

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Manufacturing sector exports surpass **US\$3 billion** by 25 August

The export value from the manufacturing sector totalled US\$3.85 billion as of 25 August in the financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, Director U Nanda of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce said.

Exports by the private sector were estimated at \$2.51 billion while exports worth \$1.34 billion were performed by the government sector.

“Myanmar’s manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles manufactured on the cutting, making, and packaging (CMP) basis this FY,” U Nanda said.

The CMP garment export is the main export item in Myanmar, followed by natural gas. Meanwhile, petroleum products are top import goods, followed by textile and garment raw materials.

Myanmar also exports agricultural produce, livestock, fisheries, minerals and forest products to external markets. Of export item groups, the manufacturing sector generates the highest export earnings. — ASH/EM



File photo shows CMP garment factory workers busy on the production line – the highest export-earning sector.



NATIONAL PAGE-2

Arrival of electric vehicles, EV chargers at Yangon Port



LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7

Myanmar pulses exports earn over US\$580 mln in past five months



CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-10

MoALI encourages value addition to tea leaf production in Shan State, Mandalay and Sagaing regions

MoHT eyes **Russian, Chinese, Indian** tourists in peak season

The ministry is exerting concerted efforts with the stakeholders in the industry to welcome expected arrivals of 150,000-200,000 Russian travellers.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism expects international tourists from Russia, China and India in the upcoming tourism peak season this year. The ministry is joining hands with private businesspersons to effectuate the development in the tourism sector. The ministry expects arrivals of 150,000-200,000 Russian tourists this season. The ministry is exerting concerted efforts with the stakeholders in the industry to welcome Russian travellers to Myanmar under the “Welcome Russia Programme in Myanmar”.

“There is a promising prospect of tourism development at present. We must accelerate efforts in the post-COVID-19 pandemic to attract Russians to eye Myanmar as a potential travel destination as Myanmar has strengthened ties with Russia. In addition to Russia, we offer a Visa on Arrival service for Chinese and Indian travellers. We expect an influx of tourist

arrivals. We will endeavour to enhance tourism. We are primarily cooperating with the private sector. We are trying to support the stakeholders in the industry engaged in hotel, restaurant and tour agencies,” Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism gave a remark at the launching ceremony of the Yangon-Mandalay-Novosibirsk maiden flight held on 5 September.

Myanmar-Russia direct aviation connectivity will surely promote tourism. It will also bring about business opportunities for those engaged in the tourism sector as high tourism season is approaching, she added. Besides the current Yangon-Mandalay-Novosibirsk direct flight, Myanmar Airways International will expand its wings to St Petersburg, Moscow and other 11 cities in China including Beijing by long-haul flights using Airbus A330. — ASH/EM

NATIONAL

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 8-9-2023)

Flood Condition of Ayeyawady River

ACCORDING to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawaddy River at Nyaung Oo has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawaddy River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (2) feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise the present water level by about (1/2) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawaddy River at Hinthada has exceeded by about (1/2) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise the present water level by about (1/2) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood Condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about (1) inch above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (12) hours. — MHD



Officials check new arrivals of electric vehicles (EVs).

Arrival of electric vehicles, EV chargers at Yangon Port

HONGQI EQ M5 electric vehicles imported by UV Automotive Co Ltd and Autel EV chargers imported by Earth Renewable Energy Co Ltd were allowed to claim them through Customs procedures. The importation of EVs and e-bikes is allowed with an exemption of Customs tariffs. — MNA/KZW

THE population of vulture native to Myanmar, a critically endangered animal species, is declining and conservation measures are being carried out by spotting their habitats, an official from the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) on 5 September.

The conservation organizations BANCA, WCS, WWF, FFI, MBNS and FoW formed a Myanmar Vultures Working



Photo- BANCA

Photo- BANC

Population of Myanmar vulture declines prompting conservation efforts

Group to conduct research and conservation works by collecting the number of animals and educating locals to change attitudes toward vulture conservation.

Six species of vultures are found in Myanmar, but only three species — white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*), and red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*) — are native to Myanmar and are on the brink of extinction. Other three species are migrating birds.

Yangon Zoo called for the public on 2 September to participate in conservation works of



Photos show Myanmar's diverse vulture species.

vultures which are also dubbed as 'Nature's Clean-Up Crew' to appreciate their role of balancing the ecosystem and their lifestyles

that contribute towards a clean environment and curbing infectious diseases. The zoo made the call on their Facebook page

for International Vulture Awareness Day which is celebrated on the first Saturday in September each year.

“Vultures are found in Kachin State, Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Chin State and Shan State, but their population is declining. Currently, the birds are only found in Kachin State, Shan State and Sagaing Region. A total of 23 vulture species are found in various parts of the world. Six species found in Myanmar are white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*), and red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), Himalayan Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*),” an official from BANCA said.

Despite research conducted by WCS, FFI and BANCA, the exact number of vultures in Myanmar is still unknown.

“We used to put carcass of cattle in our effort to count the number of vultures, but we no longer use it. We will go to the places where the birds are spotted. The next thing is to educate local people about vultures,” he added.

The environmental changes, the dwelling of people in the areas around habitats of vultures, the scarcity of food and the habits of vultures eating animal carcasses died of poisoning pushing more than a half of 23 species of the birds to an endangered state. — ASH/TH

DPM & MoTC Union Minister leaves for 8th Eastern Economic Forum

THE Myanmar delegation led by State Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo left for Russia yesterday by air to attend the 8th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), to be held in Vladivostok from 10 to 13 September.

The Myanmar delegation is accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister alongside the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Union Minister for Industry and the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and officials among others. — MNA/MKKS



Deputy Prime Minister and MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo is seen before departing for the Russian Federation yesterday.



State Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu meets education staff in Myitkyina, Kachin State yesterday.

SAC Member oversees development implementation in Kachin State

STATE Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu led a delegation that oversaw development initiatives in Myitkyina, Kachin State. She was accompanied by Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and other state officials yesterday.

During the visit, Daw Dwe Bu observed the sale of essential food items to locals at reduced prices, supervised by the state government. She engaged with people waiting in line, emphasizing food safety and ease of access to affordable goods.

In her address at an International Literacy Day event held at No 9 Basic Education High School (BEHS), she highlighted the pivotal role of education in a nation's development and announced government efforts to ensure school-age children receive an education to combat illiteracy. She called for participation in literacy initiatives for children and those above 15, aligning with the 2023 International Literacy Day theme: "Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and

peaceful societies."

After the event, SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu watched a Ministry of Education video on the illiteracy campaign. She and Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan recognized winners of essay, poem, painting, and poster contests as part of the 2023 International Literacy Day celebrations.

Subsequently, Daw Dwe Bu met education staff to discuss educational and related sector development matters. She also coordinated preparations for the 2024 census, aiming to contribute to the country's holistic development.

Additionally, the SAC member inspected the construction progress of the No 2 Bala Minhtin bridge, emphasizing adherence to the construction timeline and maintenance of the existing bridge. She also fulfilled necessary measures to streamline commodity flow and upgrade the road connecting to the Waingmaw-Kampaiti border checkpoint. — Kachin State IPRD/TH

K292.278 bln loan for further development: Union Planning & Finance Minister

OF the K452 billion issued by the State Economic Promotion Fund, K292.278 billion has been lent as of 31 July, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, who is also the Chairman of the State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee, said during the fourth meeting for the State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister stated that the collection of loans following the procedures plus maintaining the original capital and increasing it is a must.

The Deputy Prime Minister pointed out that amendment of the financial procedures and regulations of the State Economic Promotion Fund is also essential to be able to continue the loan process that was temporarily suspended due to Cyclone Mocha. Loans that exceed the net amount are processed as per the

terms and conditions.

He also reminded some of the guidance of the Chairman of the State Administration Council at this meeting.

