

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

CENTRAL BANK of Myanmar (CBM) took legal actions against those involved in illegal digital currency conversion, manipulating the foreign exchange market and operating Hundi businesses without holding a valid licence, according to a notification released on 1 August 2024.

Nonetheless, illegal virtual currency conversion, illegal digital exchanges and illegal Hundi money transfers are subjected to legal actions under provisions stipulated by the Anti-Money Laundering Law and Financial Institution Law, CBM notified on 24 May 2024. As of 4 June, 39 individuals have been found convicted of those illegal businesses, and legal action has been taken against them.

CBM also temporarily froze bank accounts and digital wallet pay accounts of 93 individuals executing illegal businesses. Furthermore, law enforcement authorities have been inspecting and prosecuting those violating the rules.

Therefore, the individuals need to follow the rules, regulations and directives of the CBM. CBM revoked the licences of money changers as they failed to comply with the CBM-issued regulations and directives. A total of 194 licences of money changers were cancelled between 3 January 2023 and 1 August 2024.

With a view to facilitating the purchase of foreign currencies in addition to internationally accepted debit cards and credit cards and curbing foreign exchange market manipulation by illegal money changers, those studying abroad, working abroad and travelling abroad for medical treatment are entitled to buy foreign currencies that are equivalent to US\$300-500 per person at the authorized banks' foreign exchange counters and money



File photo showing the facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) Yangon Branch.

CBM cracks down on digital currency, forex, and Hundi fraud

changers at the Yangon International Airport starting from 31 May 2023, while those going on a pilgrimage and those leaving for the designated countries to attend the meeting as per the invitations of the foreign governments and institutions are allowed to buy the petty cash from 18 August 2023. Those authorized money changers sell a US dollar by adding K10 to the CBM daily online trading rates.

Additionally, KBZ Bank, AYA Bank

PCL, UAB banks, Eastern Lad Co Ltd, and Golden Money Services Co Ltd jointly sold US\$755,796 as petty cash in four big cities (Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Yangon and Taunggyi) between 4 March 2024 and 30 July 2024 under the special programme. CBM issues reference exchange rates and foreign exchange trading activities on its online portal, www.cbm.gov.mm. Yet, some are still found spreading malicious news through social platforms

(Facebook, Telegram, Viber) in an attempt to manipulate the foreign exchange market. The authorities inspected and prosecuted those engaged in Nuggets (Viber group), Seven Star dollar exchange Update and \$Dollor Exchange Service MM, CBM stated.

Therefore, CBM warned that individuals should transact foreign currencies through authorized dealers (private banks) and money changers. — NN/KK

Foreigners can now book MNA flights in kyats



BOTH Myanmar citizens and foreigners can buy tickets for Myanmar National Airlines' international flights in kyats through MNA offices and travel agents.

Through MAI and Mingalar's B2B platform, agents are informed that international flights can be booked in kyats instead of US dollars starting from 1 August 2024.

MNA passengers can read National Airlines Inflight Magazine Issue 3/2024 on board, including scenic views of Bangkok and the creation of Cover Star Amara Hpone. — TWA/KK

MNA's cabin crew is seen preparing to provide in-flight service.

Article

MY WORLD

By Yin Nwe Ko

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BUSINESS

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Fisheries Institute (Twantay) to admit more applicants

NATIONAL

MoNREC designates new protected public mangrove forest in Taninthayi Region

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has announced that 1,594 acres of area in the Kyunsu Township of Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, have been designated as Sakhanthit Island Protected Public Mangrove Forest, effective from 24 July 2024, under Section 6(e) of the Forest Law enacted in 2018.

The Ministry is committed to sustaining the mangrove

ecosystem, enriching biodiversity, and establishing mangroves to protect against the effects of waves and storms as natural barriers. The goals include supporting the long-term sustainability of coastal areas, providing resources such as fish, crabs, and shrimp for local communities, preventing salt-water intrusion into inland areas, and improving mangrove ecosystem management.

By designating the new

mangrove forest, the relevant departments will be able to conserve new species of mangroves, improve the ecosystem where fish, crabs, and shrimp thrive, and support the social and economic development of the local people. Mangroves are an essential component of the marine ecosystem, contributing to its stability and offering protection against natural disasters. — GNLM/TKO



A general view of the newly designated Sakhanthit Island Protected Mangrove Forest.

Yangon's National University of Arts and Culture to offer 5 MA courses



The National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon.

THE National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon, will conduct five courses for the Master of Arts in the 2024-25 academic year.

It is a two-year term and will begin in the fourth week of November. Five courses are Master of Arts (music), Master of Arts (dramatic arts), Master of Arts (painting), Master of Arts (sculpture) and Master of Arts (cinematography and drama).

Interested applicants will have to submit applications by 12 November at the university's student affairs department. Candidates will have to take a writing test on 18 November and an interview on 19 November. Results will be released on 21 November at Swedaw Hall.

For more information, contact can be made with the registrar or head of the student affairs department. — TWA/ZS

Announcement for oil millers seeking capital

- Under the directive of the State Administration Council, the Oil Mills Development Loan Management Task Force is providing low-interest loans for working capital and fixed capital to expand, upgrade, and develop necessary equipment and build new mills. The loans are sourced from the State Economic Development Fund.
- Any oil miller may apply for the loans if they meet the following prerequisites:
 - Operational mill.
 - Valid licence.
 - Form 7 for engaging in activities on farmland.
 - Separate collateral for the loans if the owner has already borrowed from private and public banks.
 - Holders of FDA certificates, small industrial enterprise registration certificates, and members of the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association and
- the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association will be prioritized.
- Rules and regulations for the loans:
 - Loan amounts:
 - From K10 million to K300 million for working capital.
 - From K20 million to K300 million for fixed capital investment.
 - Anyone wishing to borrow more than K300 million must apply directly at the Secretariat of Oil Mills Development Loan Management Task Force, Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (Head Office).
 - Repayment periods: (i) One year for working capital loans. (ii) Three years in three instalments for fixed capital loans.
 - Yearly interest rate of five per cent.
- Oil millers may apply for loans at all branches of the following organizations: - (a) Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association (b) Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association (c) Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (d) Myanmar Economic Bank (e) Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.
- Application forms are available for download on the websites of the Ministry of Planning and Finance (www.mopf.gov.mm), Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (<https://msmewebportal.gov.mm>), Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association (<http://www.meoma.org>), Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association (<http://meoda.myanmarwebtraining.com>), Myanmar Economic Bank (www.meb.gov.mm), and Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (www.madb.gov.mm).

Oil Mills Development Loan Management Task Force

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



MoI Union Minister inspects Photolitho Printing Press

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn conducted a site visit yesterday to inspect the operations at the Photolitho Printing Press located on Ngahtetgyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, Yangon.

During the visit, U Maung Maung Ohn reviewed the printing and bookbinding processes within the factory. He also observed the ongoing renovations aimed at converting certain areas into a classroom, a gymnasium, and a storage room.

Following the inspection, the factory's manager provided a detailed report on the current operations, which was supplemented by additional

explanations from U Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Department of Printing and Publishing.

In his discussions, the Union minister emphasized the importance of valuing and prioritizing books and literature. He highlighted that the department continues to print and distribute books and publications from external sources and stressed the need to maintain timely production and high quality. He also urged the factory staff to ensure the durability of equipment and the proper management of materials, as well as to collaborate effectively in support of national development projects.

