

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar's election plan unveiled at 11th MCIS-2023

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlights the global weakening situation of stability and security measures remarkably affect the Asia-Pacific security and economic sectors

FOOD security of the Asia-Pacific region which is home to more than 60 per cent of the global population is of great importance, said Chairman of the

State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in his video message screened in the second

session of the XI Moscow Conference on International Security in 2023 at the Patriotic Park of the Russian Federation in Moscow of Russia on 15 August.

The conference was launched with a video message from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

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Myanmar's power sector leads FDI rankings over past four months

MYANMAR drew foreign direct investments of US\$467.793 million in the past four months (Apr-July) of the current financial year 2023-2024, including the expansion of capital by the existing enterprises and the power sector topped the FDI line-ups, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to 18 foreign projects from six countries in the past four months, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those enterprises from nine foreign countries made foreign investments and also expanded their businesses. Singapore is the top source of FDI so far, investing \$335.162 million from four enterprises, followed by China with \$124.079 million from ten enterprises. One enterprise each from India, Republic of Korea, Samoa and the USA also made investments this year.

The existing enterprises from China (Taipei), China, Hong Kong SAR, Singapore and the UK also increased foreign investments, **SEE PAGE-2**

Regulated operations granted to foreign tuna fishing vessels

MoALI is exerting efforts to develop the fishery sector crucial for the people's socioeconomic life, food security and nutrition



AFP File Photo depicting Thai fishing vessel with Myanmar fishers aboard at the port.

FOREIGN tuna-class fishing vessels will be allowed to operate fishing pursuant to the rules and regulations in the exclusive

economic zone (EEZ) of the Myanma Sea for the 2023-2024 financial year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock

and Irrigation. In the 2023-2024 financial year, effective inspections and necessary **SEE PAGE-2**

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Price of premium Pawsan rice from Delta regions rises by K10,000 per sack

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Impact on domestic commodity flow minimized by Asia Highway destruction

NATIONAL

Electric vehicles, motorcycles arrive in Yangon



Newly arrivals of electric vehicles are seen at Yangon Port yesterday.

A total of 40 electric vehicles — 16 BYD Atto 3 electric vehicles imported by Essential Motors Co Ltd, 20 Neta V electric vehicles imported by Grand Sirius Co Ltd, four Faw Toyota bZ4X imported

by Auto Top Power Co Ltd and 48 Wuyaung Honda electric motorcycles imported by NCX Myanmar Co Ltd were allowed to be claimed in accordance with the customs procedures. The import of

EVs and electric motorcycles are approved by the National-level Steering Committee on Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries and exempted from customs tariffs. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar's power sector leads FDI rankings over past four months

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the statistics released by the DICA indicated.

“Myanmar’s power sector attracted \$317 million in the past four months. It accounts for the largest share of FDI in Myanmar this financial year,” said U Thet Paing, director of the DICA.

The agriculture sector drew \$1 million from one enterprise. Two enterprises put \$317.178 million in the power sector. The manufacturing sector received \$48.745 million of FDI, while the transport and communication sector attracted \$77.82 million. Over \$23 million of FDI was pumped into the

livestock and fisheries sector as well. There are a total of 2,404 permitted foreign projects from 52 countries under the Myanmar Investment Law and the Special Economic Zone Law as of the end of July 2023 and Singapore, China and Thailand are the leading investors in the country. — ASH/KK



The photo shows a solar power plant located in Minbu Township, Magway Region.

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
1. U Kyaw Tin Shein Director-General Consular and Legal Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Director-General Planning and Administrative Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. U Aung Kyaw Oo Director-General Planning and Administrative Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Director-General Consular and Legal Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Regulated operations granted to foreign tuna fishing vessels



A coordination meeting on tuna fishing vessels to be allowed in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

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conditions will be schemed for allowing the fishing business to operate in Myanmar’s seas, and appropriate fishing licence tax rates will also be stipulated.

In addition, fishing vessels that will conduct fishing activities in the exclusive economic zone outside the Myanmar Sea and Myanmar territorial waters will be required to install AIS systems paralleling with VMS systems. Fishing methods and gear that do not harm the marine ecosystem must be used.

In addition to this, fishery entrepreneurs can only oper-

ate in the long term only if they comply with the prescribed rules and regulations. The licence fee rates are set according to each financial year to earn foreign income from tuna fish caught in Myanmar waters and in the exclusive economic zone outside Myanmar territorial waters.

The entry and exit of vessels will also be inspected at the relevant checkpoints for smooth and direct export of fish abroad. The ministry is working on the development of the fishery sector, which is important for the people’s socioeconomic life, food security and nutrition. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar's election plan unveiled at 11th MCIS-2023

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Discussions at the conference were held under the themes of military perspectives on security measures in the Middle East and Africa, Asia-Pacific regional security, mutual relations of military departments and anticipations.

In his discussion on the topic with the title of the important role of the unity of ASEAN in peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, the Senior General highlighted that some countries utilize the dollar currency as a weapon to threaten finance and security in trading fuel and fertilizers.

He underscored that the trade value in the Asia-Pacific region reached US\$19 trillion in the region in 2022 comprising \$3.5 trillion worth of economic service.

A total of 20 of 30 world's high-class container ports are located in the Asia-Pacific region, possessing 56 per cent of the world's maritime container transport route, he added.

He continued to say that the Asia-Pacific region produced 8.3 per cent of the global oil production in 2022 and used 38 per cent of the global oil production to meet the local demand. According to the IEA statistics, the region demands 30.8 million barrels



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, participates in the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security (MCIS) 2023 through the video message sent yesterday.

of oil per day at present and it will reach 38.5 million barrels per day in 2030 to boom the oil and natural gas market in the region.

Currently, he expressed his remarks that weaker situation of stability and security measures across the world remarkably affect the security and economic sectors of the Asia-Pacific region.

He noted that the organizations like ASEAN are playing a pivotal role in mitigating the

impacts of global instability and insecurity. Enhancement of economic consolidation contributes to the Asia-Pacific region to overcome challenges and foster peace, stability and prosperity in the global environment, he added.

Although the ASEAN is not a military alliance, its defence power consolidation is very powerful. The consolidation between Viet Nam with military experiences and Myanmar and other

ASEAN countries possessing powerful weapons is remarkably reliable for the world. Moreover, the association influences regional cooperation and helps strengthen mutual cooperation to enhance peaceful relation measures, he noted.

With regard to Myanmar, the Senior General disclosed that political, economic and security measures can be stabilized in most of the country except some areas of Myanmar. Myanmar is

striving for ensuring security, peace and stability, rule of law and economic development of the nation so as to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general elections to hand over the State's responsibilities to the elected political party under the democratic norms.

As the unity of ASEAN is of great importance for the peace and stability of the whole Asia-Pacific region, it is necessary to overcome and respond to deep challenges of the region with firm unity and cooperation of regional countries including the ASEAN. The Senior General stressed the need for all to join hands in seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts and problems among the regional countries and to grasp the opportunities to develop the region, he added.

The 11th MCIS-2023 concluded at 6:30 pm local time.

Heads of State from five countries including the Senior General sent video records to the meeting, and it was attended by more than 800 attendees including defence ministers from 20 countries comprising SAC member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San, 16 deputy defence ministers from 16 countries, 12 directors from 12 countries. — MNA/TTA

Thukha Dagon Housing residents to benefit from 5 YBS transport lines

JOINT Secretary U Lian Cin Mang of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee has informed the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) that five YBS lines are established to cater to the Thukha Dagon public rental housing residents in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, who will receive their residence permit by the end of August.

He mentioned, "Upon issuance of the residence permit, the existing five bus lines serving this route will extend through the housing complex."

Situated beyond Yangon University of Economics, near

the No 2 toll gate at the convergence of No 2 Highway and No 7 Outer Ring Road, the new housing initiative is somewhat distant from Yangon, posing travel challenges.