In his keynote speech, the SAC Chairman said that it is necessary to carry out agricultural and livestock activities regionally to support food and to prioritize balancing demand as national economic promotion funds have already been released.

During his visit to inspect the maintenance conditions in Bagan on 26 and 27 August, the SAC Chairman also instructed all to "systematically issue and pay attention to the collection of national economic promotion funds.

During the meeting, the members of the committee discussed the issues of supervision and review of the lending process, and the chairman of the committee coordinated the necessary matters. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning & Finance U Win Shein addresses the fourth meeting of the State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee yesterday.

NATIONAL

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae attended the Police Sub-Inspector Training Course No 113/2022 passing out parade at the Police Officer Training School in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region yesterday. During the event, he took salute of the police graduation cadet company during their slow and quick marches and presented excellent awards to outstanding cadets.

In his address, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae stressed the importance of leadership qualities among the graduate police junior leaders who are about to embark on roles as young leaders in various forces. He emphasized the need for discipline, mentioning the critical objectives of maintaining internal security, and community peace, upholding the rule of law, and preventing narcotic drug risks in an era of development and change.

He acknowledged the police force's collaborative efforts with

Union Home Affairs Minister commends police graduates



SAC Member Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae inspects the police graduation cadet company yesterday in PyinOoLwin.

the public in ensuring internal security, rule of law and security in border areas. The Union

minister called for a cooperative spirit and strict adherence to orders, emphasizing the signif-

icance of public engagement in rule of law and crime prevention. Addressing the national

duty of combatting narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Union minister urged all to do coordination with Tatmadaw and the entire population to establish effective plans aligned with the current situation.

He also emphasized the need for timely assistance during natural disasters and active participation in public sector activities, especially for female police officers who should apply their training in practical settings.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae invoked the tradition of unity between the Myanmar Police Force and Tatmadaw during national emergencies, emphasizing the importance of collaboration to restore stability to the country.

The event saw a total of 347 graduates, including 204 male in-service graduates and 143 female in-service graduates, completing the Police Sub-Inspector Training Course No 113/2022. — MNA/TS

Essential balance for urban and rural development: SAC Member

STATE Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein said during the public meeting held yesterday in Loikaw that the state government is paying special attention to the balanced development of urban and rural.

He pointed out that the State Administration Council is accelerating the comprehensive development of the national interest plus reducing poverty. He added that he wants all the people to work together to improve the rule of law.

The education of the youth is important to obtain human resources that will be relied upon for the future of the country, he

stressed.

He recommended all citizens to participate in the successful holding of a free and fair multi-party democratic general election ensuring that all eligible voters can vote.

Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin presented Kayah State's sectoral performance and regional development.

The meeting continued with further discussions on road and infrastructures, housing development, basic food price stability and distribution issues and regional security and peace. — MNA/KZL



State Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein holds the public meeting in Loikaw yesterday.

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.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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 Members meet locals in Thaton, Mawlamyine townships

MEMBERS of the State Administration Council Mahn Nyein Maung and Khun San Lwin made a tour of Mon State to coordinate regional development tasks yesterday.

Kayin representatives also presented the needs such as access to electricity and the development of ethnic literature teaching. The SAC member coordinated with the departmental officials and gave solutions to their presentations.

SAC members Mahn Nyein Maung and Khun San Lwin

met Pa-oh ethnic people in Naungkala Village in Thaton Township and discussed local development activities.

SAC member Khun San Lwin explained implementation of political, economic and social sectors and coordinated the need of departmental officials.

The SAC members then met U Vimala, Patron Monk of Kayin Win Sein Taungpaw Kyaungyi Monastery and donated offertories. In the afternoon, they visited to Myazedi



SAC Members Mahn Nyein Maung and Khun San Lwin are seen during their working tours in Mon State yesterday.

Teaching Monastery in Mawlamyine and donated offertories to Sayadaw Vinaya Pali

Paragu Agga Maha Panita

Bhaddanta Vimala Buddhi. — MNA/KZL

Govt Office Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador



The Bangladeshi ambassador calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 September.

UNION Minister at the Union Government Office 2 U Ko Ko Hlaing received Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar Dr Md Monwar Hossain in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 September.

Both sides exchanged views on boosting bilateral cooperation including friendly relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh, bilateral trade and repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State. — MNA/MKKS



The 30th Anniversary event of the Mekong MoU on Drug Control in progress yesterday.

Myanmar vows greater international cooperation against drug abuse

A Myanmar delegation, headed by Lt-Gen Ni Lin Aung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force CCDAC secretary attended the 30th Anniversary of the Mekong MoU on Drug Control in Beijing, China, on 5-6 September. They participated in discussions with Mr Xu Datong, Vice-Minister of Public Security of China, on enhancing information sharing and collaboration to combat drug trafficking, border precursor control, telecommunications fraud, and human trafficking.

On 6 September, they joined the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control in the Greater Mekong Subregion, where leaders from Mekong regions and UNODC were present. During this meeting, the leader of the Myanmar's delegation addressed the rising issue of synthetic drug production and usage in the Mekong subregion, high-

lighting their commitment to drug control through various national strategies.

Myanmar pledged to cooperate with countries, organizations, and UNODC in the fight against drugs. The discussion also covered regional drug situations, sub-regional action plans, the Beijing Declaration, China's proposals to combat synthetic drugs, and plans for Myanmar to host the ministerial meeting in 2025.

After the meeting, delegates visited booths commemorating the 30th anniversary of the MoU and attended a dinner hosted by the Chinese People's Security Minister. Additionally, another Myanmar delegation, led by Police Brig-Gen Win Naing, discussed sub-regional action plan 12 (2023-2025), the Beijing Declaration, and China's proposals during the senior ministerial meeting on MoU on drug control on 5 September. — MNA/KTZH

COVID-19 report, 8 September 2023

NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
3,376	3	0

NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister inspects renovation of over 90-year-old IPRD office in Yangon

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the Copyrights and Registration Branch of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) in Bahan Township and the renovation of the Production Branch and Research and Information Branch of IPRD in Pansodan Street in Yangon Region yesterday.

On arrival at the Copyrights and Registration Branch, the Union minister heard the report of Director U Kyaw Htay regarding the duty assignment, printing, publishing, approvals to news agencies between 2014 and 2023 August and work plans of the branch.

Then, the Union minister said the staff should know the current situations of the global and the country. They also



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the IPRD office in Yangon yesterday.

should have political outlook in considering the literature to be published. While the Prime

Minister is making efforts to ensure peace, prosperity and food security in the country,

the branch plays a key role and should perform its best. It should urge the publishing

houses to offer their publications under the law and it needs to consider whether their works of literature is in line with the ethic or law.

Then, he proceeded to the Production Branch and Research and Information Branch of IPRD and inspected the talk show of the Kyauktada Township Book Club, reading and drawing sessions of children at Pyinnya Alinn Library in Kyauktada Township.

He also inspected the heavy maintenance works on over 90-year-old IPRD office.

During the tour, the officials sought permission to renovate the building as per the specific ways for ancient buildings and explained the detailed renovation works. — MNA/KTZH

MoU signing ceremony on feasibility study for ‘Watalone’ Tunnel Project held

THE signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the feasibility study of the ‘Watalone’ tunnel project between the Ministry of Construction’s Highways Department and China Harbour Engineering Co Ltd took place at the Ministry’s assembly hall yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, U Wunna Zaw, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction, delivered a speech, while the Managing Director of China Harbour Engineering Co Ltd explained the work to be carried out.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction, U Wunna Zaw, along with the Managing Director of China Harbour Engineering Co Ltd, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the feasibility study of the ‘Watalone’ tunnel project. — MNA/KZW



The MoU signing ceremony in progress yesterday.



