

# Every village in Magway Region to plant two-acre forest to combat rising temperatures

**M**agway Region can successfully carry out agricultural tasks using water resources from the Ayeyawady River, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Yesterday afternoon, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met the Magway Region government and district-level departmental officials at the city hall in Magway.

With regard to the greening process, the Senior General noted that as some townships of Magway Region were involved on the chart of the world's hottest cities, all villages have to grow at least two acres of trees to reduce temperature and improve climatic conditions.

He underscored that temperature shelters can be built to accommodate older persons and those with weak health in the period of severe climatic conditions.

Moreover, the Senior General pointed out that it is necessary to systematically utilize the Ayeyawady River to operate river water pumping projects with solar energy.

He stressed the need to de-

Magway Region needs to adopt plans for the development of agriculture, livestock breeding and industries, as well as socioeconomic improvement based on the Ayeyawady River.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Myathalon Pagoda following meeting with Magway Region government and district officials yesterday.

### Salient points from the speech made by the Senior General at the meeting with the Magway Region government and departmental officials in Magway

1. Magway Region needs to adopt plans for the development of agriculture, livestock breeding and industries, as well as socioeconomic improvement based on the Ayeyawady River.
2. As some townships of the Magway Region were involved on the chart of the world's hottest cities, all villages have to grow at least two acres of trees to reduce temperature and improve climatic conditions.
3. It is necessary to systematically utilize the Ayeyawady River to operate river water pumping projects with solar energy.
4. Departmental officials have to disseminate factual information to the people, not to follow fake news, misinformation and rootless reviews of the people's military service.

velop cotton-based industries and textile industries, encouraging the cultivation of cotton plantations. Oil crops must be grown to meet the target sown acreage in Magway Region to earn income from the oil crops, he added.

SEE PAGE-3

**BUSINESS**

**PAGE-7**



Chinese demand for Myanmar's soft areca nuts booming

**NATIONAL**

**PAGE-11**



Rainy season loans available to farmers clearing previous debts

**Article**

**The Echoes of Tomorrow**

By Min Zan

**PAGE-8-9**



# NATIONAL



Photos show 'Natbaungtaw' (spirits' fillets) - one of Myanmar's traditions.

## Traditional spirits' fillets thriving in domestic market

THE business of fillets for spirits (Nat), which is one of Myanmar's traditions, is booming with business continuity and many orders, according to the Ko Htut spirit fillet shop in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.

This traditional business covers making various spirits' dresses, including headwear, which are widely used in Myanmar culture, as well as modern designs and ornaments.

"Orders for their business never stop coming. It is one of Myanmar's traditional handicrafts because it makes turbans. Besides fillets, they also

make dresses and ornaments for spirits (Nat). It is part of the handicraft," said an official from the Ko Htut spirit fillet business.

Artisans of different ages, from elderly to middle-aged, are currently employed in the spirit fillet business that has an economically viable market.

"It already has its own market. As there are spirit medium women, the business is running. Orders for the products never stop. Some people buy different designs to keep them at home. These products can be found in the market," he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

## Shin Maha Ratthasara's Mausoleum nears completion



Shin Maha Ratthasara's Mausoleum.

THE construction of Shin Maha Ratthasara's Mausoleum, a prestigious classical poet in the Inwa era and a pioneer of Myanmar's literature, is nearing completion.

Dr Than Min Htut, also known as Pindaya Meeainshin, wrote about it on his Facebook page.

With the public donation worth K23.6 million, the restoration of the Inwa-era classical poet's mausoleum has been carried out and will soon be finished in a neat and tidy manner, he said.

"A family donated K1.5 million for the ceiling of the mausoleum, dedicated to their

parents. For marble flooring, Panthagu Sayadaw and his family donated K1 million, which is dedicated to Daw Sukhena (head of the Myintzu Thaka nunnery), who passed away on 1 May 2024," he said.

When the ceiling and flooring are finished, the construction will be complete, he said. Kyethayaygon in Pyay, where the mausoleum is located, is muddy when it rains, and because of this, Dr Than Min Htut has invited donors to build a road there.

Sayadaw Shin Maha Ratthasara passed away in Pyay in the year 892 Myanmar Era, at the age of 62. — MT/ZS

## Depression No-03/2024

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 24-5-2024

### Depression Condition

According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, a depression over Central Bay of Bengal has moved North-Northeastwards and now lies over Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. It is centered at about (275) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Coco Island, (310) Nautical miles West of Hainggyigyun, (340) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Thandwe (Myanmar), (370) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Khepupara (Bangladesh), (350) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Sagar Island and (380) Nautical miles South of Canning (West Bengal, India).

It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the Depression is coded yellow stage.

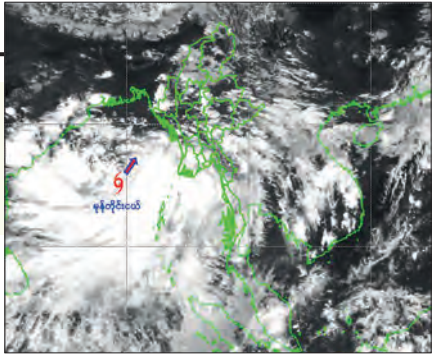
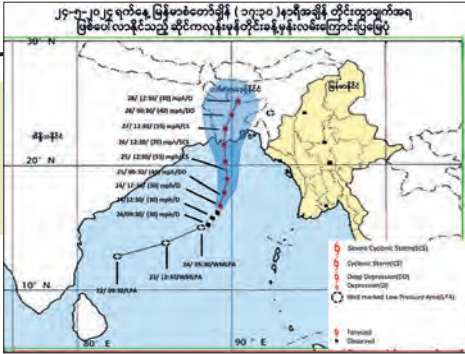
### Position of Depression, centre

### pressure and wind

The Depression is located at Latitude (15.9) degree North and Longitude (89.0) degree East, centre pressure of Depression is (996) hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is (30) miles per hour at (17:30) hrs MST today.

### During next (60) hrs forecast

The Depression is likely continue to move North-Northeastwards and further intensify into a Cyclonic Storm over Eastcentral Bay of Bengal on 25-5-2024 morning. Thereafter it is likely continue to move Northwards and intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm on 26-5-2024 early morning. It may cross Khepupara (Bangladesh) and adjoining West Bengal coasts near Sagar Island (India) on 27-5-2024 early morning.



### General caution

Under the influence of depression, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls in some Regions and States along with strong winds from tonight to 27-5-2024. Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40-45 mph and wave height will be about 9-12 feet from 24-5-2024 to 25-5-2024. Fre-

quent squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 40-45 mph and wave height will be about 9-13 feet from 24-5-2024 and surface wind speed in squall may reach 50-60 mph and wave height will be about 13-16 feet from 25-5-2024 to 26-5-2024.

### Advisory

Under the influence of depression, people should be awared heavy rain with strong wind, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts. — DMH



NATIONAL



SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the progress in the construction of the Sasana Beikman in Minbu yesterday.

FROM PAGE-1

He underlined that if residents can develop agriculture and livestock-based industries, such efforts can contribute to the development of the region and the State. To do so, it is necessary to encourage the education sector to turn out well-versed human resources.

The Senior General emphasized that only when the country has an increasing number of educated citizens will regions have development. If not, lesser knowledge of people can harm the peace and stability of the region and development process, he noted.

In the public security sector, the Senior General said as the People's Military Service Law has come into force, a proper number of people from the designated age limit have to seek military service during the set period. Departmental officials have to disseminate factual information to the people so as not to follow fake news, misinformation, and rootless reviews about the people's military service, he added.

At the meeting, Magway Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin reported on the progress of ag-

Every village in Magway Region to plant two-acre forest to combat...



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the Magway Region government and district officials yesterday.

riculture and livestock breeding tasks, the learning of students, healthcare services for retired service personnel, and the development of the region. Departmental officials also presented agricultural measures, land utilization, cultivation of crops, and establishment of forests to green the environment.