The proposed YBS lines, namely No 71, 127, 81, 46, and 1 from four different companies, are set to operate along the housing premises.

For any inconveniences related to the upcoming YBS bus services to Thukha Dagon public rental housing, individuals are encouraged to report them to YRTC. — TWA/CT



Thukha Dagon public rental housing was implemented at the corner of No 2 Highway and No 7 Outer Ring Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

NATIONAL

Myanmar anticipates imminent launch of AFCFTA 3.0

Union Ministers joined the launching of 7th China-South East Asia Exposition, 27th China Kunming Export and Import Fair.



Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, U Maung Maung Ohn and U Aung Naing Oo from Myanmar join the launching of the 7th China-South East Asia Exposition, the 27th China Kunming Export and Import Fair in Kunming of Yunnan Province in China on 16 August 2023.

EMPHASIS would be placed on cementing cooperation in implementing the prosperity of the people by initiating the fastest-developed region through regional economic, trade and investment measures, said Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo at the launching of the 7th Chia-South East Asia Exposition and the 27th China Kunming Export and Import Fair at the Kunming Dianchi Lake International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kunming of Yunnan Province in China yesterday.

focus on the digital economy and green economic sectors to establish the free trade area comprising all sectors in addition to investment and service sectors.

The Union minister also unveiled the honorary state exhibition of the exposition and extended greetings.

The exposition was also attended by Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo together with Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw and U Maung Maung Ohn together with delegation leaders from China, ASEAN and South Asian countries.

The Union minister continued to say that the third batch meeting to enhance the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement-ACFTA 3.0 took place as an agreement of the regional economic cooperation in Kunming in June 2023.

More than 100 businesspersons from Myanmar decided to showcase agricultural produce, handicraft and precious jewellery items at the expo and are scheduled to join the related business forums.

He expressed his anticipation that further meetings would

Myanmar businesspersons experienced the expo for the

second time, and they also displayed their products at the 5th China-South Asian Expo held in June 2018. The theme of the expo was Solidarity and Coordination for Common Development. It was

attended by high-ranking delegates from 84 countries.

Myanmar opened 36 booths together with booths of ASEAN, South Asian and global countries at the expo, comprising 15

booths for industrial, agricultural, farming, biomedicine and general products, famous businesses and products, commodity booths of South Asia, advanced products and others. —MNA/TTA

Applicants allowed expediting passport acquisition through green channel

THOSE who want a passport urgently can apply through the green channel by submitting the required documents, according to the Myanmar Passport Office.



Photo shows a Myanmar passport.

Applicants who are MoU workers, members of religious organizations, participants of cultural exchange delegations, people from the tourism industry, government staff going overseas on duty or during their leaves, as well as those who need to go to a foreign country for education or health urgently, are qualified to use the green

channel. Applications must be submitted to the chairman of the Myanmar Passport Office at Office No 38, Nay Pyi Taw, attaching all required documents, and the detailed information is provided at www.passport.gov.mm.

system to apply for passports is widely used by applicants and the tokens for 2023 are already given. Currently, the office started to issue them for next year and tokens until mid-January 2024 are already announced.

The government staff who seek a passport through the green channel must submit a verification letter endorsed with a sign by a senior official with the rank of director-general and above.

On social media, some brokers are persuading people to use their services for passport applications by charging exorbitant fees, often resulting in fraud. So, the potential applicants need to take cautious against scammers, according to the officials. —ASH/TH

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NATIONAL

Smart Village Project: Elevating rural life across 45 villages

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development has embarked on an ambitious mission, bringing the smart village establishment project to life across Myanmar. Presently active in 43 villages, this initiative is set to expand its reach to 45 villages in total.

Since the 2022-2023 Financial Year, the smart village project has gained momentum, spreading across 88 villages of 82 townships in 14 regions and states. This trajectory is set to continue until the end of the 2023-2024 Financial Year. The project's overarching timeline spans five years from its inception, with each selected village receiving K60 million in project funding.

Central to this endeavour is the elevation of living standards within rural communities

through the development of vital village infrastructure. A dual focus on enhancing the rural economy is pursued through technological advancements and financial services provision. The envisioned outcome includes not just improved livelihoods, but also the creation of environmentally compatible and sustainable model villages.

A critical dimension of the project lies in enhancing the capabilities of both villagers and village associations. This multifaceted initiative touches upon village infrastructure development, financial services provisions, and inputs, leveraging the allocated financial resources for each respective department. Notably, it seeks to fortify village enterprises, enhance livelihoods, and reinforce local associations, all

while fostering technological distribution, social welfare, and environmental consciousness.

A collaborative approach has been employed, with officials engaging in conversations with the inhabitants of soon-to-be model villages. Their collective input has guided the formulation of activities and plans aligned with each village's distinct characteristics. For a more nuanced understanding, officials are embarking on field surveys as part of the project implementation.

Myanmar boasts over 64,000 villages spanning Nay Pyi Taw and all its regions and states. The smart villages established through this project stand as exemplars, illuminating the path of development for every village across the nation. — TWA/KZL



Officials are seen meticulously inspecting the pioneering smart village development project.

POEA-EPS to hold Special EPS TOPIK exam

THE S Korean government's overseas employment agency has disclosed plans for the special EPS TOPIK exam scheduled for September. Interested candidates can apply for the exam via the online system. Eligibility criteria mandate that applicants fall between the ages of 18 and 39, with birthdates ranging from 4 September 1983 to 3 September 2005.

Notably, individuals who have resided in the Repub-

lic of Korea for a duration exceeding five years under an E-9 or E-10 visa will be ineligible for the exam, as highlighted in the official statement. Additionally, prospective candidates must have a clean record, devoid of any imprisonment history, home country travel bans, or deportation from the Republic of Korea.

Upon confirmation of eligible candidates by HRD-Korea, the government's over-

seas employment agency will announce the exam results via its Facebook page, "POEA-EPS." The exam venue is slated to be Pinlon Hall at the corner of Min Ye Kyaw Swar Road and Bo Min Yaung Road in Dagon Township (North).

It is pertinent to note that the exclusive avenue for individuals seeking employment in Korea through the EPS system is facilitated by the government's overseas employment agency. — TWA/CT



The photo shows collecting sap from a plant.

Decreased foreign demand leads to a drop in Tragacanth gum prices

THE price of Tragacanth gum (locally called Saekalamat) hit up to K45,000 per viss and plummeted to K9,000 per viss in the domestic market amid a lack of foreign demand.

When the prices of pulses such as peanut, sesame, black gram, pigeon pea and green gram hit record highs this year on the back of strong foreign demand, tamarind and Tragacanth Gum markets are bracing for price slump owing to a lack of foreign demand. Those engaged in tamarind businesses have been struggling with the price drop for years.

Similarly, Talmakhana Seeds (*Hygrophila phlomoides*), which is a lucrative herb found in coastal areas and delta regions, also fetched a high price before 2020. Then, the price declined, said a seller of herbs.

The prices stood at K5,000 per viss of Talmakhana Seeds and K7,000 per viss of Tragacanth Gum on 14 August, a herb seller from Bayintnaung wholesale market shared price information.

Chinese buyers pushed up the prices of Talmakhana Seeds to K20,000 per viss in 2020.

After soaking the gum in water, the sellers of beverages make a drink out of it when it becomes fluffy. That has many health benefits including improving urinary function so the consumption is high in summer.

Tragacanth Gum is naturally found in the mountain regions, commonly in Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions. About 160 trees can be grown per acre, with a yield rate of 1 viss of gum per tree each season. It is harvested around September-October. The wage per worker to collect the gum is K4,000 for the morning shift. For preserving trees, a person is hired at K400,000 per month.

Earlier, China, Thailand, India and Malaysia purchased Myanmar's Tragacanth Gum to utilize in making cosmetics and traditional medicines as well as in the food industry. At present, lack of foreign demand brings down the prices in the domestic market. — TWA/EM

Four new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 August

FOUR new cases of COVID-19 were reported on 16 August 2023, according to the Ministry of Health but there was no new death.

COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Price of premium Pawsan rice from Delta regions rises by K10,000 per sack

THE price of high-grade Pawsan rice from delta regions rose by K10,000 per sack in the domestic market although there is no major flooding in the delta region like Kayin and Mon states and Bago city.

The new monsoon paddy will be harvested in September. There is only one month remaining to sell the old low-grade stocks in the market. New high-grade Pawsan rice from the delta region will enter the market at the end of November. There is a price difference of K10,000 between the new Pawsan rice and the old one.

Before the harvest season of new paddy, some traders keeping the rice stocks in hand are at-



A consumer is seen buying rice from a small shop at a quarter.

tempting to control the price to maximize their profits. That is a market manipulation conduct, a market observer pointed out.

The rice prices stood at K135,000-145,000 per

sack of Pawsan rice from Shwebo and K110,000-115,000 per sack of Pawsan from Myaungmya, Pyapon, Mawgyun and Bogalay areas on 14 August.

Meanwhile, the

Pawkywe rice variety fetched K90,000-95,000 per sack. The low-grade 90-day short matured rice was priced at K78,000-83,000 per sack and the price of the rice grown under the intercropping sys-

tem was K70,000-72,000 per sack. Meanwhile, the broken rice prices moved in the range between K50,000 and K52,000 per sack.

Following the rice price rallies, Myanmar Rice Federation started to sell off 170,000 rice sacks from 7 August, comprising 50,000 sacks of Aemahta rice variety, 20,000 sacks of Pawsan rice and 100,000 sacks of 90-day short mature rice. The rice prices are set at K110,000-120,000 per sack of Shwebo Pawsan, K94,000-97,000 per sack of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K65,000 per sack of Aemahta variety (10 per cent broken) and K60,000 per sack of Aemahta (25 per cent broken). An individual is entitled to buy

one Pawsan rice sack and one low-grade rice sack per month at Wahdan and Bayintnaung rice depots, by presenting the citizenship scrutiny card.

The prices showed an increase of K10,000 per sack of Pawsan rice and K2,000 per sack of low-grade rice a week after the subsidy scheme.

When the Pawsan paddy from the Shwebo area was newly harvested, the old Pawsan paddy price hit K2.6 million per 100 baskets and the old Pawsan rice was priced at K88,000 per sack in early January 2023. The new Pawsan paddy price was K1.6 million per 100 baskets and new Pawsan rice fetched K60,000 per sack. — TWA/EM

Japanese companies to recruit over 900 Myanmar workers

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced on 15 August that a total of 918 Myanmar workers will be recruited again for companies in Japan.

The embassy verified demand letters from 1 to 15 August, assessed the legal status of recruiting companies, and then reported its findings to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which, on its part, forwarded them to the Ministry of Labour.

In the post-Covid period, Japan's demand for Myanmar workers is rising and those who are interested in working officially in Japan can make inquiries at the Region/State, township and district offices of the labour department and will have to follow the required procedures. — TWA/MKKS



Myanmar workers depart for work at Japanese companies in 2022.

Action to be taken against YBS buses that run shutting down POSS machines

JOINT Secretary U Lian Cin Mang of the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee has highlighted the intention to penalize YBS buses if they obstruct the functionality of POSS (point-of-sale-system) machines while in operation.

In certain YBS lines within Yangon, drivers continue to collect cash fares from passengers, despite being equipped with POSS machines. Consequently, YPS card users encounter difficulties using the card payment system.

Ma Aye Mar, an employee in Thingangyun Township, recounted, "Though the bus has a POSS machine, it remains inactive. The driver collects fares ranging from K300 to K500 during night hours. Some routes even charge K400 in the morning. Instances include POSS machines being deactivated or concealed with plastic bags."

Furthermore, certain bus lines impose fares exceeding the

established rates, with passengers often being compelled to pay in cash due to drivers' claims of device malfunctions.

U Lian Cin Mang stated, "If passengers are forced to pay in cash due to inactive POSS machines, they can promptly file complaints. A penalty of K30,000 will be imposed on drivers. Passengers are our priority, and we are committed to resolving their issues."

Presently, there are 5,539 YBS vehicles, of which 2,695 are equipped with YPS devices. Additionally, 434 vehicles await installation, leaving 2,359 yet to be equipped.

Yangon Payment Service (YPS) Company, facilitating seamless payments through over 200,000 cards, has encouraged reporting license plate and bus line numbers for action against vehicles with inactive or disconnected POSS machines.



The photo shows a YBS vehicle disconnecting the POSS machine on 16 August.

U Lian Cin Mang conveyed, "This week, over 500 undisciplined bus lines have faced consequences. Ensuring passenger safety is paramount, with our focus on issues like overtaking, disregarding red lights, and operating with open side doors. Our range of actions includes fines and even license suspension."

Yangon Region boasts more than 2,900 vehicles across 118 YBS bus lines, effectively transporting 1.5 million passengers daily. — TWA/CT

LOCAL BUSINESS

Pure gold prices continue rallying in grey market despite dip in spot gold price

THE price of pure gold continued to soar at approximately K3.8 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the grey market despite a decline in the spot gold price at around US\$1,900 per ounce.

The gold price rally is attributed to the Kyat depreciation against the greenback in the shady dealings at K3,700.

Nonetheless, YGEA set the reference rate to over K2,244,300 per tical. There is a large price difference of over K1.5 million per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the price in the unofficial market.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US dollar is exchanged at over K3,700 in the unofficial forex market.

The US dollar exchange rate, therefore, influences the

domestic gold market.

Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) sold over seven visses of pure gold at a special price in two weeks of June to stabilize the gold price.

Myanmar's gold price is highly tied to the spot gold price and the US dollar exchange rate. The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 drove the gold price up to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

To lower the gold price, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM



Buyers seen in a queue to purchase gold at Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.



Lorries are seen waiting to pass the Myawady Trade Zone on the Myanmar-Thai border.

Impact on domestic commodity flow minimized by Asia Highway destruction

DESTRUCTION of the Asian Highway section causes a delay of commodity flow only at Mae Sot-Myawady border channel and the rest parts of the country is normal, said U Nyi Nyi Thein Zan, the director and in charge of Myawady Trade Zone operated by the Department of Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce.

"It is true that the flow of border trade at Myawady Trade Zone declines following the destruction of a section of Asian Highway. To ensure smooth trade within the country, we have notified the exporters that they are allowed to move to some Myanmar-Thailand border

posts such as Kawthoung and Tachilek. So, I believe that the above situations cannot pose a blockage of commodity flow in the rest parts of the country. Similarly, exporters are also allowed to change the mode and route of transport after receiving the export licence for their goods," he said.

The commodity flow using the No 2 Thailand-Myanmar Friendship Bridge declines currently, as the destroyed section of Asian Highway is under repair. The common imported goods from Thailand to Myanmar are raw plastics, bicycles and motorcycles and their spare

parts, machinery and general goods.

Myanmar's border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand at Myawady Trade Zone amounted to US\$189.699 million in exports and US\$426.194 million in imports, culminating in the trade value of 615.892 million in the past four months from April to July of the current financial year 2023-2024, U Nyi Nyi Thein Zan said.

A landslide occurred between 150- and 151-Mile posts of the Myawady-Kawkareik section of Asian Highway on 7 August, destroying nearly 100 feet of the road section. — Htein Lin Aung(IPRD)/TH

Pigeon pea prices surge, recording one-day spike of K250,000 per tonne

THE price of pigeon peas jumped by K250,000 per tonne, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung).

The price surged to K3.5 million per tonne on 16 August from K3.35 million recorded on 15 August.

Similarly, the black gram price spiked at K2.416 million per tonne on 16 August.

India's demand and the US dollar exchange rate weigh on

prices of pulses in Myanmar. Strong demand by India drove the price to a record high last June.