The factory, established



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn looks into the printing work at the Photolitho Printing Press in Yangon yesterday.

in 1951, was purchased by the Central Printing House for K1,020,180. It began operations as the Central Press's Photolitho Division in 1954, with

over 90 employees. In March 1970, the Printing and Publishing Corporation, including the Photolitho Printing Press was formed. In 1984, with sup-

port from Japan's JICA, the factory initiated a project for printing school textbooks and notebooks, funded with K690 million. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than and officials look round the preparatory work for the ministry's contributions yesterday.

Support for Security Forces: Ministry of Industry's generous contributions

THE Ministry of Industry, led by Union Minister Dr Charlie Than, Deputy Minister U Yin Maung Nyunt, and other officials, recently visited and encouraged their staff for their active participation in supporting security forces. The ministry donated essential items such as fried fish paste, fried fish sauce, fried dry shrimp and onions, instant noodles, sardines, biscuits, chilli paste, instant coffee, mineral salt packets, and pharmaceuticals.

This effort is aimed at supporting frontline Tatmadaw members, the Myanmar Police Force, and other security personnel who are dedicated to national security and defence. Officers, em-

ployees, and their families from the Ministry of Industry contributed food, drinks, medicines, and cash donations to the Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters.

The ministry's staff expressed their heartfelt support, urging security forces to take care of their health and continue their vital duties. Messages of encouragement included assurances of their belief in the forces' success and the commitment to welcome victorious Tatmadaw members with open arms. They emphasized solidarity with the security forces, pledging unconditional trust and support in their mission. — MNA/TS

MoH donates food, medicines to security force members on frontlines

DONORS and ministries concerned provide foodstuffs for Tatmadaw and security force members who are sacrificing for State defence and security duties on the frontline.

The Ministry of Health prepared food for them yesterday, and Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win, Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun and directors-general observed the cooking pro-

cesses.

Donations from the Ministry of Health include K22.6 million worth of foodstuffs and medicines. Moreover, officers and staff put their messages of encouragement in the parcels for Tatmadaw and security force members, who sacrifice for State defence and security duties on the frontline. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win views round the preparation for the ministry's donations yesterday.

NATIONAL

MoLA staff families donate food supplies to frontline troops

IN recognition of the dedicated service of frontline Tatmadaw members and security forces, families of staff from the Ministry of Legal Affairs have made a generous donation of food supplies. Staff members prepared and packaged various food items at the Ministry's ground-floor meeting hall yesterday morning under the supervision and encouragement of the Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo

and Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo.

The collective donation includes K9 million in cash and food supplies worth K3.5 million, consisting of coffee, noodles, snacks, instant tea sachets, fish sauce, mixed fried snacks, and canned fish intended for 200 Tatmadaw members. The donation reflects the Ministry's gratitude and support for those who serve on the frontlines. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister Dr Thida Oo oversees the preparation for donations yesterday.

Rehabilitation materials despatched to Rakhine State



Rehabilitation cargo being loaded onto a vessel for transport to Rakhine State.

UNDER the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee and managed by the Transport and Communications Committee, 404.75 tonnes of rehabilitation materials, including 7,897 rice bags (each containing 24-Pyi) sent by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Re-

lief and Resettlement, as well as medicines and related materials ordered by the Rakhine State Government, were transported from Yangon to Sittway yesterday afternoon via vessel.

From 16 May 2023, to today, a total of 48 vessels, including Navy vessels, have transport-

ed 70,230.11 tonnes of rehabilitation materials to Sittway Township in Rakhine State. They include construction and electrical materials, medicines, consumer goods, food, 249,762 gallons of diesel, and 199,886 gallons of Octane 92. — MNA/TRKM

Yangon-Mawlamyine train resumes service on 3 August

AFTER the water dropped back in the Bago railway station yard, Yangon-Mawlamyine trains will resume on 3 August, according to Mawlamyine Railway Station.

It is now safe to use the railway after the water drops and the No 82 down train departing from Mawlamyine and the No 81 up train departing from Yangon will resume on the regular timetable, it announced.

No 82 air-bag train will de-

part from Mawlamyine at 8:30 am on 3 August. Tickets are sold at Mawlamyine station's ticket booking counter from 7 am to 3 pm, and upper-class tickets are being sold 2-3 days in advance.

The train schedule was cancelled on 29 July due to the flooded railroad at the No 60 bridge in the Bago station yard. Yangon-Mawlamyine railway is used by many rail passengers, and train schedules are always packed. — MT/ZS



A Yangon-Mawlamyine train is seen running.

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar participates in Education USA Forum 2024 held in Washington DC

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Myanmar participated in the Education USA Forum 2024, which was held in Washington on 31 July.

The Myanmar Embassy in Washington joined the forum, organized by the Bureau of Education and Culture under the State Department, at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C.

At the Education USA Forum 2024, the Myanmar Embassy distributed pamphlets containing information about Myanmar, its education system and activities, and programmes for international students to learn the Myanmar language at foreign languages universities in Myanmar.

More than 60 foreign embassies to the United States participated in the educational exhibition, along with representatives from many universities and academic advisers from Education USA centres.

Additionally, foreign embassies in Washington discussed the education systems and opportunities of their respective countries. At the same time, representatives from universities and colleges in the United States explained the opportunities for higher education in the country. — ASH/TKO



The Myanmar Embassy in Washington, DC, displays Myanmar traditional lacquerware and handicrafts in the exhibition.

Terrorists explode bridge in Thaton



Photos (top and above) depict the aftermath of the bridge blast caused by terrorists.

KNLA and PDF terrorists reportedly planted explosives on the No 3/136 reinforced concrete bridge between 134/4 and 134/5 mileposts along the Yangon-Mawlamyine Union Highway in Thaton Township, Mon State, yes-

terday morning. The bridge measures 10 feet in length and 40 feet in width, and it can withstand 60 tonnes of vehicles. The explosion seriously destroyed the bridge, and traffic was suspended. Officials from the De-

partment of Highways, along with staff, are actively involved in repairing work, and vehicles could pass the bridge on the same day. Terrorists intentionally exploded non-military targets to affect the public transport and trade flow and impose public fear. Such perpetration leads to war crimes.

Terrorists exploded roads and bridges on the the Yangon-Mawlamyine Union Highway in 2024, and security forces are conducting counter-terrorism operations. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information



This screenshot reveals misinformation.

Flood victims in Kyangin, Ayeyawady, allegedly misled by Tatmadaw and local officials

MISINFORMATION is spreading on social media, claiming that Tatmadaw and local administrative bodies collected money from flood victims under the pretext of supporting People Military Servants in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 31 July.

According to a relevant local administrative official, security forces, police, firefighters, and departmental staff assisted flood victims from low-lying areas of Kyangin Township, where water had entered.

They moved the victims to temporary camps, provided food, and distributed supporting materials donated by various donors and charity organizations. Therefore, subversive media outlets merely spread false claims to propagate their agenda. — MNA/TRKM

AA defames Tatmadaw

AA terrorist group spread false claims that Muslim youths fled to Bangladesh as Tatmadaw instructed to gather 30 youths in each ward of Maungta Township in Rakhine State for military training with the help of a media proxy.

According to a security official, such news was invalid, and AA terrorists launched attacks on non-military targets in towns and villages, killed local



This screenshot validates false claims.

people, and locals strongly opposed them. Malicious media outlets intentionally circulate fabricated stories to cover up AA's terror acts and misled the people. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

Care for the Future: Chinese foundation donates sports equipment to schools in Yangon



This photo shows the group documentary picture at the sports equipment donations to six schools as part of the 'Silk Road from the Heart: Care for the Future'.

