

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Employees of the Ministry of Electric Power are recently packaging the foodstuff for the ministry's contributions to security forces who are making sacrifices for the State's defence and security duties on the frontline.

Donation of foodstuffs honours members of Tatmadaw, security forces on frontline

People and departmental personnel daily donate foodstuffs for members of Tatmadaw and security forces who are serving State's, defence and security duties with sacrifices on the frontline.

Staff families of the Ministry of Electric Power on 2 August carried out processing and packaging of foodstuffs with goodwill and loving-kindness for members of Tatmadaw and security forces on frontline at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw. They donated 12 items of foodstuffs including bottles of pickled tea and fried beans, instant noodle, coffee, tea, steamed river catfish, fried fish paste, chicken, fried dried fish and others

People sent messages of encouragement to Tatmadaw members, security forces on frontline with goodwill and loving-kindness.

worth more than K12 million.

In addition, they sent messages of encouragement with the best wishes: "Be Healthy, Be Safe, Be free from dangers, and May Victory be with the Righteous" to Tatmadaw members and security forces from the frontline.

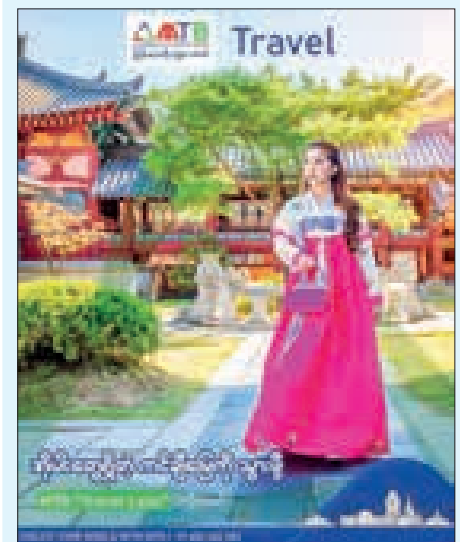
Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun, Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw and officials viewed round preparations for foodstuffs to be donated to Tatmadaw members and security forces.

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Myanmar Tourism Bank offers travel loans for domestic and international trips

ACCORDING to U Kyaw Thura Win, Chief Loan Officer of the Myanmar Tourism Bank (MTB), the MTB is providing travel loans in collaboration with travel agencies for enthusiastic travellers interested in domestic and foreign trips.

"We offer travel loans for domestic trips and international destinations such as Bodh Gaya, Bangkok, Sri Lanka, and China. While the MTB does not directly grant travel loans for foreign trips, we manage them in partnership with pilgrimage tour agencies. These agencies are responsible for the loans and must provide collateral as per banking procedures to secure the loan amount. For domestic tour agencies, we issue loans if applicants submit loan applications ei-



A Travel Loan advertisement of Myanmar Tourist Bank.

ther as groups or individually, provided the respective department or company guarantees them. The loan period is one year," stated U Kyaw Thura Win.

Additionally, those with a monthly income can purchase domestic or foreign travel packages from tour companies using MTB travel loans by connecting with MTB. This travel loan programme has been in place since the 2023-24 financial year, with 65 individuals having received foreign and domestic loans so far, in accordance with the Central Bank of Myanmar's procedures. Moreover, it is expected that those with savings in the Myanmar Tourism Bank will withdraw travel loans for the next travel season.

For more information about MTB's travel loans, contact Customer Service at 09 682 682 682. — ASH/TMT

Article

Warmly Welcome to the Newly Appointed Medical Doctors

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

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BUSINESS

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Myanmar ships 62,000+ tonnes of natural rubber worth US\$87M in Q1

NATIONAL

25 political parties issue statement condemning terrorists for attacking 100-bed hospital in Lashio

A total of 25 political parties, allegedly representing millions of Myanmar people, including monks, issued a statement on 4 August strongly condemning the inhumane, violent, and brutal acts reportedly committed by the MNDAA, AA, TNLA and their

allies in Lashio Township, Shan State (North).