The price of pigeon peas hit a record high of K3.33 million per tonne on 5 June. The black gram price peaked at K2.461 million per tonne on 14 June.

The prevailing price of pigeon peas broke the previous record high. Myanmar shipped more than 580,000 tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over \$460 million, to foreign coun-

tries over the past four months during the 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's pulses exports crossed over \$1.4 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the past FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar mainly exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black grams and pigeon peas are mostly conveyed to India

while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. — NN/ EM



OPINION

Boost the tourism sector to bolster the State economy

THE tourism industry stands as a smokeless economic engine, favoured by both domestic and foreign travellers, and cherished by tour operators. This sector not only generates revenue by offering services to travellers exploring different countries but also presents a unique opportunity to exhibit the rich tapestry of ancient cultural heritage and the breathtaking beauty of natural landscapes.

Engaging in the tourism service trade holds potential for tour operators and host countries alike, enabling them to showcase their historical legacies and awe-inspiring natural wonders to visitors from across the globe. This dissemination of positive experiences, encompassing scenic vistas, cultural treasures, indigenous traditions, and diverse ways of life, fosters a dynamic cross-cultural exchange among nations.

This practice of sharing information about host countries on a global scale serves as a catalyst, propelling governments and citizens to intensify their developmental endeavours, emphasizing cultural preservation, and ecological conservation. Consequently,

the tourism sector becomes a substantial contributor to the national economy while simultaneously enhancing the nation's global image.

In essence, the tourism industry possesses the power to not only boost economic prospects but also serve as a conduit for intercultural understanding and cooperation. As nations endeavour to chart a course towards progress, the synergy between tourism and development becomes increasingly evident, propelling economies forward while fostering global harmony.

Indeed, the tourism industry expertly harnesses the intrinsic resources of host regions, orchestrating an intricate dance between commerce and nature. Additionally, nurturing skilled human resources becomes vital for ensuring the seamless operation of hotels and tourism services. The success of the tourism industry hinges on the cultivation of proficient personnel capable of delivering exceptional services.

Elevating tourism services to a prominent status within a region can catalyze economic advancement, foster job opportunities, and strengthen international camaraderie. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of Myanmar's existing tourism industry is warranted to identify avenues for enhancement.

Achieving excellence in hospitality and tourism holds the potential to wield substantial influence over the trajectory of the national economy, concurrently positioning the nation as a formidable contender in the global tourism arena. Hence, both governmental authorities and tour operators bear the responsibility of orchestrating strategic efforts to invigorate their enterprises, ensuring the continual evolution of the tourism sector.

In essence, the tourism industry possesses the power to not only boost economic prospects but also serve as a conduit for intercultural understanding and cooperation. As nations endeavour to chart a course towards progress, the synergy between tourism and development becomes increasingly evident, propelling economies forward while fostering global harmony.

ILLEGAL trade is nothing to benefit anyone and any society because of bad impacts. Especially, illegal trade measures can harm those traders apart from others. If so, somebody may ask a question why do they commit illegal trade?

The answer is very simple businesspersons commit illegal trade so as to bag larger benefits than that of normal trade in a short time. It is true. But those engaged in illegal trade should think and question themselves 'Do they absolutely satisfy with their acts? And do they totally solve their mental problems?'

In fact, illegal trade is based on various factors: to earn bigger incomes than the normal process, to escape from restrictions adopted by the authorities, and to have happiness and pleasure from committing the illegal trade process and to have an upper hand over their opponents in doing business.

Illegal trade can be defined as committing trade processes against the restrictions of the government or authorities. They may do trading on banned goods and products or use the banned trade routes or evade the prescribed trade routes and ways without accepting the inspection of their goods by assigned personnel whether their goods are in conformity with the disciplines. On the other hand, the businesspersons operate their trade processes but they take high profits over the goods rather than the deserved profits without considering the daily life of consumer people.

Those who wish to earn bigger incomes from illegal trade rather than those in the normal trade sector never consider whether their trade processes are based on genuine goodwill over their

trade acts, manipulation in the businesses, eagerness to attack anyone in the same businesses and seeking various ways to earn increased incomes from illegal trade process without considering possibilities to easily break laws to cause criminal cases.

Some businesspersons and traders wish to escape restrictions related to the trade process adopted by the government or relevant authorities if necessary. Generally, the government of those authorities adopted the restrictions for the sake of the people without prioritizing the traders. If so, ways and means for traders will be restricted. As such, their trade process will face difficulties and delay in addition to spending extra expenditure on any other processes along their trade routes. Moreover, some persons ever commit acts against the government or authorities in their trade process without following the adopted disciplines even

though they can see the correct disciplines.

With regard to the last type of trade, some businesspersons always do to have happiness and pleasure by committing the illegal trade process and achieving an upper hand over their opponents in doing business. They never consider who suffers loss in businesses and how the number of people face difficulties in daily life whenever they commit so. Actually, all the people are consumers in the domestic market supplied by businesspersons and traders. As a division of labour, consumers never do the trade process. They are engaging in relevant workplaces to manufacture various kinds of goods and products. As such, those consumers never avoid the market to buy some foodstuffs and other goods to be used in daily routines. If they see greedy acts of traders and businesspersons in the market, they unavoidably face loss and regrettable as they will



Under the supervision of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task, a combined task force seized eight kinds of goods at an estimated value of K26,253,801 including 210 Baowan Water Pumps at milepost No 21 on Mandalay-Muse Road on 29 July 2023.



Dollar bills are accepted as bribes by businesspeople.
PHOTO: FREEPIK

Stay away from illegal trade, bribes, corruption to protect consumers, domestic products

By April Son

spend their incomes on highly-priced goods and foods. Even if the goods are genuine and quality, the prices of these goods will not be reachable for consumers. Consequently, it is questionable for illegal traders and businesspersons: Should all the people suffer all losses and regrettable events and should all the people pack the

burdens of commodity prices? As a human right, any person can do illegal trade. If so, should all the people suffer the subsequences of illegal trade committed by those traders? Hence, illegal traders need to assess their acts whether are correct or not and how to affect all the people. Whenever they commit something against the restrictions adopted by the government or authorities, should all the people encounter the bad impacts of their acts?

Commodity prices are not set by consumers. They all are just

victims of traders and merchants. Everybody can see that people are facing miseries in markets to buy foodstuffs for their families on a daily basis. They cannot seek the best way to overcome hiking prices of goods. It is very sorrowful that they experience their incomes cannot be enough to buy some goods in the market.

The acts of some businesspersons based on their dissatisfaction against the government or relevant authorities or focusing on selfishness to seek greater benefits from the trade process or

competitiveness against opponent traders in the same businesses should not be concerned with the daily life of the people. As such, those businesspersons need to consider whenever they do something special, bad consequences may affect the people. If not, all their acts will not be in conformity with the Desana on eight noble paths preached by the Lord Buddha as well as not be in line with the Universal truths.

Currently, all people become victims of trouble in the high prices of all commodities. Apart from the riches, most people are swimming in the troubled ocean but they cannot seek the beaches. As such, both the government and businesspersons have to consider the daily difficulties of consumer people and seek the best way how to control and reduce the high prices of essential goods for the people. The government and businesspersons should consider how to ease restrictions on the trading process and how to give chances for traders to do their business legally. If so, consumer people will have to enjoy relief and convenience in impacts from commodity prices. If so, everybody can consider that society will be happy and prosper.

Actually, the government, the businesspersons and the people should seek the best ways to improve the legal trade process to take reserved profits overall businesses in proper ways of trade routes without focusing on selfishness. Only when all stakeholders of the country can observe proprieties will they themselves stay away from the bad consequences of everything they committed and will they build a prosperous society.

Moreover, businesspersons need to consider that if they operate trading with eagerness to secure a big profit over their commodities and do their businesses in tricky ways over opponents in the same commodities, they can be identified as illegal traders. Their selfishness ever never benefits anyone. Even though they can pass the remaining days of their lives with plights and worries whether they could win over opponents and bag the profits they expected. It is sure that those illegal traders will be punished by the people and the communities.

