

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Strategic Myanmar must fully control water and airspace

**S**ENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing expressed his pleasure in honouring a new generation of youths from regions and states who attended the maritime and aviation courses to support the development of the State in the future.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met trainees, administrators and instructors from basic and advanced maritime course No 1/2024 and basic and advanced aviation course No 1/2024 at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Senior General said that the trainees studied the maritime and aviation courses without wasting summer holidays after completing one year of learning in order to contribute to themselves and the State.

He continued to say that Myanmar has been conducting maritime and aviation courses for many years. Since 2014, these courses have been categorized as basic and advanced ones across the nation for stu-

It needs to strive for critical thinking by reading books apart from school textbooks so as to be outstanding in literature alone in pursuing education, as learning education is good in school-age life.



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla warmly greet trainees, administrators and instructors from basic and advanced maritime and aviation courses yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with youth trainees of maritime and aviation courses

- As Myanmar possesses more than 1,200-mile-long coastline and is located at a geographically strategic position, it is necessary to manage waters and space territories fully.
- The sovereignty of the State must be safeguarded with the full strength of defence capacity.
- National races from the training will have unity, and they will have to harmoniously serve the nation-building tasks in the future based on fraternity.
- The State Administration Council has been improving the education sector and sending outstanding students abroad to study further.

dents to have a high capacity of knowledge, efficiently use holidays, study subjects they are interested in, and become new generation youths skilful in maritime and aviation professions in the State, he added.

The Senior General revealed he took pride in the enthusiasm of new generation youths as the number of trainees at maritime and aviation courses has increased year af-

ter year since its establishment.

He highlighted that as Myanmar possesses more than 1,200-mile-long coastline and is located at a geographically strategic position, it is necessary to manage waters and space territories fully.

He noted that, if so, the sovereignty of the State will be safeguarded with the full strength of defence capacity,

**SEE PAGE-3**

## Opinion

### Sustain biodiversity species for global community

**PAGE-8**

### NATIONAL

**PAGE-6**



500 kV substation project 70% complete, set for December finish

### BUSINESS

**PAGE-7**



Myanmar's foreign trade reaches US\$2.8 bln in one month

# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission's Announcement

21 May 2024

ACCORDING to the verification responses of the relevant ministries regarding the Union Development Party's application to be registered as a political party under Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, it was found that it does not comply with the provisions of Section 6 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

According to the decision of the Union Election Commission Plenary Session No 2/2024, the Union Election Commission now rejected the party's application for party registration in Form (G) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, and it is announced that the remaining groups that applied for the registration of the party are also being verified.

*Union Election Commission*

## Mt Popa, Myanmar's first National Geopark, to launch geotourism

IT is under arrangement to launch geopark-based tourism in the Mount Popa National Geopark, which will become the first of its kind in Myanmar, according to Ko Tin Ko Min from Maha Giri Community-based Geotourism Services.

The inauguration of Mount Popa National Geopark was held on 20 March, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is preserving the natural endowment of biodiversity, ecosystem and unique geological features

sustainably after categorizing the area into ten geolocations. "Our office is situated in Tawza Chaung village at the foot of Mount Popa. Our base camp is also there. We want to continue working as a maintenance team," said Ko Tin Ko Min.

Geotourism activities will include an excursion to the volcano, as well as a biodiversity study tour and knowledge sharing with guests, he said.

"People are not yet coming here for

the geopark. They come to hike or stay overnight. We haven't put together a package tour yet. We still need to survey the designated sites in the geopark. We haven't done the survey yet," he said.

It will be developed as a community-based tourism project, and they also aim to organize locals in the surrounding villages to participate in geopark-based tourism. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



A remote view of Mount Popa, Myanmar's first National Geopark.

## Student enrolment grows at NFPE in Yangon's Shwepyitha



NFPE's year-end evaluation test in Mon State's Paung township in 2023. PHOTO-IPRD

MYANMAR non-formal primary education (NFPE) which provides free education to children aged between 10 and 14 in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region, has seen an increase in the number of students.

For children aged between 10 and 14 who are unable to continue their formal education for various reasons, NFPE has been providing free classes in level 1 and level 2; level 1 is from KG to G4, and level 2 is from G4 to G5, and those who complete the two levels are eligible to continue their studies at government schools.

"It is still gathering students. The number of students is possibly around 300, about the same as last year's figures. It

is growing. Some parents are interested in it, and some aren't," said an official from Shwepyitha NFPE.

It is non-formal education, so it focuses on poor children, and donors are welcomed for food and clothes, he said.

"We operate this school to give a second chance for children who are unable to go to school and for children who don't have access to education. The age limit is between 10 years and 15 years old. We are affiliated to the Ministry of Education. Our schools have been founded in nearly all townships," U Mya Thein, a supervising teacher from NFPE in Shwepyitha, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). — Thit Taw/ZS

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A glimpse of a YBS driver who treats passengers warmly and in a friendly way.

## Internet surfers praise YBS driver for friendly passenger welcome

A YBS driver who gives a warm and friendly welcome to passengers on board has been praised on social media recently.

Along with his photograph, a social media user wrote about him on a Facebook group called YBS Roadmap, and YBS commuters made lovely comments and shared them.

"He is the driver of YBS No 30. I took it from Oakyin to Hledan at around 9 am yesterday. As soon as I got on the bus, he gave me a friendly welcome, as he did to everyone. His driving is gentle, and no overtaking. He also recites the names of bus stops aloud to the passengers. What a lovely man," wrote a Facebook user.

She said his benevolent attitude was transparent at this moment on board and thanked him.

"I took a photo of him without asking his permission in advance because I love him reciting bus stop names. I apologize if this uncle or his family is here in this group," she said.

A lot of people made com-

ments praising the driver, and one commenter said he allowed free rides sometimes if passengers didn't have changes.

"That uncle is very nice. I've also met him. He speaks very kindly," said a commenter.

"He makes us relieve the stress for a day; respect him," said another commenter. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

# NATIONAL

## Strategic Myanmar must fully control ...

**FROM PAGE-1**

adding that national races from the training will have unity, and they have to harmoniously serve the nation-building tasks in the future based on fraternity.

The Senior General underscored that the State Administration Council has been improving the education sector and sending outstanding students abroad for further studies, urging all students to enhance morality with patriotic spirit.

The Senior General and trainee students exchanged gifts.

Two trainees recounted their experiences in maritime and aviation training courses.

The Senior General and par-

ty hosted a tea party for youth trainees, and the Myawady entertainment troupe performed song presentations.

The Senior General cordially greeted the youth trainees, administrators and instructors.

The youths viewed round arms produced by Myanmar Tatmadaw displayed at Zeyathiri Beikman, uniforms of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), communication devices made by Tatmadaw, small scales of naval vessels, naval accessories, scale of aircraft of Tatmadaw (Air), pilot suits and equipment, and flying an aircraft in the flight simulator.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Vice



Youths view round the exhibits displayed at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than

Nwe, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zwe Win Myint and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General

Tun Aung and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, union-level dignitaries and their wives, and guests. — MNA/TTA

## National Security Adviser receives Indian Ambassador



Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur calls on Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung yesterday.

NATIONAL Security Adviser Union Minister at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office 1 Admiral Moe Aung received the delegation led by Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur at the reception hall of the State

Administration Council office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, both sides frankly discussed friendship and cooperation between the two countries, the acceleration of the implementation of

development projects, security issues and the stability and peace of the border regions of the two countries.