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint is pictured amongst schoolchildren at yesterday’s event.

IPRD holds all-round youth development event in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information organized an all-round youth development event at No 2 BEHS in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the event, Information Deputy Minister U Ye Tint highlighted the role of youths in the future of the country and the need to become educat-

ed youths to achieve peace, stability and development of the country, improve their personal abilities and be the reliable ones with five essential strengths for the youths.

He also donated books and journals for the school library to Headmistress Daw Kyu Kyu Myint.

Writer Thet Thet Nwe (Yangon University) then pre-

sided over a talk on the topic of youth and education.

The event also features colourful photo contests “Beautiful Land of Myanmar”, a mobile library with books and journals to develop the five strengths of students, fun games, the awarding section for winners and other fun activities for the students. — Shwe Pinle (IPRD)/KTZH

LOCAL BUSINESS

Gold price tumbles to K 3.46 mln per tical

The price of gold has fallen to K3.46 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the domestic market.

ALONG with the Kyat depreciation against the US dollar at some K4,000, the pure gold price hit a record high of K4 million per tical last August.

The pure gold price dipped to K3.46 million per tical with the Kyat devaluation against US dollars stopping at approximately K3,400 in the grey market.

Nonetheless, YGEA set the reference rate to over K2,266,700 per tical. There is a large price difference of over K1.2 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 additions, despite the US dollar being exchanged at over K3,400 in the unofficial forex market.

The US dollar exchange rate is closely tied to 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 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



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.

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 En-

trepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM

Myanmar pulses exports earn over US\$580 mln in past five months

MYANMAR shipped more than 720,000 tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over \$580 million, to foreign countries over the past five months (Apr-Aug) of the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The pulses exports by seaborne trade bagged \$488.39 million (over 607,129.941 tonnes), while over 113,789.11

tonnes of pulses worth \$97.986 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border between 1 April and 31 August 2023, totalling \$586.377 million from exports of over 720,919 tonnes.

Myanmar's pulses exports crossed over US\$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 gram and pigeon peas are mostly sent to India while green grams are conveyed to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram 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 gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

The prevailing prices are K2.505 million per tonne of black gram (urad) and K4.15 million per tonne of pigeon pea (tur).

Black grams which India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon pea, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association said. — NN/EM



Traders are evaluating beans and pulses in the Mandalay market.

Myanmar garners US\$3.93 bln via border trade from 1 April to 25 August this FY

FROM 1 April to 25 August of the 2023-2024 financial year, trade from Myanmar to neighbouring countries through border trade posts amounted to US\$3.93 billion, according to the Trade Policy Branch under the Trade Department of the Ministry of Commerce.

According to Daw Cho Thet Mu, Deputy Director of the Trade Policy Branch of the Trade Department, the value of exports is US\$2.52 billion and the value of imports is US\$1.4 billion.

"During the past four months of this financial year, the value of Myanmar-China border trade was over US\$1.6 billion, and Myanmar-Thailand border trade was valued at US\$2.3 billion," Daw Cho Thet Mu continued.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, forest products, fishery products, and other goods to China, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, through border trade posts and imports consumer goods, investment goods, and commercial goods from these countries. — ASH/CT

OPINION

Endeavour development of first-aid treatment activities

ACCESS to first aid should be universal, reaching even the most vulnerable members of society, including individuals with disabilities, women, children, and older adults. It is a noble movement for the society, doing meritorious deeds.

In fact, the first-aid measure is mainly concerned with Red Cross societies. Members of those societies have comprehensive talent and techniques to first cure or ease the impacts of injuries without potent medicines and medical equipment before transferring the injuries to health institutions such as hospitals or clinics. This year, on 9 September designated as the second Saturday of September, over 100 Red Cross and Red Crescent societies affiliated with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) commemorate World First Aid Day.

IFRC stated that First aid has been at the heart of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement since the federation was founded more than 150 years ago. Since 2000, the authorities and relevant social organizations have raised public awareness regarding how first aid interventions can save lives daily, as well as in crisis situations.

A large number of voluntary organizations in Myanmar, particularly the Red Cross societies which connect with the MRCS, can be regarded as the nation's reserve forces, ready to assist people in various crises resulting from unforeseen events. Members of these organizations prioritize providing first-aid treatments to the injured, setting aside their personal interests and affairs. Those members have to apply first-aid techniques to provide necessary aid to injured persons and those affected by unexpected shocks.

without expecting rewards in return.

A large number of voluntary organizations in Myanmar, particularly the Red Cross societies which connect with the MRCS, can be regarded as the nation's reserve forces, ready to assist people in various crises resulting from unforeseen events. Members of these organizations prioritize providing first-aid treatments to the injured, setting aside their personal interests and affairs. Those members have to apply first-aid techniques to provide necessary aid to injured persons and those affected by unexpected shocks.

All enthusiasts can join the first-aid treatments. It is essential to provide first-aid training to school students, nurturing them as the future generation's pillars. Strengthening students' knowledge of first aid and introducing them to the work of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent are vital. Moreover, students should be encouraged to view World First Aid Day from a global perspective, prompting them to consider access to first aid in underserved communities and overseas regions. This holistic approach can empower youths to become compassionate and capable first responders in their communities and beyond.

IN this 21st century, teachers are considered effective leaders by all in the educational climate. Effective teachers have acquired supervision that they usually do the right thing in the right manner in the right place at the right time with the right resources and leadership which has rational, social and emotional elements, being distributed widely in organizations formally or informally and influencing behaviour towards a shared goal. Also, the traits related to effective leadership include personalities such as self-confidence, stress tolerance, emotional maturity, integrity or extroversion, motivation such as task and interpersonal needs, achievement orientation, power needs, expectations or self-efficacy, and skills such as technical, interpersonal or conceptual and cognitive. Out of these traits, power needs mean motives of individuals to seek positions of authority and to exercise influence over others as well as there were identified five types of leadership for which a teacher should strive by the social psychologists French and Raven in the years 1959 and 1974: expert, referent, legitimate, reward, and coercive.

Professional teachers tend to have expert power in which their students view them as high-

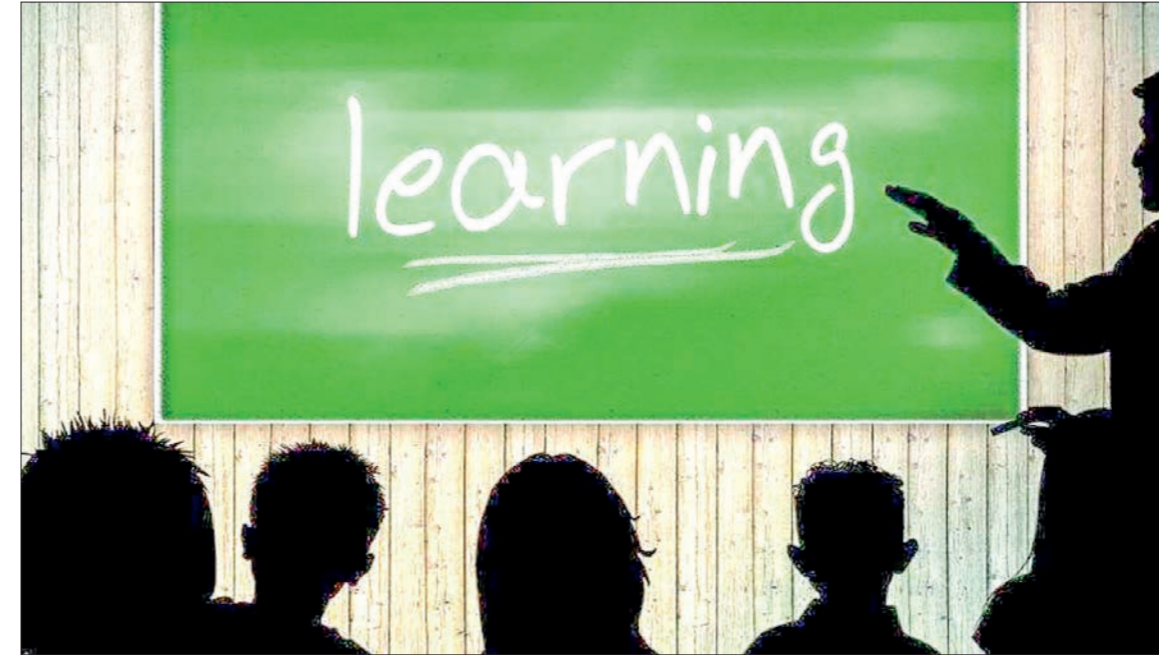
ly competent to do or explain certain things and knowledgeable about particular titles. Those teachers with expert power will show their enthusiasm or excitement about what to teach as well as give students an idea about getting confident and self-assured in front of their classes. Often amateur teachers find it difficult to take expert power among students although meeting less uncertainty or inexperience before student groups, even if they have professional expertise in both education and academic subjects. And since students are adjusted to their teachers' body language suggesting a lack of confidence and indecision, they may test the waters on their teacher competence or face up to the authority of teachers probably not in command of their specialized subjects.

