



The image depicts the construction works of the Nampanga small-scale hydropower project in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region.

Nampanga small-scale hydropower project 56% completed

According to the Sagaing Region government, the Nampanga small-scale hydropower project, capable of

generating 34.68 million kWh of electricity annually, is currently 56 per cent complete.

Situated on the Nampanga

Creek near Nathakyaik village in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region, the project involves the construction of a concrete

gravity dam. The embankment of the dam's dimensions are expected to be 473 feet in length and 114.8 feet in height. It will

have a maximum water level of 80.38 feet, with an estimated annual water influx of 110,000 acre-feet.

Scheduled for completion in the 2024-2025 financial year, the dam, once operational, will provide electricity to villages and MSME businesses in Homalin Township. — ASH/MKKS

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Online passport booking to expand to 11 cities

BUSINESS

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Trial mango export to China commences: 16-kilo basket priced at 140 yuan

Rupee/kyat settlement mechanism rolls out for Indian pulse importers

THE payment mechanism for Indian merchants who import pulses from Myanmar has been simplified, and the direct payment system of rupee and kyat will be practised with the Special Rupee Vostro Account-SRVA, citing a report of the Economic Times.

The rupee-kyat settlement mechanism can be done through the Punjab National Bank when Indian traders import pulses from Myanmar.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare discussed the price fluctuation of pulses with the Indian Mission in Yangon in light of volatile exchange rates and stocks held by traders. This payment mechanism was officially announced on 13 April. India imports black grams (urad) and pigeon peas (tur)

from Myanmar to meet domestic demand. Nidhi Khare added that this new payment system should be utilized to simplify transactions. The new payment mechanism has been operational since 25 January. The Central Bank of Myanmar released guidelines for payment procedures on 26 January, according to the Indian mission in Yangon.

The payment mechanism will reduce exchange rate conversion costs and facilitate trade. The Indian government asked importers and other stockholders to declare their stock conditions on a weekly basis on the official portal.

The government warned them of misinformation, and whoever is found to be indulging in stocks will face legal action under the existing laws. — NN/EM

NATIONAL

Tree restoration planned along ancient Inwa capital's walls

DUE to high temperatures, trees will be grown again to restore the originality beside the north-south road in a short-drum-shaped city wall and on the Thayetthonpin street running from north to south in the east of ancient Inwa, said author and archaeologist (U) Bo Shate (Yatanapura).

About 25 years ago, there were rows of banyan trees, rain trees, and Madhuka, but there are no trees now, so the temperatures have been rising.

"To restore the originality of the north-south road in the short-drum-shaped city wall and the Thayetthonpin street from



The compound inside the short-drum-shaped city wall of ancient Inwa seen with scarce trees in 2019 when the bronze statue of King Thatoe Minphya, founder of the First Inwa, was erected.

north to south in the east of the outside wall of Inwa city, we will grow trees. We plan to grow rain trees, badum, and banyan trees as previously existed. It is getting hotter day after day in Inwa. About 24 years ago, there were many Madhuka trees along the street from Thitsataik Pagoda to the balcony door. When I was 16, there were many banyan trees and rain trees on Nyaungthonpin Street. They have been cut down, and it is now a barren plain. Without trees, it is scorching. So, we will grow trees there again," he said.

Tree growing campaign, which invites participation, is

scheduled to start in the early monsoon, and they have submitted to the authorities to grow badum, Madhuka, Indian laburnum and neem trees that match the local climate, he added.

"We plan to start in early monsoon. We will start with whatever we can do. We have told the authorities to grow trees again. We will grow badum, Madhuka, Indian laburnum, and neem trees that match the local climate. We welcome any assistance," he said.

With rising temperatures, many organizations have prepared to grow trees in most areas. — MT/ZN

Public Notice

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

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption
Answer "1111" to improve services

Bagan Archaeological Museum draws 94,951 visitors, generates over K71.9M revenue

IN the fiscal year of 2023-2024, Bagan Archaeological Museum received more than K71.9 million from 94,951 admissions, said the museum's deputy director Daw Khet Khet Hla.

"There were 94,951 admissions to the museum from April 2023 to the end of March 2024 in the financial year of 2023-2024, and received more than K71.9 million. That is the total number of visitors, both locals and foreigners," she said.

Of the visitors, more than K67 million was earned from the admission of 94,295 locals and over K4.8 million from foreigners, she said.

"Foreigner admission is still few. There were about 40 foreign admissions in March and about 23 in February. So the number of local visitors was larger than foreign visitors,"



Visitors are exploring the Bagan Archaeological Museum in 2023.

she said. Except for Mondays and public holidays, the museum opens daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and admission is K1,000 per person for locals and free for children under 12 years old and students who have school recommendations and monks. Foreigner admission fee is K10,000 per person.

There were 328 foreigner admissions out of 83,000 visi-

tors in 2022-23 FY and 656 foreigners out of more than 94,000 visitors in the 2023-24 FY, she said.

In this year's travel season, visits to Bagan, Inlay, Kalaw, Chaungtha, and Ngwehsaung have been large, and currently, visitor arrival to Bagan has slightly declined due to the mounting temperature. — MT/ZS

Statement

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

Myanma Post releases new stamp featuring 'Painted Jezebel' Butterfly

ACCORDING to Myanma Post, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, a new K200 worth stamp featuring the "Painted Jezebel"

butterfly will be released on 5 May 2024 at post offices across all regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw.

The "Painted Jezebel" butterfly has been identified as a species found in Myanmar by the Ministry of Nat-

ural Resources and Environmental Conservation. As part of a special programme, stamps purchased on 5 May 2024 (Sunday) at post offices in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay will have the date sealed on them. — MNA/TRKM



The image shows a "Painted Jezebel" butterfly stamp.

MoNREC Union Minister receives Russian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi received Mr Iskander Azizov, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the meeting hall of the Union Minister's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides frankly and closely discussed matters related to the

mitigation of climate change between the two countries and the situation of cooperation in the development of forests, mining and environmental conservation sectors.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Min Thu and departmental heads and officials from the Russian Embassy. — MNA



Russian Ambassador Mr Iskander Azizov holds talks with Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi Yesterday.

Myanmar delegation attends 14th Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) held in Pattaya, Thailand

THE Myanmar delegation led by Dr Wah Wah Maung, Eminent Person (EP) of Myanmar and Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of the Union Myanmar, attended the 14th Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) which was held in Pattaya, Thailand, on 27-30 April 2024, accompanied by Deputy Director-General U Mang Hau Thang and an official from the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

High-Level Representative drafting session of the 14th Meeting of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) was held prior to the 14th Meeting of HLTF-ACV.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr Chatoulong Bouasisavath, Eminent Person (EP) of Lao PDR as the ASEAN Chair; and Mr Dato' Zainuddin Yahya, Eminent Person (EP) of Malaysia and Former Malaysian Ambassador, as the permanent shepherd Member State. It was attended by Eminent Persons, High-Level Representatives, officials from ASEAN Member States, Timor Leste as an Observer, and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat.

At the Meeting, the Deputy



Myanmar delegates join the group documentary photo session at the 14th (HLTF-ACV) meeting in Pattaya, Thailand on 27-30 April 2024.

Minister expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairs and the host for organizing the important Meeting. She commended high-level representatives for their efforts in completing the first reading of the APSC Strategic Plan of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. She looked forward to its narrative format for further negotiations. On Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness, the Deputy Minister highlighted the need to strengthen not only the ASEAN Secretariat but also the respective national secretariat so as to bridge the gap between human resources

and resource mobilization. She stressed the need for both top-down guidance and bottom-up initiatives on the development of the respective strategic plans and suggested considering the placement of the cross-cutting action lines in consultation with the Co-Chairs of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI), Senior Officials Committee for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOCA) and ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC).

The Meeting noted the progress made in the Implementation of the HLTF-ACV's Recom-

mendations on Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness and tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to work on the list of proposed action lines in line with the recommendations which are yet to be implemented. The Meeting also tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to convert the matrix format of the APSC Strategic Plan to a narrative format, and it was agreed that the placement of the elements of institutional strengthening-related strategic measures should be decided at a later stage. The Meeting adopted the Summary Decisions and Summary Reports

of the 13th HLTF-ACV.