THE China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) and the Myanmar Chinese Cooperation and Communication Centre donated sports equipment to six basic education schools in Yangon Region yesterday as part of the 'Silk Road from the Heart:

Care for the Future' programme. This is the fourth donation, and the ceremony was held at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Yangon on 2 August. During the event, Deputy General Secretary of the CFPD Mr Liu Zhenzhong, Counsellor of the Chinese Em-

bassy to Myanmar Ms Qiao Li, Chief Editor of Pauk Phaw Magazine U Ye Naing Soe, Deputy Director of the Yangon Region Basic Education Department Daw Khin Than Oo, and Deputy Director of the Department of Sports and Physical Education

U Kyaw Htoo Aung, delivered opening remarks.

Mr Liu Zhenzhong stated, "A total of 19 schools have been developed under the 'Friends of the Silk Road' programme. I believe that students from these friendship schools will contribute significantly to China-Myanmar people-to-people diplomacy. We have initiated many projects in Myanmar to strengthen people-to-people ties, especially in healthcare, medical treatment, and education, investing over 20 million yuan.

"We are collaborating with the Nay Oak Foundation and the Myanmar Chinese Cooperation and Communication Centre on various child health projects, library donations under the 'Books from the Silk Road' initiative, and electrification projects in northern Myanmar."

This donation, part of the 'Silk Road from the Heart: Care for the Future' programme, benefits six basic education schools in the Yangon Region: No 2 Basic Education High School Latha, No 13 Post Primary School Mayangon, No 8 Middle School Branch

Dagon Seikkan, No 18 Basic Primary School Hlinethaya, Basic Middle School (Htawwat) Thanlyin, No 18 Middle School Branch Thakayta, and Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL).

Ms Qiao Li, Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, handed over the sports equipment, valued at K30 million, to the schools. The heads of the recipient schools expressed their gratitude for the donation. Senior President of Myanmar China Cooperation Centre U Thit Sa (aka) Mr Li Bo Bo also presented honorary certificates to the volunteers from YUFL.

The year 2024 marks a significant period for China-ASEAN cultural exchange, and this event aims to promote collaboration between the two countries in education and culture while supporting sustainable development.

Since its establishment in Myanmar in 2011, the CFPD has developed a total of 19 schools under the "Friends of the Silk Road" programme, along with two hospitals and 20 other projects aimed at enhancing socioeconomic conditions. — TWA/TMT

33 townships report acceptable air quality

RESULTS from Air Quality Index (AQI) measurements in 33 townships across the country indicate that the air quality levels in most townships are acceptable, accord-

ing to the Environmental Conservation Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The AQI for 33 townships

in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Regions, and States in June 2024 indicates that most townships have an air quality index ranging from 51 to 100, which is considered satisfactory.

According to the AQI results for Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region, the air quality level is such that it may affect only individuals with immunodeficiency.

Based on the AQI results, the index ratings are as follows: 0 to 50 indicates good air quality, 51 to 100 represents acceptable air quality, 101 to 150 is unhealthy for individuals with immunodeficiency, 151 to 200 is harmful to health, 201 to 300 is very detrimental to health, and 301 to 500 is dangerous to health. — ASH/MKKS



Air quality measurement operations are in progress in some areas of the country.



This photo depicts the event of offering rice and cooking oil to members of the Myanmar Music Association.

Music body members receive rice and cooking oil

THE Myanmar Music Association has started to offer rice and cooking oil to its members since 30 July, according to the association Vice-Chairman harpist U Thet Wai.

"With the support of the Yangon Region government, we're providing four Pyi of rice (approximately 8.5 kilogrammes) and 0.5 viss of cooking oil to our members who are facing difficulties," he added.

This seventh round of support is available from 31 July to 10 August. — ASH/TRKM

Fuel importers coordinating to meet demand



Vehicles and motorbikes refuelling at a petrol station.

MYANMAR Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association notified on 1 August that it has been coordinating with importers and distributors to facilitate distributions to energy consumers in a timely manner.

Ships loaded with fuel oil are docking at the port. Nonetheless, malicious fake news raised alerts of people's con-

cerns in big cities, including Yangon, resulting in demand spikes. Monsoon season increases traffic congestion, causing delays to oil bowlers. Consequently, some fuel stations had shortages temporarily, triggering public concerns. Moreover, residents from conflict-affected areas migrated to big cities, raising oil demand, the notifica-

tion of the association stated.

There are adequate fuel oil stocks in oil tanks located in Thilawa. Oil tankers are also flowing into the country continuously, as per the notification.

The association has been coordinating matters to ensure smooth distribution in a few days. — NN/KK

Migrants urged to work legally to avoid pay and rights issues



The Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) office.

AN official from the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) said when asked about garment workers going illegally to China, migrant workers are advised to go abroad legally, as those who go abroad illegally work without legal permits. It is difficult for them to obtain legal rights, including wages.

“Even if you go abroad legally, sometimes there are problems. There are situations in which agencies have to intervene. So, when you go illegally, it's worse. Do you get a full salary? Who will care for you if you get into trouble? To whom will you report? Are you a legal resident or not? A legal work permit is almost impossible if you don't have a legal stay permit. So, it is difficult to get legal rights,” he said.

Official travel is safer, and they are advised to go legally. Agencies have already sent Myanmar workers to China by air while preparations are underway to send more.

Local garment factories have more opportunities to receive orders from abroad, but some migrant workers go abroad illegally.

“Orders are good, but if there are no people, there are difficulties. When we get more orders, we face a shortage of workers. There are difficulties. Now, there are industrial zones on the border of the other country, so they go there illegally. They can show their competence practically, so they get employed with living and meal allowances. Many of them go illegally. They don't need a passport to work illegally,” he said. — MT/ZN

Fisheries Institute (Twantay) to admit more applicants

THE Fishery Institute (Twantay), Yangon Region, will expand its intake for the 2024-2025 academic year according to U Myo Zaw Lin, Staff Officer from Development and Research Branch of the Fisheries Department.

U Myo Zaw Lin stated, “During the 2022-2023 academic year, we initially admitted 66 students when the programme first began. This year, we plan to increase the number of students to 100. The Fisheries Institute offers training in 11 subjects, including fish species identification, fish nutrition, fish feedstuffs and cultivation, reproductive biology, aquatic resources and ecosystem, and fishery-related biology.”

The school will operate as a three-year programme, similar to agricultural science schools. It will be open to under-22-year-old students who have successfully passed the science combination in the matriculation exams.

Prospective students can collect application forms for free from local fisheries departments in the respective regions



Students at the Fisheries Institute seen in training sessions.

and districts. The deadline for applications is 30 September.

The diploma course in aquaculture will provide free accommodation and a monthly stipend of K30,000. Graduates will have the opportunity to work as deputy assistant staff officer at the Fisheries Department or with associated companies, with connections facilitated for job placements. — ASH/KZL

23rd Lao Handicraft Festival 2024 invites Myanmar businesses

THE 23rd Lao Handicraft Festival 2024, which will be held from 26 October to 3 November at the Lao International Trade and Exhibition Convention Centre (Lao-ITECC) in Vientiane, Laos, invited Myanmar businesspeople, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The festival aims to promote bi-

lateral relations, economic and trade cooperation and products by artisans and handicraft entrepreneurs, showcasing textile products, bamboo products, metal products as intangible cultural heritage, traditional food, mulberry breeding, mulberry cotton and other products.