Some teachers are so trustworthy, fair and concerned about students that they can be both liked and respected by their students. In that way, referent power is earned by teachers and without the referent power associated with greater student satisfaction and higher achievement, teachers with expert power might even have their authority challenged or ignored. Only the teacher who is perceived as warm and capable likes to see

students' needs for belonging in a classroom.

The power conferred by the role itself rather than depending on the nature of the person assuming the role is referred to as legitimate power. This power may, however, not be earned like expert and referent powers. Teachers possess some degree of legitimate power such as a diploma, certificate, or bachelor, and students are given to pay attention, respect and obey their teachers to the letter naturally simply by virtue of their position of authority. In that connection, new teachers are inclined to begin their first day of school with legitimate power, which also helps them less tension in class during the first few weeks of school. On the other hand, solely wielding legitimate power in the classroom can be like building a house on the foundation of sand for the simple reason that most students are initially likely to follow and accept their new teachers' authority. All teachers should, therefore, exercise their legitimate power just to rise to referent and expert powers.

Sometimes teachers must be able to use reward power in relation to the students whom they teach. Those rewards may take different forms of privilege, approval, or tangible compen-



Teacher Powers in Education

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

sation, for instance, money and gold medals. In terms of reward power, educational teachers can award as many rewards to students as possible, if desired, even

though there are few rewards obtainable to the teachers. Despite this, the fact that students should get rewards, many of which are reinforcing to them, outside of

school even without the help of a teacher will probably drive them not to care much about good grades given by their teachers. In such cases, seasoned teach-

ers are able to replace access to enjoyable teaching-learning activities or even food and drinks in the middle of school lessons with merely physical materials for incentives.

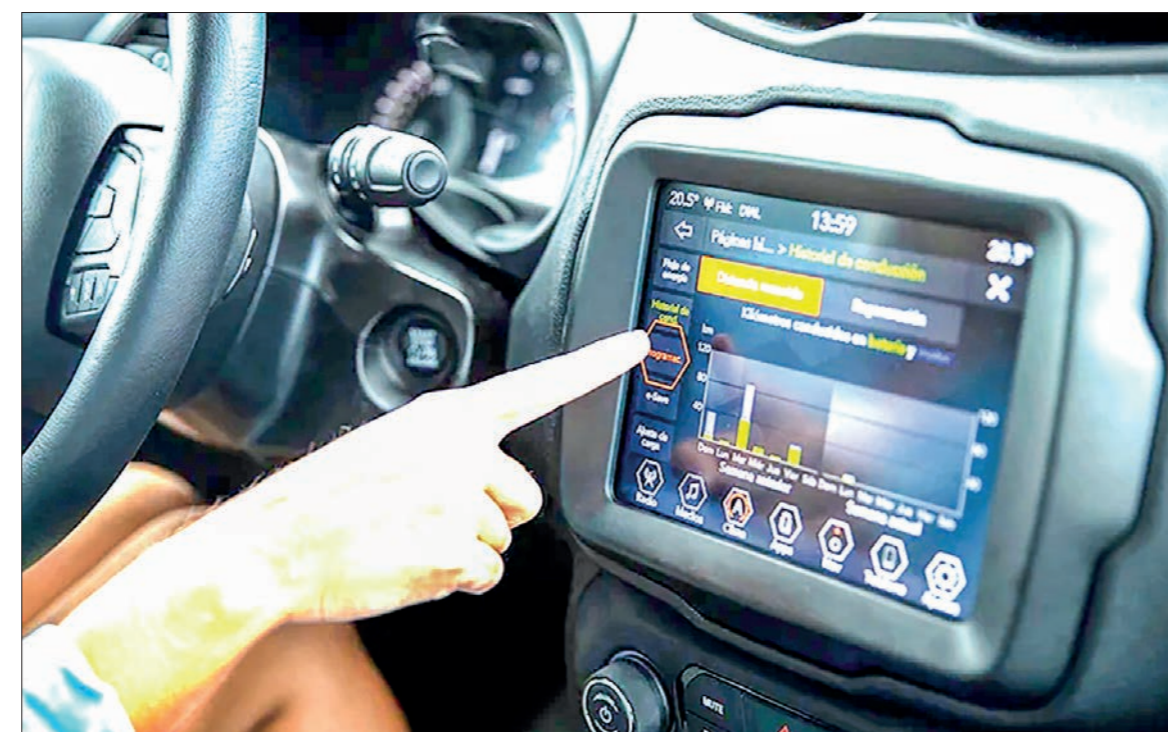
As always, teachers are allowed to act in loco parentis by students' parents themselves. In consequence, teachers can punish students who defy them, within limits, through such techniques as suspension, expulsion, denial of privileges, and removal from the classroom. Relying on these techniques to gain power in their classroom is commonly known as coercive power in teachers' authorized hands. In spite of this, the practice of coercive power might prevent students' misbehaviour a few times, which would occasionally be at the cost of developing belief and facing student needs. As a result, overreliance upon coercive power leads to the danger of raising negative attitudes towards antagonism and disengagement from the learning process.

By the old-fashioned way of purchasing trust and becoming a leader for students, teachers, especially newcomers to education, can make good use of the preceding five educational powers which may turn out to be an effective and efficient tool for managing classroom control

when properly used, particularly without being abused. Above all, a new teacher ought to have achieved his expert power, in a manner of speaking, professional power or knowledge power, by keeping up-to-date with dramatic improvements in the teaching world, completing in-service or graduate programmes, attending seminars or workshops, and catering for the career ladder or mentoring activities as regards education. On top of that, he has to exhibit referent power by giving students a sense of belonging and acceptance from his very first day in the classroom. After several school days, a teacher should ask himself the following questions to see whether his power in use is effective and efficient.

- What are the powers by which teachers mobilize students for change?
- What are some of the various roles teachers may assume?
- What do teachers do and how do they do it? And what may be some of the impediments to this action?
- What are the critical issues teachers confront?
- Who is considered to be an effective teacher?
- How may effectiveness be measured?

Modern cars are a data privacy 'nightmare' says study



Modern connected vehicles capture data from in-vehicle entertainment and third-party features such as satellite radio and maps. **ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK**

In modern connected cars, there are various systems and features that collect information. These include things like the entertainment system inside the vehicle and also external services like satellite radio and maps.

THE world's most popular car brands are a data "privacy nightmare", collecting and selling personal information in an age when driving is going increasingly digital, a study showed on Wednesday.