On the other hand, unscrupulous businesspersons alone cannot commit illegal trade processes. They break relevant laws, regulations and disciplines with direct or indirect help of assigned service personnel in some ways and means. As such, law enforcement bodies need to take care of all situations that some lawbreakers can take advantage of in the weakness of relevant work processes. That is why all businesspersons should do everything with consideration over the daily life of the people without committing any law-breaking acts whereas authorities concerned need to strictly take action against those lawbreakers without discrimination for the sake of the State and the people.

Let's head to a proper move with the utmost of all people. Authorities and assigned staff on their part have to stay away from corruption and bribes whereas businesspersons have to do their business in a correct way without breaking any laws. If so, any society will have a great chance to anticipate a glittering future.

China faces no deflationary risk as demand, confidence recover

DESPITE challenges at home and from abroad, China's economy has sustained growth momentum with market demand and business confidence moving on a recovery trajectory, laying no ground for deflationary risk, experts have said.

The country's consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, logged a 0.3 per cent year-on-year decline in July, after

coming in flat in June compared with the same period of last year.

Chinese authorities, economists and analysts said the current low price level is temporary, and its impacts should not be exaggerated.

A closer look at the July CPI data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Wednesday suggests that the decline in annual terms will likely

prove a short-term phenomenon.

The NBS statistician Dong Lijuan attributed the decline to a high base in the corresponding period of 2022.

Deflating Food Prices Impact CPI

The food prices decreased by one per cent year on year, dragging down the CPI by about 0.18 percentage points. The food price

decline was mainly due to the abundant supply of pork, China's staple meat, as well as seasonal fruits and vegetables on the market.

It's worth noticing that the core CPI, which deducts food and energy prices, rose 0.8 per cent year on year, with the pace of increase widening by 0.4 percentage points compared with that in June.

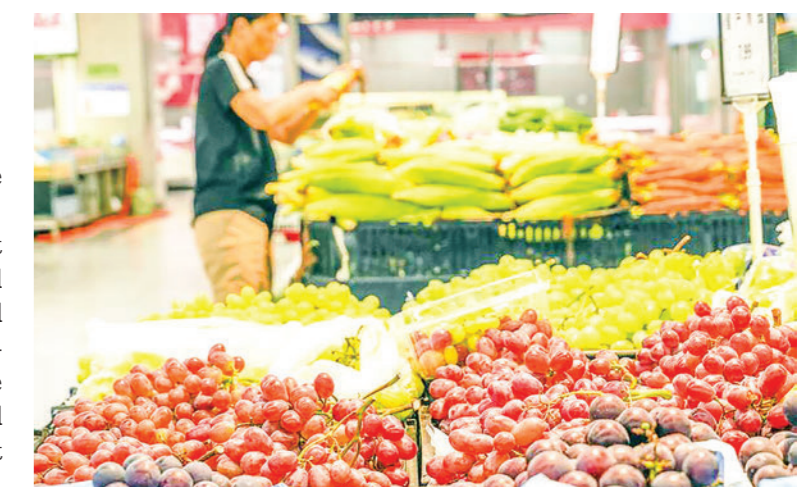
The rebound of core CPI indicates that the current domestic demand is stabilizing and recovering, said Wen Bin, the chief economist of China Minsheng Bank, in a co-authored note.

On a monthly basis, the country's CPI rose 0.2 per cent, reversing the 0.2 per cent decline registered in June. It was also the first time China's CPI reported a monthly increase since February

this year, demonstrating positive prospects.

The decline of CPI is almost entirely due to the impact of food supply release, while demand indicators, such as core commodity CPI and core service CPI, rebounded strongly, said Tu Qiang, a macro analyst at Shenwan Hongyuan Securities, in a co-authored note.

SOURCE: Xinhua



A customer shops at a supermarket in Zunhua, north China's Hebei Province, 9 August 2023. PHOTO BY LIU MANCANG/XINHUA

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD



2023 National Youth Space Innovation Competition in Wenchang City of South China's Hainan Province, 14 August 2023. **PHOTO: GUO CHENG/XINHUA**

National youth space innovation competition held in South China

THE finals of the 2023 National Youth Space Innovation Competition were launched on Monday in Wenchang City of South China's Hainan Province, providing teenagers with an opportunity to share their wisdom on aerospace innovation.

Speaking at the finals, Fang Xiangming, deputy Party chief of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), said that young people are not only the hope of the country's future, but also an important force to promote innovation.

Fang expressed the hope

that the innovative thinking and creative practice of the participating students will bring new ideas, new methods and new technologies to the aerospace industry.

As a city that is striving to build itself into a high-tech innovation highland and an aerospace industry center, Wenchang will use the event as an opportunity to strengthen the selection and training of innovative talents, said Liu Chong, mayor of the city.

Hosted from 14 to 16 August, the finals have attracted nearly 3,000 young contestants from across the country. — Xinhua

Military airlifts provide escape as wildfires sweep Canada's far north

JORDAN Evoy's escape from wildfires raging in Canada's far north was the "scariest moment" of his life as flareups closed roads, forcing him to backtrack to catch a military flight out in the Northwest Territories' largest ever evacuation.

Hundreds of people were

airlifted to safety from remote villages overnight into Tuesday, after Yellowknife, the largest city in the region, declared an emergency.

For many in smaller communities, it was the second time in recent months that residents were forced to leave their homes.

With several roads to the south closed after being engulfed by flames, a ride aboard military aircrafts — deployed along with 120 soldiers to beat back the blazes — was the only means of escape.

Evoy, a resident of Fort Smith, told AFP he had tried to drive south to Alberta province, but had to turn back and heed officials' pleas to immediately go to the airport, warning that the "safest way out is on a plane".

"The highway was engulfed in flames and smoked out," the 28-year-old said, describing his panicked bolt to safety over land as "the scariest moment of my life". "The forest fire crossed the highway, I couldn't see anything in front of me," he said.

"Flames were jumping over my truck" and he said he worried its tires would melt in the heat. "The asphalt was on fire."

All along the route there were many abandoned and charred vehicles.

"There was no cell service, so I had no way of knowing where I was," said Evoy.

Eventually he made his way back to Hay River and caught a military flight to Fort McMurray, Alberta. — AFP



This handout photo provided by the Canadian Armed Forces shows residents of the Northwest Territories being airlifted to safety aboard a military aircraft as wildfires swept the Northwest Territories. **PHOTO: CANADIAN ARMED FORCES/AFP/FILE**

Italy's clam farmers fear blue crab 'invasion'



The blue crab risks putting Italian clam and mussel farmers out of business. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN the shallow waters of the Scardovari lagoon, fishermen catch clams for Italy's beloved spaghetti alle vongole, alongside mussels and oysters. But an invader risks putting them out of business.

The blue crab, native to the North American Atlantic coast, has been present across the Mediterranean for years but in recent months has become a serious problem on Italy's northeastern coast.

"The blue crabs are eating everything. This stretch of lagoon is becoming a desert," said Gianluca Travaglia, a

52-year-old farmer of mussels and clams.

He is the third generation of his family to have a boat on the "Sacca degli Scardovari", an economically important part of the delta where the Po River reaches the Adriatic Sea.

"Every day we fish more of them... I don't know what to do," Travaglia told AFP as he guided his motorboat across the water.

His fellow farmers had the same issue, he added.

"They can't even lower their nets anymore because the crabs swim into the nets and break them." — AFP

Hollywood silenced, echoing across nation

IMAGINE Hollywood without the iconic call, “Lights, Camera, Action!” To date, it has been more than 100 days of silence. Not on screen, but behind it.

Writers and actors in the United States have pressed “pause”, and the impact of their strike is rippling out far and wide.