The participation will cost US\$500

per (three metres by three metres) booth, \$1,000 per (three metres by six metres) booth, and \$2,000 per (six metres by six metres) booth at the 23rd Lao Handicraft Festival 2024. Individuals can contact the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through the phone number 067 408622 or email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

OPINION

Raise e-government processes to mitigate digital technology threats

THE rapid advancement of technology brings numerous benefits but also significantly increases the risk of cyberattacks and cybercrimes. Consequently, government organizations are increasingly vulnerable to these threats. To address these challenges, the government issued the Cyber Security Policy in 2023, aiming for the effective implementation of cybersecurity measures. Additionally, a comprehensive cybersecurity law is being drafted to establish control over cybersecurity.

In the realm of e-government, Myanmar has made notable progress. According to the UN e-Government Development Index (EGDI), Myanmar moved from the 169th position in 2016 to the 134th position in 2022 among 193 countries. Similarly, the country's ranking in the UN e-Participation Index (EPI) improved from 170th in 2016 to 117th in 2022. This progress reflects the growing engagement and input of citizens in governmental decision-making processes.

However, the transition to a digital economy and digital government poses significant challenges for administrative and economic sectors. Without reforming government functions and work processes to align with the political system, the country risks low-quality services, funding deficiencies, and the loss of resources and economic opportunities. Therefore, it is crucial for all government departments to implement digital economy and digital government initiatives collaboratively.

The e-government system needs human resources, monetary resources and natural resources. The steering committee urged government departments to utilize necessary resources and implement the projects. The digital government needs to lead to digital capacity and digital maturity. Hence, it is essential to raise the e-government process so as to keep abreast of other countries' efforts to mitigate threats of digital technology and to develop e-government services for the people.

such as the e-Government Data Centre, Myanmar National Portal, One Map Myanmar Geo Portal, Government Cloud, Government e-Mail, and e-ID processes play a pivotal role in strengthening government capabilities and information security.

Expanding online services also improves e-banking, e-payment, e-transaction, and digital payment systems. These services face challenges related to legitimacy and verification. It is necessary to establish backup systems and disaster recovery systems to protect against the loss of critical information and data to address these issues.

While the rapid development of digital technology offers significant advantages, it also presents substantial cybersecurity threats. By implementing robust cybersecurity measures, enhancing ICT infrastructures, and ensuring collaborative efforts across government departments, Myanmar can effectively mitigate these risks and continue to progress in its e-government and digital economy initiatives.

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WHEN I asked my students whether the terms "earth" and "world" carry the same meaning, nearly all of them responded with a resounding "Yes." I, too, held this belief when I was young. However, the meanings and essences of "earth" and "world" differ significantly. There are numerous distinct usages between these two words, each conveying unique aspects and connotations.

The terms "world" and "Earth" are often used interchangeably in everyday language, but they hold distinct meanings and connotations. Understanding the differences between these two concepts can enrich our perspective on the planet we inhabit and our place within it.

Our Physical Planet

Earth refers to the third planet from the Sun in our solar system. It is a unique celestial body, distinguished by its ability to support life. Earth's atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere create a delicate balance that sustains diverse ecosystems. It has a radius of about 6,371 kilometres and is composed of various layers, including the crust, mantle, and core.

From a scientific standpoint, Earth is studied in the fields of geology, meteorology, oceanography, and ecology, among others. It is a dynamic entity, constantly evolving through processes such as plate tectonics, erosion, and volcanic activity. The study of Earth encompasses not only its physical properties but also the complex interactions between its various systems and the life forms it supports.

World: A Human Construct

In contrast, the term "world" is more abstract and carries broader implications. The world encompasses the collective human experience, culture, society, and civilization. It refers to the realm of human existence, encompassing not just the physical Earth but also the mental, social, and cultural dimensions of life.

When we speak of "the world," we often refer to the human aspects of our existence. This includes social structures, economic systems, political en-

ties, and cultural expressions. Human interactions, beliefs, and values shape the world. It is a construct that evolves with our ideas, innovations, and social dynamics.

Cultural and Philosophical Perspectives

Culturally, the concept of the world can vary significantly. Different societies have unique worldviews shaped by their history, religion, and cultural practices. For instance, the ancient Greeks had the concept of "oikumene", which referred to the known, inhabited world. In contrast, many Indigenous cultures view the world as a living entity, interconnected with all forms of life.

Philosophically, the idea of the world can be explored through various lenses. Existentialist thinkers might ponder the meaning of human existence within the world, while environmental philosophers emphasize the interconnectedness of all life and the need for sustainable living. The world, in this sense, is a canvas for human thought and reflection.

Interconnected Realms

While Earth and the world are distinct concepts, they are deeply interconnected. The physical state of the Earth profoundly impacts the human world. Climate change, natural disasters, and resource depletion are examples of how Earth's changes affect human societies. Conversely, human activities such as deforestation, pollution, and urbanization alter the physical environment of Earth.

Understanding the relationship between Earth and the world is crucial for addressing global challenges. Sustainable development, conservation efforts, and international cooperation require a holistic approach that considers both the physical and human dimensions of our planet. Recognizing the interdependence between Earth and the world can inspire more responsible stewardship of our environment and more compassionate global interactions.

In addition, Earth and the world represent two facets of our existence. Earth is the physical planet, a complex and dynamic entity that supports life. The world, on the other hand, is a



All in all, the comparison between the Earth and the World serves as a metaphor for understanding the differences and similarities between our personal worlds.

My World

By Yin Nwe Ko

human construct encompassing our societies, cultures, and civilizations. Both concepts are essential for understanding our place in the universe and our responsibilities as inhabitants of this planet. By appreciating the differences and connections between the Earth and the World, we can foster a more harmonious and sustainable future for all.

A personal universe

The distinctions between the Earth and the world have been elucidated in the literature. Yet, allow me to present the definitions in the Myanmar language for clarity. The Earth (ကမ္ဘာ) refers to the planet within our solar system, while the World (လောက) encompasses

the broader human experience and existence. But what does "my world" truly signify? It embodies the unique realm of my experiences, emotions, and aspirations – a personal universe where my dreams flourish and my soul finds solace.

Journey of life

Reflecting on the environment I navigate daily, it's fair to say it is a world of my own. This world includes people, living beings, and inanimate objects. When I look back on the sphere of my life, it's quite a narrow one. I was born in this small town, lived here, and grew old here – spanning 70 years. Except for the four years spent in a larger city for university, my world has remained quite confined, and

even more so in recent years. Since 2009, I've ventured beyond my town's municipal boundaries no more than two or three times. Each day follows a simple routine: teaching students, eating, reading, writing, sometimes playing the Yamaha electronic keyboard, taking short walks inside my home, and then sleeping. This routine has been my life since 2009.

As I reflect on my life, I realize I haven't undertaken grand responsibilities at the neighbourhood, township, or national levels. Yet, within my small world, I have diligently fulfilled my duty of teaching children. I strive to ensure my world remains intact and does not cause harm to the broader world. This way, I find contentment. Given my health

and circumstances, I am satisfied with what I've been able to contribute. I have peace of mind.