Union ministers U Min Naung and U Khin Maung Yi

discussed undertaking greening tasks across the nation and setting special zones for forest plantations.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council member Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, union ministers, senior military officers and officials.

The Senior General presented K280 million for the devel-

opment of libraries in Magway Region and 5,500 copies of books to the regional chief minister.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, inspected the progress made in the construction of the Sasana Beikman in Minbu. Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Zaw Naing Oo reported on matters related to the Sasana Beikman. The Sen-

ior General gave the necessary guidance.

The Senior General, wife, and party paid homage to Shinpin Sekkeinte Pagoda in Minbu and Myathalun Pagoda in Magway and donated cash to the pagoda's funds.

The Senior General asked about preparations to gild Myathalun Pagoda for the seventh time. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Prime Minister allocates unconditional funds for natural disasters: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the National Disaster Management Committee meeting 1/2024 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is also Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee-NDMC, addressed the 1/2024 committee meeting yesterday.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General recounted that the Prime Minister instructed all to take lessons from the impacts of climate change in order to consider and make preparations not to happen similar cases in the country.

Moreover, the world countries, including Myanmar, are likely to face the impacts of El Niño and La Niña. Due to global warming, when the current global average temperature is compared to the one of 1850-1900, the average temperature is rising year by year for El Niño, and it experiences high annual temperatures through an evolutionary influence on global warming due to the El Niño.

Starting from May 2023, El Niño occurred in world countries, reached moderate strength in July and August, and peaked as a vital event between September 2023 and February 2024. It is likely

to get a weak stage until May 2024 and return to normal conditions between June and October, according to the World Weather Watch. He then mentioned the enormous impacts of El Niño that caused the ice shelf to melt faster, heavy snowfall, and the highly severe cyclonic storm Mocha in Myanmar on 14 May 2023.

As a consequence of El Niño, extreme weather conditions can be seen in summer across the world in 2024, and certain townships of Myanmar, like Chauk, Magway, Minbu and NyaungU, are included in the world's 15 hottest cities.

According to the statements of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, about 30 weather stations conducted 50 temperature measuring activities until mid-May 2024, and it found new record high temperatures. Due to such high temperatures, the Cumulonimbus occurred from the heat cloud stage and caused downbursts that disturbed flights in certain regions.

He added that the AHA Centre compiled the weather comparison between 2023 and May 2024, and it showed there were 829 earthquakes, floods, land-



The regional and state chief ministers participate in the meeting via videoconferencing.

slides and volcano eruptions in 2023, whereas 539 cases within five months from January to May 2024. When looking at such a list, natural disasters occur more frequently.

The natural disaster caused losses worth US\$642.4 million in 2023 and US\$22.4 million from January to May 2024.

He also instructed all to make preparations as the monsoon period will begin soon in Myanmar and to conduct public awareness programmes frequently for the people regarding the weather conditions and advisory as the DMH of the Ministry of Transport and Communications released the cyclone warnings.

He continued that the wildfire occurred in Ghana and Nigeria in 2023, and about 175,000 hectares of Greece's Dadia National Park were destroyed by wildfire. Moreover, the catastrophic flood occurred in Congo, Chile, California and Brazil, leaving thousands of people homeless. A magnitude 7.8 earthquake occurred in Türkiye and the border of Syria, and the cyclonic storm occurred in Greece, Türkiye and Libya.

He also talked about the preparations and rehearsals made in advance for Mocha in May 2023 under the guidance of the Prime Minister; cooperation of regions/state natural disaster management committees, and

successful efforts in overcoming Mocha at least minimal damages during the short period.

He added that Standing Order 2022 for natural disaster management was approved at the 1/2022 meeting and that the work plans for working committees were drafted. Some ministries, regions and states are still remaining to compile for the Standing Order. So, they are now urged to draft the work plans based on the Natural Disaster Management Standing Order 2022 as quickly as possible.

He also underscored that the Prime Minister set a policy for utilizing the natural disaster management committee fund and the buildings to shelter during floods and storms and cyclone shelters in coastal regions and storm-prone areas. The Prime Minister unconditionally permits the fund regarding the fund proposed by the ministries and regional and state governments. Therefore, officials of respective region and state disaster management committees should make efforts to ensure the completion of building constructions, as well as durability and quality. At the same time, the government aims not to cause casualties in disasters.

He finally called on the attendees to participate in a discussion on emergency responses, rescue and rehabilitation works.

Then, the committee's Vice-Chairs Union Ministers Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Dr Soe Win, the committee secretary and other committee members discussed the public awareness programmes, emergency response, rescue works, spending of funds, moderate cyclone occurring in the central Bay of Bengal.

The meeting concluded with remarks by the Vice-Senior General. — MNA/KTZH

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marketing@gnlm.com.mm  
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.  
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NATIONAL

National Security Adviser receives Bangladeshi ambassador

NATIONAL Security Adviser and State Administration Council Chairman's Office 1 Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung received Dr Md Monwar, Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at the reception hall of the State Administration Council office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides frankly discussed cooperation in peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries, as well as friendship and security matters.

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



The Bangladeshi ambassador calls on Union Minister Admiral Moe Aung yesterday.

Bangladeshi ambassador calls on CBM Governor



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe receives the Bangladeshi ambassador yesterday.

GOVERNOR Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) received Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar Dr Md Monwar Hossain at the meeting hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they frankly discussed continuing the direct payment process with Bangladesh taka/Myanmar kyat in order to develop bilateral trade and further upgrade the banking sector that supports the trade.

CBM deputy governors, the permanent secretary and officials also attended the meeting. — MNA/TS

Myanmar ambassador vows to strengthen ASEAN-Canada partnership

MYANMAR delegation led by Myanmar Ambassador U Hau Khan Sum to Canada took part in the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Canada dialogue held in Ottawa, Canada on 21 May, reaffirming commitment to further strengthening partnership, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Myanmar ambassador highlighted cooperation between ASEAN and Canada in science, technology and innovative industry, potential cooperation opportunities in future to attain common interests and promote ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership and Myanmar following Five-Point Consensus of ASEAN.

The senior officials also reviewed positive progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action 2021-2025,

commitments to ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership and cooperation between both ASEAN and Canada in three pillars of the ASEAN Community.

Additionally, they also exchanged ideas on the development of cooperation and future plan of actions to elevate the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership.

The 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Canada Dialogue was co-chaired by Mr Weldon Epp, Assistant Deputy Minister (Indo-Pacific) Global Affairs Canada, and Dato' Sri Amran Mohamed Zin, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

Senior officials of the ASEAN and deputy secretary-general for ASEAN Political-Security Community also attended the dialogue. — ASH/EM

Myanmar vows to ensure nuclear and radioactive safety

AMBASSADOR U Min Thein, Myanmar's permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organizations based in Vienna, reaffirmed the country's long-term efforts to ensure the overall safety of all nuclear and other radioactive materials and sites at the International Conference on Nuclear Security held in Austria on 21 May, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In his speech at the conference, held at the Vienna International Centre from 20 to 24 May, the Myanmar's permanent representative said that Myanmar recognizes the IAEA's efforts to ensure nuclear safety around the world and to strengthen security and non-proliferation. He highlighted the inclusion of atomic security measures based

on UN Security Council Resolution No 1540 in Myanmar's 2014 anti-terrorism law, Myanmar's ratification of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its amendments in 2017, as well as the country's political commitment to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

His speech also mentioned Myanmar joining the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) in 2022, as well as its continued participation in the IAEA's research project on the use of detection technologies and equipment for nuclear materials.

The International Conference on Nuclear Security was organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). — ASH/TH



Ambassador U Min Thein, Myanmar's permanent representative to the United Nations and other international organizations based in Vienna, addresses the conference.



# NATIONAL

## Train schedules suspended due to detonation of railway by terrorists



Photos (top and above) show the damage to the railway line resulting from the terrorist detonation of mines between Nyaungpintha and Kanyutkwin stations on the Yangon-Mandalay railway and MR employees exerting repair works.

