes at

the comprehension, application or analysis levels and scored very quickly. However, they provide little opportunity for the student to show his ability to organize, integrate and develop essentially new patterns of response. These

are of relatively little value for measuring outcomes at the synthesis and evaluation levels. However, in the extended-response item of the essay question, virtually no bounds

are placed on the student as to the points for discussion and the type of organization in use. The student must be given sufficient freedom to demonstrate the skills of synthesis and evaluation. Those questions allow the student to express his ability to call upon and evaluate factual knowledge as well as organize and present his ideas in a logical, coherent fashion. On the other hand, their biggest problem is to evaluate the answers with sufficient reliability to give a useful meaning to learning.

Essay tests have both advantages and limitations over question items written in other formats. Essay tests allow for direct measurement of more types of skills, examine the student's ability to communicate ideas in writing and require the student to supply the response instead of selecting the responses provided by the item. In spite of this, essay tests offer a less adequate sampling of the content and limited course coverage, as usual. Their

scoring is less reliable in that due to the subjective aspect of marking essay tests, scores assigned to a given set of students' responses are often inconsistent. Essay tests are also a consuming task to score. Even if fairly detailed scoring procedures are followed, and student's responses are graded by more than one reader, the amount of time required for scoring essay tests will increase further. Compared with objective tests, essay tests are inefficient for knowledge outcomes. The preparation of good items in essay tests is difficult. Not only their scoring but also their writing ability in one's own ideas is no easy task, where bluffing is made possible rather than guessing.

Consequently, when constructing essay questions, use questions to measure complex learning outcomes only; relate questions as directly as possible to the learning outcomes being measured; formulate questions that present a clear task to the

student; do not permit students a choice among optional questions unless the learning outcomes require it; provide ample time for answering, suggesting a time limit in each question; use a relatively large number of questions requiring short answers rather than just a few questions involving long answers; adapt the length of the response as well as the complexity of the question and answer to the maturity level of the student; use the novel type of question whenever feasible; write a model answer as well as prepare a scoring key to the question; and decide in advance what factors will be considered in evaluating an essay question.

In order to minimize the subjectivity of scoring essay tests, evaluate the answer to essay questions in terms of the learning outcomes being measured; score restricted-response answers by the point method using a model answer as a guide; grade extended-response answers by the rating method, using the defined criterion as a guide; evaluate all of the students' answers to one question before proceeding to next question; evaluate answers to essay questions without knowing the identity of the writer; whenever possible have two or more persons to grade each other; and finally, use the analytical method or the global method for scoring essay questions.

# ARTICLE POEM

## A Stalk of Padauk Flowers

By Chit Ko Pe



Here comes the Thingyan festival in mid-summer! At treetops are full blooms of Padauk flowers following a faithful routine to be once a year.

A stalk of the flowers is presented by my dear, inserted in a book and kept safer with deep-hearted love forever.

### ပိတောက်ပန်း တစ်ခက်

နေ့အလယ် သင်္ကြန်ရောက်ပေါ့ ပိတောက်ပန်း ဖူးပွင့်လွှာ ပင်ထက်ဝေဖြာ။ တစ်နှစ်တစ်ကြိမ်သာ သစ္စာတည်မလွဲ။ သူ့လက်ဆောင် ပန်းတစ်ခက်ကို တစ်သက်တိုင် စောအုပ်ကြားမှာ သိမ်းထားချစ်စွဲ။ ။ ချစ်ကိုပေ

## Dignified Padauk Flowers

By Mya Thae (Research)

Yellowish, fragrant Padauk flowers are winning. It can also bloom by rain falling.

It waits for rain from tree eagerly, Even when drizzle falls, it can bloom sweetly.

Likewise, a virgin will not tell her love. You hide your love in your heart.

Till whom you love will propose you so much.



Thus, you will be dignified and precious virgin like padauk flowers.

## Asian film festival welcomes week of Chinese works

Festival founder Sophia Wong Boccio praised Shu Qi's portrayal of an ordinary cane farmer's wife. Director Chen noted the film's use of oriental imagery to evoke the region's atmosphere.

THE ongoing Asian Pop-Up Cinema film festival will screen four Chinese films either at theaters in downtown Chicago or online nationwide in the week starting Monday.

Set in a southern cane village, the centerpiece Good Autumn, Mommy, directed by Chen Shizhong, tells the journey of awakening to find her family and herself of a woman, whose newborn daughter disappeared without a trace.