After enduring the three-year COVID-19 pandemic, Hollywood is experiencing its new nightmare — its \$134 billion film and TV industry has shuddered to standstill, facing the challenge of a combined union action by the Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild. They have been collectively on strike for more than 100 days.

Although their cause is seen by many as justified, its economic repercussions reached well beyond the glitz and glamor of the entertainment capital to all



Members of the Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild walk a picket line outside of Paramount Pictures, in Los Angeles, California, on 21 July 2023. PHOTO: VALERIE MACON / AFP

US states, especially those with high concentrations of produc-

tion activity, such as California, New York and Georgia.

Being out of work has dealt a heavy blow not just to actors

and writers, but also to the very fabric of the entertainment industry’s economic ecosystem and the service industries that support it.

The current strike might have already drained California of at least \$3 billion, an estimate grounded in the economic analyses from the 2007 Writers Guild of America strike, said Todd Holmes, professor at California State University, Northridge. **Rendering unemployment**

Adjusting for inflation, Holmes linked the past strike’s \$2.1 billion in lost revenues, which rendered 37,700 jobless, to the current \$3 billion calamity.

Local restaurants, prop houses, set constructors, dry cleaners, professional drivers, florists, musicians, insurance companies, banks, payroll companies, realtors, fitness gyms and more — all feel the weight of the standoff.—Xinhua

Clarence Avant, ‘Godfather of Black Music’, dies at 92

THE transformative entertainment mogul known as “The Black Godfather” for his unparalleled influence in the music industry and beyond has passed away, leaving a lasting legacy that changed the trajectory for countless Black entertainers and artists.

Clarence Avant, the entertainment executive who is counted among the music world’s most impactful figures, died over the weekend, a statement from his family said Monday.

He was 92 years old.

Avant “passed away gently at home” in Los Angeles on Sunday, said his children Nicole and Alex Avant, as well as Nicole’s husband, Netflix executive Ted Sarandos.

“Through his revolutionary business leadership, Clarence became affectionately known as ‘The Black Godfather’ in the worlds of music, entertainment, politics, and sports,” the statement said. — AFP



Music executive Clarence Avant and his wife Jacqueline Avant in 2019, attending the premiere of Netflix’s documentary on his life, ‘The Black Godfather’. PHOTO: AFP

Iran sentences film-maker over Cannes-selected movie

A court in Iran has sentenced prominent movie director Saeed Roustaei to six months’ prison for the screening of his film “Leila’s Brothers” at the Cannes Film Festival last year, local media reported Tuesday.

“Leila’s Brothers”, a rich and complex tale of a family struggling with economic hardship in Tehran, has been banned in Iran since its release last year. The movie was in competition for the Palme d’Or at last year’s Cannes festival. It missed the top prize but won the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) award. On Tuesday, the reformist daily Etemad said



Iranian director Saeed Roustaei, pictured in 2019, will serve about nine days in prison. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

that Roustaei, along with the movie’s producer Javad Noruzbegi, “were sentenced to six

months in prison for screening the movie at Cannes Film festival”. — AFP

China-Kenya film festival launched amid call to strengthen cultural ties

THE China-Kenya film festival was launched Monday night at an upscale shopping mall north of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, with senior officials renewing calls for enhanced

Sino-Kenyan cultural ties.

Among the dignitaries who graced the occasion were Chinese Minister of Culture and Tourism Hu Heping, who is also the deputy head of the Publicity

Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and Ababu Namwamba, Kenya’s cabinet secretary for Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Viet Nam's VinFast targets US electric car market



After launching its electric vehicles in Viet Nam, VinFast is now eyeing the US market. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

VIETNAMESE electric vehicle maker VinFast has made its debut on the Nasdaq, and its shares soared to push its stock market valuation past Ford and General Motors on its opening day of trading.

Here's what we know about VinFast and its push to make it in the crowded EV market:

What is VinFast?

VinFast is Viet Nam's first homegrown car manufacturer. It has launched two electric vehicle models in North America, becoming the first-ever Vietnamese car sold in the US market.

It hopes to compete with giants such as Tesla and it began building a factory in the US state

of North Carolina last month.

The carmaker is a subsidiary of Vietnamese largest private conglomerate, Vingroup, which is owned by the country's richest man, Pham Nhat Vuong.

Vuong started out selling dried noodles in the former Soviet Union before amassing a \$5 billion fortune from enterprises

in a range of sectors including real estate, tourism and education.

Once his focus shifted to cars with the launch of VinFast in 2017, he transformed a muddy patch of swampland near northern Viet Nam's port city of Haiphong into a state-of-the-art factory within two years.

The factory was kitted out with 1,200 robots, German, Japanese and Swedish machinery, and a global team from auto giants including BMW and General Motors.

However, in 2022 VinFast posted a loss of \$2.1 billion.

What happened on its Nasdaq debut?

Shares of VinFast — trading under the ticker "VFS" — entered the market Tuesday at \$22 and rose sharply, closing at more than \$37. That gave it a market value of around \$85 billion after the day's trade, much higher than Ford's \$48 billion valuation and General Motor's \$46 billion.

Vuong's wealth jumped by \$39 billion, according to Bloomberg. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hong Kong exchange posts 31% rise in H1 profit despite IPO malaise

Hong Kong's stock exchange operator reported a "strong" first-half net profit of HK\$6.31 billion (\$807 million) on Wednesday, up 31 per cent on the same period last year despite IPO activity being impacted by "global market fragility".

It was a "good half year for HKEX, despite continued global macro uncertainty and market fragility", bourse chief executive Nicolas Aguzin said in the earnings report. First-half revenue rose 18 per cent to \$1.4 billion compared to the year before.

The bourse attributed the strong revenue result — its "second best ever" — to a \$345 million net investment income buoyed by high interest rates, and strong performance of its external portfolio. "In the first half of 2023, Hong Kong Cash Market trading volume and IPO activity continued to be impacted by global market fragility," HKEX said in its announcement. — AFP

China's home prices down in July



This aerial photo taken on 23 June 2023 shows residential buildings along the Xuyan River, a tributary of Jinjiang River, in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province. **PHOTO: JIANG HONGJING/XINHUA**

FEWER Chinese cities reported month-on-month increases in home prices in July, official data showed Wednesday.

Last month, 20 out of 70

large and medium-sized cities saw month-on-month increases in new home prices, down from 31 in June, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Meanwhile, six cities witnessed higher resale home prices, down from seven in June.

In comparison with the month-earlier levels, new home prices in four first-tier cities — Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen — stayed flat in July for the second consecutive month.

In 31 second-tier cities, prices of new homes went down 0.2 per cent from June, while new housing prices in 35 third-tier cities went down 0.3 per cent.

Compared with July last year, new home prices in first-tier cities and second-tier cities increased by one per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively, while prices of new homes in third-tier cities decreased by 1.5 per cent. — Xinhua

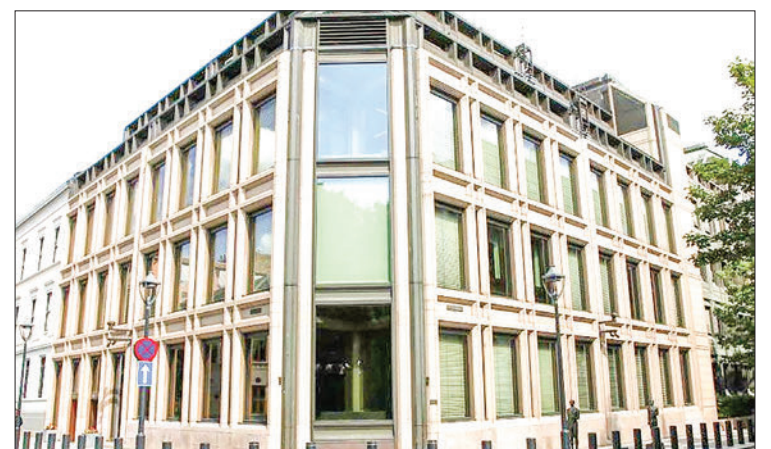
Norway's wealth fund earns 131 bln euros in first half

OIL producer Norway's sovereign wealth fund earned 131 billion euros in the first half of the year, the country's central bank said on Tuesday.