A terrorist group detonated explosives on the Yangon-Mandalay railway at the 126/7-8 mile post near Patta village in Phyu Township at 1:42 am on 24 May and again at approximately 2 am.

As a result of the mine explosion, approximately four feet of the track broke off, and about five blocks of concrete sleepers were damaged. Consequently, all trains operating on the

Yangon-Mandalay railway were temporarily stopped at Nyaungpintha and Kanyutkwin stations for repairs by the relevant authorities. The railway was reopened at 12:15 pm after repairs.

The travel schedules were suspended for about 30 minutes, and all passengers arrived at their destinations safely. Terrorist groups have been detonating railways since February 2021. There have been 206 incidents of detonations on railways and stations, 164 mining incidents on bridges, and 42 incidents of arson targeting railway staff's houses. In efforts to enhance railway and infrastructure development, projects for upgrading the rail transport system are continually being planned and managed. However, terrorists have damaged state-owned locomotives, carriages, railways, and bridges, disrupting passenger and goods transport. These acts have also affected the momentum of the Yangon-Mandalay railway upgrading project. Reports indicate that residents and the general public strongly condemn these repeated terrorist acts aimed at impeding the state's development. — MNA/TKO

### Counter-argument to false information

## Fake news circulated as propaganda that 22 residents arrested in Pale Township

SUBVERSIVE media have spread misinformation on social networks, alleging that 22 residents of Ywathit Village in Pale Township, Sagaing Region, were arrested by security forces impersonating PDF members at around 9:30 am on 22 May. According to a security official from the relevant township, villages in Pale Township are being burned and destroyed by PDF terrorists, who are also attacking them with heavy weapons in an attempt to mislead the local population about the performance of security forces' duties.



The screenshot validates misinformation. The security forces in the area did not arrest any locals. — MNA/TKO

## MPT temporarily suspends service for tech upgrade

TECHNOLOGY upgrades will be carried out from 25 May to 26 May, and some services will be suspended temporarily, telecom operator MPT announced. Technology upgrades will begin from 11:30 pm on 25 May to 2:50 am on 26 May. During this period, subscribers can join the Special Flash promotion only until 9 pm on 25 May. In the meantime, subscribers can make phone calls and use data services as usual. Still, with IDD and roaming services, buying packages through MPT4U, USSD code and SMS (data, voice, SMS), buying VAS, loan service, CRBT service, refilling bills and checking balances will



An MPT advertising poster. be unavailable temporarily, MPT said. Checking MPT Club points and checking or updating customer information will not be available temporarily. MPT apologized to its subscribers for the inconvenience. — TWA/ZS

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# Chinese demand for Myanmar’s soft areca nuts booming

CHINESE demand for Myanmar’s soft, fresh and moist areca nuts is on an upward trajectory. It is one of the main import items of China, areca nut depot owners said.

They offer them a handsome price as well. Chinese traders buy them according to branches or kilogrammes or the number of nuts. We are still unknown how the soft areca nuts are utilized. It is considered they are processed to make a snack after roasting in order to penetrate the southeast Asian market.

The shells of areca nut rather than nut are primarily consumed in foreign countries. They are also used in making traditional medicine.

Chinese traders import Myanmar’s areca nuts to meet growing demand for areca nut raw materials. This way, Myanmar’s

areca nut market has boomed.

Myanmar’s areca nuts are normally sent to markets only after drying and processing. At present, they prefer soft and moist areca nuts rather than dried ones. As it can save production cost, the farm owners are keen on selling the soft, green and moist areca nuts rather than dried ones.

Myanmar’s areca nut market has become widespread. The commodity depot of areca nut emerged in the producing states and regions (Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions). There is competitive pricing in the market as well.

The depot owners buy the areca nut weighing 17 to over 30 grammes from the farm owners. Earlier, only dried ones were sold in the market. — NN/EM



A diligent worker carefully gathers soft areca nuts for bagging.

## Thanlyin real estate attracts buyers, poised to thrive after bridge completion

ATTENTION from potential buyers has mounted over properties in Thanlyin Township, which is located across Bago River from Yangon, in May, and it is predicted that the township’s property market will be more vibrant when the Thanlyin Bridge project ends, according to Thanlyin-based real estate service agencies.

“Property transactions are happening now. Buyers have come to observe the market, and some have bought. Some buyers consider transport barriers such as traffic congestion on the bridge, so prices change in some transactions. If this difficulty is eased, land plot prices will reach as expected. This month, interests in Thanlyin’s real estate have escalated, and buying and selling has been fine,” said Thanlyin-based estate agent Ko Sai Lin.

In previous months, the



No 3 Thanlyin Bridge under construction.

market was slow but active again this month, and it is expected to be good in the monsoon season.

“In the monsoon season, many transactions usually happen. It is the best time to observe the market during monsoon season because buyers can witness the real situation, for example, where it floods or where it doesn’t. Currently, Aungchantha ward and Amuhtan ward are the bestselling areas. Most of the transactions happened in these two wards,” said Ko Sai Lin.

On 21 May, the Thanlyin Township Property Service Association elected its executive members. — Thit Taw/ZS

## May sees improvement in seafood market

WITH rising orders and the number of seafood restaurants being enlarged, seafood trading has been better in May.

These years, eating seafood has become popular among people due to food bloggers both externally and internally, and the number of seafood restaurants has also begun increasing.

“The seafood market has potential. Prices vary on a daily basis. Recently, the number of seafood restaurants has swollen. There are three different varieties of seafood: freshwater prawn, tiger prawn, seabass, squid, cuttlefish, octopus, and green mussels. We also deliver to other regions and states. The seafood market was better in May. Orders have also risen,” said Ma Khine Moe Thet, owner of a seafood trading at Than Zay in Lanmadaw township.

She also said that the seafood market will continue to be better in the coming monsoon season.

“Generally, the trading is slow in monsoon season, but seafood sales are regular. The overall sales are likely to de-



crease in the monsoon. However, the number of bars, hotpot shops and restaurants has been increasing, so seafood sales will continue to be high. The seafood market was also good last year. Seafood sale is regularly good,” she said. — Thit Taw/ZS



# Upgrade cyclone shelters for minimizing loss of life and property

AS THE monsoon season approaches in Myanmar, it brings with it strong winds, storms, and squalls, necessitating safe shelters for the population during these disaster periods. To address this need, 121 cyclone shelters have been constructed in the Ayeyawady Region, capable of accommodating over 6,000 residents during emergencies. This initiative gained momentum following the devastating impact of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, which highlighted the critical need for such facilities.

In the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis, which severely affected parts of lower Myanmar, both government bodies and various organizations, including charities and well-wishers, have played pivotal roles in establishing cyclone shelters. These shelters are designed for dual purposes. Under normal circumstances, they serve as

In comparison, Bangladesh has constructed over 14,000 cyclone shelters, capable of accommodating approximately 2.5 million people. Despite this substantial effort, the shelters still fall short of the needs of its 35 million coastal residents. At present, global warming leads to the outbreak of unexpected cyclones. As such, the construction and upgrade of cyclone shelters play a crucial role in minimizing loss of life and property in natural disasters. As Myanmar is one of the countries facing severe impacts of natural disasters, it is necessary to build more and more quality cyclone shelters across the nation.

dation for residents during such events.

Since Cyclone Nargis, a total of 248 cyclone shelters have been built across Myanmar. However, this number remains insufficient for the densely populated coastal regions. The significant loss of life during Nargis was attributed mainly to the inadequate number of shelters and the lack of safety measures in disaster-prone areas. That underscores the urgent need for the construction of additional cyclone shelters in these regions to ensure the safety of the populace.