Founder of the festival Sophia Wong Boccio told Xinhua she was "especially impressed" to see that

famous and award-winning Shu Qi had chosen to "perform an ordinary cane farmer's wife in the southern part of China".

The story "uses images with oriental temperament to create a unique atmosphere of the region and the age," said Chen, the director.

To be shown at the AMC NEWCITY 14 theatre in Chicago on 14 April, the movie has been honored with the Outstanding Artistic Achievement award at the 25th Shanghai International Film Festival in 2023.

The other three films each



One highlight is "Good Autumn, Mommy," directed by Chen Shizhong, set in a southern cane village. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ASIANPOPUPCINEMA.ORG

tell a contemporary story in China.

The Fallen Bridge, a crime drama directed by Li Yu, examines the role of law and the emotional and moral dilemmas of victims who go great lengths for justice.

The Cord of Life by Qiao Sixue depicts a mother with Alzheimer's and her caregiver son, who ties her to him with a rope, and their effort in searching for the "home" she yearns for in the grassland of Inner Mongolia.

The Coffin Painter by Da Fei tells a cross-generational friend-

ship between two strangers who are drawn to each other via the challenges they each face in their lives.

"There are a lot of hidden gems and moving stories in China that need to be shared with a wider audience," said Boccio, who selected these four out of 20 Chinese films.

During the festival's 18th season from 20 March to 21 April, each week features a different region in Asia, with films screened offline in downtown Chicago and available for streaming.

SOURCE: Xinhua

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# NATIONAL



The meeting between the Ministry of Commerce and EEC Minister in Charge for Integration and Macroeconomics in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

## Union MoC Minister receives EEC Minister in Charge for Integration & Macroeconomics

UNION Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn received the delegation led by Mr Sergei Glazev, member of the Board-Minister in charge for Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic

Commission, at the ministry yesterday.

They had a friendly and open discussion on Myanmar's main exports, such as garments, shoes and bags of CMP products, export of agricultur-

al products to European and Asian countries, mutual trade cooperation, the identification of trade potentials between the two countries and close collaboration. — MNA/TS

## Chinese foundation donates sports equipment to schools in Myanmar

THE China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) and Myanmar Chinese Cooperation and Communication Centre donated sports equipment to five basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday as part of the "Silk Road People to People Connectivity Care for the Future" programme.

During the donation event, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Myint Soe said that the donation of sports equipment and stationaries to the basic education schools by the CFPD is beneficial for the students and also a supportive measure to develop the five essential capacities, especially for physical growth.

He then expressed gratitude to CFPD for the donation and pledged to use the materials effectively.

CFPD Myanmar office's in-charge Mr Wang Lei, explained the donation, and the Senior President of Myanmar Chinese Cooperation and Communication Centre and Chairman of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Thitsa (aka) Mr Li Bo Bo handed over the sports equipment and Swemyo Pauk-Phaw magazines to the relevant officials.

Dr Soe Myint Tun, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Basic Education, gave certificates of honour to the donors in return. — MNA/KTZH



Officials observe the sports equipment and Swemyo Pauk-Phaw magazines during the donation event of the "Silk Road People to People Connectivity Care for the Future" programme.

## 190+ Myanmar workers sent to Korea via EPS system on 9 April

THROUGH the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), 193 EPS Myanmar workers were sent to the Republic of Korea on 9 April, according to the Myanmar Embassy in the Republic of Korea.

Of 193 workers, 172 are new manufacturing workers, and 21 are construction workers. Myanmar workers arrived at Incheon International Airport on Myanmar National Airlines UB 8301 (charter flight), and the labour attaché in Seoul welcomed them. He instructed them on what they needed to follow and provided necessary

assistance.

Myanmar workers have been dispatched to the Republic of Korea under the EPS system via POEA. A total of 862 EPS workers were sent in March, and a total of 1,333 EPS workers were dispatched in February under E-9 visas.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> TOPIK Test, the 7<sup>th</sup> marking employment system, which will be held in 2024, recruitment of Myanmar workers will be extended in the Republic of Korea's service industry, and both males and females are eligible to join the test. — MT/ZS

## Continued efforts to sustain upward momentum in export

THE Ministry of Commerce and UMFCCI (Union of My-

anmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Indus-

try) jointly exported 74,500 tonnes of corn seeds by five ships via Sule jetty, The Myanmar Terminal (TMT), formally called Bo Aung Kyaw jetty, MIP2 jetty, MHM jetty and AIPT3 yesterday.