The statement referred to an attack on No 9 Tatmadaw Hospital (100-bed) in Lashio by the armed allies on 2 August, which involved heavy weapons, rockets, drones, as well as small

arms, and resulted in doctors, nurses, staff, civilian patients, and children — who are not military targets — being shot at close range, with some patients, including pregnant women, abducted.

The statement described

the incident as an inhumane act of violence that intentionally violates the Counter-Terrorism Law, existing laws in the country, and basic human rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It also suggests that relevant actions should be

taken against the terrorists and their allies according to domestic laws by the government, and according to international law by other governments, which should also impose sanctions after designating them as terrorists. — MNA

Five organizations strongly condemn MNDAA's attacks

MNDAA terrorists fired at the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township of northern Shan State with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones, leaving residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital dead and hurt. Those terrorists also forcibly abducted some locals. Moreover, some locals temporarily left other regions.

As MNDAA committed war crimes, Myanmar Medical Council, Myanmar

Traditional Medical Council, Myanmar Private Hospitals' Association, Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council and Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association issued statements that they totally oppose and strongly condemn the MNDAA's the inhumane and brutal terror acts which caused residents, departmental personnel and families of security forces receiving medical treatment at the hospital deaths and injuries. — MNA/KZL

Statement of Myanmar Traditional Medical Council

4 August 2024

MNDAA attacked the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio Township, Shan State (North) with rockets, heavy weapons and drones, resulting in the deaths and injuries of locals, department staff, and family members of security personnel who were receiving treatment at the hospital. It has also been reported that some individuals were unlawfully abducted.

As these attacks on non-military healthcare facilities using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones left civilians, department personnel, and security forces' families receiving medical treatments dead and hurt and the displacement of residents fleeing from the conflicts, has severely disrupted civilian life. Hence, the Myanmar Traditional Medical Council strongly opposes and condemns these actions.

Myanmar Traditional Medical Council



Statement of Myanmar Medical Council

4 August 2024

MNDAA's assault on the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio of Shan State (North) with rockets, heavy weapons, and drones has resulted in casualties of locals, departmental staff, and family members of security personnel receiving medical treatment at the hospital. It has also been reported that some individuals were forcibly abducted.

Furthermore, the MNDAA's attacks using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones in civilian neighbourhoods of Lashio have led to casualties among the locals, and those who remain have been forced to flee and seek temporary shelter.

The Myanmar Medical Council firmly rejects and strongly condemns attacks of MNDAA with the use of rockets, heavy weapons and drones against hospitals and residential areas. The council unequivocally opposes these actions and strongly condemns them.

Myanmar Medical Council



Statement of Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council

4 August 2024

The Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council is committed to ensuring that healthcare services are provided safely, securely, and with high quality to the public across the nation.

We have been deeply distressed to learn that the MNDAA attacked the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio, Shan State (North), using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones. This assault has resulted in the deaths, injuries, and abduction of civilians and family members of department staff receiving medical treatments and health workers.

The Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council totally opposes and condemns such inhumane and terror acts against innocent patients and healthcare providers.

Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council



Statement of Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association

4 August 2024

MNDAA has conducted severe attacks on the Tatmadaw hospital in Lashio, Shan State (North), using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones with excessive strengths. These brutal attacks have led to the death and injury of local patients receiving medical treatment and companions, doctors, nurses, and family members of security personnel at the hospital. Some individuals have also been abducted.

As MNDAA has targeted civilian areas in non-military targets of Lashio with rockets, heavy weapons, and drones, resulting in civilian casualties and forcing survivors to flee their homes and seek safer places, causing significant loss to their lives.

Such terror acts against non-military target civilians, departmental personnel, healthcare providers, and the hospital are considered war crimes. The Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association strongly condemns these actions and rejects them in the strongest terms.

Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association



Statement of Myanmar Private Hospitals' Association

4 August 2024

MNDAA launched attacks on the Tatmadaw hospital using rockets, heavy weapons, and drones in Lashio, Shan State (North). This assault has resulted in the deaths and injuries of civilians as well as departmental staff and family members of security personnel receiving medical care at the hospital. Some individuals were forcibly abducted.