Officials from the State Administration Council Office and the Embassy of India attended the meeting. — MNA/TS

## MNHRC inspects Thanlyin Prison, Thanlyin Police Lock-up, Thanlyin Court Detention Centres and Lumbini Home for the Aged

THE inspection team, led by U Kyaw Soe and Dr Than Myint, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, inspected Thanlyin Police Lock-up, Court Detention Centre and Lumbini Home for the Aged in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission Law yesterday.

While inspecting the Thanlyin police lock-up, the MNHRC team viewed the conditions of detainees during the remand period, including whether any torture occurred during the investigation and whether there were opportunities to meet family members as well as provision of food and drinking water, the handling of sewage, and the overall cleanliness of the facilities.

The Lumbini Home for the Aged was also inspected under the MNHRC Law and procedures to ascertain whether residents were enjoying fundamental rights, including health services, appropriate food, purified drinking water, right to freedom of religion, adequate dormitories and arrangements for leisure.

MNHRC will send recommendations to the relevant departments for the necessary action based on the findings during their inspection. — MNHRC



Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission seen viewing round the Lumbini Home for the Aged yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## Chinese Minister Counsellor praises Myanmar's continued practice of one-China policy

MINISTER Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar expressed the Chinese government's appreciation for Myanmar's continued practice of the one-China policy at an event on 16 May, where the Myanmar-China Friendship Association and the Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar met to discuss the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar as well as the history of friendly relations between the two countries, according to the Chinese Embassy in Yangon.

At the event, Dr Zheng Zhihong emphasized that the issue of Chinese Taipei is China's most important interest, explaining that the situation in the Chinese-Taipei Strait remains tense because the authorities of the Democratic Progressive Party in Chinese Taipei, with the support of certain elements in the United States, are attempting to declare independence to enable the US to control China via Chinese Taipei.

The Minister Counsellor emphasized that the one-Chi-



Officials and the Chinese Minister Counsellor seen posing for the documentary photo at the 16 May event.

na policy serves as the political foundation for China to establish and foster diplomatic relations with various countries worldwide, including Myanmar, which stands as a widely acknowledged fundamental principle of international relations and enjoys the general agreement of the global

community. He also expressed his belief that Myanmar will continue to uphold the one-China policy, fostering deeper bonds of kinship and friendship between the two nations, thereby enhancing friendly relations between China and Myanmar.

Myanmar-China Friendship

Association Chair U Tin Oo stated that Myanmar has consistently supported the one-China policy and has reiterated its support for China on numerous occasions. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China is founded on mutual respect for sovereign-

ty, independence, and territorial integrity. He also emphasized that this year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence jointly proposed by Myanmar and China, calling for the promotion of the spirit of these principles. He reiterated Myanmar's commitment to upholding the one-China policy.

On the same day, a representative from the Information and Public Relations Department of the Chinese Embassy met Myanmar media representatives to express the original purpose of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries and to clarify China's position regarding the Chinese Taipei issue.

Myanmar media representatives also showed their firm support for the one-China policy. They expressed their desire to accurately convey the situation regarding the Chinese Taipei issue to the people of Myanmar.

Journalists from Xinhua and the People's Daily news agencies based in Myanmar also attended the meeting. — ASH/TH

### Counter-argument to false information

## Malicious media outlets intentionally spread fake news

WHILE the clash between security forces and KIA insurgents occurred in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, the malicious media intentionally spread false information online, claiming that the security forces fired artillery shells that exploded in Khatcho village in Waingmaw Township.

Six people died, and 11 were hurt on 20 May.

According to a security official, KIA insurgents intentionally launched attacks against the security members and outposts using heavy weapons aiming at creating fear among the public, and the security forces did not

fire artillery shells into the village.

In this regard, fake news was reportedly spread through malicious media, defaming the security forces. — MNA/KTZH

The screenshot validates misinformation.



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

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## Mine blast disrupts rail operations



Photos depict debris in the aftermath of four explosions on the Bago-Mawlamyine railway in Thaton Township.

THE 60-foot bridge No 78 at 124/3 milepost between Theinseik and Donwun railway stations on the Bago-Mawlamyine rail section in

Thaton Township was exploded by the insurgents at 9:30 pm on 20 May. The regional officials and

security forces members arrived at the scene at 5:45 am on 21 May and deactivated one mine packed in a black plastic

bag about 1,000 feet from the bridge. It was found that four explosions occurred on the

bridge. The railway section was reopened due to the efforts of Myanmar Railways' officials at 10:14 am yesterday.

Since 1 February 2021, terrorist groups have been perpetrating 205 mining attacks and explosions within railway areas and stations, 163 blasts on railway bridges, and 42 instances of blazing stations and employee housings. Their terror acts are aimed at destabilizing the rule of law and endangering the safety of travellers, drawing widespread condemnation from the public. — MNA/KTZH

## Illegal Trade Sting: 26 arrested, goods worth over K484M seized

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, legal actions are being taken against illicit trading nationwide.

On 20 May, a combined team led by the Customs Department intercepted three vehicles valued at approximately K95 million, travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon. They carried five types of goods worth K32.532 million, including 237 bags of Borouge polypropylene from the UAE, which exceeded the quantity declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Ma-yanchaung permanent checkpoint. Additionally, 18 kinds of goods valued at K10.08 million, including 200 sets of packing

transmissions (tractor engine parts) not declared in the ID, were seized from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port. A DJI Mavic mini drone worth K500,000 from China without official documents was confiscated from luggage at Yangon International Airport. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Also, on 20 May, on-duty teams confiscated 2,364 bags of charcoal, 750 bags of green peas, 650 bags of lablab beans, 1,110 bags of sunflower seeds, and 210,000 boxes of wipes tissue from China, valued at K283.657 million, without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge combined

checkpoint. The action was conducted under the Export and Import Law.

The same day, combined teams captured illegal teak weighing 0.61 tonne worth K358,800 in Hlegu Township, illegal timbers weighing 0.927 tonne worth K126,072 in South Okkalapa Township, and illegal timbers weighing 2.879 tonnes worth K253,123 in Tai-kyi Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Additionally, a combined team seized two vehicles, valued at an estimated K50 million, heading to Bago from Phayagyi. They carried ten kinds of goods worth K10.568 million, including 240 bottles of Chaokoh coconut cream from Thailand without official documents, at the Kali checkpoint on the outskirts of Bago Township. A total of 2.879 tonnes of illegal teak worth K1.205 million was also seized in Lewe Township. The action was conducted under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 26 arrests were made on 20 May, with the seized goods estimated to be worth K484.279 million. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal timbers.

## Myanmar nationals urged to apply for exit pass as Malaysia waives fines for C of I holders

MYANMAR nationals who plan to return with a Certificate of Identity (C of I) card are required to apply for an exit pass without fail as the Malaysian government has been relieving fines for C of I holders, the Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia announced on 21 May.

The Operasi campaign to arrest undocumented foreigners has been accelerated, according to some Myanmar nationals in Malaysia. During that time, the Myanmar embassy made this announcement urging people to apply for the exit pass without fail.

If Myanmar nationals are arrested in an Operasi before their departure date from Malaysia, they must present their valid passport or C of I paper from the embassy, air ticket, receipt of fine payment to the Malaysian Immigration and the exit pass which allows them to leave Malaysia, and upon presentation of these documents to the official con-



An 'Operasi' arrest scene in Puchong, Selangor State, Malaysia on 20 May.

cerned, they will be exempted from arrest.