Similarly, marine products, rice, beans, garments, forest products, sugar, sesame, corn, rubber, and general items, were exported via the Asia World Port Terminal on the same day.

On 13 April, 5,400 tonnes of corn seeds will be exported by two vessels via the MHM jetty, while 14,500 tonnes via the Yangon International Gateway Terminal (YIGT) on 15 April. — MNA/KTZH



Loading process of container is being seen at container ship at port of Yangon.

# NATIONAL

## Forecast: Strong winds, hail for central, upper Myanmar

U Hla Tun, director of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, advised the public to be aware of strong winds and hails in central and upper Myanmar.

According to the weather forecast, hailstorms and strong winds can happen in April after Thingyan and early May in central and upper Myanmar.

Some incidents have occurred this month, causing damage in some areas.

“The areas to be aware of cover the whole country. People in central and upper Myanmar especially should be careful. Cumulonimbus clouds are strong at this time. After being hot for the whole day, cumulonimbus clouds form from evaporated clouds. It is likely to happen in the evening as the main cause

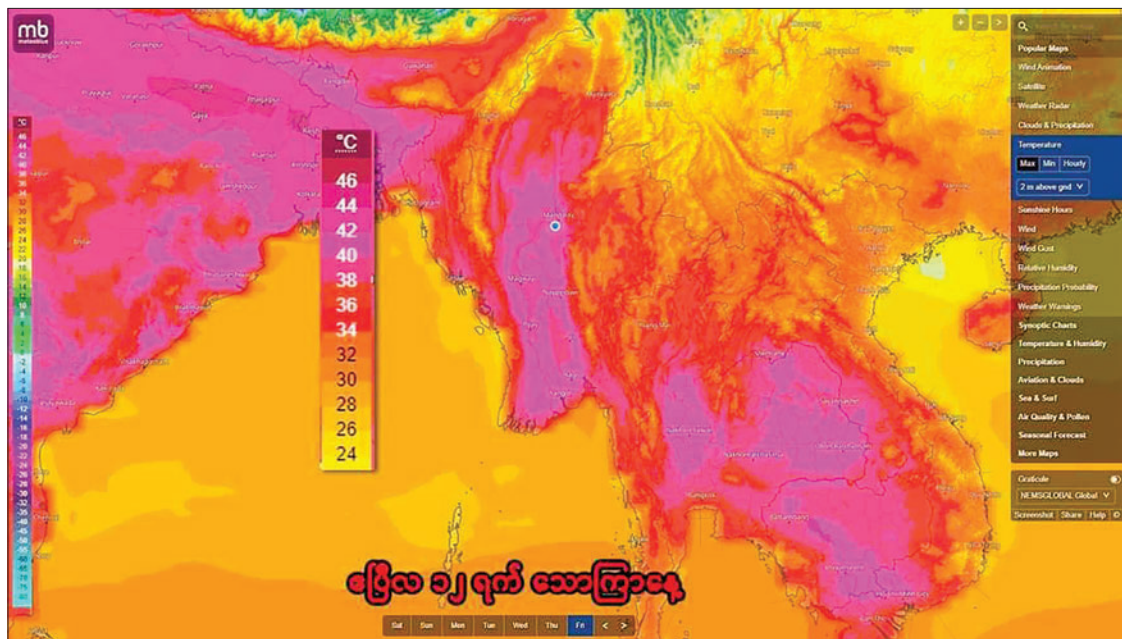


Image showing daytime temperature outlook for 12 April.

is overheating. It is during April and May. When the water vapour

concentration is high, cumulonimbus is strong, and it happens

in early May after Thingyan,” said U Hla Tun.

Daytime temperatures across Myanmar are forecast to gradually rise during the summer months of March, April and May. Moreover, under El Niño conditions, thundershowers accompanied by strong winds, hails, thunder and lightning are likely to occur in the afternoon or evening due to the convective cloud as daytime temperatures gradually rise across the country.

Since difficulties in agricultural and drinking water may arise along with hot weather and El Niño impacts, people reportedly need to follow the warnings by relevant authorities to use agricultural water efficiently, to use a short-duration, high-yield rice variety, and to select and cultivate a high-yield rice variety with low water requirements. — Thit Taw/ZN

## YBS drivers facing effective discipline measures

YBS drivers who broke the rules will be punished effectively, said Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang.