It is crucial that the public has the right to access safe healthcare services regardless of location or circumstance.

The Myanmar Private Hospitals' Association strongly opposes and condemns any intentional attacks on the hospital, causing deaths and injuries of patients and health staff with weapons.

Myanmar Private Hospitals' Association

NATIONAL

Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than visited the Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, on the evening of 3 August 2024.

During the visit, the district head of department provided an overview of the industrial activities and support for MSME (Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises) development in NyaungU. The Union minister emphasised the need to address the demands of entrepreneurs, strengthen connections with partner organizations, improve the industrial sector's contribution to the district's net production value, and solve employee submissions.

The following morning, a meeting with MSME entrepreneurs was held at the NyaungU District Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department office.

At the meeting, the Union minister highlighted that there are 355 private industries registered in NyaungU District, with

Union Industry Minister inspects MSME businesses, industrial development



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than observes a lacquerware at Tun Lacquer industry in NyaungU, Mandalay Region on 4 August 2024.

402 MSME businesses. The district has included black bean paste and lacquer industries in

the One Region-One Product scheme. He encouraged entrepreneurs to collaborate with the

regional MSME agency and engage in the production plans for the designated regional products.

The MSME Development Fund is being prepared to issue loans to entrepreneurs. Advertisements for loan applications have been published in State-owned newspapers on 10 January and 31 March. An MSME Web Portal has been established for online registration, information access, and application. Additionally, the ASEAN Access Web Portal is being used to enhance digital technology usage. The MSME Work Committee plans to organize an MSME product exhibition competition in Nay Pyi Taw by the end of 2024.

The Union minister toured several enterprises, including Myinpyan Soya Bean Paste Industry, Shwe Family Oil Mill, U Ba Nyein's Lacquer Industry, Tun Lacquer Industry, Sankee Fried Potato and Bean Industry, and Zabu Aye Oil Mill in Kyaukpadung Township. — MNA/TKO

Yangon region chief minister visits Twantay livestock breeding zone



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein visits goat farming of U Moe Aung during the trip to Twantay Livestock Breeding Zone on 3 August 2024. PHOTO: SAN KYAW OO (IPRD)

THE team led by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein visited the Twantay Livestock Breeding Zone to review farming practices, livestock management, and food supplies.

During the visit, the Chief Minister

inspected various activities, including the repair work on a dam in Kangyikon Village, local poultry and pig farming, corn fields, dairy cattle breeding, grass planting, goat farming, duck breeding, and fish farming.

An officer from the Yangon City Development Committee's Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) provided details on the laying of 15,000 feet long pipeline in Zone 2.

The Chief Minister encouraged farm owners to grow corn and grass alongside their existing farming operations, prepare soil for optimal plant growth, utilize vacant land for growing feed crops, install lamp-posts for better lighting in the livestock and breeding zone, and instructed an official to estimate electricity distribution.

Mayor U Bo Htay also clarified the business owners in the zone about breeding and farming practices. Departmental personnel further explained their respective areas of work to the Chief Minister and his team.

In the Twantay Livestock Breeding Zone, 78 business owners are currently farming a total of 3,279 goats, 273 dairy cows, 113 beef cattle, 36,490 broilers, 19,308 domestic chickens, 7,960 layers, 884 black chickens, 400 Rampuri chickens, 4,068 layer ducks, 1,200 broiler ducks, 1,084,000 fish, 561 pigs, and 14,370 quails. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/TMT



Water being pumped into Mandalay moat from a tube-well.

Mandalay moat to receive four million gallons of water daily amid shortage

THE Mandalay Region Government has announced that the Mandalay moat will be replenished with four million gallons of water daily from five tube-wells.

Previously, two million gallons of water were pumped into the moat each day from the Ayeyawady River water pumping station. Currently, there is no water flow into the moat from the Hsedawgyi Dam. As a result, efforts are being made to quickly provide drinking water from the moat to the public. Due to the low water levels in the moat, some residential areas are experiencing a shortage of drinking water. To address this, the township fire brigade is distributing water using water tankers. — TWA/TRKM

NATIONAL

Donation of foodstuffs honours members of Tatmadaw, security forces on frontline



Officials look round the preparatory work for the contributions in Magway yesterday.