Lives comparison

Sometimes, I compare my narrow world to that of a president of a great nation. The president's world is vast, encompassing not only their country but also considerations for the entire globe. They strive to enhance their nation while promoting global peace and development. Comparing our worlds, mine is but a tiny speck, like one-tenth of an acre, while the president's world is vast and expansive. In such a comparison, I may seem small, like an ant, while the president is like a towering mountain. However, despite the difference in scale, there are many similarities between us. Both of us eat two meals a day, and both have the physiological processes of blood circulation, digestion, and waste elimination. Both of us desire to contribute positively to the world. The president, with their broader influence, and I, within my limited capacity, share

the same fundamental essence. At the start of this article, I discussed the Earth and the World and their differences. Now, I have compared the worlds of two individuals: myself and a president. This comparison serves as an example to illustrate that, fundamentally, all beings are the same. Ultimately, whether it is the president or myself, we will both leave behind only a small amount of ashes and smoke. Contemplating this, it becomes clear that seeing the truth reduces greed, anger, delusion, and pride. Consequently, the human world, The World, becomes more peaceful and serene.

More exploration

Furthermore, the notion of "my world" extends to how we

perceive and interact with the larger world around us. While my physical travels may be limited, my mind is free to explore the vastness of human knowledge and experience. Through books, conversations, and reflections, I can connect with ideas and perspectives from all corners of the globe. This intellectual and emotional exploration enriches my world, making it more vibrant and meaningful.

The president, too, must balance their immediate responsibilities with a broader vision. They must be aware of global trends, cultural nuances, and historical contexts to make informed decisions. Borders do not confine their world; it is an intricate web of interconnected issues and relationships that demand constant attention and adaptation.

Deeper thought

Expanding on this idea, let's delve deeper into what constitutes "my world". My world is not just about the physical space I inhabit but also about the relationships, experiences, and daily routines that shape my existence. Each interaction with my students, each book I read, and each note I play on the keyboard adds a layer to my world. These seemingly small actions collectively create a tapestry of life that is uniquely mine. My world is a reflection of my inner self – my thoughts, feelings, and aspirations.

In contrast, the president's world is shaped by their interactions on a global scale. Their decisions impact millions of lives, and their responsibilities extend far beyond their immediate surroundings. They must navigate complex political landscapes, make critical decisions for their nation, and work towards global harmony. The weight of their world is immense, filled with challenges and opportunities that require wisdom, foresight, and compassion.

Despite these differences, the core of our worlds remains the same. We both seek to fulfill our roles to the best of our abilities, driven by a desire to contribute positively to society. Whether it's teaching a child to read or negotiating a peace treaty, our actions are motivated by the same underlying principles of care, responsibility, and a commitment to making the world a better place.

More exploration

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ARTICLE

perceive and interact with the larger world around us. While my physical travels may be limited, my mind is free to explore the vastness of human knowledge and experience. Through books, conversations, and reflections, I can connect with ideas and perspectives from all corners of the globe. This intellectual and emotional exploration enriches my world, making it more vibrant and meaningful.

The president, too, must balance their immediate responsibilities with a broader vision. They must be aware of global trends, cultural nuances, and historical contexts to make informed decisions. Borders do not confine their world; it is an intricate web of interconnected issues and relationships that demand constant attention and adaptation.

In the end, our worlds – though vastly different in scale and scope – are bound by a shared humanity. We both experience joy, sorrow, hope, and despair. We both strive for personal and collective growth. And we both recognize the transient nature of life, understanding that our time here is limited. This awareness shapes our actions and attitudes, guiding us toward a path of compassion and understanding.

By acknowledging the commonalities that unite us, we can foster a greater sense of empathy and cooperation. Whether in a small town or on the global stage, we all have a role to play in creating a world that is just, peaceful, and thriving. It is through our individual efforts, no matter how small, that we contribute to the larger tapestry of human existence.

All in all, the comparison between the Earth and the World serves as a metaphor for understanding the differences and similarities between our personal worlds. While the Earth is a physical entity, the world is shaped by our experiences, actions, and relationships. By embracing our roles and responsibilities within our own worlds, we can make meaningful contributions to the broader human experience. And in doing so, we find contentment, purpose, and a sense of fulfilment that transcends the boundaries of our individual lives.

NATIONAL

Myanmar children in Egypt can enrol in basic education in mid-August

THE Myanmar Embassy to Egypt announced that Myanmar nationals arriving in Egypt from KG to Grade 12 who want to enrol in the basic education programme for Myanmar children abroad for the 2024-2025 academic year can apply during the second week of August.

According to the embassy, this programme was arranged by the Ministry of Education for Myanmar children who are actually living abroad.

For the 2024-2025 academ-

ic year, parents and guardians of students who wish to apply for this programme will have to take the application forms at the embassy.

When applying for the enrolment, the passport copy of the student's parent or guardian, a copy of the page with the period of residence according to the type of visa, or a card copy of a work permit or student pass, and if one is self-employed or attending a school without any guardian, the information such

as the reason for living abroad must be attached after being endorsed by the education officer at the embassy.

A passport-sized colour photo must be attached to each of two sets of application forms, which are to be sent to the education officer by 9 August 2024.

For further details, applicants can contact the phone number of the Myanmar Embassy or the consulate officer during office hours from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. — MT/ZN



The Myanmar Embassy to Egypt.

Major drug smuggling ring dismantled in Pyapon

AUTHORITIES have successfully dismantled a drug trafficking ring in Pyapon Township, seizing 2.3 tonnes of methamphetamine valued at K69 billion intended for transport to Malaysia. The Myanmar Police Force reported that a combined security team made the arrests.

Security forces received intelligence and intercepted a cargo boat in the coastal village of Kanarkwin at 1 pm on 22 July. The ship, which failed to stop despite orders, was pursued and apprehended. The operation led to the arrest of suspects Htay Aung, Kyaw Myint Naing, Ye Win Naing, Saw Han, and Seik Phay. Alongside the drugs, the team confiscated a total of 2.3 tonnes of methamphetamine and various weapons, including a pistol, a magazine, and ammunition, from Tun Aung, who was staying in the

house of Hla Maung Gyi, owner of the boat in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region.

Further investigations revealed that the seized drugs were being transported from the southern Shan State to the Malaysian waters. More suspects were found with additional evidence, including vehicles and cash earned from drug sales. The operation also resulted in the confiscation of a Prado and two Hilux Surfs in Dagon Myothit (North) Township and cash amounting to K19 million in PyinOoLwin Township.

Authorities are continuing to investigate and pursue additional suspects, and further action will be taken under anti-money laundering law to address the financial gains and property associated with the criminal network. — MNA/KZL



Photos show offenders and confiscated drugs, a motor launch, vehicles, property and weapons.

Malaysia's population estimated to rise 1.9% to 34.1 mln in 2024

The number of citizens rose from 30.4 million to 30.7 million, with the growth rate slowing from 0.8 per cent to 0.7 per cent.



People ride a bicycle at a park in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 11 March 2022. PHOTO: ZHU WEI/XINHUA

MALAYSIA'S total population in 2024 is estimated at 34.1 million, marking a growth of 1.9 per cent as compared to 33.4 million in 2023, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said Wednesday.

The DOSM said in a statement that the population of citizens increased from 30.4

million in 2023 to 30.7 million in 2024 with the growth rate decreasing from 0.8 per cent to 0.7 per cent.

Similarly, non-citizens showed the same trend with a slower growth rate of 13.6 per cent in 2024 as compared to 17.1 per cent in 2023.

The composition of citi-

zens in 2024 decreased from 91.1 per cent in 2023 to 90 per cent, while non-citizens increased to 10 per cent from 8.9 per cent over the same period. The number of males exceeded females at 17.9 million and 16.2 million, respectively, resulting in a sex ratio of 111 males for every 100 females. — Xinhua

South Africa sees significant rise in life expectancy due to HIV response

LIFE expectancy in South Africa rose by almost 13 years in the past two decades thanks to progress made in the country's fight against HIV.