Over three months, from 1 January to 31 March this year, there were 18,424 cases in which YBS drivers broke rules. Of these cases, 16,602 were recorded as arrests, 229 as complaints, 58 as running red lights, 901 as exceeding the speed limit, 165 as driving not in compliance with the restricted route, 100 as driving irresponsibly, 80 as other cases, 86 as long stops, 189 as overtaking, one case as unethical behavior and two as complaints via complaint centre’s Viber.

“By nine teams, YRTC has

conducted recorded arrests against undisciplined drivers, and there were a total of 16,602 cases that we arrested over three months. Arrests aim to encourage YBS drivers to drive safely,” he said.

YRTC has educated drivers who were arrested for breaking the rules twice a month not to drive breaking the rules again. But stringent penalties will be followed if they continue breaking rules, he warned.

In 2023, there were 35 fatalities and 117 injuries in YBS bus accidents in Yangon. From January to 3 April this year, there were 13 fatalities and 32 injuries in YBS bus accidents, according to YRTC. — MT/ZS



A YBS bus collided with a lorry parked in Thakayta township in Yangon in April 2023.

## 100+ donors raise K19M for Pyinmana Sangha Hospital’s kidney patients in March

MORE than 100 well-wishers donated more than K19 million to the Pyinmana Sangha Hospital’s renal department in March. Dr Than Min Htut, praised as the lantern of Pindaya, posted on his Facebook page.

With the donation of K19,818,000 from 109 donors, the renal department of Pyinmana Sangha Hospital conducted 577 dialysis treatments for 92 patients, including helping the poorest to receive free dialysis treatment depending on the availability of funds, the doctor said.

A kidney patient has to undergo dialysis eight times a month, twice a week, at a cost of K110,000 per session, which comes to K440,000 per month.

“A kidney patient has to undergo dialysis twice a week. So, eight times a month. The dialysis equipment and supplies alone cost K55,000 each time. A patient



Kidney patients receiving treatment at Pyinmana Sangha Hospital. PHOTO:THAN MIN HTUT

costs K440,000 every month. This amount is a huge burden for people who live from hand to mouth, teachers, office clerks, hawkers, and Oway taxi drivers. I want to thank all the donors who are helping to ease their burden. During March, 109 donors contribut-

ed K19,818,000,” he said.

Patients who need dialysis are those who have kidney failure, which means they cannot urinate, and if they go for two or three days without urinating, their whole body swells up, and they have difficulty breathing. — MT/ZN

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Japan wholesale prices up 2.3% in FY 2023, 1<sup>st</sup> slowdown in 3 years

This deceleration, from a 9.5 per cent surge in fiscal 2022, was attributed to government efforts to reduce energy costs and the end of the BOJ's unconventional monetary easing measures in March.



Costco Wholesale operates several stores in Japan. These stores offer a wide range of products, similar to other Costco locations worldwide, including groceries, electronics, household items, and more. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

WHOLESALE inflation slowed for the first time in three years in fiscal 2023 through March, due largely to government efforts to cut energy costs, with prices of goods traded between companies rising 2.3 per cent from a year ago, the Bank of Japan said Wednesday.

The slowdown from a record 9.5 per cent surge in fiscal

2022 came as the BOJ ended its unorthodox monetary easing steps in March after it grew more confident about stable inflation in Japan on the back of a positive cycle of pay and price hikes.

The corporate goods price index came to 119.9, the highest since comparable data became available in 1980.

Wholesale prices affect consumer prices with a lag. The BOJ has said its attainment of two per cent inflation in a "stable and sustainable" manner has come into view.

For March, wholesale prices rose 0.8 per cent from the same month a year earlier, accelerating for the second straight month. — Kyodo

## China to lift foreign ownership limit in value-added telecom services in pilot areas

These services encompass internet data centers, content delivery networks, and internet service providers. The pilot areas include Beijing, Shanghai, Hainan, and Shenzhen.

CHINA will remove foreign ownership restrictions on some value-added telecom services in pilot areas, according to a circular released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Wednesday.

The value-added telecom

services will include internet data centers, content delivery networks and internet service providers, among others, according to the circular.

The pilot areas are located in Beijing, Shanghai, Hainan and Shenzhen. — Xinhua



A staff member introduces the commuting system applying big data technology at a data centre of China Mobile in southwest China's Guizhou Province, 24 May 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/OU DONGQU**

## German group mulls remote-controlled ships to fix skipper shortage



HGK Shipping, based in the German port of Duisburg, is testing a plan to navigate its vessels remotely from a control centre on land. **PHOTO: AFP**

WITH the flow of new recruits into the seafaring sector drying up, a German company is exploring a potentially revolutionary measure — sending ships off without a captain on board.