The California-based Mozilla Foundation reviewed 25 car brands and said none of them fully satisfied its standards on privacy and that no other product category had ever received as poor a review, including makers of sex toys or mental health

apps.

"Modern cars are a privacy nightmare" at a time when "car makers have been bragging about their cars being 'computers on wheels'", said Mozilla, which is best known for its privacy-conscious Firefox web browser.

"While we worried that our doorbells and watches that connect to the internet might be spying on us, car brands quietly entered the data business by turning their vehicles into powerful data-gobbling machines,"

Mozilla said.

Tesla was the worst offender, according to the study, with Nissan coming in second and singled out for seeking some of the "creepiest categories" of data, including sexual activity.

Alarming Data Sharing Practices

The study found that a staggering 84 per cent of car brands admitted to sharing users' personal data with service providers, data brokers, and other undisclosed businesses.

Most of them, 76 per cent, said they sold on their customers' data and more than half said they share data with government and law enforcement on request.

Today's connected vehicles not only mine data from driving, but track in-vehicle entertainment and third-party functions such as satellite radio or maps.

An overwhelming majority of car brands, 92 per cent, were found to provide users with little to no control over their personal data with only France's Renault

and its Dacia brand allowing users the right to delete data, probably out of compliance with European Union law.

Mozilla complained that none of the car brands - which also included Ford, Chevrolet, Toyota, Volkswagen, and BMW - would confirm they met the foundation's minimum security standards when 68 per cent were subject to data leaks, hacks or breaches in the last three years.

SOURCE: AFP

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Myanmar to host 15th ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organization Conference

It aims to develop regions for the well-being of residents through practical cooperation in the economic and social sectors by establishing sister cities.

THE 15th ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organization Conference will reportedly be held in Myanmar.

The 14th ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organization Conference of this year took place in Penang, Malaysia, from 3 to 6 September, and chairmen and representatives of friendship associations from 10 ASEAN countries, officials from China, foreign countries and friendship associations, China-ASEAN organization officials, responsible persons from Malaysia, and Myanmar representatives from the Myanmar-China Friendship Association-(Central) participated in the occasion.

At the ceremony, the ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organization Flag was handed over to Myanmar, which will be the host country for 2025.

Measures to strengthen



The photo shows the chairpersons and representatives of friendship associations from 10 ASEAN countries who attended the 14th ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organization Conference.

ASEAN-China cooperation, the exchange of views on the promotion of highly cooperative efforts against the COVID-19 epidem-

ic, strengthening the friendship between the people of ASEAN and China, the promotion of joint ventures in emerging industries,

and ASEAN-China bilateral quality development issues were discussed at the conference.

In addition, six joint state-

ments were also issued at the conference, and it was announced to promote people-to-people friendship based on the existing ASEAN-China mechanism, strengthen cooperation activities between 10 ASEAN countries, and nourish traditional and new mechanisms in the fields of health, education, culture, and media industries through the collaboration of young professionals.

The statement also mentioned promoting the achievement of win-win results in mutual cooperation, coordinating economic and ecological exchanges between different markets using regional industries and economic and social cooperation in developing the Belt and Road Initiative, and developing regions for the well-being of residents through practical cooperation in economic and social sectors by building sister cities. — TWA/CT

Renewal of ordinary passports for Myanmar nationals in S Korea

THE Myanmar Embassy to Korea has announced that the renewal process of passports for Myanmar nationals in South Korea will resume on 11 September.

To facilitate passport applications, the passport issuing machine has been temporarily closed since 1 September to perform maintenance work.

Since the maintenance works have been completed, starting 11 September, the embassy will receive applicants as usual from Monday to Friday. The embassy also mentioned that it is necessary to contact the phone numbers published by the embassy and make an appointment at least three days in advance. — TWA/CT

MoALI encourages value addition to tea leaf production in Shan State, Mandalay and Sagaing regions

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has encouraged the tea leaf industry to add value to tea leaf production and foster innovative production of value-added products such as tea leaf wine.

The innovative value-added production includes preserved fresh tea leaves, dried tea leaves (bitter, sweet and sour) and tea leaf wine.

Myanmar is one of the origins of tea leaf and the farms mostly use traditional growing methods. The tea leaf plantations are commonly found in Shan State, Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

The tea leaves can be harvested many times a year depending on the strength of the plants, the region and the weather conditions where they are grown. The tea leaves can be plucked often in summer while



Farm workers are seen plucking tea leaves at a farm in Namhsam, northern Shan State.

the plucking cycle of tea leaves lasts longer in the cold regions. While harvesting the leaves, it is important to leave some parts remaining. The top buds taste the best. The dried tea leaves are named depending on the maturity levels of the tea leaf.

Dried tea leaf businesses

run in summer and pre-monsoon season. They suspend business operations in the monsoon season and turn to fresh tea leaf businesses.

Extension of tea leaf cultivation has been implemented as a five-year national project starting from 1991-1992 FY, add-

ing over 239,000 more acres of tea leaf plantations as of 2020-2021 FY.

The number of acres has increased to 240,000 acres in the 2021-2022 FY. The yield was estimated at 230 visses per acre prior to the project. After that, it rose to 275 visses per acre. Nonetheless, the output of tea leaf plantations is way behind that of international countries, the Myanmar Tea Association said.

The annual production of Myanmar's tea leaves was 69 million visses in the 2020-2021 FY. Myanmar bagged US\$2.5 million from tea leaves exports in 2021.

The global tea production amounted to 3.21 million tonnes in 2003 and rose to 4.73 million in 2008. The top tea-leaf-producing countries are China, India, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Türkiye. — TWA/EM

Children fleeing Latin America in record numbers: UN

A record number of children from Latin America and the Caribbean are leaving their homes in search of a better life, risking disease, injury and abuse, a United Nations children's agency (UNICEF) report said Wednesday, urging a stronger humanitarian response.

Driven by violence, destitution and severe weather, some 40,000 children crossed the perilous Darien jungle separating Central and South America last year, compared to 29,000 in 2021 and several times more than in previous years.

In just the first six months of 2023, over 40,000 children made the dangerous journey, indicating the total number is likely to be much higher at the end of the year.

Six hundred of the children

were unaccompanied.

"Gang violence, instability, poverty and climate-related events are, alarmingly, gripping the region and pushing more children from their homes," UNICEF regional director Garry Conille said in a statement.

"When they cross several countries and sometimes the entire region, disease and injury, family separation and abuse may plague their journeys and, even if they make it to their destination, their futures often remain at risk," Conille added.

According to UNICEF, children represent a total of 25 per cent of migrants in the region, a proportion now as high as in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to around 13 per cent worldwide.

— AFP



A mother helps her child over the barbed wire fence in Eagle Pass, Texas, after crossing into the US from Mexico on 25 August 2023. **PHOTO: SUZANNE CORDEIRO / AFP/FILE**

Iconic Freddie Mercury memorabilia sells for over €3.5 million

THE piano Queen frontman Freddie Mercury used to compose almost all of his greatest songs and the original manuscript for "Bohemian Rhapsody" were snapped up for over £3 million (€3.5 million) Wednesday when they went under the hammer in London.

The Sotheby's auction room echoed to the sound of the track "We Will Rock You" before bidding began at the black-tie

evening auction.

The items were among over 1,400 lots of Mercury memorabilia up for grabs over the next week, with the famous auction house's facade decorated with a huge moustache for the occasion. The 59 lots sold on Wednesday brought in £12,172,290, Sotheby's said, adding that each one went for more than double the estimated price. — AFP

From the rear end of a pheasant, Brazil's best coffee

The coffee produced at Camocim is unique and exotic, grown in the midst of a lush forest. Coffee beans that have passed through the digestive system of jacus are highly sought after and can command a premium price.

IN Brazil, the proverbial goose that lays the golden egg is in reality something closer to a pheasant that excretes coffee beans.