The performance, lifted by the financial markets, represented a return of 10 per cent and helped boost the fund's

value to 15,299 billion kroner (1,332 billion euros) at the end of June.

In six months, the fund has almost wiped out the huge 1,637 billion kroner loss incurred last year as a result of the war in Ukraine and the global economic downturn. — AFP



This photo taken on 22 June 2023 shows the view of Norges Bank, Norway's central bank, in Oslo, Norway. **PHOTO: CHEN YAQIN/XINHUA**

Thai durian shipments to China surge as China-Laos Railway boosts trade

THAILAND'S durian exports to China through the China-Laos Railway expanded 365 per cent in the first five months of this year thanks to shorter transit time and advantages under the free trade agreements, Thai media reported on Tuesday.

The train route brings opportunities for Thai products to enter the Chinese market as it greatly reduces the transit time to less than 15 hours from two days by road, Auramon Supthaweethum, director-general of the Department of Trade Ne-

gotiations (DTN) under Thailand's Ministry of Commerce, was quoted by Thairath Online as saying.

Thailand's fruit exports to China have increased considerably since the China-Laos Railway began operation in December 2021, Auramon said, noting that shipments through the Southeast Asian country's Northeast dry port of Nong Khai bordering Laos were recorded at 1.96 billion baht (55 million U.S. dollars) in 2022, jumping from 90.41 million baht (2.55 million dollars) in the previous year.



The photo shows Mohan Railway Station in Mengla County, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan, China. PHOTO: VCG/XINHUA

She also noted that Thai fruits and other shipments can take advantage of privileges under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China Free Trade Area and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Thailand's exports to China via the China-Laos Railway were valued at 2.84 billion baht (80.22 million dollars) during the January-May period, 72 per cent of which were fresh durian shipments, according to the DTN. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka scraps US\$3.85 bln foreign-funded oil refinery

Sri Lanka announced on Tuesday it was scrapping a \$3.85 billion deal to build an oil refinery that was set to become the island's largest foreign investment.

Energy minister Kanchana Wijesekera said the cabinet terminated the agreement on Monday because Singapore-registered Silver Park International had failed to begin construction since a ground-breaking ceremony in 2019.

The project was originally meant to be jointly funded by Silver Park, owned by an Indian family company, and Oman and was due to be completed this year.

Wijesekera said the government would seek a different foreign partner to set up a refinery primarily for the export of petroleum products.

China's Sinopec and Vitol had been short-listed to set up what would become the island's second oil refinery, near the Chinese-managed southern port of Hambantota, he said. — AFP

Tokyo-Hakata shinkansen bullet train services halted over heavy rain



A departure board at JR Tokyo Station shows delays to shinkansen bullet train services on 16 August 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

DIRECT shinkansen bullet train services between Tokyo and Hakata stations were suspended on

Wednesday due to heavy rain in central Japan, their operators said. The rain hit parts of Shizuoka

Prefecture, disrupting the Tokaido Shinkansen line connecting Tokyo and the cities of Yokohama, Nagoya and Osaka, according to its operator Central Japan Railway Co.

Tokaido Shinkansen services between Shin-Osaka and Tokyo restarted at 2:10 pm West Japan Railway Co, which is responsible for the western Japan portion of the direct services, earlier said it had resumed operations on the Sanyo Shinkansen line between Shin-Osaka and Hakata stations. — Kyodo

Canada inflation rises in July to 3.3%

CANADA'S inflation rate rose to 3.3 per cent in July after plunging over the past year from a June 2022 peak, the government statistical agency said Tuesday.

A rise in headline inflation — which analysts had expected to be lower following a 2.8 per cent increase in prices in June — was mainly attributed by Statistics Canada to a base year effect on gasoline prices. "A large monthly decline (in prices at the pump) in July 2022 is no longer impacting

the 12-month movement (of the Consumer Price Index)," the agency explained. Also pushing up inflation last month was a spike in energy prices in Alberta after provincial rebates and a price cap were phased out, it said.

Mortgage interest costs, up 30.6 per cent, also posted another record year-over-year gain, while travel costs increased at a slower pace with the cost of hotel accommodations up but airfare and prices for travel tours down. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V THIN GAZAR VOY.NO. (23)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V THIN GAZAR VOY.NO. (23)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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 UNIVERSE LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL CO LTD

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (20/2023-2024)

- Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-017(23-24)	Pipe Lax (ENV) (250) Drums and PAC-L (75,000)Kg (Second Retender)	Ks
- The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials/Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **17 August, 2023** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **13:00 pm on 31 August, 2023**.
- Tender Closing Date & Time – **31-8-2023, 13:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

US global reconnaissance system is culprit behind cyberattack on Wuhan earthquake monitoring centre

CHINESE authorities will publicly disclose a highly secretive global reconnaissance system of the US government, which poses a serious security threat to China's national security and world peace.

New progress has been made on an investigation into a cyberattack incident targeting the Wuhan Earthquake Monitoring Center affiliated to the city's Emergency Management Bureau, after a joint investigation team formed by the National Computer Virus

Emergency Response Centre (CVERC) and Chinese cybersecurity company 360 discovered malicious backdoor software that exhibits characteristics of US intelligence agencies, the Global Times learned on Monday.

On 26 July, the Wuhan Earthquake Monitoring Centre reported that some front-end station collection points of the earthquake reporting data had been implanted with backdoor programmes, attracting widespread attention. The CVERC and the

company 360 immediately formed a joint investigation team to go to Wuhan for investigation and evidence collection.

Du Zhenhua, a senior engineer from the CVERC, told the Global Times that the team has found very complex backdoor malware in the victim's network, fitting the characteristics of US intelligence agencies, highly concealed, and aiming to steal earthquake monitoring-related data, with a clear military reconnaissance purpose. — SPUTNIK



Photo of cyber attack. PHOTO: VCG/GLOBAL TIMES

US beefs up Gulf deployment over Iran oil tanker threat

AS Iranian seizures threaten oil tankers plying the Gulf, the United States is raising its military presence — a move long demanded by Gulf Arab states who accused Washington of retreating from the region.

Three thousand additional US personnel on troop-landing

warships have already passed through the Red Sea, and US-led maritime forces are warning ships against approaching Iranian waters. The moves follow a spate of capture and attempted capture of ships in and around the Strait of Hormuz, the U-shaped gateway to

the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea that carries a fifth of world oil output. "There is a heightened threat, a heightened risk to regional mariners in terms of seizures" by Iran in the strait, said Commander Tim Hawkins, spokesman for the US Navy's Fifth Fleet. — AFP



As Iranian seizures threaten oil tankers plying the Gulf, the United States is raising its military presence — a move long demanded by Gulf Arab states who accused Washington of retreating from the region.

PHOTO: DVIDS/AFP/FILE

Clashes between rival factions in Libya capital kill 27: medics

GUN battles between two leading armed groups in the Libyan capital Tripoli have killed 27 people and wounded 106, a toll update from the Emergency Medicine Centre said Wednesday.

The centre, which provides emergency services in the west of Tripoli, published the "provisional" toll on its Facebook page

overnight.

The clashes between the influential 444 Brigade and the Al-Radaa, or Special Deterrence Force, two of the myriad of militias that have vied for power since the overthrow of longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, erupted on Monday night and raged through Tuesday.

A total of 234 families were

evacuated from frontline areas in the capital's southern suburbs, along with dozens of doctors and paramedics who had got trapped by the fighting while caring for the wounded, the centre said. Three field hospitals and a fleet of around 60 ambulances had been deployed to the area when the fighting broke out. — AFP

New Zealand court finds mum guilty of murdering 3 daughters

A New Zealand court on Wednesday found a woman guilty of murdering her three young daughters after a harrowing month-long trial.