HGK Shipping, based in the German port of Duisburg, is testing remote navigation from a control centre on land.

Driverless vessels are "the only solution to survive as an industry", HGK boss Steffen Bauer told AFP.

The average captain's age on HGK's 350 vessels is around 55, said Bauer, whose company

claims to be the leading river cargo operator in Europe.

"If we do nothing, we'll lose 30 per cent of our sailors by 2030," he said.

In search of a solution, HGK has signed a partnership agreement with the Belgian start-up Seafar, a leader in the emerging field of autonomous navigation. Founded in 2019, Seafar already operates four pilotless vessels in Belgium and has just opened an office in Germany, which represents 30 per cent of Europe's inland shipping. — AFP

## Afghanistan ranks 178<sup>th</sup> on women's economic participation in World Bank report

AMID global concerns over the denial of basic rights to women and girls in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, the World Bank, in its latest report, stated that the country ranks a lowly 178<sup>th</sup> when it comes to the participation of women in economic pursuits. State news agency Khaama Press stated that the 182-page report recently published by the World Bank assessed and ranked 190 countries on the singular yardstick of women's economic participation. — ANI

## Foreign luxury retailers to further expand India's retail leasing market

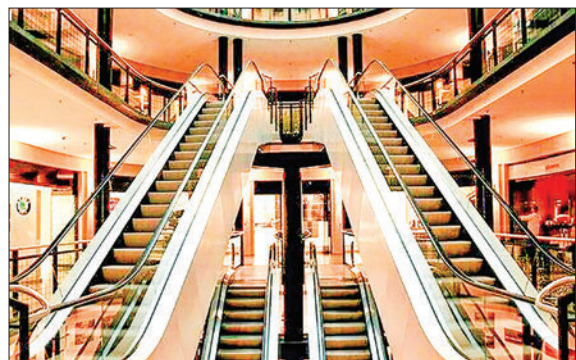
INDIA'S retail leasing market is expected to reach between 6 – 6.5 million square feet in 2024, driven mainly by primary leasing activities while the foreign luxury retailers are also entering in India, according to a recent report

Highlighting the stable supply environment in the retail sector, the 2024 India Market Outlook by CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd, underscores the completion of several high-quality mall developments.

By the end of the year, an estimated 5-6 million square feet of

investment-grade mall space is anticipated to become operational in tier-I cities of India.

Notably, the home decor segment is anticipated to witness growth in both online and offline formats. Additionally, fashion and apparel players are poised to expand their presence in tier-I cities across malls and high streets. The report also notes the expected expansion of domestic jewellery brands and the rising interest of consumers in the entertainment category, potentially leading to increased leasing activity. — ANI



According to CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd's 2024 India Market Outlook report, stable supply conditions are emphasized, with completion of high-quality mall developments. **PHOTO: ANI**

## Maruti Suzuki raises prices of Swift, Grand Vitara

MARUTI Suzuki has increased the prices of its highest-selling car Swift and selected variants of the Grand Vitara with effect from 10 April stated a release by the company.

According to the company's announcement, the prices of Swift have been increased by up to Rs 25,000, while the Sigma variant of the Grand Vitara witnessed an increase of Rs 19,000.

This is the second time Maruti Suzuki has hiked the price of its cars. Earlier in January also the company has increased the prices. The company statement has not specified any reason for the price hike.

Maruti Suzuki holds over 43 per cent market share in the passenger vehicle segment in India. According to Nomura's report, in the four-wheeler segment, market leader Maruti Suzuki's domestic sales registered a YoY 15 per cent growth to reach at 153K in March 2024, excluding the light commercial vehicles. — ANI

## China's auto sales up 10.6% in Q1

Notably, the production and sales of new-energy vehicles (NEVs) maintained rapid growth momentum, with NEV output surging by 28.2 per cent year on year to nearly 2.12 million units, and NEV sales climbing by 31.8 per cent year on year to 2.09 million units.

CHINA'S auto sales rose 10.6 per cent year on year to 6.72 million units in the first quarter of this year, data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers showed Wednesday.

In March alone, auto sales exceeded 2.69 million units, up 9.9 per cent year on year. In the first quarter, auto output increased 6.4 per cent year on year to about 6.61 million units.