At the Camocim coffee farm, deep in the bucolic hills of Espirito Santo state in Brazil's southeast, jacus — a type of pheasant native to tropical forests there — are considered some of the most astute pickers (or rather, eaters) of coffee cherries.

"He chooses the best fruits, the ripest," said worker Agnael Costa, 23, delicately scooping up droppings left behind by one of the birds between two tree trunks.

What goes in as ripe cherries comes out as beans, which can go on to be sold as some of the most delicious — and expensive — coffee in the world.

The coffee at Camocim grows in the middle of the lush forest, and the jacus here are wild, eating (and defecating) at their own pace.

"It was this agroforestry system that created the neces-



Brazil's jacu birds were originally seen as hungry pests feeding on precious coffee crops — until farmers realized they instinctively eat the best coffee cherries, and thus leave behind the best beans. **PHOTO: CARL DE SOUZA / AFP**

sary conditions for this exotic coffee to exist here," farm owner Henrique Sloper tells AFP.

Domestically, jacu coffee can sell for 1,118 reais per kilogramme (or around \$100 a pound) — a price that can rise significantly upon export. Foreign distributors include British department store Harrods, among others.

From enemies to allies

The jacu, with its black feathers and red throat, wasn't always welcome at the farm. It

was originally seen as a hungry pest feeding off precious crops.

But when Sloper discovered "kopi luwak", an expensive Indonesian coffee made with beans from civet excrement, he figured jacus might make good allies in the quest to make a better brew.

Kopi luwak sometimes has a bad reputation, with farmers accused of pressing civets — small mammals similar to weasels — into captivity to boost production. — AFP

Bruce Springsteen postpones concerts due to illness

LEGENDARY American rock singer Bruce Springsteen on Wednesday announced he was

postponing his September concerts in the United States to be treated for peptic ulcer disease.



Springsteen is often referred to as "The Boss" and is regarded as one of the greatest rock musicians of all time. **PHOTO: ANDER GILLENIA/AFP**

"The decision of his medical advisors is that he should postpone the remainder of his September shows," Springsteen's team said on Instagram.

Nicknamed "The Boss", the 73-year-old rock veteran said he was "heartbroken" to have to postpone his shows.

"We'll be back to pick these shows up and then some," he wrote. He added: "We've been having a blast at our US shows and we're looking forward to more great times. We'll be back soon." Springsteen has been on tour with his "E Street Band" since the start of the year. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

China's technological advancements fuel momentum for economic development

RISING consumer demand for Huawei's latest phone and the impressive sales of domestically-produced new energy vehicles (NEVs) showcase Chinese companies' consistent ability to achieve technological advancements, injecting more vigour into the nation's economic landscape.

A case in point is Huawei. In the first half of this year, the company reported revenue of 310.9 billion yuan (around 43 billion US dollars), marking a 3.1 per cent year-on-year increase, with a notable 15 per cent growth in net profit margins. The consumer segment alone contributed 103.5 billion yuan to its revenue.

Technology is acting as a catalyst for transformations in industrial production. Data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers showed that between January and July,



Containers are transported by trucks at the Pacific international container terminal of Tianjin Port in north China's Tianjin, 11 April 2023. **PHOTO: ZHAO ZISHUO**

automobile exports reached 2.53 million units, signifying a year-on-year increase of 67.9 per cent.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that NEV exports during this period surged 1.5 times

and reached 636,000 units, while fully electric vehicles saw a 1.6-fold increase.

Chinese companies are at the forefront of technological innovation, particularly in fields like artificial intelligence (AI). Over the past decade, high-tech company Baidu has invested more than 140 billion yuan in research and development. Last week, the company launched its AI chatbot service, ERNIE Bot, catering to hundreds of millions of internet users.

Simultaneously, China is ascending the value chain of international trade, meeting the growing demand of tech-intensive products.

Chinese customs data indicated a 61.6 per cent year-on-year increase in the total export value of China's three major tech-intensive green products — photovoltaic batteries, lithium-ion batteries, and NEVs — in the first half of 2023, boosting China's export growth by 1.8 percentage points. — Xinhua

Google faces £7 bln claim on behalf of UK consumers

GOOGLE is facing a new lawsuit in Britain, which accuses the US tech giant of stifling competition in the search engine market and causing prices to rise across the UK economy, a statement said Thursday.

The claim, filed with the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal, is seeking around £7 billion (\$8.7 billion) in damages on behalf of effectively every consumer in the country.

It accuses Google of breaching competition law by shutting out mobile search competition and using its market dominance

to increase the prices paid by advertisers for their prominence on the Google search page.

These costs are then passed on to consumers, who are charged more for the goods and services they buy, according to the claim. The lawsuit argues that Google abused its dominant position by tying its Search with other apps and services such as requiring smartphone manufacturers to pre-install Google Search and Google Chrome browser apps to obtain a licence to use the Google Play app store. — AFP



A claim has been filed in the UK accusing Google of breaching competition law. **PHOTO: AFP**

UAE space sector enhances global competitiveness, contributes to diversifying economy

THE UAE has achieved continuous accomplishments in the space economy sector, which enhances its global competitiveness and contributes to diversifying its economy.

The country's investment in the space sector has already surpassed the AED22 billion mark, encompassing satellite communications systems, Earth and space exploration, data transmission services, satellite broadcasting, and mobile satellite communications, among others.

For the UAE, space economy is a pivotal pillar in its ambitious journey towards the next fifty years, laying the foundation for a diversified economy bolstering its competitiveness.

The global space sector is expected to soar beyond the trillion-dollar mark by 2040, representing a monumental leap in the new space economy.

The UAE has emerged as a regional hub for space services,



In this file photo taken on 25 September 2019 Emiratis gather at Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in Dubai. **PHOTO: KARIM SAHIB / AFP**

events, and specialized educational programmes in the space domain. The commitment to investing in cutting-edge sciences, advanced technologies, and space technology has propelled commercial spending on the space economy to AED10.9 billion by the end of 2020, a remarkable increase over the past seven years. Also, the contractual agreements for space services

and applications increased by 40 per cent in 2020, according to the UAE Space Agency.

The UAE's space economy spans ten sectors, offering significant investment potential, including space mining, space stations, space companies, sustainability and recycling in space, settlements, space tourism, manufacturing and space academies. — ANI

France to launch Germany-style bargain transport pass: minister

FRANCE will next summer launch a bargain-price monthly pass valid on certain trains nationwide, directly copying a hugely successful move in Germany to encourage greener transport, a minister said Thursday.

The Pass Rail would cost around 49 euros (\$52) a month and allow users unlimited travel nationwide

on TER regional trains and intercity trains, Transport Minister Clement Beaune told France 2 television.

President Emmanuel Macron had said on Monday that France's regional authorities had agreed to the move, which follows limitations on domestic air travel imposed earlier this year.

"It will be simple. The

French — irrespective of their age — can buy this pass and have unlimited travel on an intercity or TER for a flat, inexpensive price," Beaune said.

Beaune acknowledged that the idea directly follows that of the "Deutschland-Ticket" in neighbouring Germany which was launched in May and allows unlimited travel

on regional and local transport for 49 euros a month.

"The ideal is to have something a little bit like what the Germans and other European countries have done... to encourage train use," said Beaune.

He said the pass would be launched from the summer with a price similar to that of the German system. — AFP



France is planning to introduce a Pass Rail next summer, priced at around 49 euros (\$52) per month. PHOTO: AFP

UAE's ADNOC Gas signs \$450-550 mln Chinese supply deal



ADNOC Gas, based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has entered into a liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply agreement with PetroChina. PHOTO: ADNOC GAS

THE United Arab Emirates' ADNOC Gas announced a \$450-550 million liquefied natural gas supply agreement with

PetroChina on Thursday, its latest deal with an Asian client. No volumes or timescale were announced for the contract,

which follows deals with Japanese and Indian companies since state-owned ADNOC Gas's share flotation in March.