In comparison, Bangladesh has constructed over 14,000 cyclone shelters, capable of accommodating approximately 2.5 million people. Despite this substantial effort, the shelters still fall short of the needs of its 35 million coastal residents. At present, global warming leads to the outbreak of unexpected cyclones. As such, the construction and upgrade of cyclone shelters play a crucial role in minimizing loss of life and property in natural disasters. As Myanmar is one of the countries facing severe impacts of natural disasters, it is necessary to build more and more quality cyclone shelters across the nation.

H SU is not a fan of early mornings. Her bed feels especially cosy when the alarm rings, but duty calls. She works at 6 am sharp, leaving her no choice but to rise around 5 am. As she slowly awakens, she can hear her neighbour, U Ba Kyaw, reciting his morning prayers. It seems like he’s finishing up his ritual of paying homage to the Lord Buddha. Hsu listens closely to the words he’s saying, a wish for good things to come his way as a result of his actions.

His words are familiar to her, the same ones he recites every day. He asks for a long life, good health, and protection from all sorts of troubles like sickness and bad luck. Hsu isn’t exactly sure where she stands when it comes to religion. She believes in something, but she’s not sure what exactly. However, watching U Ba Kyaw faithfully recite his prayers every day makes her wonder about the purpose of worship.

Perhaps, she thinks, people pray because they hope it will bring good things into their lives, just like U Ba Kyaw does. They might be seeking protection from harm or wishing for blessings and good fortune. Or maybe prayer is a way for people to find inner peace and comfort, to feel connected to something greater than themselves. As she listens to U Ba Kyaw’s earnest words, Hsu can’t help but ponder these questions. She finishes getting ready for work, the morning light filtering through her window. As she steps out into the day, she carries with her the lingering thoughts about prayer and its meaning. Maybe, she thinks, there’s more to it than meets the eye. Perhaps it’s not just about asking for things but about finding a sense of purpose and connection in the world. As

she heads off to start her day, she resolves to keep pondering these questions, searching for her own answers in the quiet moments of her busy life.

Among Hsu’s circle of friends are Christians and Muslims. Hsu, curious about their religious practices, asked them if they also make wishes according to their faiths. Their responses were affirmative, indicating that they indeed engage in this practice. However, when Hsu probed further and asked them why they made these wishes, they struggled to provide her with satisfactory answers. Their responses were vague, leaving Hsu feeling puzzled and intrigued.

Hsu has her own beliefs about the fundamental needs of human beings: food, clothing, and shelter. She has observed that those who regularly engage in making wishes do not lack these basic necessities. For instance, U Ba Kyaw, her neighbour who faithfully recites prayers every morning, is a successful trader who owns three cargo ships. Similarly, Hsu’s affluent friends come from wealthy families and have completed their education without needing to worry about earning a living or assisting their parents in their businesses.

In today’s highly competitive world, merely fulfilling the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter may not be enough to keep up with the demands of the era. Hsu wonders whether human beings are inherently driven by greed, always wanting more than what they already possess. This thought prompts her to consider whether the endless pursuit of material wealth truly leads to happiness or if there are other, more meaningful sources of fulfilment.

Furthermore, in a society

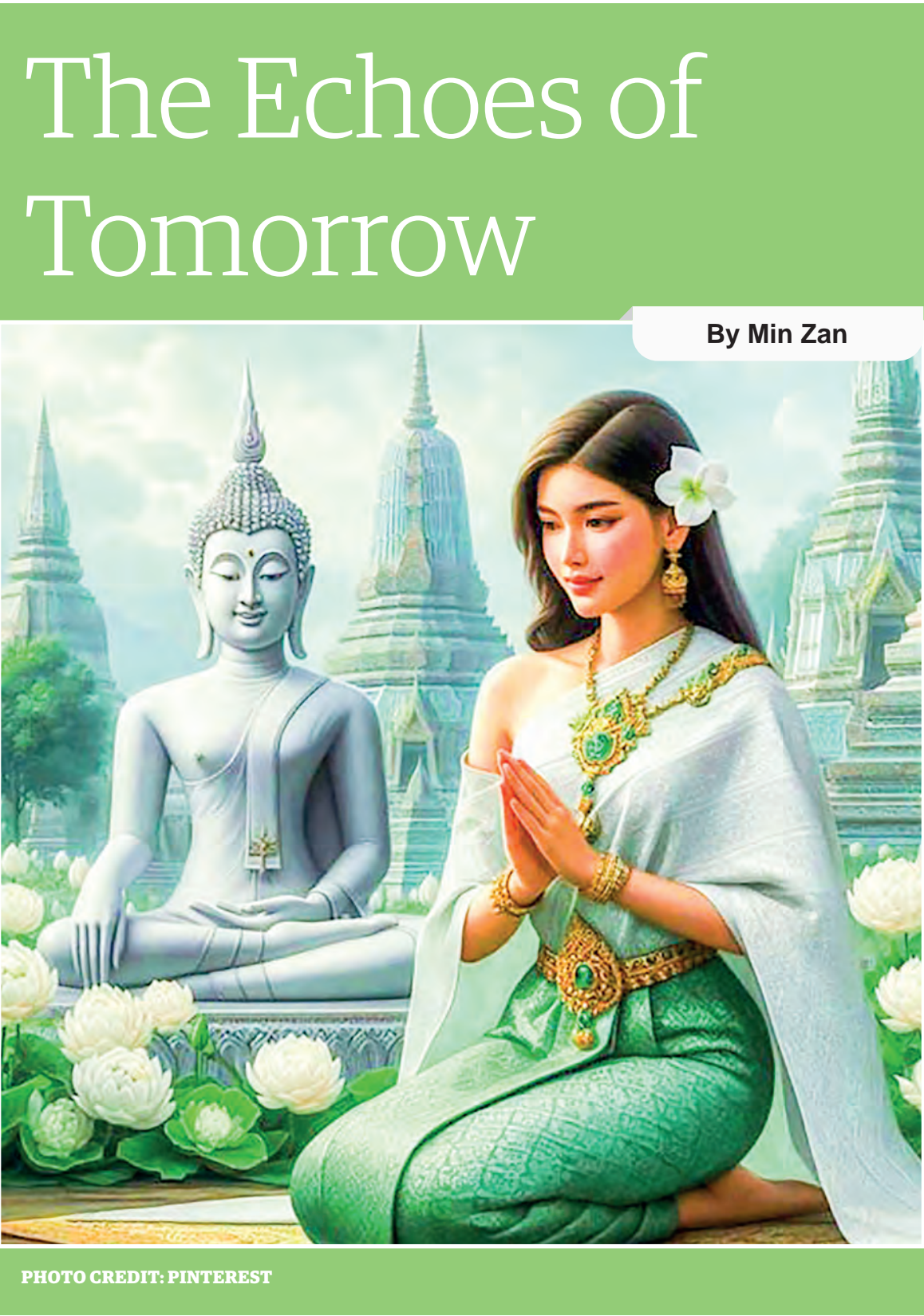


PHOTO CREDIT: PINTEREST

where goods and services are constantly being improved and

# The Echoes of Tomorrow

By Min Zan

upgraded, the desire for newer, higher-quality products becomes

increasingly prevalent. That creates a cycle where individuals feel

the need to accumulate more wealth in order to maintain an updated standard of living. Hsu reflects on this cycle and questions whether it is sustainable or if it only serves to perpetuate feelings of dissatisfaction and inadequacy.

As she goes about her day, these thoughts continue to occupy her mind. She begins to ponder the true meaning of happiness and fulfilment. Is it found in the accumulation of material possessions, or is it derived from simpler, more meaningful sources? Hsu considers the importance of cultivating gratitude, contentment, and meaningful relationships in her life rather than constantly chasing after wealth and material goods.

Ultimately, Hsu realizes that true happiness cannot be found in the relentless pursuit of material wealth. Instead, it lies in appreciating the simple joys of life, such as spending time with loved ones, pursuing passions and interests, and making meaningful contributions to the world. With this newfound perspective, Hsu resolves to focus on cultivating these sources of happiness and fulfilment in her own life rather than being consumed by the pursuit of wealth and material possessions.