Donation ceremony for security forces in progress in Kayin State yesterday.

members on the frontline in serving State defence and security duties as well as forging rule of law with sacrifices.

The Chief Minister of Kayah State and officials donated foodstuffs worth more than K20.8 million to the commander of Regional Control Command and the commander of Kayah State Police Force.

The Chief Minister and officials cordially conversed with Tatmadaw members, MPF members and staff of correctional department discharging duties of ensuring peace and stability of the

FROM PAGE 1

Yesterday, departmental personnel and residents from Magway processed foodstuffs at No 1 Basic Education High School to donate these foodstuffs to members of Tatmadaw and security forces on the frontline.

They donated foodstuffs, fried dried fish, instant noodle packs, cheroots and other snacks in addition to messages of encouragement to Tatmadaw members and security forces who sacrifice in serving the defence and security duties of the country. Those service personnel and people sent messages on waiting for victories of Tatmadaw members who will bring peace to the nation, may victory be with the righteous, gratitude to Tatmadaw members and security forces for their sacrifice in discharging State defence

and security duties. Magway Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin and officials encouraged those staff making foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and security forces on the frontline.

Ministerial staff and residents of Magway Region donated foodstuffs valued at more than K10 million to senior military officers from Magway Station.

Under the leadership of Kayin State government, departmental personnel in Kayin State and staff families yesterday donated foodstuffs for members of Tatmadaw and security forces on the frontline serving military operations with sacrifices.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo donated seven items of foodstuffs including fried fish paste, soft drinks, coffee and instant noodle worth K47.5 mil-



Employees from Kayah State are packing the foodstuff for their contributions to security forces who are making sacrifices for the State's defence and security duties on the frontline, yesterday.

lion to the deputy commander of South-East Command.

Yesterday morning, families of relevant departments in Kayah

State carried out processing and packaging foodstuffs at the town hall in Loikaw for Tatmadaw members and security force

region with loyalty and bravery. — MNA/Maung Nyi Nyar/Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/Kayah State IPRD/TTA



Final results for EPS-TOPIK group 2 to be released soon

2024 EPS-TOPIK exam for agriculture and livestock, construction and service group 2 concluded and final results will be released soon, said Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA-EPS).

Passes will need to come to POEA on prescribed date to have health check at prescribed clinics and those who would pass the health check will have to

EPS-TOPIK exam candidates in 2024.

submit job application, it said. They must have PV/PJ passport which validates at least above one year and must have PJ when visa applies after receiving demand letter.

Those who are included in the waiting-list for job application will receive demand letter if they are selected by employer and there is no guarantee that they would have job in the Republic of Korea even if they passed the exam, said POEA. — MT/ZS



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NATIONAL

Oil millers grasp chance for low-interest loan plan

ACCORDING to the Oil Mills Development Loan Management Working Group, oil millers in need of financial capital can apply for loans if they meet the criteria.

Low-interest loans are being provided by the Oil Mills Development Loan Management Task Force's fund for the expansion and installation of equipment in domestic oil refineries, the construction of new modern oil refineries, and commercial investment needs.

Applicants who wish to apply for an oil refinery development loan must provide proof of a currently operating oil mill, a valid business title licence, immovable property owned by the title as insurance, and a land ownership certificate with Form No 7. Additionally, those with existing loans from State-owned or private banks can apply for oil mill development loans only if they can submit a separate



An oil mill being operated on a manageable scale.

guarantee.

Priority consideration will be given to those who have obtained an FDA certificate, a small industry registration certificate, and those who are members of the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers

Association or the oil dealers association in their region.