"China continues to be a key market for ADNOC Gas, and this agreement further reinforces our role as a major LNG supplier across East and South Asia, and beyond," chief executive Ahmed Mohamed Alebri said in a statement. It follows July's \$7.9 billion, 14-year supply deal with the Indian Oil Corporation, and last month's five-year contract with Japan's JAPEX worth up to \$550 million.

In May, ADNOC Gas — 90 per cent-owned by state oil giant ADNOC — also signed a three-year supply agreement with France's TotalEnergies Gas and Power expected to be worth up to \$1.2 billion. — AFP

Australia cites 'invasive' searches in Qatar Airways rejection

AUSTRALIA'S government Thursday cited Qatar's "invasive" searches of women air passengers three years ago as a factor in its decision to block extra flights by the nation's airline. Women passengers on a series of Qatar Airways flights from Doha — including one bound for Sydney — were subjected to gynaecological examinations in October 2020 as the authorities searched for the mother of a newborn baby found in an airport bathroom.

The women had been escorted at gunpoint from their planes for "invasive

searches" in ambulances on the tarmac, Transport Minister Catherine King reminded reporters as she explained her decision to reject the carrier's request for 21 extra international flights into Australia.

King said she decided on 10 July to refuse the Qatar Airways request for more flights to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane in the "national interest". "For context, this is the only airline that has something like that," she said of the 2020 body searches, which sparked international outrage. — AFP

Over 1,300 more staff to go at UK retailer Wilko

MORE than 1,300 extra staff will lose their jobs at troubled UK household goods retailer Wilko after the firm collapsed, administrators PwC announced on Tuesday.

PwC said 52 Wilko stores would not be part of a rescue package by B&M European Value Retail and would be closed, putting 1,016 staff out of work.

A further 299 jobs will go at two distribution

centres.

The firm, which is administering Wilko's future, last week announced the removal of almost 300 jobs at the group after the collapse of a rescue bid from M2 Capital.

Tuesday's jobs announcement came hours after B&M European Value Retail said it had agreed to buy up to 51 Wilko stores following the collapse of the rival discount chain. — AFP



Wilko's financial difficulties stem from the collapse of a rescue bid by M2 Capital. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (282N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (282N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Russians in Pyongyang in fresh signs of border opening

North Korea is preparing to celebrate its 75th founding anniversary on 9 September, and the arrival of foreign delegations and diplomats indicates increased engagement with the international community.



The Art Squad of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League (SPYL) take part in a performance at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang, on 7 September. **PHOTO: KIM WON JIN / AFP**

A Russian military song and dance ensemble has arrived in North Korea, state media said Friday, with a Chinese delegation also due for a key anniversary, in fresh signs of border reopening.

North Korea has been largely closed off from the outside world since early 2020, when it shut its borders in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, with even its own nationals prevented from entering.

But Pyongyang invited high-level Chinese and Russian delegations to attend celebrations marking the end of Korean War hostilities in late July.

It also allowed a taekwondo delegation to travel to an international competition, and soon after that, restarted some commercial passenger flights to Beijing.

“The Russian Army Aca-

demic Song and Dance Ensemble... arrived in Pyongyang on Thursday,” the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

Pyongyang celebrates the 75th anniversary of the country’s founding day on 9 September and the nuclear-armed state has previously indicated it will hold a “militia parade” to mark the event.

Russia has also been allowed to bring in a new batch of diplomats to its Pyongyang mission, Moscow’s embassy in the capital said on Thursday.

“For the first time since 2019 we welcomed 20 diplomatic and technical staff who arrived at the embassy as part of a staff rotation,” the embassy said on Facebook, alongside a photo showing Russian officials posing in front of what appears to be its building in Pyongyang. — AFP

US judge orders Texas to remove floating border buoys

A US judge on Wednesday ordered Texas to remove floating barriers installed on the river border with Mexico, though the state’s Republican government quickly appealed.

The district court ruling gave Governor Greg Abbott until 15 September to remove the barriers, which he had installed in July to deter migrants from

crossing the river.

The administration of President Joe Biden, a Democrat, had argued that the barriers violated federal law as well as treaties with Mexico.

Federal Judge David Ezra, in his preliminary ruling, also prohibited Texas authorities from “building new or placing additional buoys, blockades or

structures of any kind on the Rio Grande River.”

Texas immediately filed an appeal. The judge said harm from the floating barrier is “immediate and ongoing,” citing “the tremendous strain on the US-Mexican relationship,” as well as the “threat to human life and its impairment to free and safe navigation.” — AFP

Hong Kong flooded by heaviest rainfall in 140 years

The city’s weather observatory recorded hourly rainfall of 158.1 millimetres, the highest since records began in 1884.

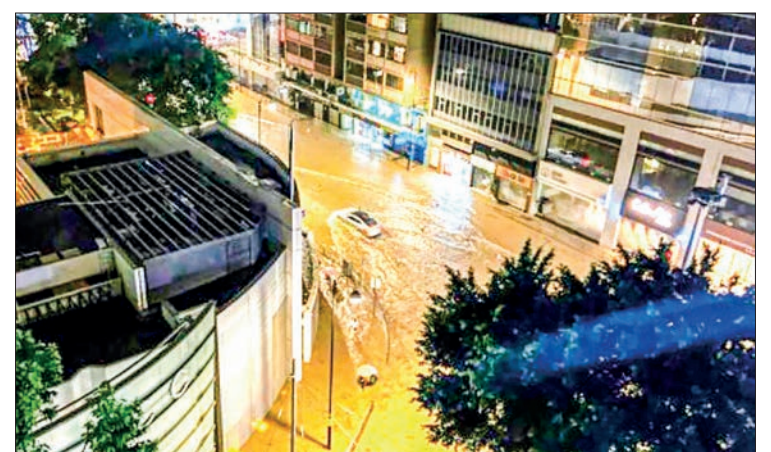
HONG Kong was flooded by the heaviest rainfall in nearly 140 years on Friday, leaving the city’s streets and some subway stations under water and forcing its schools to close.

Just across the border, authorities in China’s tech hub Shenzhen recorded the heaviest rains since records began in 1952.

Climate change has increased the intensity of tropical storms, experts say, with more rain and stronger gusts leading to

flash floods and coastal damage.

The heavy rainfall in Hong Kong started on Thursday and in the hour leading up to midnight, the city’s weather observatory recorded hourly rainfall of 158.1 millimetres at its headquarters, the highest since records began in 1884. “It’s absolutely shocking,” said Jacky, 52, who lives in the Wong Tai Sin district with his elderly parents. “I don’t remember floods ever being this bad in our district.” — AFP



Experts attribute the increased intensity of tropical storms and heavy rainfall to climate change. **PHOTO: AFP**

OFFBEAT

Turkish crypto boss sentenced to 11,196 years in jail

A disgraced Turkish crypto founder who fled to Albania and his two brothers have been sentenced to 11,196 years in jail each, the Anadolu state news agency reported Friday.

Prosecutors had asked for Thodex boss Faruk Fatih Ozer, 29, to be sentenced to 40,562 years in prison for money laundering, fraud and establishing a criminal organization.

“If I were to establish a criminal organisation, I would not have acted so amateurishly,”

Anadolu quoted Ozer as telling the court.

His two brothers, Serap and Guven, received the same sentence, which was issued late Thursday after a brief trial, Turkish media reports said.

Türkiye is known for issuing massive prison sentences, which became more common after it abolished the death penalty in 2004 to help its efforts to join the European Union.

Ozer was initially reported to have fled Türkiye in April

2021 with \$2 billion in investor assets, although that figure has since been disputed.