The data showed that the production and sales of new-energy vehicles (NEVs) maintained rapid momentum during the period. The NEV output surged 28.2 per cent year



This photo taken on 25 March 2024 shows Xiaomi's new energy vehicle model SU7 at a plant of Xiaomi in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: PENG ZIYANG/XINHUA**

on year to nearly 2.12 million units and NEV sales climbed 31.8 per

cent year on year to 2.09 million units. The auto exports rose 33.2 per cent

year on year to over 1.32 million units, the data showed. — Xinhua

## Seven & i to list Ito-Yokado supermarket business in growth drive

SEVEN & i Holdings Co said Wednesday it will spin off and list its Ito-Yokado supermarket operations as early as fiscal 2027 as part of efforts to drive the struggling business's growth by leveraging external capital.

The spinoff will allow

Seven & i to focus its resources on its cash cow Seven-Eleven convenience store business. The Japanese retail giant, which bought the US convenience store chain Speedway LLC in 2021, is considering more acquisitions in North Amer-

ica, it said.

"We have concluded that it is best (for the supermarket business) to be able to make investments for its growth on its own," Seven & i President Ryuichi Isaka told reporters in Tokyo.

Seven & i will contin-

ue to hold a stake in the unit even after the share sale and will maintain collaboration between the supermarket and the convenience store businesses in the area of food development, it said.

— Kyodo

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (412W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (412W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE.,LTD.**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.022N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (V.022N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-4-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Microsoft offers cybersecurity cooperation in meeting with Kishida

*Kishida emphasizes the importance of collaboration with global firms like Microsoft for Japan's development, particularly in advancing AI technology.*



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (2<sup>nd</sup> from L) and Microsoft Corp President Brad Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> from R) meet in Washington on 9 April 2024. **PHOTO: POOL PHOTO / KYODO**

MICROSOFT Corp on Tuesday offered its cooperation to Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in areas such as the enhanced use of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity

as part of its \$2.9 billion investment in the country, the Japanese government said.

Microsoft President Brad Smith revealed the company's largest-ever investment

in Japan, which also includes upgrading its data centres and plans to boost cloud computing, during a meeting with Kishida in Washington.

Kishida told Smith that it is important for Japanese companies to work together with global firms such as Microsoft, expressing hope that the US technology giant will continue to help boost the development of AI in the Asian nation, the government added.

Microsoft is planning to open a research base in Tokyo, its first in Japan, in a bid to promote research in the fields of AI and robotics, company sources said, adding it will also upgrade equipment at its data centres in the country by introducing advanced semiconductors. — Kyodo

## Iran capable of closing Strait of Hormuz but won't do so: IRGC commander

IRAN can close the Strait of Hormuz if necessary, but it won't do so, said Alireza Tangsiri, commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) naval forces, on Tuesday.

"If we want, we could close this waterway, but we do not do that... It is because as long as we use this waterway and this strait, our neighbours should use it as well," Tangsiri said in an interview with Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen TV channel.

In the meantime, he described the presence of Israel in the neighbouring country,

which also sits on the strait, as a threat to Tehran, stressing the security of the region and the Strait of Hormuz is a common responsibility.

The IRGC Navy chief also referred to the presence of the United States in the Gulf and the Sea of Oman as a critical concern for Iran and neighbouring countries, stressing that their security is interconnected.

He noted that the IRGC Navy "constantly monitors the US movements, actions, and behavior" to defend the facilities in the waters. — Xinhua



Soldiers are seen on a military speed boat during Iranian naval manoeuvres dubbed Velayat 90 on the Sea of Oman, Iran, 28 December 2011.

## Nepal: Thousands of pro-monarchy protesters clash with police, demand reinstatement of monarchy



Pro-monarchy protesters, organized by the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), clashed with police after breaking into a restricted zone in the capital. **PHOTO: ANI**

*The RPP, a right-wing pro-monarchist group, had called for the protest, with thousands marching and calling for the end of the republic and the reinstatement of monarchy.*

DOZENS of pro-monarchy protesters were injured when they broke into a restricted zone, tearing down the barricades, prompting police to use batons, tear gas and water cannons.

The protest called by the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), a right-wing pro-monarchist group, turned violent as soon as they broke into the restricted zone. Thousands of its cadres and pro-monarchy supporters had marched in the capital, raising slogans and blowing the conch,

praying for the end of the republic and the reinstatement of monarchy.

A major section of the road that works as a lifeline of Kathmandu's traffic came to a standstill as they took the road and marched towards Singha Durbar, the administrative capital of the Himalayan nation. Local authorities have been extending the prohibitory order for the area, resulting in frequent clashes during demonstrations that are held occasionally in the capital. — ANI

# SPORTS

## 3 Myanmar referees invited to serve in FIFA's international competitions

THE Myanmar Football Federation has announced that three referees from the MFF have been invited to serve as referees in FIFA international competitions.