According to the Mid-Year Population Estimates report released by Statistics South Africa Tuesday, life expectancy at birth in the country is now 66.5 years, a significant increase from the estimated 53.6 years in 2005. The expanded rollout of life-saving antiretroviral treatment (ART) for HIV is credited as one of the reasons for this remarkable achievement.

South Africa has the highest number of HIV-positive individuals globally. The Tuesday report shows that the estimated overall HIV prevalence rate



South Africa has the highest number of HIV-positive individuals globally. PHOTO: LI QIHUA/XINHUA

is approximately 12.7 per cent among the country's population.

The total number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in

South Africa is estimated at 8 million in 2024. For adults aged 15 to 49 years, an estimated 16.7 per cent of the population is HIV positive. — Xinhua

Japan store pulls 'lazy dad' kid clothes after backlash

A line of kids' clothes featuring slogans about lazy, uninvolved fathers have been pulled from shelves in Japan after the designs sparked an online backlash.

The items sold by the chain Birthday included a T-shirt saying "Daddy's always sleeping" and baby socks that declared "Daddy doesn't take care of me at all".

Some commentators called them an affront to hard-working fathers, while others said they highlighted the country's child-care gender gap that weighs heavily on women.

"We want to deeply apologise for the offensive phrases," the brand said on social media

platform X on Tuesday, adding that the products would no longer be sold.

The announcement fuelled a heated debate over the division of domestic labour, with some saying the levity had crossed the line. "You work your butt off all day, only to find your own kid is wearing clothes at home saying all you ever do is sleep, with your wife laughing at the sight of it... How is this supposed to make you happy?" one X user wrote.

"This is discrimination against fathers," another posted. A satirical clothing line critiquing gender inequality in Japan highlights that women spend 5.5 times more on unpaid work than men. — AFP



A line of children's clothes featuring slogans about lazy, uninvolved fathers have sparked an online backlash. PHOTO: GETTY

Nigeria unveils elephant sculpture to highlight illegal tusk trade

NIGERIA'S minister of state for the environment unveiled an elephant-shaped sculpture made with confiscated ivory on Wednesday — the country's latest bid to raise awareness as it struggles to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

The moulded grey statue incorporates ground-down fragments from a record \$11 million, 2.5-tonne haul of seized tusks destroyed by the authorities in January, as well as pulverized pangolin scales.

As he unwrapped the sculpture at the National Park Service headquarters in Abuja, minister of state for the environment Iziaq Kunle Salako said it was a "sym-

bol of renewed hope for Nigerian wildlife".

But he warned that poachers were "very tenacious and do not give up easily".

"Demand for wild animal parts and derivatives persists with a surge in black markets," he said. "We must therefore be resolute, enforce our laws and upscale the deployment of technology in fighting these criminals." Salako said the sculpture, about the height of a human, was intended as a "monument in memory of hundreds of elephants killed illegally and as a symbol of our unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation". — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

New high-speed railway launched to boost integration of China's Yangtze River Delta

This project serves as a national pilot for mixed ownership reform, aiming to integrate social capital into railway construction.

A new high-speed railway went into trial operation on Tuesday linking two economic heavyweights of Hangzhou and Wenzhou cities in east China's Yangtze River Delta region.

Extending 260 kilometres, the railway with a designed speed of 350 km per hour has nine stations, offering a rapid transit solution along the route threading the economic hubs of Hangzhou, Yiwu and Wenzhou in the delta

area known as one of the country's most economically vibrant regions.

Wang Chang, the person in charge of the railway project with the railway subsidiary of the Zhejiang Development and Planning Institute, said the railway project is a national pilot of mixed ownership reform for introducing social capital to the railway construction.

The inter-city railway is

hooked with the high-speed railway network in the delta region. Rich tourism resources including Hangzhou, a city dubbed "Heaven on Earth" for its architectural delights, as well as Xianhua Mountain and Nanxi River are connected to the line. The line is of great significance for facilitating the public travel and promoting higher-quality integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, said Wang. — Xinhua



A bullet train driver works on the trial bullet train G55701 on the new high-speed railway linking Hangzhou and Wenzhou in east China's Zhejiang Province, 30 July 2024. **PHOTO: JIANG HAN/XINHUA**

Indonesia invites foreign investors to develop green industry

Indonesia is seeking foreign investors for green industry projects, particularly carbon capture and storage (CCS), in North Kalimantan.

INDONESIA is inviting foreign investors to participate in the development of the green industry, including carbon capture storage (CCS), in North Kalimantan, said Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan.

"We want the CCS industry to grow into a major business in the future. Therefore, I invite foreign investors to engage in Kalimantan," Luhut said during the opening of the 2nd International and Indonesia Carbon Capture and Storage Forum in Jakarta on Wednesday.

The green industrial zone in North Kalimantan is projected to produce three million tonnes of electronic alumina and five million tonnes of steel.

Additionally, 265 GWh of new energy batteries will be produced, as will 1.4 million tonnes of polysilicon. — Xinhua



Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is a technology designed to capture carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes or power plants and store it underground in geological formations to prevent it from entering the atmosphere. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/SHUTTERSTOCK**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippines sees investment outflows

THE Philippines' foreign investments yielded net outflows of US\$27 million in June, the country's central bank said Wednesday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said the foreign investment transactions in June resulted from the gross outflows of \$1.1 billion and the gross inflows of \$1 billion for the month, a reversal from the \$43 million net inflows in May.

Last month's \$1 billion in registered investments are compared to the \$1.1 billion recorded in May.

The majority of investments for June came from Britain, the United States, Singapore, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, with a combined share of 86.9 per cent.

Furthermore, the gross outflows for June were six per cent higher than in May. The United States remained the top destination of outflows, receiving \$597 million or 55.8 per cent of the total outward remittances. Registered investments in June are 17.2 per cent higher than the \$889 million recorded a year earlier, while gross outflows increased by 20.3 per cent from June 2023. — Xinhua

Brazil central bank leaves rate unchanged

BRAZIL'S central bank left its benchmark interest rate unchanged Wednesday at 10.5 per cent, opting for caution after forecasts of higher inflation in Latin America's largest economy.

The bank's monetary policy committee said it was acting unanimously due to "an uncertain global scenario", with a robust Brazilian economy seeing higher price rises projected.

These factors, it said, require "diligent monitoring and even more caution".

The decision marked the second consecutive meeting in which the interest rate was left unchanged.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who has pushed for lower interest rates since coming back into power in 2023, has publicly criticized Brazil's central bank president Roberto Campos Neto, saying he "works to harm the country". — AFP

Over 95,200 firms newly established in Vietnam in 7 months

These businesses registered a combined capital of 854.6 trillion Vietnamese dong (US\$33.9 billion), up 2.4% year-on-year.

MORE than 95,200 new enterprises were established in Vietnam in the first seven months of 2024,

a year-on-year increase of 6.3 per cent, according to the General Statistics Office.

The combined registered capital of those businesses reached 854.6 trillion Vietnamese dong

(US\$33.9 billion), increasing 2.4 per cent year on year.

The number of new firms established in the period rose 6.8 per cent in the services sector, 4.8 per cent in the industry and construction sector, and decreased 2.8 per cent in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector compared to the same period last year.

Between January and July, nearly 44,300 firms that previously ceased operations resumed their activities.