Prosecutors said Ozer had transferred 250 million liras in user assets (worth about \$30 million at the time) to three secret accounts when he fled Türkiye in April 2021, with much of the money ending up in a Malta bank.

The indictment said the Ozer brothers had caused 356 million liras of damage to clients in all. — AFP

SPORTS

France close on Euro 2024 spot, Netherlands beat Greece



Aurelien Tchouameni celebrates with Kylian Mbappe after putting France ahead against Ireland. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRANCE took a huge step towards qualifying for Euro 2024 with a 2-0 victory over Ireland on Thursday, while the Netherlands and Denmark claimed big wins as they eye places at next year's finals in Germany.

Aurelien Tchouameni and Marcus Thuram scored either side of half-time and France could have added several more goals as they outclassed Ireland at the Parc des Princes in Paris in qualifying Group B.

Captain Kylian Mbappe had a goal disallowed for offside and Ousmane Dembele later hit the post for a France side who saw Olivier Giroud limp off with an ankle injury in the first half.

Last year's beaten World Cup finalists have a maximum 15 points and have yet to con-

cede a goal after five matches in the group, which they lead by a massive nine points from both the Netherlands and Greece.

"It is an important step. We have enjoyed a perfect campaign so far but we are not going to rest on our laurels," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

Ronald Koeman's Dutch side, who have played just three games, beat Greece 3-0 in Eindhoven with all the goals coming in the first half. Marten de Roon smashed in their opener, Liverpool's Cody Gakpo made it 2-0 and Wout Weghorst headed in the third on 39 minutes. — AFP

Myanmar's draw with Nepal leaves FIFA points in limbo

MYANMAR men's national football team failed to collect valuable FIFA points following a scoreless tie against the Nepal team in the FIFA international friendly match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Myanmar squad tried to get a good result in the friendly match, but due to the weak skill and tech-

nique, a draw was the only thing they deserved.

The Nepalese team was able to respond the best to the Myanmar team but failed to convert the opportunities to score in the second half, including the penalty kick, so they missed out on the win.

In the first half, the Myanmar team had a closer chance to score, but Than Paing and Aung Thu were unable to capitalize on it.

In the second half, team Nepal pressed again and had more opportunities. In the 58 minute, the Nepalese team had a penalty kick, but Bistar's kick was saved by Myanmar goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Phyo.

After 60 minutes, the Myanmar team's performance dropped significantly. Myanmar's forward did not work as expected as the head coach did not replace the players that should have been substituted. Both sides had to settle for 0-0 at the final whistle.

The two teams will meet again on 11 September at the same venue for their second friendly match recognized by FIFA. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar team Captain Maung Maung Lwin (red) passes the ball over a Nepalese player during their FIFA friendly match at Thuwunna Stadium on 8 September 2023. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

Torch relay for 19th Asian Games begins in Hangzhou

The 19th Asian Games torch relay began with 2004 Olympic winner Luo Xuejuan near West Lake in Hangzhou.

THE torch relay for the 19th Asian Games officially started near the iconic West Lake in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province on Friday, marking a 15-day countdown to the event.

Chinese Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, lit the torch from a cauldron at a ceremony held at the Yongjin Park Square and then announced the start of the relay.

Swimming great Luo Xuejuan, the women's 100-metre breaststroke winner at the 2004

Olympic Games, was the first of the 106 torchbearers during Friday's relay.

Other high-profile bearers on the first day included Olympic champion volleyball star Hui Ruoqi and Olympic champion shooter Yang Qian.

According to organizers, the flame is set to be relayed through 11 cities in Zhejiang Province, namely Huzhou, Jiaxing, Shaoxing, Ningbo, Zhoushan, Taizhou, Wenzhou, Lishui, Jinhua and Quzhou, before returning to Hangzhou on 20 September to complete its final leg. More than 2,000 torchbearers will participate

in the relay, ranging in age from 14 to 84.

In line with the Games' ethos of "green, smart, economical and ethical", the torch relay also incorporates an online part. The online relay of the "Digital Torchbearer" was launched after the Asian Games flame collection ceremony on 15 June. So far, more than 84 million people have participated in the Asian Games online torch relay.

The Hangzhou Asian Games, which will open on 23 September, is set to be the largest edition ever with 12,500 athletes from 45 countries and regions. — Xinhua



Torchbearer Luo Xuejuan runs with the torch during the torch relay of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province on 8 September 2023. **PHOTO: SUN FEI/XINHUA**

Russians in Pyongyang
in fresh signs of border
opening

PAGE-14



WORLD

TOP HEADLINES

North Korea launches new 'tactical nuclear attack submarine'

NORTH Korea has launched its first "tactical nuclear attack submarine", state media reported Friday, although the South Korean military said the vessel might not be operational.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un presided over the unveiling ceremony on Wednesday, saying the sub was part of a "push forward with the nuclear weaponization of the Navy", according to state news agency KCNA. Images in state media showed Kim, wearing a light suit and sun hat, speaking to white-uniformed sailors next to the submarine, whose bow was decorated with the North Korean flag. — AFP

Viet Nam, Philippines to sign rice trade agreement

VIET NAM and the Philippines agreed to sign an agreement on rice imports to guarantee food security, Hanoi said Thursday, after prices of the world staple soared to decade highs last month. The announcement came after a meeting between Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Indonesia this week. "The two sides agreed to soon discuss and sign an inter-governmental agreement on rice trade cooperation to together ensure objectives on food security amidst complicated developments in the recent global food supply chain," a statement on Vietnamese official government website said Thursday. — AFP



Russia has completely shunned US dollar and is now settling trade with China in rouble and yuan. PHOTO: ALEXANDR DEMYANCHUK/SPUTNIK

Moscow expects final G20 document to include settlements in national currencies

Settlements in national currencies can reduce reliance on the US Dollar and enhance financial sovereignty.

RUSSIA expects the final G20 document to cover in detail the issue of settlements in national currencies, Dmitry Birichevsky, director of the Department of Economic Cooperation at the Russian Foreign Ministry, told Sputnik.

"Our representatives are now working on it [the final document], they are already in New Delhi... This year, we

expect detailed coverage of the topic of the global monetary and financial system, the issue of settlements in national currencies," Birichevsky said when asked what results Russia expects from the G20 and what it would like to see in the final document.

India has been chairing the G20 since 1 December 2022. The group's summit will be held in New Delhi on

9-10 September. The leaders of the G20 countries and nine other states — Bangladesh, Egypt, Spain, Mauritius, Nigeria, the Netherlands, the UAE, Oman and Singapore — have been invited to attend.

The Russian delegation at the summit will be led by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and China's delegation by Chinese Premier Li Qiang. — SPUTNIK

Residents file suit to halt wastewater release from Fukushima plant

ABOUT 150 residents from prefectures such as Fukushima and Miyagi went to court on Friday to halt the release of treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, making it the first lawsuit of its kind.

In the suit filed with the Fukushima District Court against the central government and plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc, the plaintiffs said the water discharge, which started on 24 August,

threatens citizens' right to live safely and hinders local fishermen's businesses.

They are also seeking nullification of nuclear regulators' approval of facilities installed for the water discharge and a ban to be placed on the release.

The Japanese government began the disposal of the treated water into the Pacific Ocean, saying it is necessary to carry on with the decommissioning of the stricken reactors of the Fuk-

ushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, which was devastated by a massive earthquake and ensuing tsunami in March 2011.

Massive amounts of contaminated water have been generated in the process of cooling melted reactor fuel.

The water has been kept in around 1,000 tanks installed at the site after going through a liquid processing system that removes most radionuclides except tritium. — Kyodo



Photo taken 8 September 2023, in Fukushima, shows a group of plaintiffs heading to court to file a lawsuit to halt the release of treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant. PHOTO: KYODO