Three referees from the federation – referee U Hla Min, referee Daw Thein Thein Aye and assistant referee Daw May Thet Phyu – were invited to attend the FIFA Regional Instructors Course 2024 to be held by FIFA and attend the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Indonesia 2024 tournament.

Two Myanmar referees U Hla Min and Daw Thein Thein Aye have been invited to attend the FIFA Regional Instructors



Three Myanmar referees who will be responsible for FIFA.

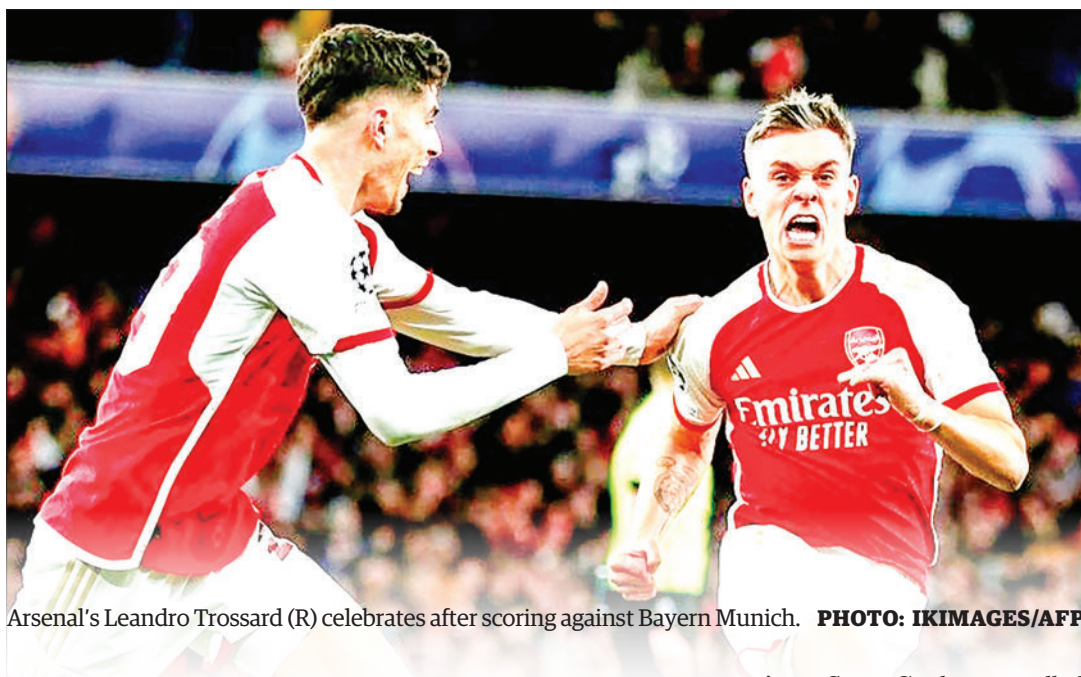
Course 2024 to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 6 to 19 May.

In addition, assistant referee Daw May Thet Phyu has

been assigned to the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Indonesia 2024, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 6 to 19 May. — TWA/KZL



## Arteta urges Arsenal to learn from mistakes in Bayern showdown



Arsenal's Leandro Trossard (R) celebrates after scoring against Bayern Munich. PHOTO: IKIMAGES/AFP

Harry Kane, Arsenal's former tormentor-in-chief, scored a penalty for Bayern, while Serge Gnabry equalized after Bukayo Saka's early goal for Arsenal.

MIKEL Arteta has warned Arsenal to learn from their costly mistakes in Tuesday's dramatic 2-2 draw against Bayern Munich if they want to reach the Champions League semi-finals.

Arteta's side ensured their quarter-final clash remains finely balanced thanks to Leandro Trossard's late equalizer in the first leg at the Emirates Sta-

dium.

Arsenal's old tormentor-in-chief Harry Kane had ignored a hostile reception from Gunners fans to mark his return to north London with the ice-cool penalty that put Bayern 2-1 up in the first half.

Former Tottenham striker Kane's sixth career goal at the Emirates came after ex-Arsenal

winger Serge Gnabry cancelled out Bukayo Saka's early opener for the Gunners.

It was a frustrating evening for Arsenal, who looked hesitant at times in their first Champions League quarter-final since 2010.