Lauren Dickason was accused of strangling and suffocating her twins Maya and Karla, aged two, and first daughter Liane, six, while her husband was out to dinner with colleagues, according to local media reports.

Dickason admitted killing the girls, but had argued a defence of insanity and infanticide.

Under New Zealand law, infanticide is a defence for a mother who causes the death of her child when, "at the time of the offence, the balance of her mind was disturbed".

The girls were killed at their home in the South Island city of Timaru soon after the family arrived in New Zealand from South Africa.

A jury at Christchurch High Court found Dickason guilty of all three charges of murder.

As the verdict was handed down, Dickason's lawyer looked on in shock.

In New Zealand, murder carries a prison sentence of at least 10 years.

Following the verdict, Detective Inspector Scott Anderson said in a statement that police extended their "sympathies to the families who will never get to see Liane, Maya, and Karla grow up". — AFP



Smoke billows over the Libyan capital amid heavy fighting between the two main armed groups linked to the Tripoli-based government.

PHOTO: AFP

SPORTS

YU seal AFC victory, advance to next round



Yangon United's David Htan (white) touches the ball as he is trying to find a winning goal in the 2023-2024 AFC Cup Qualifiers at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 16 August 2023. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

YANGON United secured a 2-1 win over Brunei Club DPMM in the ASEAN Zone Qualifiers for the 2023-2024 AFC Cup at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Although Yangon United played at home, they struggled and only won with late goals to advance to the next round. Yangon United played with advantages, but it is difficult to score a goal due to the weakness of the attack.

Yangon United played with key players, including three foreign players, and played an open attack from the start.

Yangon's attack is unpredictable as the opposing team made fabulous blocking. The DPMM goalkeeper saved Sylla and David Htan's kicks as well. In the first half, the DPMM team managed to make some goal threats, but after the first half, it was a scoreless draw.

In the second half, the Yangon team increased their attacking power and had more opportunities to score.

Yangon missed some more chances as DPMM's goalkeeper showed his best form.

Fashek Naw took the lead for the DPMM team with a long shot at 77 minutes, but one minute later, Valencia scored a header to equalize for team Yangon. Subsequently, the Yangon team was able to put more pressure, and Zaw Win Thein scored the winning goal near the end of the match.

Yangon United won this match and qualified for the play-off stage of the AFC Cup ASEAN zone qualifiers, facing off Indonesian Club Makassar in an away match on 23 August. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

AFF U-23: Myanmar Vs Thailand today

MYANMAR will take on host Thailand today in the ASEAN Football Federation-AFF U-23 Championship opening match.

Team Myanmar match will start at 7:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time and Cambodia will come up against Brunei in the other group A match at 3:30 pm MST. Myanmar and Thailand last met in the semi-finals of the XXXII SEA Games held in Cambodia last May, and Thailand won by three goals.

Myanmar is in a tough group to get a good result as the Thai team is very popular to win the championship. Some of the core players in the Myanmar team could not participate in this match because they are participating in the international matches of the Myanmar National League football club.

A total of 10 teams are competing in the ASEAN tourney. Group A sees host Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Brunei. As for Group B, it seems easy for the teams of Malaysia and Indonesia as Timor falls in the same team. It will also be interesting to see how the three teams of Viet Nam, the Philippines and Laos will progress from Group C.

According to the format of the competition, only the top three teams from each group and one best second-placed team will advance to the semi-finals. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

UEFA chief says football must 'eliminate cancer' of hooliganism

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin on Wednesday urged European football to "eliminate the cancer" of hooliganism.

Ceferin was speaking in Athens in the wake of last week's fatal stabbing of a fan ahead of a Champions League qualifier.

"The problem of violence and hooliganism is not just Greek, it is European," he told a joint press conference with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

"I call on everyone at a European level to eliminate this cancer", he added.

AEK Athens fan Michalis Katsouris, 29, died after being stabbed during violent clashes on the eve of Croatian club Dinamo Zagreb's qualifier at AEK near the Greek club's stadium in Nea Filadelfia, a western suburb of Athens.

Last Tuesday's match was then postponed by UEFA until 19 August.



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis (left) welcomes UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin in Athens on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We will do everything in our power to ensure that such a tragedy never happens again," said Ceferin.

On Sunday, the Greek courts charged 105 people with involvement in the incidents and remanded them in custody. The accused include 102 Croatians, suspected of being linked to the Bad Blue Boys, a Dinamo Zagreb ultra group.

"The guilty parties will be found and punished for this murder," said the Greek prime minister, who also called for a "European mechanism to tackle violence in stadiums and punish it effectively."

Mitsotakis also emphasized that he had agreed with the four chairmen of the main Greek clubs that "the police should operate in the stadiums and be able to control entry".

"But violence is not just in the stadiums, it is also on the streets, and we need to fight it collectively", he added. — AFP



US global reconnaissance system is culprit behind cyberattack on Wuhan earthquake monitoring centre

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Photo taken on 8 September 2021 shows models of jets during an exhibition on BRICS New Industrial Revolution held in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province. PHOTO: LIN SHANCHUAN/XINHUA/FILE

India set to play important role in BRICS Summit; to push for true multipolar world order: Report

THE BRICS Summit set to be held in South Africa from August 22-24 is taking place at a critical juncture in geopolitics. India as one of the founding members of the BRICS is set to play an important role in pushing for the establishment of a true multipolar world order; South Africa-based news website IOL reported

citing The Star. BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

India wants BRICS to take a constructive stance on contemporary issues amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and in the aftermath of the COVID-19

pandemic, Sifiso Mahlangu wrote in the IOL report. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a strong advocate of dialogue and diplomacy as a means to end the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

India has stressed that BRICS should adhere to the concept of sovereignty and territorial integrity. — ANI

N Korea athletes arrive in Chinese border city, 1st time since COVID

SEVERAL dozen people believed to be North Korean athletes joining an international taekwondo event in Kazakhstan arrived Wednesday in China's border city of Dandong, marking the first time for Pyongyang to send a domestic sports team overseas since its 2020 COVID-19 border closure.

In a scene witnessed by Kyodo News, the athletes boarded two buses in the North Korean border city of Sinuiju and crossed the Yalu River, which divides the two Asian countries, before arriving in Dandong. They are expected to travel to Beijing by train before flying to Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

The International Taekwon-Do Federation, led by North Korea, will host the world championships from Friday to 26 August in the Kazakh capital.

In April, Pyongyang sent two Japan-based male ethnic Korean karate athletes to a regional championship held in Taizhou, eastern China, marking a comeback to the international sports scene after a three-year absence due to the pandemic.

Pyongyang is expected to ease its border controls in stages. Preparations are under way for North Korean nationals stranded in China due to the stringent antivirus restrictions to return home, according to sources familiar with the country's situation. — Kyodo

China celebrates 1st National Ecology Day amid efforts to meet carbon goals

CHINA is on Tuesday celebrating its first National Ecology Day as it moves steadily towards delivering on its carbon peak and carbon neutrality pledges. The country's first National Ecology Day has "Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" as its theme, a core concept in China's pursuit of ecological progress. Making instructions on National Ecology Day, Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the whole of society to vigorously promote and act as role models in practicing the concept. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central

Military Commission, said that ecological conservation is of vital importance for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation, calling it a major political issue that concerns the mission and purpose of the CPC as well as a major social issue that bears upon public wellbeing.

Xi proposed the concept on 15 August 2005, when he was visiting Yucun Village in east China's Zhejiang Province, where he praised the villagers' decision to shut down limestone mines and cement factories after the industry caused severe damage to the local environment. Xi was then the Party chief of Zhejiang. — Xinhua



This aerial photo taken on 11 August 2023 shows tourists visiting Yucun Village of Anji County, east China's Zhejiang Province. PHOTO: WENG XINYANG/XINHUA