However, in the same period, over 17,900 firms were estimated to withdraw from the market each month, according to the office. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 26 October 2018 shows a scene inside the factory building of Bellinturf Industrial (Vietnam) Company Limited in Long Giang Industrial Park in Tien Giang province, Vietnam. PHOTO: WANG DI/XINHUA/FILE



The London-listed lender also confirmed plans for £750 million in share buybacks. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Barclays bank posts sliding profits in first half

BRITISH banking group Barclays on Thursday logged sliding first-half profit on a dip in revenue and as it set aside more money for bad debts in the United States.

It fared better than expected, however, owing to strong performance by its investment division, while it highlighted progress on slashing costs.

Profit after tax dropped 10 per cent to almost £2.8 billion (\$3.6 billion) in the six months to the end of June from a

year earlier, Barclays said in a statement.

Pre-tax profit was down by a similar proportion at £4.2 billion but this beat market expectations.

Revenue dropped two per cent to £13.3 billion in the first half.

The London-listed lender also confirmed plans for £750 million in share buybacks. At the same time, it set aside £897 million for soured loans in the first half, which was slightly higher than one year ago. — AFP

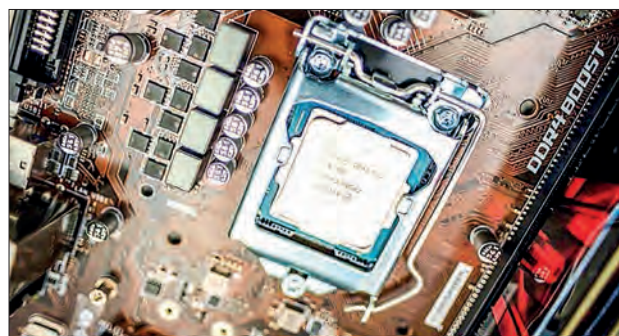
Intel says it will slash workforce to cut costs

US chip maker Intel said Thursday it will slash more than 15 per cent of its workforce as it streamlines operations.

The plan to cut approximately \$20 billion in expenses this year came as Intel reported a loss of \$1.6 billion in the recently ended quarter. "Our Q2 financial performance was disappointing, even as we hit key product and process technology milestones," Intel chief executive Pat Gelsinger said in an earnings release.

"Second-half trends are more challenging than we previously expected."

Second quarter earnings were negatively affected by "headwinds" to the ramp-up of Intel's artificial intelligence PC product and unused capacity at its facilities, according to chief financial officer David Zinsner. — AFP



US chip maker Intel said Thursday it will slash more than 15 per cent of its workforce as it streamlines operations. PHOTO: PIXABAY/FILE

HSBC records \$21.6 billion pre-tax profit in first half 2024

BANKING giant HSBC said Wednesday that pre-tax profits in the first half of 2024 came in at \$21.6 billion, slightly lower than last year's record performance.

"After delivering re-

cord profits in 2023, we had another strong profit performance in the first half of 2024, which is further evidence that our strategy is working," said Noel Quinn, the group's outgoing chief executive.

The bank also doubled down on its share buyback, announcing a further three-month repurchase of up to \$3 billion, following the completed \$3 billion buyback announced last quarter. The buyback

and approval of an interim dividend of \$0.1 per share would bring shareholders a total of \$4.8 billion, taking the total amount of capital distributed since 2023 to \$34.4 billion, Quinn said in the statement. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24004)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24004)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HETHI BHUM VOY.NO. (431N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HETHI BHUM VOY.NO. (431N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2024** 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
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

China, Vietnam conclude joint counter-terrorism training



The China-Vietnam joint counter-terrorism training is underway, in Nanning, South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, 27 July 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

This initiative aimed to bolster mutual trust and cooperation while improving joint counter-terrorism capabilities.

POLICE personnel from China and Vietnam concluded joint counter-terrorism training in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Friday.

The training was aimed at jointly addressing the threat of terrorism and focused on combatting violent terrorist activities.

During the two-week programme, police personnel from both sides conducted exchanges, discussions and various ex-

ercises covering subjects such as command, skills and tactics.

This joint training exercise marked the first of its kind between the Chinese People's Armed Police Force and the mobile police forces of the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security. It aimed to cement friendship between the two countries, strengthen mutual trust and cooperation, and enhance joint counter-terrorism capabilities. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hezbollah fires rockets into Israel

As tensions continue to escalate in the Middle East, dozens of rockets were fired from Lebanon towards Israeli territory in the late hours of Thursday (local time), CNN reported citing Israel Defence Forces.

The IDF said that only five of the barrage of rockets could enter Israel and there are no reports of damage or injuries.

Hezbollah has taken responsibility for the rocket fire on Western Galilee, its first attack in over 48 hours, since the killing of the terror group's military chief in Beirut, Times of Israel reported. In a statement, Hezbollah claims to have launched dozens of rockets at the northern border community of Metzuba in response to an Israeli strike in the Lebanese village of Chamaa earlier today. — ANI

Fire erupts in Manila's Binondo

As many as 11 people were killed after a fire erupted in a residential-commercial area in Binondo in the Philippines' Manila, Philippines-based Daily Tribune reported.

As per the initial report of the Manila Bureau of Fire Protection, the fire erupted at 7:20 am (local time) at a canteen situation on the fourth floor of a building on Carvajal Street, according to Daily Tribune report. The cause of the fire is a liquified petroleum gas (LPG) leak. The fire was doused at 10:04 am (local time). According to Kagawad Nelson Ty of Barangay 289, 11 victims were trapped in the building. — ANI

Funeral for slain Hamas leader in Qatar

HAMAS political leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed on 31 July in a strike on his residence in Tehran after he attended the inauguration ceremony of newly elected Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The Imam Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab Mosque in Doha is hosting the funeral ceremonies for Hamas' late political leader Ismail Haniyeh on Friday, 2 August. The body of Haniyeh, who was killed together with his bodyguard as a result of a strike on his residence in the Iranian capital on Wednesday, will then be transported to the city of Lusail for burial at the Founder Imam Cemetery. — SPUTNIK

Air India suspends flights to and from Tel Aviv until 8 August amid tensions in Middle East

Safety for guests and crew is top priority.

AMID escalating tensions in parts of the Middle East, Air India has announced the suspension of scheduled operation of flights to and from Tel Aviv with immediate effect up to and including 8 August.

In a statement shared on X, Air India said that it is continuously monitoring the situation and extending support to passengers with confirmed bookings for travel to and from Tel Aviv. It said that the safety of guests and crew remains the "foremost priority" for the airline.

In a post on X, Air India



Israel's Ben Gurion Airport in Lod, east of Tel Aviv, 21 December 2021. **PHOTO: JACK GUEZ/AFP/FILE**

stated, "In view of the ongoing situation in parts of the Middle East, we have suspended scheduled operation of our

flights to and from Tel Aviv with immediate effect up to and including 8 August 2024." — ANI

US: Donald Trump escalates race attacks on Kamala Harris' Indian heritage

FORMER US President Donald Trump has continued to raise questions regarding Vice-President Kamala Harris' racial identity for a second day on Thursday.

A day after saying that Harris had "all of a sudden" decided to become "a Black person", Trump shared a picture on his social media site that features Harris dressed in a sari along with

her family members. He mentioned that Kamala Harris' love and warmth for Indian heritage is appreciated.

While sharing the picture on Truth Social, Trump stated, "Thank you Kamala for the nice picture you sent from many years ago! Your warmth, friendship, and love of your Indian Heritage are very much appreciated." — ANI

SPORTS



China's Wang/Long win men's synchro 3m springboard gold at Paris Olympics

Despite struggling with two dives, Wang and Long delivered a flawless final dive, securing their victory with a score of 446.1 points.

CHINESE divers Wang Zongyuan and Long Daoyi fended off a strong challenge from Mexico's Juan Celaya Hernandez and Osmar Olvera Ibarra to win the men's synchronized 3-metre springboard title at the Paris Olympics on Friday.

Despite two below-par dives, Wang and Long managed to nail their last and most difficult dive to claim the fourth

diving gold for China in Paris with a score of 446.1 points.

"I was terrified," said the 21-year-old Long, who took two world champion titles together with Wang but is making his Olympic debut in Paris. "You could notice my nervousness even in the first two rounds."

As Long dived awkwardly in the third and fourth rounds, they were overtaken by the

Gold medallists Long Daoyi (L)/Wang Zongyuan of China celebrate during the awarding ceremony after the men's synchronized 3-metre springboard final of diving at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Saint Denis, near Paris, France, 2 August 2024. **PHOTO: ZHANG YUWEI/XINHUA**



Mexican pair temporarily - merely by a slight margin of 0.24 point.

"I just told him there was nothing to be scared of," said Wang, who won the Olympic

champion title in this event in Tokyo three years ago with Xie Siyi.

"It's the toughest competition for us so far. It's so tight and I know we were behind

the Mexican divers after the fourth round," said Wang. "I just asked my partner to stop looking at the scoring board and encouraged him to be himself." — Xinhua

Swiss Leone bags women's 50m rifle 3 positions gold at Paris Olympics



Chiara Leone of Switzerland competes during the 50-metre rifle 3 positions women's final of shooting at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Chateauroux, France, 2 August 2024. **PHOTO: ZHAO DINGZHE/XINHUA**

CHIARA Leone won the women's 50-metre rifle 3 positions to win Switzerland's first gold medal at the Paris Olympics here on Friday.

The 26-year-old Swiss capitalized on reigning world champion Zhang Qiongyue's two sub-9 shots in the elimination stage

to take the victory in an Olympic record of 464.4 points.

American Sagen Maddalena took the silver in 463.0 after edging Zhang to third through the shoot-off 10.1 to 8.7.

Maddalena took the lead after the prone position but her two bad shots in the first

standing series saw her drop to fifth after the series, while Zhang moved up to the top with a 1.4-point advantage. But she came back to level on points with Zhang in the shot that decided the bronze medal and stayed in the final after shoot-off.

"I made a mistake. It costs me, 'boom, gone.' All right, next shot. Just do the process, do the work," the American said. "I know that if I dwell on those mistakes, they are more likely to happen again. If I trust my process and trust myself, then I can get back on track."

Zhang, in her first Olympics at the age of 20, was satisfied with a bronze, which was China's first Olympic medal in the event in eight years.

"Frankly speaking, being able to win a medal in this event is beyond my expectation. I made some sub-9 shots, but they are more motivations for the future than regrets for me," she said. — Xinhua

Alcaraz storms into Olympics tennis final

CARLOS Alcaraz became the youngest man to reach the Olympic Games men's tennis final on Friday when he thrashed Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Alcaraz, 21, swept to a 6-1, 6-1 victory over the Canadian in just 75 minutes and will meet Novak Djokovic in Sunday's final if the top-seeded Serb overcomes a knee injury and Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in the second semi-final.

"It has been an objective since the start of the year to try and win the gold medal and now we have one match left to try and get it done," said Alcaraz. — AFP

Coe hails "universality" of Paris 2024 athletics, defends WADA

WORLD Athletics president Sebastian Coe has hailed the diversity and unifying nature of athletics as the "heart and soul" of the Olympic Games, with the Paris 2024 track and field competitions having begun in earnest on Friday morning.

The Games' athletics competition opened on Thursday with the men's and women's 20-kilometre race walk, with five different nations represented across the two podiums.

In winning the men's race, Brian Pintado notably won Ecuador's first medal at Paris 2024, and only the country's fourth gold medal in history, prompting Coe to praise athletics' diversity.

"I'm delighted that I'm here, because these will be an exceptional Games," Coe told media, including Xinhua. — Xinhua



FINALIZING PRISONER SWAP

Kremlin reveals details of prisoner swap with Western countries

NEGOTIATIONS for the Russian-US prisoner exchange were primarily conducted between Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) and the CIA, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Friday.

The FSB confirmed on Thursday that eight Russians detained and held in custody in a number of NATO countries had been returned home.

A plane carrying the freed prisoners arrived at Moscow's Vnukovo-2 airport from Ankara late on Thursday, where they were greeted by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russia, in turn, has released 16 people, including seven Russians and five German citizens.

"Negotiations for this complex exchange were conducted through the FSB and CIA. This was the main channel through which the agreement was reached," Peskov told journalists.

Peskov highlighted that Moscow's firm stance on prisoner exchanges has been effective, resulting in the return of Russian citizens.

When US journalist Tucker Carlson asked Putin to extradite the convicted Americans as a gesture of goodwill, "Putin answered him that there can be no goodwill gestures here," Peskov told reporters. — SPUTNIK

In world first, EU's sweeping AI law enters into force

The European Union's new AI regulation went into effect on Thursday, aiming to balance innovation with citizen protection.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen emphasized the law's role in creating clear rules for businesses while safeguarding individual rights. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

THE European Union's landmark law on artificial intelligence came into force on Thursday, which Brussels vows will drive innovation while protecting citizens' rights.

The EU earlier this year adopted the world's first sweeping rules to govern AI, especially powerful systems like OpenAI's ChatGPT after difficult and tense negotiations.

Although the rules were first proposed in 2021, they took on greater urgency when ChatGPT burst onto the scene in 2022, showing generative AI's human-like ability to churn out eloquent text within seconds.

Other examples of generative AI include Dall-E and Midjourney, which can generate images in nearly any style with a simple input in everyday language.

"With our artificial intelligence act, we create new guardrails not only to protect people and their interests, but also to give business and innovators clear rules and certainty," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. Companies will have to comply by 2026 but rules covering AI models like ChatGPT will apply 12 months after the law enters into force. — AFP

EV sales to pick up in ASEAN: Malaysia research house



A customer tries an Ora Good Cat electric vehicle at a showroom in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17 February 2023. PHOTO: CHONG VOON CHUNG/XINHUA

FAVORABLE regulations, local brands and penetration of Chinese carmakers will drive electric vehicle (EV) sales higher in ASEAN countries including Malaysia, according to a research house.

Maybank Investment Bank said in a note on Thursday that it sees ASEAN companies that are partnering with Chinese carmakers for manufacturing and sales and battery value chain companies to benefit from the EV rush, backed by battery min-

erals/ecosystem, a large automotive production base and robust demand.

According to the research house, Malaysia is planning to cut its fuel subsidies, which could prompt demand for EVs.

"The Malaysian government is contemplating reduction/removal of fuel subsidies. Any action on this will deliver the much-needed push for EV adoption as it will make EV more competitive to gasoline (vehicle) on a total cost of ownership

(TCO) basis," it said.

It also noted that in the next two years, Chinese carmakers would have production capacity of about 750,000 cars annually in Thailand.

Conversely, it said Japanese original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as Honda and Suzuki are shutting their capacities in Thailand.

"The battery cell glut globally should benefit ASEAN making EVs more competitively priced vs petrol," Maybank said. — Xinhua