A 500-ringgit fine and a 100-ringgit fee for an exit pass are to be paid at the Malaysian Immigration Offices only by credit or debit cards. For enquiries regarding consular services, Myanmar nationals in Malaysia are advised to contact the embassy's WhatsApp number +60 11 2510 5774 by text message. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

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# NATIONAL



Officials inspect the 500 kV substation project. **PHOTO:**

## 500 kV substation project over 70% complete, set for December finish

THE Ministry of Electricity stated that the 79 per cent completed 500 kV substation project, which is the first being implemented in Myanmar, will be finished by December.

The Kankaung substation is being implemented by

the Electricity Transmission and Control Department near Mile 293 of the Yangon-Man-dalay Expressway.

Now, 73.17 per cent of the entire project has been completed, and it will be fully completed next December.

After the completion of the 500 kV project, the electricity produced by the power plants located in the north of the country will be able to be fully transmitted to the south of the country. — TWA/KZL

## Myanmar-China Friendship Association to attend young leader exchange in Nanning

IT has been reported that seven representatives from the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) departed for Nanning City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 20 May to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Young Leaders Exchange Festival, which will take place from 20 to 24 May.

The delegation includes two MCFA executives, an administrator, and five university

students.

University students from China and ASEAN countries will participate to exchange experiences and cultures among future leaders. Additionally, the report states that the delegation has prepared Pyu era dance performances to entertain the ASEAN-China representatives and will showcase Myanmar traditional handicrafts and foods at the festival. — TWA/TMT



Representatives of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central).

## Kyaukpadaung Township's new pond to serve 5,000 residents across 5 villages



A field inspection of the completion of the excavation of the water tank was conducted in Ywalu village in Kyaukpadaung Township.

ACCORDING to the Rural Development Department, a water pond has been excavated in Kyaukpadaung Township, and K18 million of funding has been approved by the regional government.

This funding, sanctioned for the current financial year, aims to

supply adequate drinking water to 5,000 residents across five villages in the Ywalu village-tract.

The excavation of the pond commenced on 5 April 2024 and has now been completed, as reported by the Rural Development Department of Kyaukpadaung Township. — TWA/MKKS

## Myanmar Photography Association announces Photography Course No 49

THE Myanmar Photography Association has announced that Photography Course No. 49 will commence on 3 June. Registration will be accepted from 11 am to 4 pm on 27

May and will continue until 31 May if the trainee slots are not filled.

During the course, senior photographers such as U Pe Myint Oo, U Kyaw Kyaw Win,

Alinka Kyaw Swar Life-time Academy Director Panchi Soe Moe, U Htin Linn, U Zaw Min, and U Htay Win (Yamawady) will instruct on the history of photography, basic camera and exposure techniques, lenses and filters, picture taking, studio lighting and flash techniques, Photoshop and plug-ins, and AI (Generative Fill).

The course fee is set at K300,000, and only a limited number of trainees will be accepted. Applicants need to provide four passport photos and a copy of their Citizenship Scrutiny Card. The course will run daily from Monday to Friday, from 4 pm to 5:30 pm, and will last approximately a month and a half, according to the Myanmar Photography Association. — TWA/ TRKM



The photo shows the new executive team of the Myanmar Photography Association.

## Myanmar's foreign trade reaches US\$2.8 bln in one month

THE value of Myanmar's foreign trade reached over US\$2.89 billion over one past month of the current financial year 2024-2025, comprising exports worth \$1.445 billion and imports valued at \$1.448 billion, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed.

The seaborne trade totalled \$2.3 billion, whereas the border trade value hit \$578. The total trade balance was \$3.116 billion in the year-ago period. Therefore,

the figures indicated a significant drop of \$222.2 million over the past month compared with that of last FY.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been imple-

menting the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 in order to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES comprise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors.

— NN/EM



An aerial view of the Yangon Port in the Yangon River.

## Myanmar seeks Chinese investment in energy and environmental conservation

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Maung Swe invited Chinese businesspeople to invest in the energy sector. The ambassador extended this invitation during his opening speech at the Second Beautiful China Dynamic Huzhou Investment and Sci-tech Cooperation Conference & Huzhou Future Conference and the Second ASEAN-China Conference on Sustainable Development Cooperation held in Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 18 May.

U Tin Maung Swe emphasized the importance of maintaining green development and

the natural environment by ASEAN countries and China, particularly in the face of global climate change challenges. He also stressed the need to preserve the environment alongside regional development and called for the establishment of environmentally sustainable cities, citing Huzhou City as a model for environmental conservation.

Furthermore, the ambassador invited investments in environmentally friendly new energy sectors, such as the manufacturing and export of electric vehicles and the production of electricity using solar energy.

— ASH/TMT



The Second Beautiful China Dynamic Huzhou Investment and Sci-tech Cooperation Conference & Huzhou Future Conference and the Second ASEAN-China Conference on Sustainable Development Cooperation

## MGMA's Sewing Machine Operator Course to begin on 3-21 June

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will offer a Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (Batch 238) from 3 to 21 June 2024 at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC).

The course will provide practical and technical approaches to sewing machines, different sewing methods, labour laws and practices.

This training will also help those hunting jobs from regions outside Yangon connect with garment factories

with a view to creating job opportunities. Those who wish to attend the training can enrol through phone numbers 09 940858350, 09 450723262, 09 9403912570, 09 784085794, and 09 952802635. — NN/EM



Diligent workers seen in the manufacturing line at the garment factory.

## DSW enrolls disabled students in Yangon and Mandalay Schools

THE Department of Social Welfare (DSW) has been recruiting students with special needs through the schools for youths with disabilities in Yangon and Mandalay.

The schools have been providing vocational training and caring services for children aged six to 18 years with intellectual disability and physical limitations.

Those with down Syndrome, Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Global Development Delay (GDD), Amputee, Cerebral Palsy and other intellectual disabilities can attend those schools.

Students must be single. Schools have religious freedom and no gender or race discrimination. Young people aged six to 18 years old can enrol in the

school. Their parents or guardians can undertake the application process.

The school's admission for the 2024-2025 academic year has started. Candidates must present four passport-sized photos, birth certificate and its copy, household registration and its copy, the document identifying diagnosis and health documents. The old students can enrol starting in

the second week of May. The newcomers can register from the third week of May.

The schools teach them how to perform activities of daily living independently and adapt to society around them, and offer vocational training, primary education and Basic Education High School.

The school in Yangon is located at No 65 Kyaikwyne Pagoda

Street, Mayangon Township. The school in Mandalay is at No 26 Street between 58 and 59 Streets, Aungmyaythazan Township.

For further information, candidates can enquire the Disabled People Development Division of the DSW through phone numbers for Yangon School (01 9661442 and 09799478893) and Mandalay School (02 4021092, 09 400407542, and 09 402583216). — NN/EM

# OPINION

## Sustain biodiversity species for global community

THE Earth is home to a vast array of flora and fauna that enhance the environment and contribute to the beauty of their respective habitats. Biodiversity is crucial for ecological balance, providing favourable weather conditions and maintaining the health of ecosystems globally.

Despite technological advancements, societies worldwide still depend on vibrant ecosystems for essential resources such as water and food supplies, medicine, clothing, fuel, shelter, energy, forest products and so on. Recognizing the importance of biodiversity, the global community strives to sustain its relationship with the natural environment to ensure the continuous availability of these resources.

The significance of biodiversity in maintaining ecosystems is increasingly acknowledged. To raise awareness and promote biodiversity issues, the United Nations established the International Day for Biological Diversity, observed in global countries annually on 22 May. In December 2022, the global community adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, dubbed the Biodiversity Plan. This plan aims to transform humanity's relationship with nature and sets goals to halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity by 2050.

The theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity in 2024 is "Be part of the Plan". This theme encourages indigenous peoples, local communities, non-governmental organizations, lawmakers, businesses, and individuals to support the implementation of the Biodiversity Plan. The plan seeks to advance the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which is the main international instrument for sustainable development.

In fact, the International Day for Biological Diversity is part of the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Biodiversity is essential for achieving these goals, which encompass sustainable agriculture, combating desertification and land degradation, ensuring water and sanitation, promoting health, advancing sustainable development, and fostering urban resilience and adaptation. It also addresses sustainable transport, climate change and disaster risk reduction, ocean and forest conservation, the protection of vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, and food security.

Humans, with their advanced intelligence, bear a significant responsibility for sustaining biodiversity globally. Ensuring the survival of various species is critical for maintaining ecological balance and the well-being of all living beings. Each species within an ecosystem relies on others for its sustainability, making the management and enhancement of biodiversity essential for the prosperity of all life forms on Earth. By actively participating in biodiversity conservation efforts, the global community can work towards a healthier, more balanced world where both nature and humanity thrive in harmony.

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The Myanmar media delegation is seen observing history, activities and achievements of the China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration.

(Continued From Yesterday)

### New Media Workshop at China Centre for International Communication Development

The Myanmar Media delegation went to the China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration's headquarters (also called China Centre for International Communication Development (CCICD)) in Beijing on the morning of 24 April. It was established 70 years ago, shortly after the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949. The CFLPA has been exerting a continuous and genuine effort to build bridges for the world to understand China and its culture better. Their primary responsibility is to disseminate China's stories and cultures to the world. Since 1978, they have used a variety of images in magazines to vividly show the Chinese rural community, culture, and development around the globe. Following China President Xi's visits to other countries, the CFLPA met foreign counterparts for media cooperation.

The 2024 China-Myanmar New Media Workshop was held at the CCICD. Yin Jie, deputy editor-in-chief of the CCICD, made an opening remark after welcoming the Myanmar media delegation. That is the second time that the CCICD has held a media workshop with Myanmar media representatives since 2019. China and Myanmar share borders and water. China and Myanmar vow to deepen ties in various fields. I hope this workshop will bring you good insight and reap fruitful results.

With the development of artificial intelligence, new media emerged, and we have come to look into matters of media ecology, which perceives media as a structure in which society and culture evolve. Technology, modes of information, and communication play a crucial role in this process.

Kywe Kywe Htike, deputy director of MITV, expressed her appreciation for the invitation to attend the New Media workshop. We visited the Temple of Heaven and gained knowledge



Posing for a documentary photo at the Media Museum of Communication University of China.

the previous day. During our evening visits to Tencent and

Kwai, we witnessed China's advanced technology. The media ex-

the International Development Centre, introduced a studio that

during the COVID-19 pandemic amid lack of teachers, lightning up

change between the two countries has deepened for years. We have many challenges in transforming into new media. I believe we will apply knowledge from this engaging and impactful New Media workshop in a practical setting in our country. We will share a good message of China to deepen the ties of the two countries, she said.

Afterwards, we studied how short videos can portray our stories from different angles with the use of advanced technology. At present, short videos, documentary videos, and vlogs have become popular trends in New Media and attract more attention with their visual and exciting characteristics.

Cao Huaru, the producer of

was founded in 2014, highlighting their documentary filming, a platform to build relations with foreign media outlets and agencies. After founding a studio for a decade, they have more than 200 documentaries and short videos that were shown on CNN, BBC, etc. She presented some documentaries such as Seeing the Future and My Own Experience of China, New Era, New Image, and Sino-foreign joint creative projects and how they make efforts to reflect a good understanding of China's stories worldwide. The videos cover China's breakthroughs in science and technology, which imply a new age of Eastern science, a first glimpse of China (shown on Discovery), the life of students in remote areas

Ali, the Guardians of the Pandas (the Chronicle of Fubao's Birth) and two other videos related to music cooperation. It is essential to show foreign perspectives beyond our views in the short videos to reveal China's stories to the world, she highlighted.

Another video depicting the struggles of rural students in the shortage of teachers during the pandemic presented the hopes and dreams of the children from their points of view. In filming the documentary, in cooperation with foreign directors, they described how children viewed a situation to attract the viewers. Through this short video, we could learn the importance of technology and development in education.

in various job industries, such as dragon dance, arts and crafts, farming, AI training, beach waste management, etc.

The documentary of an Engineer's diary entitled Lightning Up Ali narrates traditional lifestyles and culture in some Tibetan regions in response to modernization. Their mission involves constructing formidable power in the highlands with unpredictable snowstorms. Their dedication to success, eco-friendly plan, setting the equipment and building infrastructure in far-flung areas can be remarkably seen.

The video presenting the Chronicle of Fubao's birth attracted many viewers worldwide as it portrayed the same feelings for Fubao and cooperation despite the language and cultural differences between China and South Korea. The video became viral on social media platforms. It also promoted friendship between China and South Korea through panda diplomacy.

When we review short videos, it is eye-catching and interesting. Brief clips are trendy in the digital age. The use of AI or VR can appeal to more viewers.

From traditional long documentary videos to short videos from the perspective of an individual, it would earn more trust and understanding from the viewers. I hope this exchange will bring about cooperation with Myanmar media and new insights for the viewers to China, she concluded.

The Myanmar media delega-



A study tour to Tencent headquarter in Beijing.

Another short video showed how an England vlogger saw a myriad of changes in Chinese culture after experiencing them as interns

tion also took the documentary photos at China Review Studio after a series of discussions with New Media.

# ARTICLE

On the afternoon of 24 April, Peng YiXuan, China Daily's bilingual reporter, shared how she presented news in the form of new Media under Xiao Peng's personal Vlog. She elaborated the production process of her Vlogs with innovative background scenes, "See What Xi Sees", "Breeze from Eurasia", and "Let Me See Your World" to attract more young people. She exchanged ideas about vlogging and creating content in the areas of politics, society, and culture. She made fun and creative videos yet focused on knowledge and politics. China Daily's reporter Peng and Myanmar media representatives exchanged ideas regarding the priority of content. They raised questions about whether they will follow trends or create insightful and meaningful content. It is resolute that physical appearance cannot draw people's interest for a long time. As far as she's concerned, knowledgeable content will make a big fan with a fun and interesting setting. She showed vlogs related to her daily life and actual footage of Emergency Medical officers with their consent.

U Thet Zin, head of marketing and production manager of Vidya Myanmar, expressed his willingness to produce content reflecting the friendly exchange between China and Myanmar with more innovative forms such as Vlog.

We, thereby, came to realize a significant transformation of New Media in terms of interacting with customers through this workshop.

Next, the Myanmar Media delegation also attended the Launching ceremony of the 2024 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Art & Design Award held at the Auditorium of China International Communication Group in Beijing on 24 April 2024. The fifth edition of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Art & Design competition welcomed the participation of Myanmar's designers as well. The 2024 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Art & Design Award adopted the compelling theme, "Green Power; Lancang-Mekong's New Day", on the aspect of energy cooperation. Myanmar media delegation participated in the collective creation of the large-scale experiment artwork "500 strokes" and took a commemorative photo with the Myanmar counsellor after the event.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## New Media Workshop delivers key messages, good insights

Insights from tradition media transforming to New Media

By EM

## TECH/ENVIRON: WORLD

# Enhanced version of 5G accessible in Beijing

The 5G-A network is set to gradually cover 18 areas in Beijing, including prominent locations like Chang'an Avenue, Financial Street, Beijing Capital International Airport, and the central area of Beijing Olympic Park.



Visitors watch exhibits displayed at the 5G telecommunication service section of the China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing, capital of China, on Sept. 5, 2020. **PHOTO: ZHANG CHENLIN/XINHUA**

SOME China Mobile users near Beijing's west third ring area found their "5G" cellphone signal turning into "5G-A" on Friday, meaning they had access to a network more than 5 times

faster than 5G.

The China Mobile staff's on-site speed measurement showed that the download rate of 5G-A exceeded 2Gbps, which means that a 5GB movie can be

downloaded in about 20 seconds.

"Simply speaking, 5G-A is an enhanced version of 5G, a transition from 5G to 6G," said Zhu Shijun with China Mobile's Beijing branch, who added that the 5G-A network will successively cover 18 areas, including Beijing Chang'an Avenue, Financial Street, Beijing Capital International Airport, and the central area of Beijing Olympic Park. According to statistics from Beijing Communications Administration, as of the end of April, Beijing has built a total of 114,500 5G base stations. There are 52 5G base stations per 10,000 people, ranking first in the country. More than 20,000 5G-A base stations will be built within three years, said Su Shaolin, director of Beijing Communications Administration. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Chinese scientists achieve breakthrough in combatting plant cancer

CHINESE researchers have developed a novel bio-fungicide to combat root rot disease in cultivating *Astragalus membranaceus*, commonly known as Huangqi or Astragalus root, according to an article published in *Chemical Engineering Journal*.

The bio-fungicide can suppress the root rot disease and promote the growth metabolism of *Astragalus membranaceus*, said Gao Wenyuan, a professor at the School of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology, Tianjin University, who led the research team.

Root rot disease is a kind of plant cancer and a common disease in Chinese medicinal herb planting areas, caused by a complex of pathogenic fungi. It poses a significant threat to the cultivation of *Astragalus membranaceus*. — Xinhua

#### Death toll from south Brazil's climate disaster hits 151

AS many as 151 people have died to date from south Brazil's worst climate disaster on record and another 104 people remain missing, the Civil Defence agency said Thursday.

Since torrential rains began to lash the country's southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul, on 29 April, floods and mudslides have left some 600,000 people homeless.

In the last 24 hours, the number of fatal victims rose from 149 to 151 as 458 of the state's 497 cities were suffering from severe flooding, including the capital Porto Alegre, where the Guaiba River burst its banks and inundated most of the metropolis. — Xinhua

# Japan enacts law to restrict onshore wind farm construction

The new law requires businesses to notify the government if they plan to build a wind farm in areas designated by the defense minister.

JAPAN'S parliament on Friday enacted legislation to restrict the construction of onshore wind farms to prevent potential interference with the Self-Defence Forces' radar systems.

The new law obligates businesses to notify the government if they plan to build a wind farm in areas designated by the defence minister. In cases where a proposed wind farm is judged to severely disrupt radar systems, the government can prohibit its construction for two years, pending the outcome of discussions.

According to the Defence Ministry, wind power generation facilities raise concerns about



The Defence Ministry has expressed concerns about wind power generation facilities interfering with radar monitoring of the sea and wireless communication between satellites and ground stations. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AKIHABARANEWS**

interference with radar monitoring of the sea as well as wireless communication between satellites and ground stations.

The government is expected to later designate sites nationwide that cover the surroundings of 28 radar systems, which may also include the vicinity of US military facilities.

The bill, which passed the House of Representatives last month, cleared the House of Councillors on Friday with the backing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner, the Komeito party, as well as other parties. — Kyodo

# Sri Lanka to use AI to facilitate agriculture modernization

SRI Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe said that the government plans to transform the country's agriculture using modern technology, including

Artificial Intelligence (AI), and is committed to supporting private sector entrepreneurs interested in the initiative, the President's Media Division

(PMD) said on Friday.

The president mentioned that 100 divisional secretariat divisions have been selected this year for the agricultural

modernization programme.

In the first phase, 25 divisional secretariat divisions will receive the necessary facilities, while the second phase

will extend modern agriculture practices to the rest 75 divisional secretariat divisions, said the PMD in a statement. — Xinhua

## Sick of tourists, Japan town blocks view of Mt Fuji

A Japanese town mounted a large mesh barrier at a popular viewing spot for Mount Fuji on Tuesday, in an attempt to deter photo-taking by an ever-growing number of tourists.

Japan's most famous sight can be seen for miles around, but Fujikawaguchiko locals are fed up with streams of mostly foreign visitors littering, trespassing and breaking traffic rules in their hunt for a photo to share on social media. Parking illegally and ignoring a smoking ban, they would cram a pavement to shoot the snow-capped mountain, which soars photogenically into the sky from behind a convenience store, residents said. Workers began putting the black netting measuring 2.5 by 20 metres (eight by 65 feet) in place on Tuesday, and by late morning they were already done, an AFP reporter at the scene said. "I



A person takes pictures of Mount Fuji from across the street of a convenience store, hours before the installation of a barrier to block the sight of Japan's Mount Fuji to deter badly behaved tourists, in the town of Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi prefecture on 21 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP

hope that the net will prevent dangerous activities," resident Michie Motomochi, 41, who runs a traditional Japanese sweet shop, told AFP.

"I think it's disappointing that they are putting it up. It's obviously an iconic shot," said Christina Roys, 36, a tourist from New Zealand. "But it's completely understandable. We were here last night, managing to get the last shot before they were putting up the wall, and there were so many people," she said. "It's quite dangerous because of the traffic coming through. There are other spots where you can get the shot of the mountain."

Record numbers of overseas tourists are coming to Japan, where monthly visitors exceeded three million for the first time in March and then again in April. — AFP

## Studio Ghibli receives honorary Palme d'Or at Cannes film festival

JAPANESE animation giant Studio Ghibli on Monday received an honorary Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes film festival for contributing to the

genre's creativity through global hits such as "Spirited Away", marking the first time an institution was awarded rather than an individual.

"Alongside the Hollywood greats, the Japanese studio embodied by two superb storytellers, Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata, and a host of cult characters, has unleashed a fresh wind on animated film over the past four decades," the organizer said in a statement.

The studio was launched by the pair in 1985, following the success the previous year of "Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind," directed by Miyazaki — who would go on to win two Oscars, including for "Spirited Away" — and produced by Takahata, his confidant and rival.

"We've received this award thanks to fans all over the world who love our works," Goro Miyazaki, Hayao's oldest son, said on stage in Cannes, accepting the festival award along with a standing ovation from the crowd. "We've taken this award as a message to us, 'Do a good job in the coming 40 years, too,'" said the younger Miyazaki, himself a film director. — Kyodo



Goro Miyazaki (L) receives the honorary Palme d'Or awarded to Studio Ghibli, co-founded by his father Hayao Miyazaki, at the international film festival in Cannes, France, on 20 May 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

## Japan ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> among top world travel destinations: report

JAPAN ranked third in a list of destinations in a travel and tourism development report by the World Economic Forum released Tuesday, scoring highly for its natural and cultural resources and transport infrastructure.

The United States topped the list, with Spain coming second. Japan was the highest-ranking country in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan ranked first place in the previous report released in 2021 during the coronavirus pandemic, but the organization used different

criteria then.

Among individual criteria, Japan ranked second for cultural resources such as archaeological sites and entertainment facilities and fourth in the ground and port infrastructure category for its road and railway networks. While Japan also ranked highly in the non-leisure resources category due to its high number of major corporations and prestigious universities, it scored relatively low in price competitiveness, tourist service and infrastructure indicators. — Kyodo

## Survey shows 65% of young Italians use AI for school work

A growing number of Italian students are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to help them with their school work, a recent survey has shown. Some 65 per cent of pupils aged between 16 and 18 said they regularly use ChatGPT and similar tools to do their homework, while 71 per cent carry out AI searches to find information.

Run by technology company Tgm Research for Italian anti-pla-

giarism platform NoPlagio, the survey involved around 1,000 Italian students enrolled in secondary schools. Some 33 per cent said AI tools were helpful for their studies.

Geographically speaking, big Italian cities are on the frontline, with 60 per cent of male students from Naples saying they regularly use AI, followed by 56 per cent in Milan and 53 per cent in Rome. — Xinhua

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Tourism boom provides enduring momentum to China's economy



Tourists select cultural and creation products at a shop in the Great Tang All Day Mall in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, 20 May 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

**TOURISM** is increasingly emerging as a strategic pillar industry in China, serving as a focal point of the country's high-quality development.

Since the initiation of reform and opening up in 1978, especially since 2012, the country's tourism sector has entered a fast lane of development. China has become the biggest domestic tourism market in the world, the largest source of international tourists, and a main destination for international travellers. Over the past decades, Chinese people have witnessed unprecedented

improvements in living standards, with absolute poverty eradicated and the realization of a moderately prosperous society. Tourism has become a burgeoning demand among Chinese people seeking a better quality of life.

Between 2012 and 2021, the average annual growth rate of domestic tourism revenue stood at 10.6 per cent, while from 2012 to 2019, the number of domestic tourist trips doubled. In 2023, China recorded 4.89 billion domestic travel trips, marking a staggering 93.3-per-cent surge from the previous year. Moreo-

ver, domestic travellers spent over 4.91 trillion yuan (about US\$691 billion) throughout the year, reflecting a notable increase of 140.3 per cent from 2022. The enduring popularity of traditional attire Hanfu, intangible cultural heritage items, museums, and well-preserved ancient towns and streets illustrates the vigor of cultural and tourism consumption nationwide. The mushrooming cultural and tourism hotspots underscore the immense potential and dynamism of China's economic development. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Italy's economy performs well but slowdown expected: IMF

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday said that while Italy had good recoveries from economic shocks in recent years, the economy's prospects were only "moderate" going forward.

In its annual Staff Concluding Statement, the IMF said that Italy recovered from the back-to-back shocks of the coronavirus pandemic and the spike in energy prices sparked by the Ukraine crisis and that as of the end of the first quarter of this year, its economy was 4.5 per cent larger than before the pandemic -- "a stronger performance than in other large euro-area countries," the IMF said in a statement.

That growth, the fund said, was fuelled by a recovery in tourism, tax credits, and projects funded by European Union (EU) pandemic recovery loans and grants. But the IMF said Italy was unlikely to continue to out-perform, with models predicting the country's economy would grow by 0.7 per cent in both 2024 and 2025. It said the country could subsequently see a "temporary growth slowdown in 2026 and 2027". The predictions for the next two years are already weaker than the prognostications from the EU, which sees Italy's economy growing by 0.9 per cent this year and 1.1 per cent next year. The EU has not made concrete economic growth predictions for 2026 or beyond. — Xinhua

#### Sri Lanka export improves in first 4 months of 2024

Sri Lanka's cumulative merchandise exports between January and April 2024 increased by 3.55 per cent to nearly US\$4 billion compared to the same period of 2023, according to data released by the Export Development Board (EDB) on Tuesday.

The EDB said the estimated value of services exports is expected to increase by 6.47 per cent to over \$1 billion in the first four months of 2024, compared to the corresponding period last year.

Earnings from the export of tea, rubber products, coconut products and food and beverages increased by 10.44 per cent, 12.03 per cent, 23.44 per cent and 21.83 per cent, respectively during the January-April period year on year, according to the EDB. — Xinhua

## Stock markets retreat as traders take profits

**STOCK** markets in Asia and Europe suffered a downturn Tuesday as profit-takers stepped in after racking up gains.

Eyes were on the release later in the day of minutes from the Federal Reserve's May policy decision for clues on the outlook for cuts to US interest rates.

The picture has been clouded by mixed US data.

The May meeting came before figures last week indicated price rises were easing, stoking fresh hopes the US central bank could cut interest rates a couple of times this year, starting in July.

Hopes of rate cuts on both sides of the Atlantic have helped to support stock markets, with European equity indices and Wall Street achieving record highs in recent sessions.

Still, a number of Fed decision-makers have warned they are not willing to call for a reduction until they are sure higher borrowing costs are doing their job and that inflation is truly under control.

After a mildly positive start to the week in New York, where the Nasdaq hit a record high and the Dow ended down from

Friday's record, Asian and European investors were cautious Tuesday as they eyed rising commodity prices.

Copper, a key gauge of the state of the economy owing to its widespread use, hit a record above \$11,400 Monday, while gold was also hanging just short of its own peak touched on the same day. Silver was around an 11-year high. "Copper is now on a month-old rally boosted by tight supply with smelters in China decreasing output," said National Australian Bank's Rodrigo Catril. — AFP



People walk past the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) at Wall Street on 17 May 2024 in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Viet Nam's rubber exports forecast to hit US\$3.5 bln in 2024

THE value of Viet Nam's rubber exports is forecast to reach between 3.3 billion and 3.5 billion US dollars by the end of this year, Vietnam News reported Tuesday, citing the Vietnam Rubber Association.

The association predicted that the country's rubber exports will likely enjoy favourable conditions and surge in the second quarter thanks to the recovery of the global automobile and tire industries, especially in China. Vo Hoang An, the association's general secretary, said there remained room for Viet Nam to increase its exports of rubber materials as the country can produce 1.3 million tons of rubber latex annually, but the local rubber processing sector only needs about 300,000 tons. — Xinhua

Singapore's vegetable, seafood production decline in 2023

SINGAPORE'S vegetable and seafood production last year decreased 15 per cent and eight per cent from 2022, according to an annual food statistics report issued by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) Monday.

The SFA blamed delays in farm development during COVID-19 and inflationary pressures for the decline. — Xinhua

RCEP, FTAs to help Cambodia attract more FDIs, boost exports

THE Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) are expected to help Cambodia attract more foreign direct investment (FDIs) and boost its exports, National Bank of Cambodia's Governor Chea Serey said here on Monday.

Cambodia is a member of the RCEP agreement that engaged with 15 Asia-Pacific countries, and the kingdom also has bilateral FTAs with China, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates.

"On the back of the implementation of the RCEP agreement and other bilateral FTAs, Cambodia is expected to attract more FDI inflows and expand its exports to the region," she said in a speech during the open-



Workers prepare ripe mango slices at the Zhong Bao (Cambodia) Food Science & Technology Co Ltd in Kampong Speu province, Cambodia, on 7 March 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

ing ceremony of a seminar on Cambodia's financial stability.

These trade pacts will help boost Cambodia's productivity and promote

its economic diversification, Serey said, adding that the kingdom's economy is forecast to grow six per cent in 2024, up from five per cent in 2023, driv-

en by a rise in exports, recovery in tourism, robust growth in transport and communication, and flat growth in agriculture. — Xinhua

Tokyo stocks fall as gains erased, higher yields dent real estate

TOKYO stocks ended slightly lower after erasing earlier advances Tuesday, as investors locked in gains and real estate issues met selling with Japan's key long-term interest rate rising to an 11-year high. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 122.75 points, or 0.31 per cent, from Monday at 38,946.93. The broader Topix index finished 8.32 points, or 0.30 per cent, lower at 2,759.72.

On the top-tier Prime Market, decliners were led by real estate, consumer credit and precision instrument issues. The US dollar was firm and traded largely in the mid-156 yen range in Tokyo, after some Federal Reserve officials

expressed caution about cutting interest rates amid signs of persistent inflation, fuelling the prospect that the US-Japan interest rate gap could remain wide for longer.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 156.22-24 yen compared with 156.22-32 yen in New York and 155.73-74 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Monday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.0864-0865 and 169.72-76 yen against \$1.0852-0862 and 169.64-74 yen in New York and \$1.0872-0874 and 169.32-36 yen in Tokyo late Monday afternoon.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond closed at 0.980 per cent, up 0.005 percentage point

from Monday's close and the highest since May 2013. The debt was sold, sending yields higher, tracking an overnight rise in long-term US Treasury yields. Stocks opened higher as technology issues tracked gains in their US counterparts, but then dropped as a continued rise in Japanese government bond yields prompted selling of real estate issues on concerns over higher borrowing costs, analysts said.

High-tech shares also retreated in the afternoon as investors grew cautious before US chip giant Nvidia Corp releases its quarterly earnings on Wednesday, analysts said. — Kyodo

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# ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD



Smoke plumes from an explosion billow in the Gaza Strip, as seen from Israel's southern border with the Palestinian territory on 21 May 2024 amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the militant group Hamas. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Israel says retrieved bodies of hostages were in Gaza tunnels

THE Israeli army said Monday that the bodies of four hostages retrieved from Gaza last week were found in tunnels under Jabalia, where troops have been engaged in fierce fighting in recent days.

The army said last week it had recovered the bodies of Ron Benjamin, Yitzhak Gelerenter, Shani Louk, and Amit Buskila, all of whom it said had been killed in Hamas's 7 October attack on southern Israel.

Their remains were recovered "from underground tunnels in Jabalia in northern Gaza", the army said late Mon-

day in a statement.

During a military operation, Israeli soldiers searched a suspected building in which a tunnel shaft was located, the army said. "Soldiers then entered the underground tunnel route in a night operation and inside it conducted combat," it said. During the fighting the soldiers "located the bodies of the hostages and rescued them from the tunnels," the army said. Gelerenter, Louk, and Buskila were killed and abducted from the Nova music festival, while Benjamin was killed at the Mefalsim intersection from

where his body was taken to Gaza, the army said last week.

Thousands of young people had gathered on 6 and 7 October to dance to electronic music at the Nova festival event held near Re'im kibbutz, close to the Gaza border. Fighters from Hamas crossed over from Gaza and killed more than 360 people at the festival, Israeli officials have said. The Nova festival victims accounted for nearly a third of the more than 1,170 people killed in the 7 October attack, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### One death, injuries after 'severe turbulence' on Boeing plane: Singapore Airlines

ONE person died and multiple people were injured aboard a Boeing 777 plane that experienced "severe turbulence" while heading from London to Singapore before it was diverted to Bangkok on Tuesday, Singapore Airlines said.

"We can confirm that there are injuries and one fatality on board the Boeing 777-300ER. There were a total of 211 passengers and 18 crew on board," the airline said in a statement on Facebook.

It did not specify how many people were injured, the extent of their injuries or whether the person who died was a passenger or crew member. — AFP

#### Grenade explosion in S Korea leaves 1 into cardiac arrest

A grenade explosion during the army training in South Korea left one person in cardiac arrest and another hospitalized, Yonhap news agency said Tuesday.

The grenade exploded for an unidentified reason during the training at the army's 32<sup>nd</sup> infantry division in Sejong, about 110 kilometres south of the capital Seoul, at about 10 am local time (0100 GMT).

The two victims were transported to a hospital after the incident. — Xinhua

#### Over 33,000 people affected by adverse weather in Sri Lanka

Over 33,000 people in Sri Lanka remain affected by the adverse weather conditions, an official said on Tuesday.

Director of the Disaster Management Centre Pradeep Kodippili told the media that 1,827 people have been sent to safe locations.

He said people in northern, central, western and north-western parts of the country have been affected by the adverse weather conditions. The Department of Meteorology, in its latest weather forecast on Tuesday, said as southwest monsoon conditions are gradually establishing over the country, the prevailing showery and windy conditions will continue.

Heavy showers above 100 millimetres are likely at some places in Western, Sabaragamuwa and North Western Provinces and Galle, Matara, Kandy and Nuwara-Eliya districts, according to the department. — Xinhua

## Japan lower house OKs bill to secure foreign trainees as society ages

JAPAN'S House of Representatives on Tuesday cleared a bill to reform the controversial foreign trainee programme to encourage workers from abroad to stay longer through a new system amid a serious labour shortage in the aging country.

As the new system would help increase the number of permanent residence permits, the bill includes provisions to revoke such status if the residents deliberately avoid paying taxes

or social insurance premiums, drawing opposition from some supporters of foreign workers.

The current Technical Intern Training Programme, introduced in 1993 as a way to transfer skills to developing nations, has been criticized as a cover for importing cheap labour. Many trainees have run away due to abuse or unpaid wages and harassment.

The new programme aims to develop foreign trainees over three years to a level where they

can shift to the specified skilled worker system, launched in 2019, that allows for stays of up to five years with the potential for obtaining permanent residency.

The envisioned law outlines its goal as "nurturing and securing foreign talent", enabling workers from overseas to move to different workplaces within the same business area under certain conditions, provided they have worked in one place for more than a year. — Kyodo



The House of Representatives passes a bill during a plenary session in parliament in Tokyo on 21 May 2024, to reform Japan's foreign trainee programme. **PHOTO: KYODO**

# SPORTS

## AFF Mitsubishi Cup 2024: Myanmar in Group B

THE drawing-lots event for the ASEAN Football Federation-AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2024 Championship was held on 21 May in Hanoi, Viet Nam, and the Myanmar team fell into Group B.

The final stage will be held with a total of 10 teams divided into two groups of five. According to the fixtures, Group A sees defending champions Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Cambodia, while Group B features Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar and Laos.

All 11 Southeast Asian countries will participate in the tournament, and the lowest-ranked Timorese team and Brunei team will play in the qualifiers, and only the winning team will be allowed to compete in the final stage.

The AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2024 Championship will be held in the same format as the last 2022 tournament. The participating teams will play four group games, including two home and two away matches. The tourney will run from 23

November to 21 December, and the qualifiers for the tourney will be played on 7 and 14 September. Team Myanmar is facing again with Viet Nam and Laos, which were placed in the same group as Myanmar in the 2022 version of the tourney.

The ASEAN Mitsubishi Electric Cup Tournament is formerly named the Tiger Cup, ASEAN Championship and ASEAN Suzuki Cup Championship, respectively. Thailand has won the championship title seven times while Singapore



The fixtures for the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2024 Championship. PHOTO: AFF

has grabbed the title four times, Viet Nam two times and Malaysia one time. Team Myanmar reached the semifinals of the tourney in 2004 and 2016. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Fans welcome bodybuilding gold medallists at Yangon Airport

FANS welcomed the three gold medallists and three silver medallists, representing Myanmar at the eighth Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship 2024 at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

Team Myanmar includes Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation President U Nyi Nyi, two coaches, one referee and ten athletes.

The medallists are Tun Min Naing from the 60-kilogramme event, Mhon Ban Aung from the 65-kg event, Naing Min Thein from the 70-kg event, Aung Min Oo from the 75-kg event and Myo Naing Tun from the 75+kg event. Additionally, Ko Ko Kyaw



Gold and silver medallists seen being warmly welcomed at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

Phyo from Men's Athletic Physique. Up to the 175-centimetre + 6-kg event, Than Htike Oo from Men's Sports Physique up to 170-cm 2-kg event, Thel Wah from Women's Athletic Physique event, Khin Nilar Soe

from Women's Model Physique up to the 160-cm event and Zue Zue Thant from Women's Model Physique up to the 160-cm event also participated in the team Myanmar. — San Kyaw Oo/IPRD/KZL

## Over 500 matches at Yangon's Junior Judo Chief Minister's Cup

YANGON Region Chief Minister's Cup Junior Judo Championship, which is being held at Thuwunna Stadium-I in Yangon from 21 to 25 May, is featuring 500 contests.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein opened the championship yesterday morning. The knockout matches for both men's and women's events were held after the launching ceremony.

About 200 athletes from 11 teams competed in the tourney. The best athletes from this championship will be selected for the Yangon Region team to compete in the upcoming Inter-State and Region Judo Championship to be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 4 to 7 June. — Arka Lin/KZL



## ISTAF World Cup 2024: Myanmar teams face losses in semifinals

MYANMAR double and triple Sepak Takraw teams missed the finals after facing losses in the semifinals of the Sepak Takraw World Cup 2024 Championship, named ISTAF World Cup 2024, held in Malaysia on 21 May.

With the losses in the semis, both Myanmar teams secured third place.

In the triple event, Myanmar faced host Malaysia and lost 0-2

(3-15 in the first match and 11-15 in the second match), missing out the final.

In the double event, team Myanmar also played against host Malaysia and lost 0-2 as well (10-15 in the first match and 16-17 in the second match).

One of the Myanmar teams still has the chance to compete in the team event. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Team Myanmar seen in action at the ISTAF World Cup 2024 in Malaysia.

## Liverpool confirm Feyenoord boss Arne Slot as new head coach

LIVERPOOL have confirmed Feyenoord coach Arne Slot as their new head coach with an announcement on their official website.

"Liverpool Football Club can announce Arne Slot has agreed a deal to become the club's new head coach, formally taking up the position on 1 June 2024, subject to a work permit." "The 45-year-old will join the Reds from Feyenoord ahead of the 2024-25 season after a deal was reached with the Eredivisie club for his services," explained Liverpool.

Slot's arrival to replace Klopp has been an open secret in recent days and Jurgen Klopp even lead the supporters at Liverpool's Anfield Stadium in chanting his name as he said 'goodbye' after a Sunday's 2-0 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers, which ended the season. — Xinhua

Israel says retrieved  
bodies of hostages were  
in Gaza tunnels

PAGE-14



# WORLD

## 16 top AI firms make new safety commitments at Seoul summit: UK govt

**M**ORE than a dozen of the world's leading artificial intelligence firms made fresh safety commitments at a global summit in Seoul on Tuesday, the British government said in a statement.

The agreement with 16 tech firms — which include ChatGPT-maker OpenAI, Google DeepMind and Anthropic — builds on the consensus reached at the inaugural global AI safety summit at Bletchley Park in Britain last year.

“These commitments ensure the world's leading AI companies will provide transparency and accountability on their plans to develop safe AI,” UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said in a statement released by Britain's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

Under the agreement, the AI firms that have not already shared how they assess the risks of their technology will publish those frameworks, according to the statement.



Pedestrians walk outside a Samsung store with signage that reads 'Galaxy AI is here' in Seoul on 8 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

These will include what risks are “deemed intolerable” and what the firms will do to ensure that these thresholds are not crossed.

“In the most extreme circumstances, the companies have also committed to ‘not develop or deploy a model or system at all’ if mitigations cannot keep risks below the thresholds,” the statement added.

The definition of these thresholds will be decided ahead of the next AI summit, due to be hosted by France

in 2025.

The firms that have agreed on the safety rules also include US tech titans Microsoft, Amazon, IBM and Instagram parent Meta; France's Mistral AI; and Zhipu.ai from China.

The stratospheric success of ChatGPT soon after its 2022 release sparked a gold rush in generative AI, with tech firms around the world pouring billions of dollars into developing their own models. — AFP

## Japan scientists mass-generate cells for sperm, eggs using human iPS

A research team at Kyoto University in western Japan has succeeded in mass-generating cells capable of turning into sperm or eggs by using hu-

man induced pluripotent cells, with the achievement expected to boost studies in reproductive medicine.

The research, published in the on-

line edition of the British science journal Nature on Monday, amplified the number of male and female primitive germ cells over 10 billion times from their initial culture stage. Obtaining human cells at the earliest developmental stage had been technologically challenging.

“(The findings) will expedite the pace of research,” said Michinori Saito, a professor at Kyoto University and one of the research team members, noting at the same time that they still need to clear hurdles in several areas to achieve such a goal.

The scientists hope their findings will eventually lead to the production of eggs and sperm that are generated from “primordial germ cells” through “pro-spermatogonia” and “oogonia”.

The team had already developed a scheme to generate reproductive cells by using somatic cells of mice and culturing oogonia, but it was deemed inefficient. — Kyodo

### China regrets Security Council's failure to adopt resolution on outer space security

CHINA regrets the failure of the Security Council to adopt a resolution on outer space security, a Chinese envoy said Monday. The Security Council failed to pass a draft resolution on outer space security co-sponsored by Russia and China on Monday because it could not obtain enough votes in favour.

Last month, the Security Council failed to adopt a draft resolution on outer space security proposed by the United States and Japan. Russia has since then put forward a new draft resolution. The Russian draft resolution recognizes the role and contributions of the Outer Space Treaty while addressing the gaps in it by explicitly prohibiting the placement of weapons of any type in outer space and calling for an early conclusion of a treaty on arms control in outer space, said Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations. — Xinhua



Kyoto University professor Michinori Saito (R) and other scientists brief the press in Kyoto on 17 May 2024 on their success in mass-generating cells capable of turning into sperm or eggs by using human induced pluripotent cells. **PHOTO: KYODO**