Money is a limited resource, and acquiring it is not easy. No matter how much effort one puts into earning money, it’s often not as much as one had hoped for. Therefore, people seek reliability in something else. For many, this reliability comes from their faith or the supreme figure within their faith whom they believe in and turn to for guidance. It is to this figure that they address their wishes and prayers.

Hsu considers the idea that it

would be beneficial if wishes were as limited as money. She believes that it’s even better to continually improve one’s own abilities through hard work and determination. She sees this approach as practical and sensible because she views praying or making wishes as a form of begging. In her view, those who strive to enhance their skills and capabilities can reduce their reliance on others for assistance.

As she prepares to get out of bed, Hsu recalls a line written by Martin Luther shortly before his death. It was found on a piece of paper with his handwriting discovered in his pocket. Among the words written on the paper were these: “This is true. We are all beggars.”

This line resonates with Hsu, prompting her to reflect on its meaning. She interprets it as a reminder that regardless of one’s status or accomplishments, everyone is ultimately dependent on others in some way. It’s a humbling realization that reinforces the importance of humility and recognizing one’s own limitations.

As she starts her day, Hsu carries this thought with her, reminding herself to approach life with humility and gratitude. She acknowledges the interconnectedness of humanity and the importance of supporting each other in times of need. With this perspective, she feels inspired to continue striving for personal growth while also extending a helping hand to those around her who may be in need.

As Hsu navigates through her daily routine, she finds herself contemplating the significance of prayer, faith, and the pursuit of material wealth. Her encounters with her neighbour U Ba Kyaw and discussions with her friends

about their religious practices prompt her to delve deeper into these profound questions. She wonders about the purpose of prayer and whether it serves as a pathway to attain blessings, inner peace, or connection to something greater. Additionally, she reflects on the correlation between wealth and happiness, pondering whether the relentless pursuit of material possessions truly leads to fulfilment. These contemplations lead her to question societal norms and reevaluate her own values and priorities.

As Hsu begins her day with these thoughts swirling in her mind, she grapples with the idea that perhaps true happiness lies not in the accumulation of wealth but in simpler, more meaningful aspects of life. She considers the importance of personal growth, gratitude, and genuine connections with others. Furthermore, she ponders the concept of reliance on faith or personal abilities versus the pursuit of external validation or assistance.

In brief, Hsu’s journey of contemplation leads her to a profound realization about the nature of happiness and fulfilment. Through her observations and introspection, she recognizes that true contentment cannot be found in the pursuit of material wealth alone. Instead, it is cultivated through meaningful relationships, personal growth, and a sense of gratitude for life’s simple joys. Hsu resolves to prioritize these aspects of life over the endless pursuit of wealth and material possessions, embracing humility and interconnectedness along the way. In doing so, she embarks on a path toward a more fulfilling and purposeful existence, guided by her newfound insights and values.

# Scientists say they can make zero-emission cement

RESEARCHERS on Wednesday said they were a step closer to solving one of the trickiest problems in tackling climate change — how to keep making cement despite its enormous carbon footprint.

In a world first, engineers from Britain’s University of Cambridge have shown that cement can be recycled without the same

steep cost to the environment as making it from scratch.

Cement binds concrete together but the whitish powder is highly carbon-intensive to produce, with the sector generating more than triple the emissions of global air travel.

Demand for concrete — already the most widely used construction material on Earth — is

soaring, but the notoriously polluting industry has struggled to produce it in a less harmful way to the climate.

The team at Cambridge believes it has a solution, pioneering a method that tweaks an existing process for steel manufacturing to produce recycled cement without the associated CO2 pollution.

This discovery, published

in the journal Nature, could provoke “an absolutely massive change” by providing low-cost and low-emission cement at scale, said Julian Allwood, who co-authored the research.

“It is an extremely exciting project... I think it’s going to have a huge impact,” said Allwood, an expert on industrial emissions and key contributor to reports

from the UN’s scientific panel on climate change.

To produce cement, the basic ingredient in concrete, limestone must be fired in kilns at very high temperatures usually achieved by burning fossil fuels like coal.

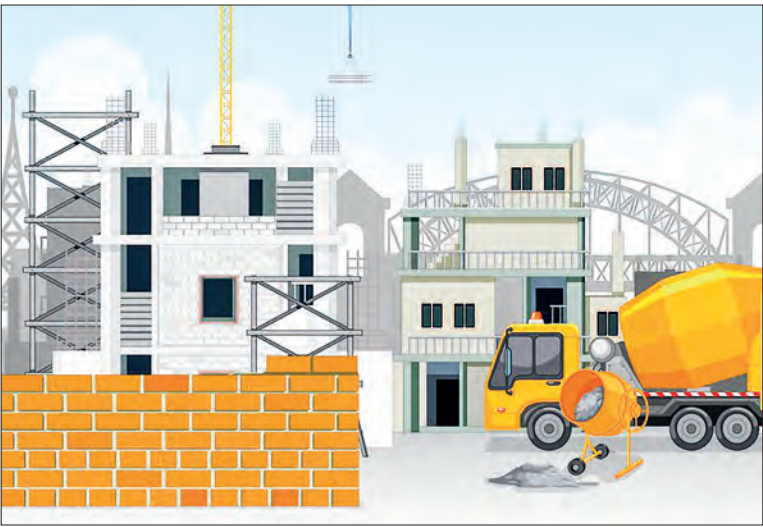
On top of that, limestone produces significant additional CO2 when heated.

## ‘Bright hope’

The cement industry alone accounts for nearly eight percent of human-caused CO2 emissions — more than any country except China and the United States.

SOURCE: AFP

This breakthrough offers a promising solution to mitigate the environmental impact of the construction industry, which heavily relies on concrete.  
ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK





# NATIONAL

## Myanmar participates in 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Indonesia



Dr Aung Thu Soe seen participating in the event representing Myanmar.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that Minister Counsellor Dr Aung Thu Soe of the Myanmar Embassy in Jakarta participated in the opening ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and the ministerial meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, on 20-21 May.

The forum took place at the International Convention Centre in Bali, Indonesia, and was inaugurated by Indonesian President Joko Widodo. Among the attendees were Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Fiji President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, Tajikistan Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda, Malaysian Deputy

Prime Minister Dato Sri Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, Papua New Guinea Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso, as well as World Water Council President Loic Fauchon and United Nations General Assembly President Dennis Francis.

Apart from the ministerial meeting, the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum featured a high-level meeting and a series of discussions led by experts in relevant fields. Government representatives from various countries, representatives from various private sectors, and individuals with a keen interest in water issues participated in the event. — ASH/TMT

## ‘Tein Tauk Chein 2’ group exhibition showcased at Artistic Space Art Gallery



The image depicts artists of the “Tein Tauk Chein 2” group exhibition.

THE Artistic Space Art Gallery announced that the group exhibition named ‘Tein Tauk Chein 2’ will be showcased at their gallery in Botahtaung Township from 25 to 29 May.

The exhibition will feature a total of 50 colourful artworks created by artists Sayama Lun Mya Mya, Mya Mya Win, Myint Myint Tin, Ma Myint Khaing, Khin Swe Hlaing, Cho Cho Aung, Khin Nang San, Khin May Kyi, and Khin May Soe.

“We invite you to come and enjoy the diverse paintings by several female artists,” said the gallery representative.

The exhibition will feature paintings of various sizes, including 24 inches by 24 inches, 36 inches by 24 inches, 18 inches by 24 inches, and 18 inches by 18 inches. — ASH/TRKM

## Annual water quality report on Inlay Lake

SHAN State’s Environmental Conservation Department has been monitoring water quality in Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South), by collecting water samples yearly.

The main functions of the Shan State’s Environmental Conservation Department’s director office include analyzing air and water quality status as an environmental impact assessment. The department calculates air quality in Tachilek, eastern Shan State and monitors air quality in Inlay Lake and Taunggyi in southern Shan State.

Collecting water samples, calculating water quality and awareness campaigns to mitigate plastic pollution by distributing flyers were conducted in the second week of May.

Onsite water quality assessments with U53 G water quality parameters were undertaken after collecting water

samples from the nine places in Inlay Lake covering Mongthauk village, Zayatgyi, Yayle Botel, Inpawkhon village, U Than Hlaing’s cotton business, PhaungdawOo Pagoda, Heya Ywama, Khaungtaing village and Nyaungshwe jetty.

“We do not see any deterioration in the water quality index of Inlay Lake. There is no toxic heavy metal concentration in water, yet the turbidity is quite high. Phosphorus content is quite high during the growing season (July-August) due to pesticide use. However, the water quality is not in danger level,” said an official of the department.

The Department of Forest’s, Nature and Wildlife Conservation Branch and Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary’s staff joined hands to carry out water quality assessment and awareness campaigns for the mitigation of plastic pollution. — ASH/EM



Officials concerned are seen conducting water quality assessments in Inlay Lake and collecting water samples.

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.

### 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](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise





NATIONAL

Rainy season loans available to farmers clearing previous debts



Farmers are being given loans for the rainy season last year.

THE Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank announced on 23 May that it will provide agricultural loans for the rainy season of 2024 to those who have paid off their agricultural loans.

The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank of the Ministry of Planning and Finance provides loans for agricultural expenses according to the growing season, and farmers will be allowed to get new loans only after clearing their previous debts.

Farmers will be allowed to lend other short-term and long-term loans issued by the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank in accordance with the specific terms and conditions only after they clear the loan.

Farmers who have paid off the

previous loan principal and interest for the 2024 rainy season loans will be sent through the relevant district and township bank branches at an interest rate of five per cent per year as of 20 May, before the rainy season planting time.

Therefore, farmers who have already paid off their previous loans have been informed to contact the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank and relevant district and township bank branches in order to get the 2024 rainy season loans on time. The rainy season loan for 2023 has been lent since 18 May 2023. As of 31 August, more than 434.77 billion kyats have been lent to more than 518,000 farmers for more than 3.06 million acres of land. — TWA/KZL

Paulin, Pangpet Tech High Schools offer courses for G9 graduates

STUDENTS who have completed the middle school education (Grade 9) can apply for admission to the Industrial/Agriculture/Livestock High School (Paulin) and Government Technical High School (Pangpet) in Hopong Township of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South).

In this programme, students attending basic education, industrial/agricultural/livestock high schools, and government technical high schools in Hopong, Hsihseng, and Pinlaung Townships of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone will have opportunities to learn vocational courses such as industrial technology, agriculture, and livestock breeding during their high school term, and will also receive employment opportunities.

In the industrial technology sector, in addition to high school subjects,

three specialized subjects — Building Technology, Electrical Technology, and Machining Technology — will be taught and trained using a curriculum designed to prepare students for the workplace through theoretical and practical work during three academic years.

In addition, students attending the THS who pass with credit will have various opportunities to pursue further studies. They can participate in universities of technology for six academic years to earn a Bachelor of Engineering (BE) or attend government technological colleges for four years to earn a Bachelor of Technology (BTech). Additionally, qualified students can attend government technical institutes to earn an Associate of Government Technical Institute (AGTI) Diploma after three years of study. — TWA/TKO



Industrial/Agricultural/Livestock School in Hopong Township.

14 export licences approved for Thai-Myanmar border trade worth over US\$4M

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, a total of 14 export licences worth have been approved to export goods more than US\$4 million from the Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong route through the container system.

The statement says the export and import entrepreneurs will launch the exports along

Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong route and the imports from Ranong-Kawthoung-Yangon channel through the border trade system.

In addition, the Ministry has approved the verification of import licences to ensure that there is no shortage of raw materials in domestic

production activities.

The Trade Department released a news bulletin on 11 April that the Myanmar-Thai border trade is allowed through the container system from the Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong and Ranong-Kawthoung-Yangon port channels. — TWA/MKKS



The photo shows the Kawthoung border from waterway.



# ECONOMY

## WORLD

## Profit of Indian oil companies will decrease in FY25 as refining margin drops

*The profit outlook for oil marketing companies (OMCs) in FY25 is expected to decline due to a reduction in the Gross Refining Margin (GRM) of the oil industry.*



THE profit of the oil marketing companies (OMCs) will reduce in the FY25 amid the reduction in the Gross refining margin of the oil companies.

The Gross Refining Margin (GRM) of Indian oil companies in FY23 was at USD 16-18/ Barrel (bbl), in FY24 the GRM of Indian Refiners moderated to an average of USD 10 – 12/bbl. According to a report by CareEdge ratings, the GRM of oil companies will reduce further to USD 6-8 in FY25.

The report highlights that this moderation was on the back of a narrowing discount on Russian crude along with a reduction in product cracks.

Despite decrease in GRM in FY24, the operating profit of Indian oil players jumped multi-fold in FY24 over FY23 due to higher marketing margin.

According to the Ministry of

Petroleum and Natural Gas, the combined profit of oil marketing companies for FY 2023-24 stood at Rs 86,000 crore, over 25 times higher than the previous fiscal year.

The report says that the marketing margin is also expected to reduce on the back of a reduction in the retail price of petrol and diesel by Rs.2/litre implemented from mid-March 2024. Crude oil prices are strongly influenced by the global economic outlook, the supply of oil managed by OPEC, and other geopolitical factors. The price of crude oil experienced an upward trajectory in FY22 as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic receded and demand rebounded.

However, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine from February 2022 caused crude oil prices to reach record levels in the first half of FY23. — ANI

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Türkiye bets on Togg to give its car industry electric edge

ON the shores of the Sea of Marmara, a grey and turquoise factory built at breakneck speed is churning out electric cars by the hundreds. Türkiye is hoping its first major electric carmaker will put the country in the driving seat of the automotive industry.

Inside the plant, robot arms weld the passenger compartment of its first SUV, the T10X, which launched last year. After painting, the parts are then sent for assembly, before finally passing through a luminescent tunnel to be scrutinised by workers for imperfections.

The batteries, made in partnership with Chinese manufacturer Farasis Energy, are assembled in a next-door building. — AFP

#### Thailand's auto production continues to fall in April

THAILAND'S auto production continued to drop in April due to long holidays and weaker demand in the domestic market, data from the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) showed on Thursday.

Thai auto manufacturers produced 104,667 vehicles in April, down 11.02 per cent from a year earlier and slowing from a 23.08 per cent plunge in March, owing to a major fall in the output of pickup trucks and internal combustion engine (ICE) passenger cars, according to the FTI.

However, battery electric vehicle manufacturing jumped 2,476 per cent year-on-year to 644 units in April as local production picked up pace, while that of hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) expanded 106.43 per cent to 13,732 units, the FTI said in a statement. — Xinhua

## World's leading licensing trade show convenes amid growth in global licensing industry

*The expo features networking events, keynotes, panels, and immersive brand experiences to shape the future of the global licensing industry.*

THOUSANDS of leading retailers, manufacturers and licensees from around the globe are gathering in Las Vegas, US state of Nevada, this week for Licensing Expo 2024, the world's premier licensing trade show.

The show, running from Tuesday to Thursday, offers opportunities for retailers, licensees, and manufacturers to identify future trends, connect with the world's most influential entertainment, character, art, and corporate brand owners, and secure deals.

Over 5,000 brands showcased at the expo in Mandalay Bay Convention Centre, including Hasbro, Paramount and

Crayola, and new exhibitors like Liquid Death, Fandom and LEGO. A series of networking events, keynotes, panels and

immersive brand experiences are held during the expo to define future trends of the global licensing industry. — Xinhua



People pose for photos at the Licensing Expo 2024 in Las Vegas, the United States, on 21 May 2024. PHOTO: ZENG HUI/XINHUA



# Toyota to end top-tier Olympic sponsorship contract after Paris Games

*Toyota was the first automaker to secure a top-tier sponsorship in 2015; however, the exact amount spent remains undisclosed, with total expenses estimated to exceed 100 billion yen (\$637 million).*

TOYOTA Motor Corp plans to terminate its top-ranked sponsorship contract with the International Olympic Committee after the upcoming Summer Games in Paris, sources close to the matter said Friday.

The world's biggest automaker will not extend the contract it signed in 2015 but does plan to continue supporting athletes and promoting sports in its own way, the sources said.

Toyota hopes to retain its contract as a top sponsor with the International Paralympic Committee, but the IOC says sponsors cannot continue with only

one of the contracts, they said.

The Japanese firm became the first automaker in the world to sign a top-tier sponsor contract in 2015. How much it paid for the contract has not been disclosed, but its total spending has likely reached over 100 billion yen (\$637 million), the sources said.

Some people at Toyota have been dissatisfied with how sponsorship money is handled as they believe it is not used effectively to support athletes and promote sports, according to sources close to their thinking. — Kyodo



Toyota Motor Corp President Akio Toyoda (L) and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach pose for photos in Tokyo on 13 March 2015, during a signing ceremony for a contract granting Toyota top-ranked sponsorship of the Olympic Games through 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO**

# Paris Orly air controller strike sparks mass cancellations

*The French civil aviation authority has ordered airlines at Paris Orly airport to cancel 70% of flights due to an upcoming air traffic controller strike over the weekend.*

THE French civil aviation authority said Friday it had ordered airlines operating at Paris Orly airport to cancel 70 per cent of flights ahead of a weekend air traffic controller strike.

The cancellations will affect commercial flights scheduled between 0400 GMT and 2130 GMT on Saturday, it said in a statement.

Flights between Orly and French overseas territories would be allowed to operate normally, it said.

The stoppage comes only a month after a massive air traffic controller strike affecting several French airports that end-

ed with a deal between the civil aviation authority and the biggest air traffic controller union, the SNCTA.

But the second-biggest union, UNSA-ICNA, said staffing levels were

still inadequate.

"The managers at Orly continue their penny-pinching and shop-keeper accounts which will quickly lead to our teams being understaffed" by

2027, it said in a statement.

UNSA-ICNA and the third-biggest sector union, USAC-CGT, have both rejected the deal signed late last month, which also included concessions on salaries.

The April strike led to the cancellations of thousands of flights in France and across Europe.

Orly, located to the south of Paris, is the second-biggest airport serving the French capital after Roissy Charles-de-Gaulle. It is a secondary hub for national carrier Air France and the homebase for its low-cost subsidiary Transavia. — AFP



The strike call comes only a month after a massive air traffic controller stoppage across France. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Four dead, 21 injured in Spain restaurant roof collapse

THE roof of a restaurant in Spain's popular tourist island of Mallorca collapsed on Thursday, killing four people and injuring 21 others, local rescuers said.

"There are four dead and around 21 injured," an emergency services spokeswoman said, adding that "several nationalities" were among the victims.

The emergency services wrote on social media platform X that seven of the victims were in a "very serious" state and nine others had "serious" injuries, with different hospitals admitting them.

The two-storey building collapsed late Thursday afternoon in the Playa de Palma area to the south of the Mediterranean island's capital Palma de Mallorca.

Firefighters were deployed in number, while ambulances whisked the victims to hospital and the street was sealed off by police to allow rescue teams to go about their work, an AFP journalist saw.

Rescuers were continuing to work at the scene to find further people stuck under the rubble, they wrote on X. — AFP

# Singapore Airlines tightens seatbelt policy after deadly turbulence

SINGAPORE Airlines said Friday it has tightened seatbelt rules on its flights after one passenger died and more than 100 were injured when one of its planes hit severe turbulence.

Passengers and crew aboard flight SQ321 suffered skull, brain and spine injuries when they were

thrown violently around the cabin during Tuesday's terrifying high-altitude ordeal.

The London to Singapore flight carrying 211 passengers and 18 crew was forced to make an emergency landing in Bangkok, where at least 48 people are still being treated in hospital. — AFP

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA HARBURG VOY.NO. (418W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA HARBURG VOY.NO. (418W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-5-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

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



# ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

## Israeli war cabinet directs negotiating team to resume talks on hostages deal

*Cabinet ministers supported a new proposal by Nitzan Alon, responsible for the hostages' issue on behalf of the Israeli army.*



People take part in a rally calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages, in Tel Aviv, Israel, 18 May 2024. **PHOTO: CHEN JUNQING/XINHUA**

THE Israeli war cabinet on Wednesday night instructed the Israeli negotiation team to renew talks for the release of the Israeli hostages held in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli state-owned Kan TV news reported.

The approval for the resumption of talks was given following a four-hour night discussion, during which the cabinet formulated updated guidelines for the team. Kan

quoted a source involved in the discussion as saying, “This is not all that the negotiating team asked for, but at least we can move forward.”

Cabinet ministers supported a new deal proposal formulated by Nitzan Alon, who is responsible for the hostages’ issue on behalf of the Israeli army, according to Kan. The discussion followed the release on Wednesday evening

of graphic footage showing the kidnapping by Hamas militants of five female Israeli observation soldiers from Israel’s Nahal Oz military base near the Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023.

The video was published at the initiative of the hostages’ families to increase the pressure on the Israeli decision-makers to move forward with the deal with Hamas. — Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Don’t expect UN peacekeepers to stop wars

THE world cannot look to UN peacekeepers as a way of stopping wars, whether in Gaza or other active conflict zones, the department chief told AFP, citing the famous Blue Helmets’ inherent limitations.

A mission in the occupied Palestinian territories, for example, is only “very, very, very hypothetical,” Under Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix said.

The Arab League has called for such a deployment.

But Lacroix said all the basic conditions are missing: a ceasefire, an agreement from warring sides to accept UN troops, and authorization from a deeply divided UN Security Council. — AFP

#### Gaza pier used to feed IDF before Palestinians: Journalist

EARLIER this month, Israel seized the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing in Gaza, the main crossing between Gaza and Egypt. Since that time, humanitarian aid coming into Gaza has slowed to a crawl, despite the much-hyped US-built pier constructed off the coast.

According to a journalist with sources on the ground in Gaza, the US-built pier that was constructed off the coast of Gaza ostensibly to bring in aid for hungry Palestinians was first used to bring in military equipment and then food, but the first batches of food went to Israeli Defence Force (IDF) soldiers and not the starving citizens of Gaza. — SPUTNIK

#### Putin signs decree to allow confiscation of US property

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin signed a decree Thursday on the seizure of US properties in response to the potential confiscation of Russian assets by the United States.

According to the decree, the Russian Central Bank and Russian entities will have the right to seek legal redress in court in case of the unlawful seizure of properties by the United States.

A special commission of the Russian government will identify US assets or properties, including movable and immovable US properties in Russia, securities, shares in Russian enterprises, and property rights, which can be used to compensate for losses incurred.

The government has been given four months to introduce amendments to Russian legislation to facilitate the implementation of the decree. — Xinhua

## Massive landslide hits Papua New Guinea, many feared dead

A massive landslide struck remote villages in Papua New Guinea’s highlands Friday, with many homes buried and scores of residents feared dead.

The disaster hit an isolated part of Enga province at around 3 am local time, according to government officials, when many villagers were at home asleep.

Provincial governor Peter

Ipatas told AFP that “there has been a big landslide causing loss of life and property”.

He later said “six villages” had been affected and described it as an “unprecedented natural disaster”.

Three bodies have so far been recovered, but there are fears that hundreds more may be entombed. The true toll may take

days or weeks to become clear.

Steven Kandai, a community leader at the scene, told AFP that many residents had no time to flee.

“All of a sudden there was a big landslide. The mountain just collapsed all of a sudden while people were still sleeping,” he said, adding their homes were “completely buried”. — AFP



People gather at the site of a landslide in Maip Mulitaka in Papua New Guinea’s Enga Province on 24 May 2024. Local officials and aid groups said a massive landslide struck a village in Papua New Guinea’s highlands on 24 May with many feared dead. **PHOTO: AFP**



SPORTS

Japan to feature star players in match against Myanmar



JAPAN’S national team head coach Moriyasu announced the list of 26 players for the remaining two group matches of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers to be played in June, including the Myanmar team.

Tomiyasu from Arsenal FC, Endo from Liverpool FC, Kamada from Lazio FC, Minamino from Monaco FC, Kubo from Real Sociedad, and Ueda from Feyenoord FC will join the Japanese squad.

Japan fell in FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Group B with North Korea and Syria, winning all four matches in the group and already advancing to the next stage. Team Japan will take on an away match against Myanmar on 6 June and Syria at home on 11 June.

The Japanese team won the first-round match against the Myanmar team by five goals. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar grabs gold in Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Junior Championships

THE badminton team representing Myanmar has won a gold medal each at the Badminton Asia U17 and U15 Junior Championships, which is being held in Vientiane, Laos, from 22 to 26 May.

Myanmar teams made big wins at the U-15 and U-17 events against Laos, Cambodia, Brunei and Timor Leste and secured the gold medals worthily. Myanmar youth badminton players named Hein Thiha Aung, Nyein Shein Lin, Lin Lin Htet, and Shen Lamein participated in the U-17 tourney, while Myint Myat Lin, Oak Soe Khant, Thadan Htet Kyaw and Yoon Thet Htar Maung also competed for the U-15 event. Myanmar players are competing in the tourney from 24 to 26 May. — Arkar Lin/KZL



Myanmar badminton players are seen with gold medals at the Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Junior Championships.

Inter's Inzaghi named Serie A coach of the season

SIMONE Inzaghi, who led Inter Milan to the Italian title, has been voted Serie A coach of the season, the Italian League announced on Friday.

Inzaghi, 48, succeeded Luciano Spalletti, who took the honour at the helm of Napoli last season. Inzaghi was chosen by a panel of sports publication directors, said the league, which did not detail voting tallies.

"It could only be Simone Inzaghi," Lega Serie A CEO Luigi De Siervo said in a statement.

"Inter have both the best attack and best defence and also went on

a 28-game unbeaten run," said the statement, adding that Inzaghi "has had his players continuously play an exciting brand of football while maintaining compactness and solidity".

The award will be presented ahead of Inter's last match of the season at Verona. Going into Sunday's final round, Inter hold a 19-point lead over second-placed AC Milan. Since Inzaghi took over at Inter in 2021 he has led the club to three Italian Supercups, two Italian Cups and, last season, the final of the Champions League. — AFP



Photo taken on 23 May 2024 shows the Paris 2024 podium during an unveiling ceremony of the podiums of the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics held in Saint Denis, near Paris, France. PHOTO: JULIEN MATTIA/XINHUA

PARIS 2024

WORLD PARTN

# Paris 2024

## organizers unveil design of podiums

“Featuring a sleek and elegant colour scheme of grey and white, the podiums are made of wood and 100% recycled plastic and employ a modular design to accommodate the needs of different events.”

THE podiums of the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games were unveiled at the headquarters of the games' organizing committee on Thursday. Like the medals, the design of the podiums also draws its inspiration from the landmark Eiffel Tower with the metal lace structure outlines the exterior surface of the podium.

Featuring a sleek and elegant color scheme of grey and white, the podiums are made of wood and 100 per cent recycled plastic and employ a modular design to accommodate the needs of different events.

For instance, the shortest podium, used for individual events, consists of three modules and is approximately four metres long. The podium for the football award ceremony uses the most modules, totalling 43, with an overall length of 40 metres. Each

podium weighs approximately 45 kilogrammes. The Paris Organizing Committee has prepared a total of 685 modules, 45 of which are reserved as backup modules. "The podium is the ultimate symbol of performance and its celebration. For Olympic and Paralympic athletes, reaching the podium is an achievement. It is the conclusion of a long journey," said Tony Estanguet, the president of the organizing committee.

Gold medalists will stand on a 35 centimetres high podium, while silver and bronze medalists will stand on a 20cm high podium.

The same design will be used for the Paralympics, but the top three athletes will all stand on a 20cm high podium with a sloped ramp on the side for wheelchair accessibility. — Xinhua



Israeli war cabinet directs negotiating team to resume talks on hostages deal

PAGE-14



# WORLD

NO TRACE  
OF BULLETS OR  
SIMILAR ITEMS

## Iran releases 1<sup>st</sup> investigation report on President Raisi's helicopter crash

THE General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces on Thursday released the first report on the causes of a recent helicopter crash that resulted in the deaths of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his entourage.

Following the crash, a senior investigation committee composed of experts, specialists and technicians arrived at the scene on Monday morning, the semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted the report by the General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces as saying. According to the report, the helicopter had remained on its predetermined course all along the way and had not deviated from the flight route. Almost one minute and a half before the incident, the pilot of the crashed helicopter had contacted the other two helicopters of the president's convoy, the report said. No trace of bullets or similar items have been detected on the wreckage of the crashed helicopter, it said.

After crashing into the mountain, the helicopter had caught fire, it said.

"Complications of the region, fog and low temperature" had caused the search and rescue operations to continue until nightfall and then throughout the night, the report said, adding, "At 5 am local time on Monday (0130 GMT), with the assistance of drones, the exact location of the incident was identified." — Xinhua



LNG tanker Christophe de Margerie navigating the Northern Sea Route.  
PHOTO: SPUTNIK

## Potential Northern Sea route projects with India under discussion, Rosatom says

**R**USSIAN state nuclear corporation Rosatom said on Thursday it was discussing potential joint projects on the Northern Sea Route with New Delhi, with a focus on the use of the corridor in the interests of the Indian economy.

"We are starting to cooperate not only in the nuclear field. There are also discussions about joint projects on the Northern Sea Route and the use of this global transport corridor in the interests of the Indian economy," Rosatom head Alexey Likhachev told reporters.

Rosatom and its Indian counterparts are also negotiating a potential partnership in scientific and technological fields such as quantum computing, communi-

*Alexey Likhachev, Rosatom's head, revealed that this cooperation extends beyond nuclear energy to include the utilization of this global transport corridor.*

cations, and quantum sensors, Likhachev said. "Intensive negotiations, I think, will bring us to a completely new quality level of interaction with India not only in traditional nuclear competencies, but also in a number of projects on technological sovereignty," he added.

The Northern Sea Route is over 3,000 nautical miles (3,500 miles) long and connects the Barents Sea and the Bering

Strait. It is the shortest route between Europe and Asia, as well as the shortest sea route between Russia's Far East and its European part. The entire route takes from seven to 15 days on board a ship with an ice-breaking capacity. In addition to being shorter than the alternative southern route via the Suez Canal, the northern route also poses no piracy risks for the ships and crew. — SPUTNIK

## Pakistan to initiate project to mitigate risk of glacial melting-caused floods



A "monster monsoon" season and melting snow and ice caused deadly flooding in Pakistan this summer. Here, Balochistan province on 29 August 2023. PHOTO: FIDA HUSSAIN/AFP/FILE

*A project has been announced to address the rising threat of floods caused by glacial melting in northern Pakistan.*

THE spiking risk of glacial melting-caused floods in the northern region of Pakistan will be mitigated through a Glacial Lake Outburst Floods project, said Romina Khurshid Alam, coordinator to the Pakistani prime minister on climate change and environmental coordination.

The coordinator unveiled the project at a high-level meeting with officials from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination

said in a statement on Wednesday. Both sides agreed to work together on this project and explore funding avenues, the statement said.

They also reaffirmed their commitments to closely collaborate on heat waves, natural disasters and upcoming floods in the country, it said.

It was also decided to formulate a joint strategy to save the wildlife vulnerable species during the upcoming floods, according to the statement. — Xinhua