The Premier League leaders have been in red-hot form in 2024, while Bayern have stumbled through a crisis-torn campaign.

But Arsenal's status as favourites to advance to the last four was undone by some uncharacteristically sloppy defending. — AFP

## Real Madrid and Manchester City share six goals

Kevin de Bruyne was a surprise absentee from Manchester City's starting lineup due to illness, joining injured defenders Kyle Walker and Nathan Ake on the sidelines. Goalkeeper Stefan Ortega started in place of the fit-again Ederson.

REAL Madrid and Manchester City drew a fascinating and thrilling game of football 3-3 on Tuesday in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal clash.

Both sides led - Manchester City twice - but despite surrendering their advantage, maybe Pep Guardiola's side will be the happier of the two teams after surviving a caldron atmosphere in the Santiago Bernabeu Sta-

dium without three key players.

There was a big surprise in the Manchester City starting 11, with Kevin de Bruyne on the substitutes' bench, while Stefan Ortega was given the nod ahead of fit-again Ederson in goal.

Guardiola revealed before kick-off that De Bruyne has been sick and vomiting and the Belgian joined injured defenders Kyle Walker and Nathan Ake on the sidelines. — Xinhua



Real Madrid's Rodrygo (3<sup>rd</sup> R) and Eduardo Camavinga (2<sup>nd</sup> R) celebrate a goal during the UEFA Champions League quarterfinal 1<sup>st</sup> Leg match between Real Madrid and Manchester City in Madrid, 9 April 2024. PHOTO: GUSTAVO VALIENTE/XINHUA



## Chinese satellite deploys pioneering 3D-printed storage tank

**T**HE cold propulsion system on Tiandu-2, a communication and navigation technology test satellite, is working well, marking the first in-orbit application of a 3D-printed storage tank in China, according to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

The cold propulsion system recently provided high-precision orbital attitude control for the satellite during lunar orbit, marking the first successful application of the liquid ammonia cold air micro-propulsion system in the field of deep-space exploration.

The storage tank is an important component of satellite propulsion systems. As a pressure component, it requires not only high precision of forming and no leakage, but also good anti-fatigue performance, allowing for repeated fuel filling and discharge.

The development team from the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation has mastered a number of key technologies to connect the components inside the storage box through 3D printing, which has greatly shortened the development cycle and effectively reduced the cost.

On 20 March, China launched the new relay satellite Queqiao-2 and two communication and navigation technology test satellites Tiandu-1 and Tiandu-2. — Xinhua

*The system facilitated precise orbital attitude control during lunar orbit, marking a milestone in deep-space exploration. The storage tank, crucial for satellite propulsion, demands high precision, leak-proofing, and anti-fatigue capabilities for repeated fuel cycles.*



A Long March-8 rocket, carrying the relay satellite Queqiao-2 for Earth-Moon communications, blasts off at the Wenchang Space Launch Centre in south China's Hainan Province, 20 March 2024. PHOTO: PU XIAOXU/XINHUA

## World faced hottest March ever: EU climate agency

THE world experienced the hottest March ever, making it the tenth month in a row that is the warmest on record, the

European Union climate agency said on Tuesday.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said that the average surface air temperature was 14.14 degrees Celsius globally which was 0.73 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average for March and 0.10 degrees Celsius above the previous high set in March 2016.

Moreover, the global average temperature is also the highest on record, with the past 12 months being 1.58 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The global average temperature for the past twelve months (April 2023 – March 2024) is the highest on record, at 0.70°C

above the 1991-2020 average and 1.58°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.

Samantha Burgess, Deputy Director of Copernicus Climate Service (C3S), said that March 2024 continues the sequence of climate records toppling for both air temperature and ocean surface temperatures, with the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive record-breaking month.

“The global average temperature is the highest on record, with the past 12 months being 1.58°C above pre-industrial levels. Stopping further warming requires rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions,” Burgess said. — ANI

## South Korea's opposition party dominates exit polls in parliamentary elections

SOUTH Korea's main liberal opposition Democratic Party overwhelmingly led exit polls in parliamentary elections, a survey from local broadcaster JTBC showed Wednesday.

The Democratic Party and its satellite party were projected to secure 168-193 seats, including the directly-contested constituency seats and the proportional representation (PR) slots.

The ruling conservative People Power Party and its satellite party were estimated to win 87-111 parliamentary seats. — Xinhua



People cool off at a beach of the Mediterranean Sea during a heatwave in Alexandria, Egypt, on 6 July 2023. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA