

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

Myanmar, India enhance existing long-standing friendly relations, cooperation

Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur presented his Credentials to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC Chairman's Office.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur emphasized the enhancement of friendly relations, cooperation, and the relationship between Myanmar and India as both countries are in good neighbourhoods.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks at the ceremony to accept Credentials from Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur at the Credential Hall of the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed cooperation in defence issues between Myanmar and India.

Both sides also focused on peace and stability in border regions as well as regional development, management for running direct flights between them, promotion of bilateral trade, and sending of scholar students for further studies.

They also cordially talked about political progress in Myanmar and preparations to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.

Also, present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Director-General U Wunna Han of the Protocol Department. — MNA/TTA



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts Credentials from Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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Myanmar-China tourism delegation arrives in Yangon on familiarization trip

Exports from manufacturing sector hit over US\$450M in April

The exports from the manufacturing sector amounted to over US\$457 million in April of the current financial year 2024-2025, indicating a significant increase of \$4.37 million compared with that of the FY 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The finished industrial goods export reached \$452.7 million in April of FY 2023-2024.

By two modes of transport (sea and land border), Myanmar delivers manufacturing goods to foreign markets.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials from CMP garment factories, and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing 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

NATIONAL

All-Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) Statement

10 May 2024

THE All-Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) are deeply saddened by the news that 32 innocent civilians, including 17 males and 15 females, were killed, and 14 others, comprising five males and nine females, were wounded when PDF terrorists launched an indiscriminate attack with small and heavy weapons on Hsonywa village in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region on 9 May.

The All-Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) have issued a statement condemning the actions of terrorists who are harming the lives of innocent people.

All-Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central)

59th Myanmar Gem Emporium continues its eighth day

THE eighth day of the 59th Myanmar Gems Exhibition took place on 10 May at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, attracting a large crowd of local and foreign jewellers.

Starting in the morning, both local and foreign gem traders began to inspect the collections of jade stones from Group C exhibited outside the Maniyadana Jade Hall, based on their preferences.

During the exhibition, jade lots numbered from 2,751 to 3,750 were vended to jewellers through an open tender system.

Officials reviewed and inspected the proposed price lists of jade lots numbered from 2751 to 3750 on the eighth day, and the sold-out jade lots will be announced on the ninth day of the exhibition.

Moreover, gem and jewellery shops are operating inside the Maniyadana Jade Hall, which is bustling with buyers and gem

merchants.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi inspected the price submissions for the sets of jade that the jewellers want to buy are properly placed in the tender boxes, conditions of gems and jewellery booths and jewellery exhibition activities according to the business needs.

The 59th Myanmar Gems Emporium is scheduled from 3 to 12 May at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Throughout the exhibition, 182 lots of pearls were sold on the second day, followed by 197 lots on the third day, 88 lots of gems on the fourth day, 546 lots of jade on the fifth day, 569 lots of jade on the sixth day and 424 lots on the seventh day.

The remaining jade lots will continue to be marketed through an open tender system. — MNA/KZL



Gem merchants seen viewing and evaluating gem stones yesterday.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Statement No 3/2024

1. Since independence, there have been armed attacks against the State of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. These incidents have resulted in significant loss of life and damage to the property of innocent people. Moreover, public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, electrical and telecommunication towers, electricity substations, railway tracks, hospitals, schools, and religious buildings, had also been destroyed.
2. The right to life is the most fundamental right for all human beings. Under Article (3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security. As a result of the violent incident at Hsonywa village of Myingyan Township and other destructive acts, the right to life, liberty and personal security of the people, including older persons, children, pregnant women and disabled persons, were lost.
3. Law enforcement, peace, and human rights are interrelated. Incidents involving armed attacks against the State not only disrupt stability and the rule of law but also affect peace and human rights. It should be emphasized that the absence of stability and the rule of law would impede the successful conduct of a free and fair multi-party democratic general election in the country.
4. To avoid the tragic loss of lives and the disruption of socioeconomic well-being, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission urged all concerned parties to consider the right to life and fundamental human rights of the people in order to ensure national stability and the rule of law.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at (11:00) hours MST on 10-5-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, due to the unstable atmospheric condition, a low pressure area may form over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Andaman Sea around 18-5-2024. It is likely to intensify into a Depression.

Currently, the low pressure area has not yet started to form, so movement of the system are varying in accordance with the observation times, data and models. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology will issue the simultaneous forecasts.

Daily newspapers available online

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

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NATIONAL

SAC Member
DPM MoTC Union
Minister meets
Indian Ambassador

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo received Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur at the ministry office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they

had a friendly exchange of views on cooperation in the transport and communication sectors between Myanmar and India and future activities.

The deputy minister, senior officials of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and representatives from the Indian Embassy to Myanmar attended the meeting. — MNA/TS



The Indian Ambassador calls on SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoD Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San receives the Ambassador of India yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Indian Ambassador
calls on DPM MoD
Union Minister

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister Admiral Tin Aung San received Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur at the Union Minister's office yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on conditions

that could continue to increase defence cooperation between Myanmar and India, the conditions of security cooperation in the border region of the two countries and issues related to training and education between two armed forces. Officials from the Ministry of Defence attended the meeting. — MNA/TS

Myanmar, Thailand discuss developing agriculture and livestock production

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung met Mr Mongkol Visittump, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, and the delegation at the ministry meeting hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed permitting private entrepreneurs from Thailand to invest in agricultural and livestock production in accordance with the law, expanding dairy cattle breeding and dairy product production

to attract foreign investment opportunities in Myanmar, exporting various kinds of pulses and beans from Myanmar, establishing foot-and-mouth disease-free zones for cattle in Myanmar, implementing animal disease control zones, policies on the cross-border export of animals, the requirement for the development of an MoU for the export of cattle, collaboration in preserving short-headed catfish, processes for sustainable agricultural production

that does not harm the environment, and cooperation to develop agriculture and livestock in both countries.

The permanent secretary and departmental officials of the ministry were also present at the meeting. — MNA/TRKM

Union Minister U Min Naung holds talks with the Thai Ambassador-led delegation yesterday.



NATIONAL



Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur calls on SAC Member Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae yesterday.

SAC Member MoHA Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae received a delegation led by Mr Abhay Thakur, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they frankly exchanged their views on Myanmar-India friendly relations and further promotion of bilateral cooperation.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Toe Yi and Chief of the Department of Transitional Crimes under the Myanmar Police Force, Officiating Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Zaya. The Indian Ambassador was accompanied by Deputy Head of Mission Mr Ashish Sharma and officials from the Indian Embassy. — MNA

Counter-argument to false information

Security forces in Madaya falsely accused of torching village



The screenshot validates misinformation.

MALICIOUS media outlets have spread misinformation on social media accusing security forces in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, of torching Udein, Mweteak, and Mwekatoseik villages without provocation on 9 May. They further allege that 20 houses burnt

leading to houses catching fire. Terrorists retreated from Mwekatoseik Village after the engagement. The security forces discovered six handmade mortars, 45 handmade grenades, and detonation-related equipment in the school.

Similarly, another fake report alleged that Tatmadaw's heavy weapon shell dropped on a rubber plantation in Zeepyaung Village, Theinzayat Township, Mon State, killing one resident on 6 May. A security force member clarified that there was no heavy weapons firing on 6 May.

Terrorists have been reportedly targeting non-military entities, instilling fears among the public. Residents are encouraged to report terrorists discreetly to security forces. Subversive media have circulated false news to mislead the public. — MNA/NT

DPM MoPF Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein received Mr Abhay Thakur, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the Planning and Finance Ministry yesterday.

During the meeting, he appreciated the appointment of the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar and expressed his willingness to strengthen the bilateral relationship between

Myanmar and India. They then cordially exchanged views on banking and financing matters, payment for bilateral trade, loans, training for public financial management and insurance-related matters.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and relevant departmental officials were also present at the meeting. — MNA/KTZH



The Indian Ambassador calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union MoPF Minister U Win Shein yesterday.

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

NATIONAL

SAC member attends U Thant Library opening ceremony

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, accompanied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and relevant officials, participated in the 2024-2025 handover ceremony and planting of green manure (*Crotalaria juncea*) in 11 acres in Zeephyu village of Pantanaw township of Maubin district yesterday.

The SAC member cordially met farmers and instructed them on the necessary things regarding plantation and fertilizer use.

The SAC member and party attended the opening ceremony of the U Thant Library and Museum beside Yan-



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung provides the green manure to broadcast them in 11 acres in Zeephyu village, Pantanaw Township, yesterday.

gon-Pathein Road in Pantanaw Township.

After the opening ceremony, the SAC member and regional chief minister highlighted the measures to develop the libraries and raise the reading rate and the need to repair the damaged libraries out of 323 in the region.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint then stressed the efforts of the Head of the State for the youths, the emergence of libraries across the nation and raising the reading rate. Then, officials accepted books, cash and DTH receivers and Top Box sets donated by well-wishers. — MNA/KTZH

MoBA Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung met Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur at the meeting hall of the Union Minister's office yesterday afternoon.

They cordially exchanged views on the development of border areas, human resource development of ethnic youths in border areas, implementation to the development of the socioeconomic life of the ethnic people in the border areas, stability and development of the border regions of the two countries, the Myanmar-India border region development project according to the MoU signed by the two countries,



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung holds talks with the Indian Ambassador-led delegation yesterday.

the successful development of the projects implemented in Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone with India's aid fund and outcomes, signing of a new MoU for the border re-

gion development project, the development of the border regions of the two countries and the issues related to further cooperation in various sectors. — MNA/TS

MIFER Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador



The Thai Ambassador calls on Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received the delegation led by Mr Mongkol Visittump, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Myanmar, at Office No 1, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

During the meeting, both

sides discussed enhancing bilateral economic and investment cooperation, the export-import process and financial matters between Myanmar and Thailand.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations also attended the meeting. — MNA

Union Sports Minister leaves for Thailand to attend 43rd OCA General Assembly

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, left for Thailand yesterday to attend the 43rd Olympic Council of Asia General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand, to be held

on 11 May 2024.

The delegation was seen off by Director-General U Tun Tun Oo, who is also principal of the Institute of Sports and Physical Science (Yangon) the Director of the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Department and officials at

Yangon International Airport. — MNA/KZL

Union Minister U Min Thein Zan and the delegation seen at the Yangon International Airport before leaving for Thailand yesterday.



NATIONAL



The photo shows the Myanmar Education Conference 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw.

MoE announces Myanmar Education Conference 2024

THE Ministry of Education has declared the forthcoming Myanmar Education Conference for 2024. The conference’s central theme is confirmed to be “Promoting education for the development of human resources”. Additionally, the ministry has received paper titles and summaries for six areas, and efforts are underway to identify the main topics of these documents.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the format for presenting information at the conference, which will summarize a year’s worth of work on short-term and long-term plans. Furthermore, discussions are in progress regarding the size and number of exhibits, the 36 paper titles, and the status of implementation and completion of previous work from the Myanmar Education Conference held in 2023. — TWA/TRKM

Auction scheduled for goods in long-held port containers

AN announcement has been made regarding the auction of goods stored in 51 containers held at MIP, AWPT, and HPT ports for more than a year. The auction committee has disclosed that the containers contain various items such as clear float glass, galvanized iron wire, machinery and accessories, brand-new sanitary wares and accessories, aluminate fireproof cement bags, refractory bricks, and polyester ring-spun sewing thread. These goods will be auctioned off in their current state through the open tender system at 1 pm on 30 May.

According to the report, tender forms will be available for purchase at the central store of Myanma Port Authority during office hours from 10 to 28 May. — TWA/TMT

Industry Ministry secures natural gas for Garment Factory 1

THE Ministry of Industry has announced an acquisition of natural gas for Garment Factory 1 (Shwetaung). The factory has teamed up with Japan-based Suratomo Company to start bleaching and dyeing processes for textiles and produce textiles to meet local demand.

pipeline from the Yenangyoung Off-take for the factory. He also highlighted the efficient use of natural gas since its extraction has faced limitations.

Since 1987, the Energy Ministry has been providing natural gas to the factory from Pyay and Aphyauk oil fields. Presently, it annually supplies 30 million cubic



The signing ceremony between the two ministries at Office 30 of the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 May.

The Union Minister for Industry has stated the potential production boost and product quality improvement by acquiring natural gas. The Industry Ministry and the Energy Ministry signed a contract for natural gas acquisition for Garment Factory 1 (Shwetaung) on 6 May.

The Union Minister for Energy said they set up a dedicated feet of natural gas to 12 factories under the Industry Ministry. Additionally, it provides 9.5 million cubic feet of natural gas daily for urea chemical fertilizer plants.

As of February in the financial year 2023-24, the Energy Ministry extracted over 1.4 million barrels of crude oil and 888 million cubic feet of natural gas from 10 inland fields. — TWA/NT

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Pensioners to withdraw their unclaimed pension at nearest MEB branches

THE Pension Department, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, has announced that retirees who are unable to withdraw their pensions can apply to retrieve any missing or unclaimed payments at the nearest branches of the Myanma Economic Bank.

The department’s announcement on 6 May stated that retirees whose banking services have been temporarily suspended due to security concerns in the region and those who do not have access



to banking services can apply for unclaimed pensions.

To enhance convenience for retirees who have been unable to withdraw their pensions for more than one year, starting from 1 April 2021, they will be allowed to apply for pension withdrawals at the nearest branches of the Myanma Economic Bank as part of a temporary programme.

In addition, the Ministry of Planning and Finance has also announced that it will provide services for retirees who have not withdrawn their pensions for more than a year despite having access to regular banking services, in accordance with the existing legal procedures. — TWA/TKO

Retirees are seen receiving their pensions in Myawady Township on 21 September 2023.

Over 13,000 tonnes of maize slated to ship to Thailand through Shweme Port

MORE than 13,000 tonnes of maize per month are planned to be exported to Thailand through Shweme Port, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon, U Kyaw Lwin, manager-in-charge of Shweme terminal, Shwe Me Logistics Services Co Ltd said.

“We will convey 13,400 tonnes of maize to Thailand monthly with five ships of MCL Shipping Line (each container capacity of 2,700 TEU), whereas construction materials and other goods will be brought in,” he added.

Shweme Port was allowed to ship internationally this year beyond domestic deliveries. It was developed in 2012 and operational for domestic shipping in 2015.

“It was earlier designated as a domestic port. This year, the port handled container shipping overseas. Container ships sailing to Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, and India were seen loading and unloading cargo starting this year.

“Container shipping to and fro Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong will kick off



The photo shows Shweme Port in Shwepyitha Township, where cargo vessels can dock to load and unload cargo.

soon”he added.

The Shweme Port is 4.257 acres wide, having a 110-metre-wide pier

where ships can dock to load and unload cargo.

There is a 250-metre by 120-metre

warehouse in the port complex. The Shweme Port also forwards cargo to Thilawa Port. — ASH/KK

Enquiry available for container shipping process via Myanmar-Thailand border

ACCORDING to the notification by the Trade Department on 8 May traders could enquire about container shipping for the Myanmar-Thailand border trade to facilitate the process.

The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce released a news bulletin No 1/2024 that it gave the go-ahead to container shipping to and fro

Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong for Myanmar-Thailand border trade.

The sample related to licence information is mentioned on the Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 system. An applicant must select Yangon in No 6 and 7 for imports, and Yangon in No 6 and Ranong in No 7 for exports.

In order to make further enquiry about exports & import licensing and seek technical assistance, one can contact the Export-Import Division through contact numbers 067 3408294 for import and 067 3408325 for export and the Information and Technology Division via 067 3408221 and 067 3408723. — NN/KK



A signage of the Myanmar-Thailand border.

JobNation 2024 to be held at Hotel Novotel on 18 May

JOBNATION 2024 will take place on 18 May at Hotel Novotel, bringing together recruiters, 65 domestic and international companies and job seekers.

The event will create a platform where job seekers can directly engage with employers, HR managers and directors of the companies, explore good opportunities and enhance their careers.

It will help companies recruit potential talent and experienced individuals. Those who are interested in working in sales, banking, insurance, business development, accounting, marketing, engineering, hospitality, IT and software development, telecom and retail industries can try to find a suitable position.

Job seekers do not need a physical CV form; they can upload a JobNet Profile digitally. They need to update job experiences and personal information on the profile.

They can register on JobNet.com.mm and fill in a profile. After completing the information and clicking My Digital CV ID, you can save the QR code. This way, QR codes can streamline hiring and recruitment efforts, making it easier for candidates to apply for jobs and enhancing the hiring process for companies.

By scanning the QR code, applicants can view job offers and click the Apply Now button to send a digital CV to the companies.

There might be a walk-in interview at the event. Thus, it will create good opportunities for job seekers. To attend the event, please register through <https://bit.ly/3U6nwxP>. — NN/EM

Strive to raise the literacy rate and educated individuals

THE campaign to develop libraries and raise reading habits took place in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory through collaborative efforts of the government and well-wishers to establish libraries at different levels in order to widen the scope of people.

A library plays a crucial role in broadening people’s horizons and accumulating knowledge in society. In so doing, the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee manages the repairing and reopening of libraries and the construction of new libraries to raise the literacy rate of the people.

The Department of Information and Public Relations under the Ministry of Information runs 410 libraries in districts and townships, and the Myanmar Libraries Foundation, organiza-

Although people can read literature in online media, they need to choose the literature that is beneficial for their lives due to the influence of toxic information. Primarily, school libraries must be opened and upgraded to create a reading environment for students. Only when different libraries keep books and publications will rural people and students have reading opportunities.

campaign for all to increase the number of literate citizens. If so, the whole country will have a large number of educated citizens to handle any measures to achieve success.

On 9 May, well-wishers donated K2,205 million and 70,780 books and publications to 147 libraries for the construction of new library buildings and the repair and reopening of some libraries. On 10 April, more than K12,762 billion and 85,540 books and publications were also donated for the development of libraries across the nation. Such an act aims to raise the literacy rate and educate citizens.

Although people can read literature in online media, they need to choose the literature that is beneficial for their lives due to the influence of toxic information. Primarily, school libraries must be opened and upgraded to create a reading environment for students. Only when different libraries keep books and publications will rural people and students have reading opportunities.

tions, and well-wishers operate more than 3,500 libraries. Thanks to libraries and school education, Myanmar’s literacy rate scored 92 per cent according to the 2019 interim census. Most of the people have only primary school education, but most of them are beyond school age. As such, it is necessary to create chances for them to have knowledge and techniques for their livelihoods.

Myanmar needs to turn out well-versed human resources as a must for building a society that will have success in its national vision and keep abreast of other countries. All developed countries encourage the education sector. As such, countries with educated citizens can establish a political system.

Practically, political controversies can be solved through political ways and means, but countries with a lack of educated citizens may face conflicts. As such, it is

necessary to raise the literacy

WE KNOW it’s true: our screens can take over our minds, make us lose focus, and even make us angry. They also harm the environment. But can we break free from them? I want to try living without screens. For one week, I won’t use computers or mobile phones. But before I start, I need to get ready. The Day Before the First, I told my friends and family about my plan so they wouldn’t worry. I set up an email message saying I won’t be online until Sunday. If it’s urgent, they can call my landline.

Then, I write down important phone numbers in a notebook. I’ll use this notebook like a diary. I borrow my son’s watch and write down my appointments for the week. I also found an old landline phone and plugged it in. Even before I started my digital detox, I realized I rely on screens more than I thought. I feel nervous. I thought this challenge would be relaxing, but now I’m worried. I’m typing this on my computer, which I’ll put away with my phone. Once I close the drawer, I can’t go back. **Day 1**

My alarm clock wakes me up. I reach for my phone, but it’s not there. I feel strange. I’ve only just woken up. I can’t check messages until after I’ve used the bathroom. I can’t see the news or the weather. I have to look out the window instead. It’s a beautiful morning.

I ride my bike to a school where I’m leading a writing workshop. I bring a map just in case. At the first red light, I reach for my phone, but it’s not there. Have I done that at every red light for years? The students at the school were born after the internet be-

came popular. They don’t know life without it. I talk to them without worrying about my phone. But during breaks, I still check my pockets. It’s a habit. I realize I’ve spent most of the day without screens, and I feel fine.

At home, I read a book for an hour before I start writing on paper. I managed to write a few lines before losing focus. Normally, I’d check my phone for news. But not today. Instead, I eat some chocolate. It’s a small reward. Later, my son asked if I managed without my phone. I say yes, even though it was a little hard.

After dinner, my partner wants to watch a series, but I can’t join her. I have to read on the couch. She doesn’t want to hear about my detox. I fall asleep on the couch without checking my emails. And I don’t miss it.

Day 2
As my son wishes me luck for the day, I glance at the sealed drawer. What if something goes wrong? What if there’s an emergency at my son’s school? What if there’s big news? What if someone important wants to contact me? These thoughts bother me. Maybe I should check my messages just

this once? It’s only been a day, but it feels like forever! I need to leave the house before I change my mind.

I picked up a newspaper, Le Monde, something I hadn’t done in a long time. Sitting in a café, I enjoy flipping through the pages. The world’s problems seem distant when I read about them on paper. It’s less overwhelming. But I have work to do. I’m writing a manuscript due soon. After a productive day, I decided to attend a magazine launch party I was invited to.

At parties like these, having a

Day 3

Today will be tricky. I need to write a column for a magazine I’ve been contributing to for years. Normally, I write it on my computer and email it to my editor. But today, I’ll do it the old-fashioned way — on paper. The editors might think I’m crazy.

As I started writing, the landline rang. Someone must have seen my out-of-office message and called. Maybe it’s urgent. But it’s a journalist inviting me to an internet show. I explained that I couldn’t access the internet. She’s surprised but says it’s okay. They

When I wake up, my first instinct is to reach for the taped drawer. I realize I still have a long way to go. Why do we feel the need to check our emails so urgently? Maybe it’s the hope of good news or someone thinking of us. Even though most of it is spam or bills, we still hope for something better. I check my physical mailbox and then head to the supermarket. Suddenly, I panicked — I forgot my loyalty card. My partner will be upset. She sent it to my phone for safekeeping.

Am I damaging my relationship with this detox? Could this

ent asks about my detox. I lie and say it’s going great. I talk about the benefits, even though I feel like a fraud. I’m addicted to my phone, but I’m pretending to be clean.

Day 5

I leave the house without checking for my phone in my pocket. It’s a small victory after five days. I feel lighter. I see a friend on the street, but she doesn’t notice me waving because she’s staring at her phone. I feel out of sync with the world. Everyone seems obsessed with their screens. These amazing technologies were supposed to make us smarter, but instead, they’ve made us slaves to our devices.

After school, my son rushes to his tablet. It’s a constant battle to limit his screen time. He asks for a phone too often. Not yet, I tell him. I don’t want him to be controlled by technology.

Day 6

I don’t need a phone to enjoy the park with my son. People chat on benches, play with their dogs, and embrace their loved ones. They’re present in the moment. I don’t need a phone to read a book. I can lose myself in the pages for hours. And I don’t need a phone to have dinner with friends. We talk about the world and how technology has changed it. We’re all aware of the dangers of constant surveillance and validation-seeking online.

As the evening went on, I realized I should let my partner know we’d be late. I borrow a friend’s phone to send a message.

Day 7

I’m allowed to open the drawer and return to my online life. But I don’t. Not just yet. Before I get

back to all the noise, I step outside to listen to the birds chirping. I’m not thrilled to be back in 2024. Life without the internet was happier. But it’s impossible. There’s no rewinding to 1996.

Still, we can make tomorrow’s world a little less bitter. Manage our addictions. Have good digital hygiene. Today, smoking in restaurants and driving without a seatbelt seem inconceivable. Maybe in a decade, we’ll be wondering how we ever sat down to dinner without switching to aeroplane mode.

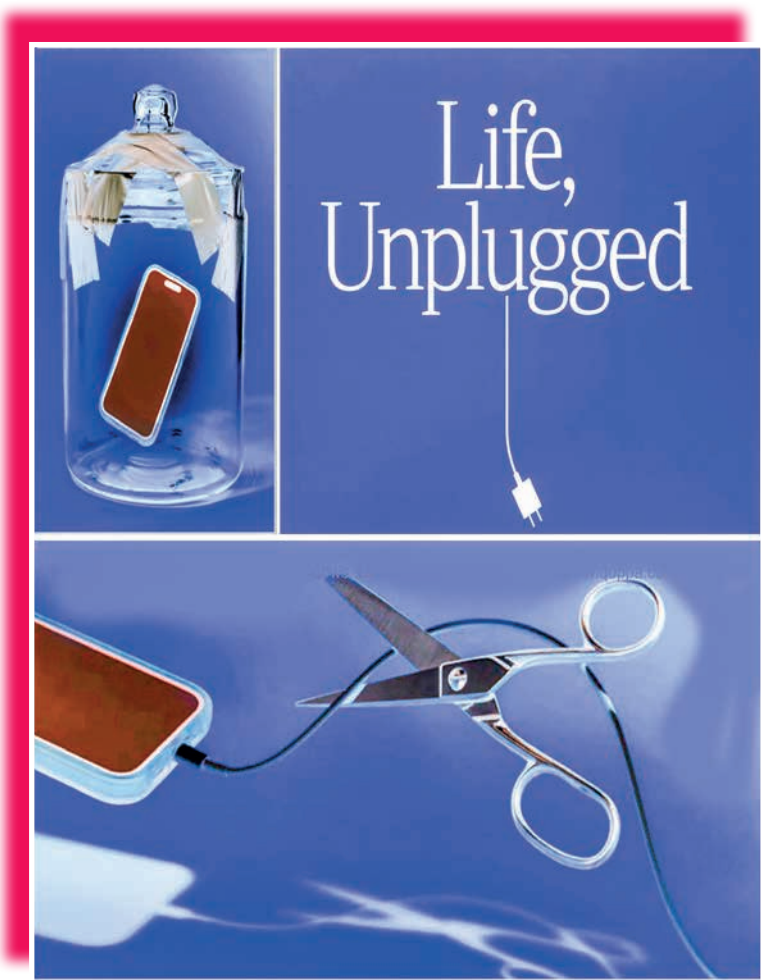
I’m going to consciously and slowly wade back in, with reluctance. To set an example. When my son wants to show me his drawing, I don’t want to hear myself say, “One sec,” as my brain gets hijacked by a device alerting me about Taylor Swift’s new love interest.

However, we can make tomorrow’s world a bit brighter. By managing our addictions and practising good digital hygiene, we can navigate the digital landscape more mindfully. Just like smoking in restaurants or driving without seatbelts are now unthinkable, maybe in the future, we’ll wonder how we ever sat through dinner without switching to aeroplane mode.

I’ll reintegrate into the digital realm slowly, with reluctance. I want to set an example, especially when my son wants to share his drawings. I don’t want to be distracted by my device, uttering a quick “One sec” while my attention is diverted to trivial notifications.



Reference: Reader’s Digest April 2024



A Journey to Life Without Screens

By Yin Nwe Ko

phone is handy. It gives you something to do, even if it’s just checking sports scores. Now, without my phone, I feel exposed. But I find that people are interested in my digital detox. Instead of thinking it’s silly, they admire it. I’m seen as someone who stands up to big tech. It’s been almost 36 hours since I last checked my email, and people think it’s impressive. I head home early, feeling proud, and spend the quiet evening writing.

want me to talk about a book I wrote and need a picture of the cover. I’ll have to ask my publisher to send it. But I don’t have their number, and I don’t have a phone book. Does directory assistance still exist?

Dealing with work without the internet is harder than I thought. A quick email would have solved everything. Despite the challenges, sometimes the internet is useful.

Day 4

challenge ruin my happy life with my partner? I imagine a bleak future where I’ve lost everything because of this silly idea. It’s tempting just to take a peek at my messages. No one will know, right? It’s only Thursday, halfway through. I feel dirty and ashamed, but I can’t resist. I power up my phone, and hundreds of emails flood in. I handled a few urgent matters, but most of it could have waited.

Later, at school pickup, a par-

AstraZeneca withdraws COVID-19 vaccine worldwide, cites commercial reasons

THE pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine is being withdrawn worldwide after the company acknowledged for the first time in court documents that it can cause a rare and dangerous side effect, according to a report in the British Newspaper ‘The Telegraph’.

AstraZeneca has announced that the vaccine was being re-

The vaccine is pulled for commercial reasons and replaced by updated versions. Withdrawal application was filed on 5 March and took effect on 7 May.

moved from markets for commercial reasons. It further said that the vaccine was no longer being made or supplied, having been superseded by updated vaccines that fight new variants.

The application to withdraw the vaccine was made on 5 March

and came into effect on 7 May. The vaccine can be no longer used in the European Union following the company’s decision to withdraw its “marketing authorisation.”

Similar applications will be submitted in the UK and other nations in the coming months that

have given a go-ahead to the vaccine, known as Vaxzevria.

In recent months, Vaxzevria has come under scrutiny over a very rare side effect, which causes blood clots and low blood platelet counts. In court documents, AstraZeneca in the High Court

in February admitted that the vaccine “can, in very rare cases, cause TTS”.

TTS which stands for Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome has been associated with at least 81 deaths in the UK and hundreds of serious injuries.

More than 50 alleged victims and grieving relatives have filed a lawsuit against AstraZeneca in a High Court case. AstraZeneca has insisted that the decision to withdraw the vaccine is not related to the case or admission that it can cause TTS and termed the timing a pure coincidence, according to The Telegraph report.

SOURCE: ANI



AstraZeneca admits in court documents the vaccine’s potential for rare side effects. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw celebrates international midwives' and nurses' day 2024



Florence Nightingale award winner U Sa Naing Naing Tun (senior nurse) receives the Wunna Kyaw Htin title.

THE ceremony for the 2024 International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Union Minister for Health Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win spoke on the occasion

that in 1974, 12 May was chosen to celebrate International Nurses Day by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) as 12 May is the birthday of Florence Nightingale, whereas 5 May as the International Day of the Midwife by the International Confederation Midwives (ICM) in 1991.

This year's theme for International Day of the Midwife is "Midwives: A Vital Climate Solution", and for International Nurses Day is "Our Nurses. Our Future. The Economy Power of Care".

He also highlighted the role of nurses and midwives in ensuring Universal Health Coverage, as they represent nearly 50 per cent of the health workforce.

He added that the nurses and midwives should learn the examples recognized not only in the country but also in the international countries. In the State Administration Council government term, the recipients of Florence

Nightingale awards, Major Daw Khin Ohn Mya, Daw M Yaw Nam (assistant director-retired), Daw Thein Yi (female health staff-retired) and U Sa Naing Naing Tun (senior nurse) were conferred Wunna Kyaw Htin titles and six nurses and midwives who sacrificed their lives and limbs and who were wounded in terror attacks against the health workers were also conferred Ye Bala medals.

He then urged the nurses and midwives to follow their respective ethics in offering healthcare services to the public.

He also presented prizes to 10 nurses and midwives who received Wunna Kyaw Htin titles and Ye Bala medals.

Then, the talk show marking the 2024 International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day was continued, and the senior nurses shared their capacities and experiences. — MNA/KTZH

ASEAN legal cooperation progress: Initiatives to enhance conflict resolution

ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) incumbent chairperson, Deputy Minister for Ministry of Legal Affairs Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo attended the 16th Coordinating Conference for ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) at the ASEAN Secretary-General Office in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 9 May.

The deputy attorney-general said that attendants of the 12th ASEAN Legal Ministers' Meeting and 22nd ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting had submitted some proposals regarding areas in which member countries could potentially cooperate.

Based on their proposals, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Law Association have worked together to initiate conflict-resolving courses to settle problems between investors and invested countries. Discussions to impose better conflict-resolving methods are expected within this year.

The draft of the ASEAN agreement on extradition is also anticipated to be approved this year. It will pave the way for establishing a framework to combat transnational crimes and facilitate legal collaboration among ASEAN member states.

Additionally, representatives from each member state and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat discussed the implementation of the APSC roadmap and other expectations regarding the ASEAN community. — MNA/NT

Myanmar-China tourism delegation arrives in Yangon on familiarization trip



The Myanmar-China tourism delegation seen being welcomed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

THE delegation of the Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion Familiarization Trip (FAM Trip), invited by Myanmar hotel and tourism stakeholders, arrived in Yangon yesterday and was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by U Myo Myint Aung, Minister for Economic Affairs for the Yangon Region government, and officials.

The delegation was invited to Myanmar through cooperation be-

tween the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Myanmar Tourism Federation, the Myanmar Hoteliers Association, the Myanmar Tourism Market Promotion Association, and the Myanmar Tourism Association. The aim is to boost the number of Chinese tourists visiting Myanmar's destinations and raise awareness of Myanmar's destinations in the Chinese tourism market.

The Myanmar-China Tourism Promotion Familiarization Trip (FAM Trip) includes 41 representatives from travel agencies, tourism-related departments, and media from regions such as Beijing, Kunming, Yunnan, Guilin, Chongqing, and Chengdu in China. They will visit Myanmar's famous tourist areas, such as Yangon, Bagan, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Ngwehsaung, and other tourist destinations. — MNA/TKO

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.

NEWS
ROUNDUP

Israel qualifies
for Eurovision
grand finale

ISRAEL qualified for this week-end's Eurovision song contest grand finale, defying thousands of demonstrators marching on Thursday in host country Sweden over the Gaza war.

Singer Eden Golan performed her song "Hurricane" in Thursday's second semi-final in front of 9,000 spectators at the host city's Malmo Arena and booked her place in the final thanks to viewers' votes.

Israel now joins the group of 26 nations that will compete on Saturday in a contest watched around the world by millions of lovers of the pop sounds – and kitschy shows – that Eurovision promises each year.

"Well, I feel... I'm so overwhelmed with emotions. It's truly such an honour to be here, on stage performing and showing our voice, and representing us with pride and making it to the finals is something that's crazy," 20-year-old Golan said after securing her place in the final. — AFP

Remastered Beatles movie 'Let It Be'
gets long-awaited re-release

"LET It Be", the documentary film about The Beatles released just after the band's break up in 1970, hit screens again on Wednesday — the first time it has been legally available in over 50 years.

Shot in January 1969, director Michael Lindsay-Hogg's movie contained glimpses of the tensions and acrimony between John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr that eventually led to them disbanding.

"George wasn't getting many songs recorded because John and Paul were so prolifically brilliant," Jonathan Clyde of the Beatles' Apple Corps told AFP.

"John had met Yoko (Ono) and was making his own journey, Paul was doing what he wanted to do and Ringo had started shooting films," he said.

The film shows the "Fab Four" in rehearsals and recording sessions for the album "Let It Be". The last part features their unannounced 40-minute concert on the roof of their record company building on London's Savile Row.

It was restored from the

The Beatles' documentary film "Let it Be", originally released in 1970 following the band's breakup, returned to screens legally for the first time in over 50 years.



In Liverpool, northwest England, stands a statue of The Beatles. PHOTO: PIXABAY

original 16 millimetres negative with the sound remastered using the latest de-mixing technology, and has been re-released

on Disney+. **More objective**

The film depicted a period where The Beatles attempted to

recapture the spirit of their early days, but it was overshadowed by their breakup just before its release. — AFP

Spanish court
shelves Shakira
tax fraud case

A Spanish court said Thursday it had shelved a probe into an alleged tax fraud by Colombian pop star Shakira, putting an end to her legal woes in the country where she once lived.

Prosecutors had opened the case in July, alleging she had used a network of companies, some in tax havens, to cheat the tax office out of 6.6 million euros (\$7.09 million) in 2018.

A month later, the so-called Queen of Latin Pop paid 6.6 million euros to settle the debt.

But prosecutors on Wednesday asked for the criminal case to be dropped over "a lack of evidence" and a day later, the court agreed.

While the "Hips Don't Lie" singer had committed "irregularities" in her 2018 tax return, the court said that was "not enough to constitute a (criminal) offence against the tax authorities" and that it found no "intent to



The court decision ends Shakira's legal woes in Spain. PHOTO: PIXABAY/CCO PUBLIC DOMAIN

defraud" in her conduct.

Pau Molins, one of her defence lawyers, hailed the move, saying it had "put an end to the smear campaign waged by the tax authorities" against Shakira and "proves there was never any fraudulent behaviour on the part of the singer". — AFP

Tibetan antelopes
start annual migration
to give birth

PREGNANT Tibetan antelopes have begun their annual migration to the heart of northwest China's Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve to give birth, the reserve's management bureau said Tuesday.

At 10:17 am on Tuesday, the first group of 47 Tibetan antelopes passed the Qinghai-Xizang Highway en route to Zonag Lake, which is at the heart of Hoh Xil.

Protection stations along the migration route will take measures such as temporary traffic control, prohibition on honking and patrolling to ensure the animals reach their breeding

spots undisturbed. The reserve's management bureau will also monitor the time, quantity and related conditions of the migration. Every year, tens of thousands of pregnant Tibetan antelopes start to migrate to Hoh Xil in May to give birth, after mating in November or December, and leave with their offspring around August.

Under first-class state protection in China, the once-endangered species is mostly found in Xizang Autonomous Region, Qinghai Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

INDIA has achieved a historic milestone, receiving over US\$ 111 billion in remittances in 2022, marking the first instance of any country surpassing the US\$100 billion mark, the United Nations migration agency said in a report.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) unveiled its World Migration Report 2024, highlighting India's exceptional feat among other notable trends in global migration.

In its comprehensive analysis, the report identifies India, Mexico, China, the Philippines, and France as the top five recipients of remittances in 2022. However, India stands out as the leader, far surpassing its counterparts with remittances exceeding US\$111 billion.

"India was well above the rest, receiving more than US\$111 billion, the first country to reach and even surpass the US\$100 billion mark. Mexico was the second-largest remittance recipient in 2022, a position it also held in 2021 after overtaking China, which historically had been the second-biggest recipient after India," the report said. This achievement underscores India's dominance in the global remit-

India sets record with over US\$111 bln in remittances in 2022: UN report

India achieves historic remittance milestone, receiving over US\$111 billion in 2022. International Organization for Migration (IOM) presents World Migration Report 2024, highlighting India's remarkable achievement.



tance landscape, a position it has maintained consistently over the years. Notably, India was the leading recipient of remittances in 2010, 2015, and 2020, with figures steadily climbing to reach the unprecedented US\$111.22 billion mark in 2022. The report emphasises the significance of Southern Asia as a key recipient of remittances, with India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh collectively ranking among the top ten recipients globally. The substantial inflow of remittances underscores the vital role of labour migration from the subregion. — ANI

India leads with over US\$111 billion, surpassing US\$100 billion mark, a global first. Foreign workers in Dubai comprise a significant portion of the city's workforce, contributing to various sectors such as construction, hospitality, and services. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Israel's economy loses billions a year due to cyber attacks

THE State of Israel's economy suffers a 12 billion Shekel (\$3.3 billion) annual loss due to cyber attacks, according to a new report issued by the country's National Cyber Directorate.

Alongside this, the Directorate report presents new studies that show that the chance of an attack in an organization can be reduced by 30-50 per

cent if the organization invests in a number of basic protection measures. The amount presented in the report is based on an analysis of the costs of handling damage from an attack in the short term such as payments to an initial response team; direct financial loss costs from the attack such as downtime, data recovery and legal advice;

as well as costs in the medium-long term such as future loss of income, loss of business opportunities, damage to reputation, lawsuits and damage to a third party. The analysis refers to various types of attacks that resulted in business damage to the organization in a "top-down" and a "bottom-up" approach. — ANI

Japan's FY 2023 household spending down 3.2%

JAPAN'S household spending in fiscal 2023 dropped a real 3.2 per cent from a year earlier, falling for the first time in three years, as rising prices prompted people to cut back outlays on food and other items, government data showed Friday.

Households of two or

more people spent an average of 294,116 yen (\$1,890) per month in the fiscal year through March, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said.

The data is a key indicator of private consumption, which accounts for more than

half of the country's gross domestic product. Japan's consumer prices have been rising on higher import costs inflated by a weaker yen, while real wages have been declining as salary increases failed to keep pace with inflation. — Kyodo

BRIEFS: ECON

Economic collaboration with India integral to Maldives' economy

MALDIVIAN Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer, who is in India, said on Thursday that he discussed debt relief measures during his meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and mentioned that economic cooperation with India has been an "integral part of the Maldivian economy".

"Economic cooperation with India has actually been an integral part of Maldivian economy. If you look at the Maldivian macro-economic indicators when we took over the government, you will see what I'm talking about. So obviously, if there is any debt with any country that we need to discuss based on those figures," he said in an interview with ANI. — ANI

Interlinked wins the Arabian Travel Market startup competition

INTERLINKED won the third round of the Arabian Travel Market 2024 startup competition. 33 emerging travel companies participated in this year's competition, which was held in cooperation with Intilaq Company, headquartered in the United Kingdom, an increase of 158 per cent compared to last year's numbers, and Clearcut Technologies Middle East, StayKey, and Interlinked qualified as finalists. The competition's jury included Sarah Saddouk, Innovation Director at Entrepreneur.com, and Mohammed Khoury, Projects Team at the Emirates Group. — ANI

Central China’s Hunan aims to become manufacturing, innovation hub

Efforts will focus on upgrading traditional industries, strengthening advantageous sectors, fostering emerging industries, and planning for future sectors.

CENTRAL China’s Hunan Province is striving to build itself into an advanced manufacturing hub, a sci-tech and innovation centre, and a pacesetter for reform and the opening up of inland regions, Hunan governor Mao Weiming said Friday. Mao told a press conference that more efforts will be made to upgrade traditional industries, consolidate advantageous industries, develop emerging industries, and map out future industries. Total output of high-tech industries in Hunan has surpassed one trillion yuan (over US\$140 billion), while the number of tech firms there has already exceeded 10,000 and is growing rapidly. The province hosts the only national new generation computing industry cluster in China and is also home to the largest rail transit equipment research, production



A staff member works at an auto parts factory in Liuyang City, central China's Hunan Province, 1 February 2024. PHOTO: CHEN ZEGUO/XINHUA

and export base in the country. Mao noted that the province ranks ninth nationwide in terms of general innovation capacity and has made breakthroughs in 147 tech projects through consistent high-level research over the past few years. — Xinhua

American Spice Trade Association seeks clarification on ethylene oxide residues in Indian spices

AMERICAN Spice Trade Association (ASTA) has sought clarification from the Spice Board of India on the media reports of the presence of ethylene oxide (ETO) residues in Indian spices. In a letter to Dr K G Jagadeesha, Secretary, Spices Board of India, ASTA stated “The American Spice Trade Association has become aware of recent media reports on the rejection of Indian spices from Singapore and Hong Kong due to the presence of ethylene oxide (ETO) residues”. “In light of these recent developments, we are reaching out to offer clarification on ETO and food safety regulations pertaining to spices imported into the United States” it added. The letter further reads “Ethylene oxide is currently permitted for use on spices in the US and prohibiting this critical treatment method has the potential to result in serious unintended implications regarding the compliance of Indian spices with U.S. food safety regulations”.



ASTA sent a letter to Dr K G Jagadeesha, Secretary of the Spices Board of India, addressing concerns about Indian spices being rejected in Singapore and Hong Kong due to ETO residues. PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/PIXABAY

Hong Kong’s food safety watchdog has banned four spices products of Indian brands MDH and Everest after they found they contained cancer-causing chemicals. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region announced on 5 April that routine surveillance programmes had uncovered the presence of ethylene oxide in three spices from MDH Group, Sambhar Masala Powder, and Curry Powder. — ANI

Last-ditch bid to prevent collapse of Air Vanuatu

A team of corporate turnaround specialists has taken control of Vanuatu’s national airline to determine if the struggling carrier can be saved from financial ruin. Air Vanuatu offers a vital tourism lifeline to the South Pacific archipelago but has been forced to cancel a raft of upcoming flights after going into voluntary liquidation. The insolvency procedure effectively hands control of the company and its assets to international consultants Ernst & Young, who could restructure the business, close it down, or sell it off. Ernst & Young assured travellers stranded in Vanuatu that it hoped to get the company’s small fleet of planes back in the sky as soon as possible. — AFP

SBI’s net profit grows 18% in fourth quarter

THE State Bank of India (SBI), the country’s largest lender, has reported an 18 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 21,384 crore for the quarter that ended in March, aided by strong credit growth. SBI reported a net profit of Rs 18,094 crore in the year-ago period. Consolidated net profit during the entire financial year 2023-24 rose by 20.55 per cent to Rs 67,085 crore as against Rs 55,648 crore in the preceding year. SBI’s interest earned, in consolidated terms, grew 19.8 per cent to Rs 117,469 crore during the fourth quarter and grew 25.2 per cent to Rs 439,189 crore, earnings results released on Thursday showed. — ANI

No Objection Advertisement

Distribution of following (1) pesticides registered by Shanghai E-Tong Chemical Co.,Ltd is transferring from Yonta Myanmar Co.,Ltd to Anawrahta Production Co.,Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 14 days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No
1.	E-T Weapon 32 WP	Bensulfuron-methyl 4 % + Quinclorac 28 % WP	Full	F2023-4280

Anawrahta Porudction Co.,Ltd

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Belarus celebrates 79th anniversary of Victory Day

Representatives from various sectors gathered at Victory Square in Minsk to lay flowers at the Victory Monument.

BELARUS hosted a series of commemorative events on Thursday, dedicated to the 79th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet Union in the Eastern Front of World War II.

Representatives from all walks of life in Belarus gathered at the Victory Square in Minsk and laid flowers at the Victory Monument.

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko attended the rally after returning from Moscow where he watched the military parade on Red Square in the morning.

He said the Belarusian people will always remember the dead, and will never forget the names of the martyrs and the glory of their defenders and liberators. Lukashenko sent congratulatory messages to the leaders and people of some former Soviet republics, and called on the Ukrainian people to commemorate a glorious chapter of their common history and resist attempts to rewrite the results of the Great Patriotic War.

Commemorative activities were also held in other Belarusian cities. — Xinhua



A commemorative event is held at the Victory Square in Minsk, Belarus, on 9 May 2024. **PHOTO: HENADZ ZHIKOV/XINHUA**

THE WORLD IN BRIEF

Nuclear waste site survey to go ahead in southwestern Japan town

THE mayor of Genkai in southwestern Japan gave his approval Friday for a preliminary survey to be undertaken to gauge the town's suitability for the construction of an underground disposal site for highly radioactive waste, as he hopes to rouse public interest in the slow-moving progress.

The Saga Prefecture town will be the first municipality that hosts a nuclear plant to undergo such a survey, the initial part of a three-stage, 20-year process to select a permanent storage site for waste from nuclear power generation.

The central government has struggled to find any sites and only two other municipalities, neither of which host a nuclear plant, have agreed to such a survey.

In making the decision, Mayor Shintaro Wakiyama of the Saga Prefecture town told a press conference that he took "seriously" the municipal assembly's vote in favor of the survey last month, following requests from local associations in the construction, restaurant and accommodation sectors. — Kyodo

Jaishankar expresses confidence in India-EU partnership growing further

On 9 May, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar along with his wife Kyoko Jaishankar attended Europe Day celebrations in Delhi. He noted that the ties between India and the European Union are not only consequential for the two sides but also for the world.

He expressed confidence that the partnership between India and the European Union will grow further in the times ahead.

In a post on X, Jaishankar stated, "Pleased to attend Europe Day celebrations in New Delhi today. India-EU relations are consequential not only for us both but also for the world. Our expanded exchanges, deeper economic ties, stronger technology cooperation and increased people-to-people connect tell their own story. Confident that this partnership would grow further in the times ahead." — ANI

Seoul turns to foreign doctors as medical strike drags on

Government offers concession, allowing foreign doctors to ease service disruptions.

SOUTH Korea will allow foreign doctors to work in its hospitals after a rigorous vetting process, the prime minister said Friday, as a months-long strike by junior medics shows no sign of resolution.

Thousands stopped working on 20 February to protest government plans to train more doctors, causing chaos in hospitals.

The government, which has already offered some concessions in a bid to end the standoff, said this week that doctors with foreign medical licences would be allowed to practise in the country, in a bid to ease service disruptions.

After the move was announced, the head of the Korean Medical Association (KMA), Lim Hyun-taek, shared a screenshot of a news report on newly graduated Somali doctors with the comment: "Coming Soon."

The post, which was later removed, prompted widespread online criticism, and

was highly inappropriate and "clearly racist", Kim Jae-heon, the secretary-general of an NGO advocating free medical care, told AFP.

The post "exploited Islamophobia and stereotyping against developing countries", he said.

Prime Minister Han Duck-soo said Friday the government will make sure to "have

a thorough safety system to prevent unqualified doctors (with foreign licences) from treating our people".

The government is locked in a protracted standoff with the junior doctors, who have refused to return to their hospitals, despite the health ministry offering last month to scale back proposed medical training reforms for 2025. — AFP



In an effort to resolve the standoff, the government will allow doctors with foreign medical licences to practise, aiming to mitigate service disruptions. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORTS

Olympic torch relay completes first day in France, Drogba lights cauldron

FOLLOWING the arrival of the Olympic torch at the Vieux Port the day before, the relay kicked off its first stop on French soil in Marseille on Thursday which was imbued with elements of football club Olympique de Marseille.

Basile Boli, the former French international who scored the winning goal in the 1993 Champions League final for Marseille, served as the day's first torchbearer, starting the relay from the iconic Basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde.

"It makes the heart beat and it's fantastic," said Boli. "It's the Olympic flame, it's the symbol of sport, of living together, of everything we can hope for in the world".

Boli then handed it over to Colette Cataldo, an 83-year-old Olympique de Marseille supporter, in a symbolic and emotionally charged moment.

About 200 torchbearers participated in the relay in the port city, with France's former NBA superstar Tony Parker also among them. "The start is important

Approximately 200 torchbearers, including former NBA superstar Tony Parker, participated in the relay in Marseille.



Former football player Didier Drogba signs for fans during the relay of the Olympic flame of Paris 2024 in Marseille, France, 9 May 2024. PHOTO: JULIEN MATTIA/XINHUA

in sport," said Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet after the beginning of the relay. "We got off to a good start... now it's on".

"Let's go for a fantastic celebration".

The climax of the relay took place at the Stade Velodrome, the home of Olympique de Marseille, as Jean-Pierre Papin, the 1991 Ballon d'Or winner, began the relay at this renowned venue.

Former Cote d'Ivoire international Didier Drogba, a legendary player for Marseille, was the final torchbearer of the day and lit the Olympic cauldron just outside the stadium to conclude the day's relay.

"It's fantastic to give that sense of pride to the French people and to show to the whole world what we're capable to achieve," said France's Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera. — Xinhua

FIFA deny 'imposing' 2025 Club World Cup schedule

Leagues and unions previously urged FIFA to reschedule the 32-team Club World Cup, slated for 13 June to 15 July next year, or face legal consequences.

FIFA on Friday strenuously denied "imposing" its scheduling for the 2025 Club World Cup amid the threat of legal action from leagues and unions.

In a letter to the World Leagues Association (WLA) and FIFPRO, Mattias Grafstrom, secretary-general of world football's governing body, insisted they had consulted widely on the new international calendar.

"From the outset we reject any suggestion or inference that FIFA somehow "imposes" the International Match Calendar (IMC) on the football community without adequate consultation or to suit its own "business strate-

gy", " Grafstrom said in a letter seen by AFP. On Thursday, the leagues and unions had called on FIFA to reschedule the 32-team Club World Cup, due to be staged between 13 June and 15 July next year, or face legal action.

A letter sent by the WLA and FIFPRO, the international players' union, to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, claimed the sport's worldwide schedule is now "beyond saturation". Grafstrom said FIFA is "like any other competition organizer" and "fully within our rights to set the parameters of our competitions whilst respecting the regulatory framework in place". — AFP

UFC bout: Joshua Van to fight against Japanese Taira on 1 June



MYANMAR MMA fighter Joshua Van will take on Japanese fighter Taira in the flyweight challenging bout of the UFC

Fight 302 event to be held in the United States on 1 June (2 June as Myanmar Standard Time). Joshua Van had been

scheduled to fight since May, but due to the withdrawal of his opponent, he only had to fight on 1 June.

Joshua Van is a young fighter who has made a name for himself in the world of MMA, and in 2023, he had the opportunity to work with the famous fighting organization UFC.

He joined the UFC in three fights, winning all three.

Joshua Van beat Kazakhstani fighter Zhalgas Zhmagulov on 25 June 2023, Peru fighter Kevin Borjas on 12 November 2023 and Brazilian fighter Felipe Bunes on 14 January 2024.

Joshua Van has won 10 out of 11 MMA bouts, and Taira, who will fight him, has won all 15 out of 15 MMA bouts. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



CHINA and Hungary on Thursday elevated ties to an all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership for the new era, marking the most recent stride in China's effort to deepen cooperation with Central and Eastern European (CEE) nations.

The decision was announced during Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Hungary, the final stop of his three-nation swing across Europe.

It also came one day after China and Serbia decided to build a community with a shared future, an upgrade of their relations from the comprehensive strategic partnership established eight years ago.

The inclusion of Serbia and Hungary — major countries in Central and Eastern Europe — in Xi's first trip abroad for the year and his first visit to Europe in nearly five years underscores China's commitment to fortifying cooperation with the region.

During the talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban here on Thursday, Xi said that China-CEE cooperation has a strong internal momentum, expressing the hope that Hungary will continue to play an important role in promoting China-CEE cooperation for the benefit of their respective people.

China-Hungary relations are currently at the best period in history and their comprehensive strategic partnership has maintained high-level development. With deepening political mutual trust and fruitful cooperation in various fields, the two countries have set a model for building a new type of international relations, Xi said. — Xinhua

Xi's Europe trip boosts China-Central and Eastern Europe cooperation

China and Hungary upgraded their ties to an all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership during President Xi Jinping's visit, part of China's efforts to deepen cooperation with Central and Eastern European nations.



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Hungarian President Tamas Sulyok at the Sandor Palace in Budapest, Hungary, 9 May 2024.
PHOTO: ZHAI JIANLAN/XINHUA

Scorching heat waves will hurt the economic growth of the country

THE scorching summer temperatures sweeping across India this year, with an average of 40 degrees Celsius, are not only taking a toll on farmers but are also poised to have a substantial impact on the overall economy.

While some eastern cities have been spared, many parts of the country are experiencing severe heatwaves, prompting people to avoid going out during the hottest hours of the day. Although this is not a cropping season, the impact of the heatwave is being felt on seasonal and perennial crops like vegetables as well as livestock.

The severity of heatwaves is escalating every year, raising concerns about a looming cli-

mate crisis.

Regulators and financial institutions have been emphasizing the detrimental effects of heatwave on the economy. In May last year, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Depart-

ment of Economic and Policy Research had warned that climate change, driven by rising temperatures and shifting monsoon patterns will have a significant impact on the economy. — ANI



India's scorching summer temperatures, averaging 40 degrees Celsius, are not only affecting farmers but also set to impact the overall economy. PHOTO: ANI

REQUIRES DISCLOSURE OF POST REMOVAL CRITERIA

Japan enacts revised law for swift removal of defamatory online posts

JAPAN'S parliament on Friday enacted an amended law aimed at facilitating the swift removal of defamatory content on social media platforms like Facebook and X with more transparency.

The revised provider liability limitation law mandates the operators of such platforms to set up points of contact for accepting deletion requests and disclose criteria for removing posts, among other measures. It will take effect within a year.

Moves towards strengthening measures against online defamation gained traction after Hana Kimura, a professional wrestler and cast member on the then popular Netflix reality show "Terrace House," committed suicide in 2020 after receiving a barrage of hateful messages on social media.

Many defamation victims have been seeking to have such posts promptly deleted before they can spread but have struggled to find a point of contact and say deletion rules are unclear. The law also requires operators to notify people within a specified time frame whether posts will be deleted. — Kyodo