At the sideline of the Meeting, HLTF-ACV had an Interface meeting with the Chair of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI), Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Development of ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan and Chair of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the respective pillars have updated their progress in developing their respective ASEAN Vision 2045 strategic action plans and recommendations. The Meeting exchanged views on the development of the respective strategic plans, placement of the elements of Institutional Strengthening-related Strategic Measures and cross-cutting issues in a friendly, cordial and candid manner.

HLTF-ACV was established in 2022 to develop the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and attendant document(s) in close consultation with the three ASEAN Community Pillars and ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee in accordance with the Ha Noi Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision and the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision. — MNA

NATIONAL



Union Minister U Nyunt Pe holds talks with the Russian ambassador yesterday.

Union Minister for Education meets Russian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Education U Nyunt Pe received Mr Iskander Azizov, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, and the delegation at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on the matter to further promote cooperation in the education sector between

Myanmar and Russia.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers Dr Zaw Myint and Dr Moe Zaw Tun, the permanent secretary, the director-general of the Department of Higher Education, and the Russian Economic and Commercial Consul and the Protocol Counsellor to Myanmar. — MNA

Counter-argument to false information

Media accuses security forces of raiding, torching Kalay's Pyitawtha village



The screenshot validates false claims.

MALICIOUS media outlets spread fake news, claiming that security forces raided Pyitawtha village and torched the village in Kalay Township of Sagaing on 1 May.

According to a security official, while security members were near Pyitawtha village to conduct security measures, terrorists attacked them with homemade

heavy and small weapons. The heavy weapon shells fell into the village and exploded, destroying the houses. In the counterattack of security forces, terrorists retreated to the northern part of the village.

The subversive media intentionally spread one-sided misinformation to mislead the people. — MNA/KTZH

Restoration works conducted in Kawkareik

IN Kawkareik, Kayin State, conflicts caused damage to houses, Myoma Market and the public hospital and dispensary in the neighbourhoods, prompting residents to move to other places temporarily.

Now that the area has become stable and peaceful since the morning of 27 April, they have returned to live in Kawkareik, and the Kayin State Government is managing and supervising the

fire brigades performed cleaning of debris in the wards yesterday morning.

A total of 11,019 households of 10,432 houses (69,238 people in total) in seven Wards and Kawbein and Kawpauk Villages in Kawkareik, all the households were temporarily displaced due to these events, and the temporarily displaced people are returning to Kawkareik starting from 27 April.

A total of 387 temporarily displaced residents re-entered yesterday.

In order to facilitate the living of the returnees, the Kayin State government has provided each household with 8 pyis of rice, 50 ticals of oil, and ten packs of instant noodles.

The State Department of Natural Disaster Management is providing kits of 17 relief items to each household. — IPRD/KZL



redevelopment works for the people of that area to make living comfortable.

As these redevelopment works are underway, Tatmadaw members, Myanmar police force members and members of



Photos show the restoration underway in Kawkareik.

Write for us

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



NATIONAL

Thilawa SEZ Management Committee receives Russian business delegation

The officials of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee received the business delegation of the Russian Federation at the zone in Yangon yesterday.

Chairman of the committee U Yan Naing Tun discussed the sector-wise cooperation between Russia and Myanmar, government efforts in creating business opportunities and investment opportunities and potential investments between the two countries.

Then, Development Di-

rector Mr Marat Amirovich of RKS-NR CCL under the Russian Ministry of Construction appreciated the welcome and openly discussed G-to-G cooperation projects, bilateral relations and enhancement of investment.

Twenty-one countries made investments in Thilawa SEZ, with an investment amount of US\$2,124 million.

The Thilawa SEZ manages the export and import-substitute manufacturing processes, commodities, construction materi-



Thilawa SEZ Management Committee Chairman U Yan Naing Tun meets the Russian delegation yesterday.

PHOTO: KANU

als, and vehicles, among others.

The Thilawa SEZ Management Committee also makes

efforts to operate import-substitute manufacturing processes by cooperating with local

MSMEs and developing the MSMEs and local job opportunities. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



The photo captures the ceremony of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation International Art Design Competition.

Myanmar filmmakers invited to Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Art & Design Awards

ACCORDING to the Embassy of China to Myanmar, Myanmar's short filmmakers have been invited to submit their short films for the 2024 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Art & Design Award.

This international competition, organized by China News Service, commemorates the eighth anniversary of The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

(LMC) mechanism. The LMC is a sub-regional cooperation jointly initiated by the Lancang-Mekong countries.

The competition's theme is "Green Power, Lancang-Mekong's New Day", and it runs from 24 April to the end of September, which is the deadline for submitting video films.

Participants in the compe-

dition are required to document the diverse environment and people-to-people exchanges between the six countries located along both sides of the Lancang-Mekong River.

Short films must be submitted through the following link: <http://www.ecns.cn/cns-wire/2024-04-29/detail-ihczz-kiq6812202.shtml>. — ASH/TRKM

MoEP continues power supply reductions due to resource constraints

THE Ministry of Electricity announced on 1 May that power supply reductions would need to continue due to decreased availability of natural gas, lower water levels in dams, and various other factors.

A total of 29 hydropower plants, 27 natural gas power plants, two coal power plants, and six solar power plants can generate 7,184.46 megawatts of electricity.

If all power plants could operate at maximum capacity, they could fulfil the nation's requirement of 5,443 megawatts.

The report also highlights that dams have insufficient water levels due to lower rainfall during the 2023 monsoon compared to 2022. Water stored in dams and natural gas must be used cautiously from last November to the upcoming June for electricity production to ensure stable nationwide electricity distribution and prevent power outages before the monsoon season. As a result, the country can only meet around 50 per cent of its electricity demands. — TWA/TMT



MoEP officials inspect the power line maintenance.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Online passport booking to expand to 11 cities



Passport applicants are seen at the office of the Myanmar Passport Issuing Board in 2023.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Passport Office, the issuing of Myanmar passports through the online booking System will be extended to 11 cities.

Online Appointment System is currently available at Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Patheingyi Myanmar passport offices.

Starting on 2 May, the system will be implemented in 11 cities, including Myitkyina,

Monywa, Lashio, Taunggyi, Lashio, Sittway, Haka, Hpan, Mawlamyine, Dawei and Magway.

Those who will apply for a passport can make an appointment starting 1 May.

All people from various states and regions can apply for passports online only at the Yangon office. In contrast, those who are on the Yangon Region household list can apply for passports through

online booking at the Nay Pyi Taw branch. Still, the branches in the rest of the states and regions will only accept the relevant household members.

The Myanmar Passport Office also informed that passport applicants can check the website of the Passport Board at www.passport.gov.mm in order to choose the branches where their household is listed so as to make an appointment. — TWA/KZL

High areca nut supply meets low market demand

“BETEL nut supply is currently high, but demand is low in the market, according to traders. It is due to transport conditions. Prices of other commodities increased, but not betel nut. Its price has only increased by K200 compared to pre-Thingyan. The price of bags used to pack nuts jumped by K400 each. A bag costs over K5,000, while betel nuts cost around K4,000. It is now about K3,800-K4,000. Due to rising price of bags, it is not profitable,” said the owner of Oo Thwe betel nut retail and wholesale shop in Myeik.

With few exports, there is

plenty of supply in the domestic market.

“Betel nut is mainly exported to India. As the route situation is not good, we no longer deliver our products from Myeik to Tamu but send them down to Kawthoung for export to Ranong. The local betel nut production in one year cannot be consumed in three years. It has to rely on the export market. As demand is low while supply is high, betel nut price doesn't increase, and that's the nature of the market,” said a betel nut trader from Myeik. — Thit Taw/ZN



A betel farm and some female workers picking betel nuts.

Cambodian film with Myanmar subtitles, actor set for 3 May cinema debut

A Cambodian film titled ‘Midnight Curse’, featuring My-



A poster of the Cambodian film ‘Midnight’s Curse’.

anmar subtitles and starring a Myanmar actor in the lead role, is set to premiere in cinemas on 3 May.

Produced by Real Bros Film Production and directed by Cambodian filmmaker Leak Lyda, ‘Midnight Curse’ boasts a cast including Myanmar actor Paing Takon, who portrays the character Pai, the grandchild of Cambodia’s King Princess Jenna Norodom takes on the role of Gech Lee. At the same time, Shin Yubin stars as Dalin, and Mony Raksa plays the character Reatrei. The movie also features several other Cambodian actors. — TWA/TRKM

Mitigating heat in Mandalay and Bago: Cool roofs and sun protection initiatives launched

ACCORDING to a member of the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), cool roofs are being installed to provide shade at busy locations like traffic lights and main intersections in Mandalay, aiming to alleviate the public’s discomfort from the heat.

Since 29 April, MCDC has been fitting cool roofs to provide shade for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists. Installations have been completed at 10 locations up to now.

Due to the high temperatures in Mandalay, cases of heatstroke are nearly daily, leading to unconsciousness, suffocation, fainting, and even death. Because of the severe heat, the Mandalay Region Public Health Department

has issued notices advising the public to take extra precautions.

Similarly, in Bago Region, sun protection roofs and water

sprinklers have been installed at major road intersections since early April to help mitigate the effects of the heat on the public. — ASH/TKO



Sun protection roofs and shades installed at major roads in Mandalay.

Domestic gold price shows downtick



Jewellery is displayed at the gold outlet in Yangon.

THE domestic gold price slightly declined to K4.77 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on 2 May after peaking at K4.85 million per tical on 26 April.

The figures reflected a decrease of K80,000 per tical within one week, following spot gold price moving down to US\$2,310 per ounce.

Despite the rising pure gold mar-

ket price, the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the reference price at K3,999,000 per tical, showing a large gap of over K770,000 per tical with the actual market value.

The 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 the unscrupulous traders and their dishonest acts. The YGEA asked its members to inform law enforcement agencies of the news regarding the manipulators.

The authorities are inspecting the alleged price speculators with the verbal deal in the market. — NN/EM

Weekly market update of dry groceries at Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre

FOR a week from 24 to 30 April 2024, the sugar price increased to K4,750 per viss. The prices of both premium and non-premium rice rose. The black gram and pigeon pea prices dropped while onion prices moved up. The reference price for palm oil was set lower this week compared to last week.

Onion

The Bayintnaung Wholesale market saw the supply of 180,000 visses of onions on 30 April. The wholesale prices stood at K1,600-K2,800 per viss depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Seikphyu and Monywa) on 30 April.

The Pakokku market had an inflow of 68,000 visses of new onions on 30 April. The highest price was around K2,300 per viss.

Garlic

The prices of Kyukok garlic hit K12,500-K13,000 per viss on 30 April, while the garlic from Aungban, Shan State fetched K6,500-K8,000 per viss depending on varieties and qualities.

Potato

Shan potatoes were priced at K1,400-K1,700 per viss on 30 April.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of red long chilli peppers were registered at K3,500-K4,500 per viss on 30 April. The prices of bell peppers were K9,500-K10,500 per viss that day.

Rice

The prices hit a high of K88,000 per sack of non-premium new monsoon rice and K97,000 per sack of short-matured rice (90 days) on 30 April. Meanwhile, the latest premium quality Pawsan rice was worth K140,000-K160,000 per sack, depending on the production area (Ayeyawady and Shwebo). The sticky rice prices hit K94,000-K95,000 per sack.

Palm oil

For a week from 29 April to 5 May 2024, the wholesale reference price of Yangon Region was set a bit lower at K5,220 per viss, which is down by K120 per viss compared to that of last week.

Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at K3,135,000 per tonne of black grams (Fair Average Quality/RC), K3,395,000 per tonne of black grams (Special Quality/RC), K4,040,000 per tonne of pigeon peas (red grams) RC, K3,830 per viss of green grams (Shwewah) and K5,650-K6,000 per viss of gram in Yangon's wholesale markets on 30 April 2024. — TWA/KK

Trial mango export to China commences: 16-kilo basket priced at 140 yuan

MANGO export to China has been started on trial in order to explore the market. Currently, a 16-kilogramme basket earns 140 Yuan, according to a wholesale fruit trading centre that exports mango.

At present, they have already exported about 30 tonnes of locally-grown mango to China on trial, and under the current market price, a 16-kilogramme basket is between 100 Yuan and 140 Yuan, according to an official from the fruit wholesale trading centre.

"We have tested mango export to China. The price is between 100 Yuan and 140 Yuan for a 16-kilo basket which contains about 50 mangoes. It is a normal price. The problem is that the journey takes a long time, so there is a long-term risk if the fruits are no longer fresh. The price can't be good if fruits get ripe," he said.

At present, mango export to China has been made through Mongla, and the journey takes about four days. Thus, potential exporters have watched the market while taking expenditure, temperature and length of journey into consideration because the price will be good only if fruits are qualified.

Myanmar mangoes are exported to overseas markets every year as of

April, and about 200-300 tonnes of mangoes have been exported to the Chinese market over previous years. However, just a few tonnes were able to export this year due to some reasons such as lengthy journeys and rising transportation charges.

"We are unable to export 200-300 tonnes a day this year like we did in previous years, but export is made in small amounts. The market is not bad," he said.

Mango farmers wish their man-

goes to enjoy good prices because the production cost is getting higher, including rising fertilizer prices, bagging and labour charges.

Transportation charges have skyrocketed for export to foreign countries, and border-crossing export is lengthy, which is why it seems mango will have to rely more on the domestic market but needs to wait and see about exporters, said an official from Myanmar Mango Producers and Exporters Association. — MT/ZS



Mangoes that are being trial-exported to China.

OPINION

Sustain thriving forests for proper business and environment

THREVING forests are not just a legacy from the past but also the cornerstone of present benefits and future development. Forests play a pivotal role in the socioeconomic and sustainable development of a country.

It is imperative to manage forests systematically to ensure their sustainability, which in turn promotes the socioeconomic development of the nation. Forests provide numerous benefits as natural heritage to society, and it is the responsibility of all citizens to preserve and protect them for future generations.

Myanmar is fortunate to have extensive forest cover, accounting for 42.19 per cent of the nation, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's 2020 survey report. The government has designated 10 per cent of the nation as natural conservation areas.

As of 25 March 2024, there are 59 natural conservation areas, covering 6.42 per cent of the country.

In achieving this goal, it is essential to minimize deforestation and forest degradation, promote reforestation, and ensure the sustainability of forests. Public awareness must be raised to encourage the planting of various tree species and improve the environment. Therefore, emphasis must be placed on the development of the forestry sector to successfully implement green economy, blue economy, and circular economy practices for global business operations.

Forests are an invaluable resource for humans, providing essential goods and services since time immemorial. Timber and other forest products are vital for the people of society in their daily routine. In addition, forests contribute to environmental conservation, mitigate climate change, regulate the water cycle, conserve water resources above and underground, maintain various species of biodiversity, and prevent soil erosion.

Thriving forests are closely linked to favourable weather conditions, agricultural and livestock farming development, and the tourism industry, particularly ecotourism service, which boosts the nation's economy. The government manages forest conservation and protection at various levels, including forest reserves, protected public

forests, protected forests, community-owned forests, and village firewood forests, in addition to commercial forest plantations established by private businesspersons, with considerations for economic, social, and environmental factors of the society.

The 15th sustainable development goal adopted by the United Nations emphasizes the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, including the sustainable management of forests, combatting desertification, reversing land degradation, and halting biodiversity loss. Indicators for this goal include the remaining forest area, desertification, and the risk of species extinction.

In achieving this goal, it is essential to minimize deforestation and forest degradation, promote reforestation, and ensure the sustainability of forests. Public awareness must be raised to encourage the planting of various tree species and improve the environment. Therefore, emphasis must be placed on the development of the forestry sector to successfully implement green economy, blue economy, and circular economy practices for global business operations.

A UNIQUE TRISHAW CARRIER'S JOURNEY

By Yin Nwe Ko

IN the bustling streets of my town, where time seems to dart forward and backwards with every passing moment, there exists a figure of reliability amidst the chaos – Mr Hnaung, the trishaw carrier. At the age of late 40s, Mr Hnaung embodies both strength and kindness, making him a beacon of hope for many, including myself, a septuagenarian navigating the streets of life.

For years, I've relied on modes of transportation that suit my age and capabilities, be it a bicycle or a motorbike. However, with the passage of time, my children have become increasingly cautious, urging me to refrain from venturing out on my own. Thus, I found solace in the convenience of trishaws, albeit with occasional frustrations stemming from long waits and unaccommodating carriers.

But amidst the sea of discontent, a ray of sunshine emerged in the form of Mr Hnaung. Unlike his counterparts, he exuded warmth and courtesy, traits that endeared him to many, myself included. With a simple phone call, he would promptly appear, ready to ferry me to my destination with a smile and a kind word.

Our encounters became a daily ritual, each trip accompanied by pleasant conversations and acts of kindness, such as helping me purchase groceries or accompanying me on errands. Mr Hnaung's presence brought a sense of ease and comfort to my otherwise mundane routines.

However, as fate would have it, my source of joy was abruptly halted when I received news of Mr Hnaung's departure from military service. Despite being well past the age limit for conscription, he willingly volunteered a decision that left me in awe of his bravery and selflessness.

In a time when many sought to evade military duty, Mr Hnaung's unwavering commitment to serve his country stood as a testament to his character. His actions reminded me of the importance of sacrifice and duty, virtues often overshadowed in today's fast-paced world.

As I reflect on Mr Hnaung's journey, I am reminded that heroes come in many forms, and



The enduring spirit of patriotism, sacrifice, and duty serves as an inspiration for others to contribute to the betterment of society and their country.

sometimes, they walk among us in the guise of a humble tri-shawl carrier. Though his absence leaves a void in my daily life, his legacy of kindness and bravery will forever remain etched in my heart.

In the midst of life's uncertainties, let us draw inspiration from Mr Hnaung's unwavering spirit, embracing each day with courage and compassion, knowing that even the smallest acts of kindness can leave a lasting impact on those around us.

But amidst the sea of discontent, a ray of sunshine emerged in the form of Mr Hnaung. His physical appearance was striking – a tall, wiry figure with a weathered face etched with lines of experience and kindness. His deep-set eyes held a glimmer of warmth, and his salt-and-pepper hair spoke of years spent navigating the streets of our town. Despite the toll of his labour, there was an air of dignity and grace about him that commanded respect.

As mentioned above, unlike his counterparts, he exuded warmth and courtesy, traits that endeared him to many, myself included. With a simple phone call, he would promptly appear, ready to ferry me to my destination with a smile and a kind word.

Therefore, our encounters became a daily ritual, each trip accompanied by pleasant conversations and acts of kindness, such as helping me purchase groceries or accompanying me on errands. Mr Hnaung's presence brought a sense of ease and comfort to my otherwise mundane routines.

However, as fate would have it, my source of joy was abruptly halted when I received news of Mr Hnaung's decision for military service. Despite being well past the age limit for conscription, he willingly volunteered a decision that left me in awe of his bravery and selflessness.

In a time when many sought to evade military duty, Mr Hnaung's unwavering commitment to serving his country stood as a testament to his character. His actions reminded me of the importance of sacrifice and duty, virtues often overshadowed in today's fast-paced world. Though his absence leaves a void in my daily life, his legacy of kindness and bravery will forever remain etched in my heart.

Among life's uncertainties, we can draw inspiration from Mr Hnaung's unwavering spirit, embracing each day with courage and compassion, knowing that

even the most minor acts of kindness can leave a lasting impact on those around us.

As I stand amidst the bustling streets, my heart heavy with the absence of Mr Hnaung, I find solace in the knowledge that his journey continues in a different realm. His decision to serve in the military, despite the comforts of his familiar routine, speaks volumes about the depth of his character and his unwavering commitment to his country.

In a world often marred by selfish pursuits and fleeting desires, Mr Hnaung's selfless act serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us of the noble virtues of sacrifice and duty. His willingness to answer the call of duty, even at an age where many would seek refuge from such responsibilities, inspires us to look beyond our own needs and consider the greater good.

As I bid farewell to Mr Hnaung, I carry with me a renewed sense of purpose and gratitude for the sacrifices made by individuals like him. In his absence, I am reminded that true fulfilment lies not in the pursuit of personal gain but in the service of others and the greater good of society.

So, let us honour the legacy of Mr Hnaung by embracing the values of service and sacrifice in our own lives. Let us strive to make a difference, however small, in the lives of those around us, knowing that our actions have the power to shape the world for the better.

In times of uncertainty and turmoil, the call to serve one's country echoes louder than ever. It is during these moments that individuals like Mr Hnaung, with their unwavering commitment to duty and sacrifice, shine as beacons of hope and inspiration for us all. As our nation faces challenges on multiple fronts, the importance of military service cannot be overstated, and Mr Hnaung's decision to answer this call must be celebrated and encouraged.

Mr Hnaung's journey from a humble trishaw carrier to a soldier in service of his country is a testament to his courage, selflessness, and unwavering sense of duty. Despite being well past the age limit for conscription, he willingly volunteered to join the military, demonstrating a rare and admirable dedication to the greater good. In a society where personal comfort and convenience often take precedence, Mr Hnaung's decision to prioritize service above self is genuinely commendable.

The current situation in our country demands the collective efforts of all its citizens to overcome challenges and safeguard our nation's security and prosperity. With threats looming both domestically and internationally, the role of the military in ensuring the safety and well-being of our citizens cannot be overstated. It is imperative that we recognize and appreciate the sacrifices made by individuals like Mr Hnaung, who selflessly devote themselves to protecting our freedoms and preserving our way of life.

Moreover, Mr Hnaung's example serves as a powerful reminder of the values that define us as a nation – courage, integrity, and unity in the face of adversity. His willingness to step forward in service of his country, despite the risks and challenges involved,

embodies the very essence of patriotism and citizenship. In an era marked by divisiveness and discord, Mr Hnaung's actions inspire us to set aside our differences and work together for the greater good of our nation.

As we celebrate Mr Hnaung's decision to serve in the military, it is incumbent upon us to extend our support and gratitude to all those who wear the uniform of our armed forces. Their sacrifices, both seen and unseen, ensure the safety and security of our nation and uphold the values that we hold dear. It is through their dedication and commitment that we are able to enjoy the freedoms and opportunities that define our way of life.

Furthermore, Mr Hnaung's story serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of national service and civic duty. While not everyone may be called to serve in the military, there are countless ways in which we can contribute to the betterment of our society and our country. Whether through volunteering, community service, or simply being an engaged and responsible citizen, each of us has a role to play in shaping the future of our nation.

In sum, Mr Hnaung's decision to serve in the military is a testament to the enduring spirit of patriotism and sacrifice that defines our nation. His example serves as a source of inspiration and encouragement for us all, reminding us of the importance of service and duty in safeguarding our nation's security and prosperity. As we celebrate his courage and dedication, let us also reaffirm our own commitment to serving our country and upholding the values that unite us as a nation.

As the sun sets on another day in my town, I take comfort in the knowledge that Mr Hnaung's spirit lives on in the hearts of those he touched, and his example will continue to guide us toward a brighter, more compassionate future. To be honest, I find it challenging to manoeuvre with a close trishaw carrier. I respect Mr Hnaung, but I do miss him.

(Based on The True Story)

Airborne microplastics a dark cloud on horizon for human health

MICROPLASTICS are widely recognized as a major marine pollutant, but their lesser-known presence in the air has become a major concern in recent years due to the possible risks posed to human health.

Japanese researchers leading studies on the issue have confirmed that microplastics have infiltrated the skies and gone on to make their way into clouds and snow. It is possible they can be ingested into the human body in their airborne state and could then move into the vascular system, they said.

Hiroshi Okochi, professor of environmental chemistry at Waseda University, and Hiroshi Ono, an associate professor at Hokkaido's Kitami Institute of Technology, are among those dedicated to advancing research that is still in its infancy stage.

Microplastics measure less than five millimetres in length. They are produced when plastic waste is broken down by ultraviolet light and natural forces such as wind and waves.

Microplastics are considered chemically harmful to organisms because their relatively large surface area allows them to absorb and transport toxic substances. When ingested by organisms, the plastics release the chemicals which can enter the human food chain through fish and shellfish, damaging both natural ecosystems and the people that rely on them.

Okochi and his research team demonstrated for the first time through field observations conducted from 2021 to 2022 that microplastics were contained in cloud water collected in three locations, including the summit of Mt. Fuji.

The airborne particles become less water-repellent due to ultraviolet degradation, with evidence to suggest they may act as condensation nuclei of cloud ice and water, the researchers said.

SOURCE: Kyodo



Photo taken in August 2023 shows a Waseda University research team led by professor Hiroshi Okochi collecting cloud water at the top of Mt. Fuji. PHOTO: HIROSHI OKOCHI/KYODO

NATIONAL

Paddy trade normal in Ayeyawady, with farmers making profit of up to K1 mln per acre

IN Ayeyawady Region, paddy trade has been normal, and farmers have enjoyed profits of at least K400,000 and even about K1 million per acre, according to the Ayeyawady Region Rice Millers Association.

There are buyers in the market, and the price has been steady. The trade has been typical this year, unlike previous years. At that time, the price plunged when farmers sold their paddy rampantly, he said.

“There are buyers who buy paddy sensibly. In the past, when farmers sold in a rush, prices plunged down. This year, the price has been steady, and the trade has been normal. Paddy quality has become different between the beginning of harvest and now. In Pathein, paddy fields, in which saltwater flows, have declined in its quality, and the price of such non-premium paddy is K1.8-K2 million per 100 baskets,” said the association’s



Some farmers are winnowing and packaging paddy in the Ayeyawady Region.

official.

Including agricultural costs, it costs about K800,000 an acre to grow summer paddy, and the yield is 60-70 baskets an acre. Under the current market price, farmers can make at

least around K400,000 an acre and some who grow the New Ayeyar variety, whose yield is higher, enjoy around K1 million profit per acre.

“The expenditure for growing summer paddy is approxi-

mately K800,000 an acre, including agricultural cost. So, let’s say the production is 60-70 baskets an acre. The farmer will receive K1.2 million if he can produce 60 baskets, so K400,000 will be left if he uses K800,000. If the price is

K1.8 million, he will receive more than K1.1 million and more than 300,000 will be surplus. Some farmers who dare to take risks grow New Ayeyar so that it can yield around 120-130 baskets an acre. If the yield is 120 baskets, they will receive K2.4 million and can make about K1 million profit. They can make a profit, too, if it is calculated at K1.8 million. So it is cost-effective for farmers,” he said.

Moreover, farmers don’t need to use fertilizer during the rainy season like summer paddy, so the cost will be reduced, and they will be better.

“Rain-fed paddy is more cost-effective. In the monsoon season, the water rises and drops, and silt will be left, so fertilizers are not much needed, reducing the cost. If it reduces the cost for a fertilizer bag, the expenditure will be low, about K100,000 and will be better for farmers,” he said. — MT/ZS

Illegal goods seized in various states/regions

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation. The combined teams under the Customs Department seized K312,117,015 worth of illegal items in eight containers that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) containing a China-made pipe-making machine, textile, Japan-made Pampers baby diaper at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint

and another one container at Thilawa container checkpoint containing China-made Padmonal. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

On 1 May, K247,784,475 worth of fuel – 16,236 gallons of diesel and 4,695 gallons of petroleum and three Nissan Diesel tractor heads that carried illegal fuel amounting to K360,000,000, totalling K607,784,475, was seized at the Shwegyin combined inspection camp under the Mandalay Region Illegal

Trade Eradication Special Task Force. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On the same day, the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 1.004 tonnes of illegal teak valued at K884,224. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 11 arrests (estimated value of K920,785,714) were made on 30 April and 1 May, according to the committee. — MNA/KTZH



Seized illegal item.

New Minimum Temperature Record

Issued at 2nd May, 2024

Sr No	Station	Date of New Record	New Minimum Record		Date of Old Record	Old Minimum Record		Past Years of opening station
			(°C)	(°F)		(°C)	(°F)	
1.	Myitkyina	2-5-2024	16.9	62.4	4-5-2000	17.0	62.6	58

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



LIFESTYLE IN BRIEF

Korean Cultural Centre to organize 'All India K-POP Contest 2024'

KOREAN Cultural Centre India will host the 'All India K-POP Contest 2024' this year, the Embassy of Korea said in a press release.

The event will be organised in collaboration with LG Electronics India and this will be the 14th anniversary of the All India K-POP Contest which has over the years become one of the representative projects of the Korean Cultural Centre India.

Further, Hwang Il Yong, Director of the Korean Cultural Centre India, said, "In a survey held regarding the preference for Korean cultural content abroad, India ranked as one of the highest nations around the world. This K-POP contest is the only large-scale 'Korean Wave' event held in all of India." "This year, in addition to the main event, we plan to hold various participatory events that everyone can enjoy, such as 'K-POP On Street'. I hope it will become a festival venue where Indians who love the 'Korean Wave' can come out and enjoy," Hwang added. — ANI

Dubai set to host Arab Tourism Media Awards 2024

DUBAI is set to host the Arab Tourism Media Awards for the year 2024, organized by the Arab Union for Tourist Media, on the sidelines of the Arabian Travel Market from 6 to 9 May at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Sabah Allal, President of the Arab Union of Tourist Media, who will honour the winners, said that the awards aim to promote tourism across Arab countries and spotlight prominent tourist destinations and those that have made significant advancements in tourism services, as well as to attract tourists and support the hotel sector in Arab countries by encouraging them to provide the best level of service. He noted that this year's competition witnessed significant participation throughout the 30-day nomination period that began on 1 December 2023. Many Arab tourism entities were nominated for the awards whose judging committee was chaired by Dr Lamiaa Mahmoud from Egypt. — ANI

Nepalese authors publish book featuring speeches of PM Modi made at international forums

The book "Bishwo Manch ma Narendra Modi" (Narendra Modi in the World Stage) was launched in Kathmandu, featuring a compilation of speeches by Prime Minister Modi from 2014 to early 2024 during his international engagements.

IN a bid to offer Nepalese readers insights into India's global presence, a book encapsulating speeches by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in various countries and international forums from 2014 to 2024 was unveiled by authors Bhupendra Bahadur Chhetri and Sagar Chand.

Titled "Bishwo Manch ma Narendra Modi", translated as "Narendra Modi in the World Stage", the book was introduced during a ceremony in Kathmandu on Tuesday. Chhetri meticulously compiled Modi's speeches, while Chand skillfully translated them into Nepali language.

The compilation spans speeches delivered by PM Modi from 2014 to early 2024 during his various international engagements, shedding light on India's diplomatic approach



Chhetri compiled Modi's speeches meticulously, while Chand skillfully translated them into Nepali. The book offers insights into India's diplomatic strategies and global perspectives. **PHOTO: ANI**

and global perspectives.

Speaking about the significance of the book, co-author Sagar Chand expressed, "Not only the Nepali readers, but politicians, young and old, along with journalists covering diplomacy, should acquaint

themselves with the issues discussed by our neighboring countries and how they present themselves." He emphasized Modi's "Neighbour First" policy and its relevance to Nepal's diplomatic landscape. — ANI

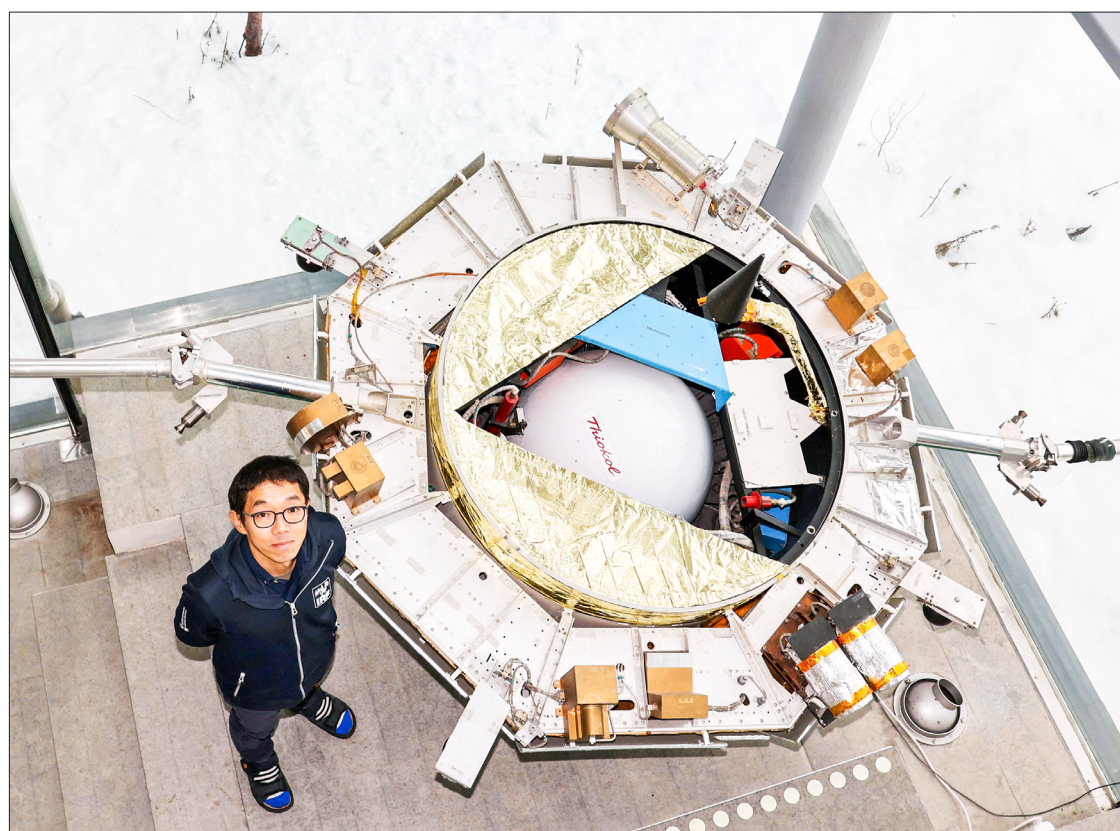


Photo taken in October 2023 of Manabu Shimoyama of the Swedish Institute of Space Physics, and a model of Viking, the country's first artificial satellite, in Kiruna, Sweden. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan researchers make their mark in Sweden's space exploration city

SOME Japanese researchers have opted to make Sweden their home base as they seek to take full advantage of the Nordic country's advanced space exploration research programs.

The northern city of Kiruna is a key center for space research in Sweden. It sits north of the Arctic Circle and draws researchers from all over the world, who favour the city's geographical location as it gives them frequent opportunities to observe the aurora borealis. The Kiruna-headquartered Swedish Institute of Space Physics, or IRF, is a state-run agency at the centre of the country's research and observa-

tory programmes associated with research on space and technology.

Annelie Klint Nilsson, an IRF public relations official, said the headquarters had some 30 researchers as of March, including four from Japan. The Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF) hosts a significant number of foreign researchers, including those from India, France, and Russia. The collaboration between Japan and Sweden in space exploration has been growing, with researchers like Manabu Shimoyama coordinating joint projects, such as the European Space Agency's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE). — Kyodo

ECONOMY WORLD



Desktop industrial robots are pictured at the World Robot Conference 2023 in Beijing. **PHOTO: REN CHAO/XINHUA/FILE**

Chinese industrial robots earn global acclaim

WITH the rapid advancement of technology and the development of increasingly sophisticated products, China's high-end intelligent manufacturing sector continues to provide new opportunities for the global manufacturing industry.

At the 2024 Hannover Messe, one of the world's largest trade fairs, a diverse array of cutting-edge intelligent products from SIASUN Robot and Automation Co, Ltd., based in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, took centre stage.

This year's edition of Hannover Messe, launched in 1947, took place from 22 to 26 April. Chinese exhibitors comprised 30 per cent of nearly 4,000 exhibitors hailing from around 60

Chinese exhibitors accounted for 30 per cent of the nearly 4,000 exhibitors from around 60 countries and regions, making them the second-largest group represented after Germany.

countries and regions, placing them second only to Germany in representation.

As the leading Chinese robotics enterprise expanding globally, SIASUN has continued to refine its technology through innovative advancements, deepening its expertise and bolstering its product prowess.

Among the company's exhibits showcased at the fair, a

single-lifter assembly mobile robot captured the attention of visitors.

The robot utilizes dynamic tracking technology to seamlessly track and synchronize its movements with the vehicle body in real time. It can meet the diverse needs of modern automotive plants, facilitating the mixed-line production of multiple vehicle models. — Xinhua

ECON: BRIEFS

51,600 new firms established in Viet Nam in first 4 months

AROUND 51,600 enterprises were newly formed in Viet Nam in the first four months of this year, posting an increase of 3.4 per cent year on year, according to the latest statistics of the General Statistics Office.

The registered capital of the new enterprises was estimated at nearly 508 trillion Vietnamese dong (20.04 billion US dollars), the office said. The number of new firms established in the period rose 3.2 per cent in the services sector, four per cent in the industry and construction sector, and 1.2 per cent in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector compared to the same period last year. — Xinhua

Italy sees faster economic growth in Q1

ITALY'S economy grew faster and prices rose slower than in the previous reporting period, according to preliminary economic data from the government's main statistics entity released Tuesday.

ISTAT, Italy's National Statistics Institute, said that the economy grew 0.3 per cent in the first quarter of the year, stronger than the 0.1 per cent economic growth rate recorded in the final three months of last year.

ISTAT noted that the first three months of the year represented the third consecutive quarter of positive growth following an economic contraction in the second quarter of last year. — Xinhua

Vacant homes in Japan at record 9 mln with single elderly on rise

THE number of vacant houses in Japan rose to a fresh record of nine million in 2023, up 510,000 from the previous 2018 survey, with cases pushed up by the deaths of single elderly householders, government data showed Tuesday.

The number as of 1 October represents 13.8 per cent of all houses in the country, also a record-high, and means that one in about seven homes is abandoned, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

The increase in vacant

homes can be attributed to cases where properties are left unattended because single elderly dwellers die or enter nursery homes, while individuals who inherited the properties, opt to live in more convenient locations, according to the ministry. The latest figure puts more pressure on central and local governments to take measures to demolish or reuse such uninhabited properties, as leaving them as is could raise the risk of the buildings collapsing, leading to a deterioration in public safety in the areas. — Kyodo

Fewer Indian professionals interested for jobs abroad, finds survey

A survey conducted by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) found a decrease in the number of Indians willing to work abroad. As per the survey, the number of respondents from India willing to relocate dropped from 78 per cent in 2018 to 54 per cent in 2023. More than 150,000 working

professionals from 188 countries participated in the fourth global study on 'International Mobility Trends', which was conducted by BCG, the Network, and the Stepstone Group.

The survey mentioned that 59 per cent Indian respondents, who were unwilling to relocate to

a different country for work, cited a strong emotional attachment to their country. The global average was 33 per cent. As many as 23 per cent participants are actively seeking jobs in other countries, and 63 per cent expressing an overall willingness to do so, the survey read. — ANI



Ahmedabad has entered the top 100 global cities as destination for working professionals. **PHOTO: ANI**

Microsoft to invest \$2.2 bln on Malaysia's digital transformation

This investment, touted as the company's largest in Malaysia, will include AI training for 200,000 individuals and collaboration with the government to enhance cybersecurity capabilities.

MICROSOFT Corp said Thursday that it will invest \$2.2 billion over the next four years on enhancing Malaysia's cloud and artificial intelligence infrastructure, and building skills.

Touted as the single largest investment by the company in Malaysia, part of the investment will used

for the AI training of 200,000 people and enhancing the country's cybersecurity capabilities in cooperation with the government, Microsoft said.

"Our investments in digital infrastructure and skilling will help Malaysian business, communities and developers apply the latest

technology to drive inclusive economic growth and innovation across the country," Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said in a statement.

Nadella announced the investment during a forum in Kuala Lumpur. Earlier Thursday, he met with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.



File photo taken in February 2020 in New York shows the logo of Microsoft Corp. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Malaysia is the last leg of the Microsoft CEO's Southeast Asia tour this week that also took him to

Indonesia and Thailand. While in Indonesia, Nadella said Microsoft will invest \$1.7 billion in build-

ing the country's cloud and AI infrastructure, and creating AI skill opportunities. — Kyodo

NEWS ROUNDUP

JAL's annual net profit grows 2.8-fold on travel demand rebound

JAPAN Airlines Co said Thursday its net profit increased 2.8-fold to 95.53 billion yen (\$614 million) in the business year ended March, lifted by a recovery in tourism demand after the coronavirus pandemic ended.

Sales for the year grew 20.1 per cent to 1.65 trillion yen. Both net profit and sales surpassed the pre-pandemic 2019 figures for the first time, the airline said.

Robust international travel demand drove the growth in profit as a weaker yen lured more travellers from overseas.

Sales of its international operations jumped 49.1 per cent to 622.3 billion yen, exceeding the 2019 figure by 17.2 per cent. — Kyodo

Weight-loss drug maker Novo Nordisk's profits soar further

DANISH pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk reported more soaring profits on Thursday thanks to the popularity of anti-diabetes and weight-loss drugs Ozempic and Wegovy, which have made it Europe's most valuable company.

Its net profit reached 25.4 billion kroner (\$3.6 billion) in the first quarter, a 28 per cent jump from the same period last year, the company said in a statement.

Sales rose by 24 per cent at current exchange rates to 65.3 billion kroner — almost two billion kroner higher than forecast by analysts surveyed by Bloomberg and financial data firm FactSet.

Novo Nordisk raised its outlook for 2024, saying it now expects sales to rise by between 19 to 27 per cent — up from 18-26 per cent previously. — AFP

Pak: Prominent hotel owner apprehended for gas theft in Karachi crackdown



Authorities conducted a targeted operation against gas theft in Karachi, resulting in the arrest of the owner of Chai Gulab Hotel for allegedly stealing gas directly from the service line. **PHOTO: ANI**

IN a recent operation targeting gas theft, authorities apprehended the proprietor of a well-known hotel for allegedly stealing gas directly from the service line in Karachi, according to ARY News.

The Sui Southern Gas Company's (SSGC) recovery team, in collaboration with Control Gas Theft Operations (CGTO), conducted a raid on a tea hotel situated in the Pathan Colony area of Karachi, leading to the arrest of the owner of Chai Gulab Hotel.

"The hotel owner was found to be operating the establishment by siphoning gas directly from the service line," asserted the recovery team, as reported by ARY News.

Identified as Shamsul Haque, the hotel owner was taken into custody by SSGC police, with a case registered against him. — ANI

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2410S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2410S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-5-2024** 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.

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

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Myanma Port Authority

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



The exercise witnessed the involvement of various agencies including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Delhi Police, the National Security Guard, and local emergency services such as the fire department and traffic police. **PHOTO: ANI**

India, Israel conduct joint security drill in Delhi

Israeli Ambassador Naor Gilon highlighted the importance of the security drill, emphasizing its role in strengthening cooperation in security and defence between the two nations and their commitment to global stability.

THE Israeli embassy and Indian security forces conducted a joint security drill in New Delhi to assess the readiness of security forces for countering potential future threats, the Israeli embassy to India said in a press release.

While addressing the event, Israeli Ambassador Naor Gilon emphasized the significance of the security drill.

“This joint security drill with Indian security forces marks a significant milestone. We extend our gratitude for their efforts. These collaborative exercises strengthen our nations’ cooperation in security and defence and reinforce our shared commitment to global stability.

We remain steadfast in our determination

to foster continued collaboration for a safer world.” he said.

The exercise witnessed the involvement of various agencies including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Delhi Police, the National Security Guard, and local emergency services such as the fire department and traffic police, the release stated.

Over day and night sessions held at the Israeli Embassy in New Delhi, participants practiced response strategies to potential terrorist incidents.

Elite units from the participating agencies were activated in simulated scenarios, while the Delhi Traffic Police managed traffic control in the vicinity. — ANI

Cambodia says technical issue, extreme heat blamed for ammunition explosion

CAMBODIA’S Ministry of Defence said in a statement on Thursday that a technical issue combined with an extreme heatwave was blamed for a series of explosions at a military base that killed 20 soldiers and injured several others on 27 April.

The blast burst out at an ammunition depot in the Third Regional Military Command in Chamkar Doung village of Kampong Speu province’s Chbar Mon town when soldiers were unloading ammunition from trucks to warehouses.

“After a direct probe at the scene, the investigators from the Ministry of Defence found that the incident of the ammunition explosion on 27 April, 2024 at the Third Regional Military Command in Kampong Speu province was a technical issue because the weapons were old and faulty, and the weather was hot,” the statement said.

The ministry rejected fake news spread by the extremist opposition that claimed the blast was caused by rebellious soldiers or an act of terrorism. — Xinhua

NEWS SUMMARIES: WORLD

Israel denounces Colombia for breaking diplomatic ties

ISRAELI Foreign Minister Israel Katz denounced Colombian President Gustavo Petro on Wednesday for deciding to break diplomatic ties with Israel over the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza. Katz accused Petro on social media platform X of being “a hateful anti-Semite”.

“Relations between Israel and Colombia have always been warm,” Katz wrote, adding that Petro “won’t be able to change that.” — Xinhua

Sprawling megalopolis Karachi grapples with acute water shortage

PAKISTAN’S sprawling megalopolis, Karachi with over 20 million inhabitants (some estimates go up to 30 million), faces a severe water shortage. Both business owners and the general public struggle to afford and manage this most basic essentiality for themselves.

Ashfaq a resident of the city stated, “We have been struggling with this issue for a long time, frequently either there is no water for us or the water that comes in the government-laid pipelines is not fit for any usage.” — ANI

Heat-struck Thai village hoists cartoon cat in desperate bid for rain

AS millions across Southeast Asia suffer a blistering heatwave that is melting railway tracks, a Thai village resorted to an unusual method to seek rain: parading a Japanese cartoon cat.

Thailand has sweltered in recent weeks as the temperature climbs across the region, with experts saying climate change is making heatwaves more frequent, longer and more intense.

In the kingdom’s central Nakhon Sawan province — which has been without rain for months — villagers in Phayuha Khiri District hoisted Jap-

anese manga cat Doraemon to break the drought.

Sparkly dressed paraders bore a tinsel-decked cage containing the stuffed toy through the village while onlookers sprinkled it with water.

Theirs was a new take on an old dry season ritual known as “Hae Nang Meaw”, literally, the parading of a female cat.

The well-known feline aversion to water means some link the animals to rainfall, with their furious meows after being drenched thought to summon precipitation. — AFP



Thai railway workers doused the melting tracks with water to try to bend them back into shape /State Railway of Thailand. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Shan United, Kachin United thrash opponents in group match 7 of 2024 MNL Cup



SHAN United crushed Glory Goal FC 4-0 at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna yesterday, securing three points to lead the group.

In Group B, all three clubs have the potential to sail into the next stage. So, the remaining matches of Shan United, Rakhine United, and Kachin United are very important to them.

The image shows players of Shan United and Glory Goal FC vying to control the football in a group match. **PHOTO: MNL**

Within 15 minutes of the first half, Thurein Tun and Aung Nang Win translated their chances into the goals for Shan United. In the second half, Shan United changed its players. More winning goals were scored by Ye Yint Aung and Thet Wai Moe into the net of Glory Goal FC.

At Yangon United Sports Complex, Kachin United trounced Rainbow FC with a 5-0 win. In 31 minutes, Saw Law El Htoo of Rainbow scored an own goal as a present for Kachin United FC. One more goal was scored by S Gun Lam and a hat-trick by

Zaw Mon Aung as winning goal.

Currently, Shan United has secured 15 points in six matches, Rakhine United and Kachin United 12 points each in five games, Glory Goal three points in six points and Rainbow FC without any points in six games each.

On 3 May, Ayeyawady versus Silver Star will be held at YTC in Thuwunna, Dagon Port versus Hanthawady FC at University Sports Complex, Yadanabon FC versus Rakhapura United at Padonma Stadium and Thitsa Arman versus ISPE at YUSC. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

Judo: 5-time Olympic medallist Tani gives pep talk to Japanese team



Former judoka Ryoko Tani makes a speech in Tokyo on 30 April 2024, in front of members of Japan's Olympic judo team. **PHOTO: KYODO**

FORMER judoka Ryoko Tani, who won medals at five consecutive Olympics, delivered a one-hour speech Tuesday in front of about 30 Paris Olympics-bound Japanese female judoka.

"To win at the Olympics, you need to stick with your judo to the end," she said in Tokyo. "You have the ability to be the top of the world. There's no doubt you'll be fine."

Between the 1992 and 2008 Olympics, Tani won two gold and two silver as well as one bronze in the 48-kilogramme category.

One of the young judoka began to cry when she saw the charismatic Tani for the first time.

The 48-year-old Tani also shared her story of how she would start simulating her Olympic routine, from waking up to sleeping, about one month before the competition began. — Kyodo

Premier League misses out on fifth Champions League spot

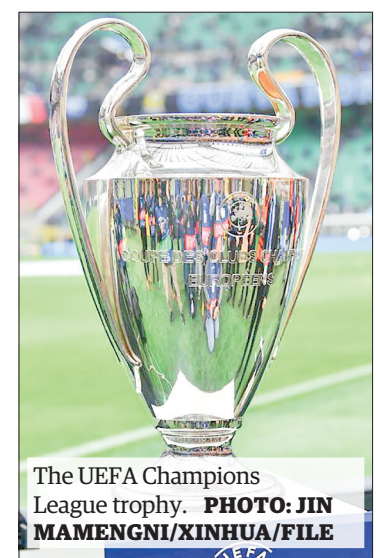
THE Premier League has missed out on a fifth Champions League spot for next season to the Bundesliga after the poor performance of English clubs in Europe.

One club from each of the two countries who collectively perform best in European club competition this season is granted an additional place in the new-look 36-team league phase being introduced for the 2024/25 season.

Borussia Dortmund's 1-0 semi-final first-

leg victory against Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday meant Germany can no longer be caught by England.

Italy, at the top of UEFA's points table, wrapped up the first European Performance Spot last month and no matter how well Aston Villa do in the Europa Conference League, England cannot secure an extra berth. Villa must now hold on to fourth spot in the Premier League to qualify for the Champions League. — AFP



The UEFA Champions League trophy. **PHOTO: JIN MAMENGI/XINHUA/FILE**

Madrid Open: Andrey Rublev ends Carlos Alcaraz's Madrid dominance, reaches semi-finals

THE World No 8 Andrey Rublev ended No 3 Carlos Alcaraz's Madrid dominance with a masterclass performance. The two-time defending champion Spaniard's quest for a historic third consecutive title at the ATP Masters 1000 event didn't get its fairytale ending.

Throughout the quarterfinal match, Rublev showed confidence and opened his shoulders to oust the No 3 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 after two hours and a one-minute tense battle.

Under the cover of Manolo Santana Stadium, the 26-year-old occasionally overpowered Alcaraz with his powerful forehand wing hits. After defeating Jan-Lennard Struff for two hours and fifty minutes in the fourth round, Rublev won thirty games and often stepped inside the baseline to pressure the Spaniard.



Andrey Rublev, ranked World No 8, delivered a masterclass performance to end Carlos Alcaraz's Madrid dominance in the ATP Masters 1000 event. **PHOTO: ANI**

"I think the serve saved me a lot of times today. I think the key was I was completely calm the whole match. I did

not say one word, even if I was losing. That was the key and I was able to serve even better near the end. — ANI



15 countries perform Soviet-era songs at 6th International Music Festival 'Road to Yalta'

CONTESTANTS from 15 countries performed heart-warming famous Soviet songs from the World War II-era in their native languages as part of the 6th International Music Festival "Road to Yalta" on 28 April and 1 May.

Sputnik was live from the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, where the final of the "Road to Yalta" international song contest took place on Wednesday, 1 May.

Solo performances by foreign vocalist competitors performing Soviet songs about World War II took place on the first day of the competition — 28 April — in the semi-final. For the final gala concert, foreign performers team up for duets with stars of Russian music and cinema.

In 2024, the organizing committee received 210 applications from vocalists from 55 countries.

Fifteen foreign participants from Germany, Greece, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Cyprus, China, Congo, Madagascar, Mongolia, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkiye and France were picked after an online qualifying round and invited to Moscow. The names of the winners will be announced by a jury led by Russian singer Lev Leshchenko.

The annual event is organized by the Russkiy Mir (Russian World) Foundation.

Founded in 2019, the festival was aimed at preserving the legacy of Soviet war songs. The name of the festival refers to the Yalta Conference in 1945, during

which Soviet leader Joseph Stalin discussed the post-war peace with then-British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and US President Franklin D Roosevelt.

The Yalta conference was the most important meeting of the Second World War, taking place on the eve of the European Axis powers' defeat. — SPUTNIK

The festival, organized by the Russkiy Mir Foundation, received 210 applications from vocalists representing 55 countries, with 15 participants chosen after an online qualifying round.



Solo performances by foreign vocalists took place on 28 April in the semi-final, with finalists teaming up for duets with Russian music and cinema stars during the final gala concert. **PHOTO: MAKSIM BLINOV /SPUTNIK**

UK begins detention of asylum seekers for deportation to Rwanda



Photo taken on 29 November 2021 shows two Border Force patrol boats moored in Dover Docks in Dover, Britain. Authorities are exploring safer routes to deter illegal migration across the perilous English Channel. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ RAY TANG/XINHUA**

BRITISH authorities have commenced the detention of asylum seekers as part of the new initiative aimed at deporting them to Rwanda, with initial flights slated for departure as early as July, the government announced, Al Jazeera reported. Home Secretary James Cleverly remarked, "Our dedicated enforcement teams are working at pace to swiftly detain those who have no right to be here so we can get flights off the ground."

Confirmation of the detainment procedures follows the recent enactment of legislation designating Rwanda as a safe third country, circumventing a prior UK Supreme Court ruling that deemed the scheme unlawful on human rights grounds.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, emphasizing his pledge to curb migrant arrivals via small boats from mainland Europe, underscored that detentions would occur promptly ahead of deportation flights scheduled to commence within "10 to 12 weeks". — ANI

Israel reopens Gaza's Erez crossing for first time since 7 Oct

ISRAEL reopened the Erez Crossing with Gaza for the first time since 7 October with the passage of 30 trucks delivering food and medical supplies from Jordan to the northern area of the Strip. It is the only crossing located on Gaza's northern border. Before the war, it served as the only crossing point for pedestrian traffic. Before the attacks of 7 October, it was primarily used by international personnel such as diplomats, aid workers, and journalists and also Palestinians with work or medical permits, while trucks used the Kerem Shalom crossing at the southern end of the Strip. The entry of humanitarian aid through the Erez Crossing was made possible after engineering work was carried out in the area by the Engineering Units and additional IDF forces. Using engineering tools, the renewed crossing was built, having previously been used only as a civilian crossing. — ANI