The terms and conditions for oil industry development loans are as follows: loans for working capital range from a minimum of K10 million to a maximum of

K300 million, while loans for fixed capital range from a minimum of K20 million to a maximum of K300 million. Oil mill business owners seeking loans above K300 million must apply directly to the office of the secretary of the Oil

Mills Development Loan Management Task Force under the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (Head Office).

The loan term and repayment period for business revolving capital is one year, and for capital investment, the loan term is three years with three instalments. The loan interest rate is five per cent per year. Oil refiners wishing to apply for oil industry development loans can do so at the relevant departments and branches.

The oil mill loan proposal forms can be downloaded from the websites of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association, the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association, the Myanma Economic Bank (MEB), and the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB). — TWA/TKO

Workers need 6,000-baht remittance document for MoU U-turn process to Thailand



One-Stop Service is open for the process of re-entering and working in Thailand through the MoU U-turn system.

THE Department of Labour, under the Ministry of Labour, has announced that starting from 1 August, workers who wish to return to Thailand under the MoU U-turn system are required to present a document proving that they have already remitted 6,000 baht to their relatives in Myanmar.

In addition, the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) has been instructed by the Department of Labour that workers must provide documentation showing that 25 per cent (6,000 baht) of their basic

salary for three months (approximately 24,000 baht) has been sent to their family or to the worker's bank account in Myanmar when processing workers through the U-turn process at MoU U-turn camps in Myawady and Kawthoung. — TWA/MKKS



Photo shows Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi giving opening speech at central committee meeting for Myanmar's South Sea Pearl Emporium.

142nd South Sea Pearl Emporium scheduled in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation recently announced that Myanmar's South Sea Pearl Emporium will be held in Nay Pyi Taw.

The 142nd pearl emporium is scheduled from 12 to 15 August, with a central committee meeting on sales of pearl lots held in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 August.

The southern part of Myanmar, particularly the Myeik Archipelago, is renowned for its pearl production. Pieces of golden South Sea pearl are favourite in foreign countries. These pearls are in high demand in Japan, China, Hong Kong, and India. Additionally, the United States, Canada, and South Korea have shown interest in Myanmar's pearls. — TWA/TRKM

NATIONAL



Mon traditional musical instruments.

Traditional Mon musical instrument playing course inaugurated in Yangon

A traditional Mon musical instrument playing course has been inaugurated for the younger generation of the Mon national race in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

The course, which began on 3 August and will run until 13 September, focuses on playing traditional Mon instruments such as the violin, xylophone, mikyong (a three-stringed instrument shaped like a crocodile), and

double-headed drum.

Dr Min Khin Sein, Chairman of the Mon Literature and Culture Committee (Yangon), highlighted that the committee holds such training sessions twice a year. The programme aims to pass on traditional knowledge and skills to the younger Mon generation, resuming this year after a hiatus since 2019 for various reasons.

Dr Min Khin Sein commented, "Our committee

continues to offer training in traditional Mon culture, singing, and playing musical instrument. This year's session marks the return of these programmes, with the goal of preserving and handing down cultural heritage to the young Mon ethnics."

The course currently has 25 participants, and outstanding trainees will be honoured with awards upon completion. — ASH/KZL

2024 Asia Model Festival Face of Myanmar Grand Final press conference at Sedona Hotel

A press conference for the 2024 Asia Model Festival Face of Myanmar Grand Final, which will be held at the Sedona Hotel in Yankin Township, Yangon, took place on 1 August, according to Ko Kaung Myat Aung, an organizer of the competition.

At the conference, the 13 male and 15 female contestants were introduced. The Grand Final will take place at the Sedona Hotel on 8 August, where one winner will be selected from each gender category.

"This competition was suspended during the Covid-19 period and is resuming this year. As usual, it is organized by Korean organizers, but this is the first

time Myanmar organizers have managed the event. In other countries, similar competitions have been held under names such as Face of Thailand, Mister, Miss, and Model competitions are different. This competition is akin to an event organized by a model academy. We will be responsible for sending the winners to Korea to compete," said Ko Kaung Myat Aung.

The male and female winners will represent Myanmar and compete in the 2024 Asia Model Festival Face of Korea, which will be held in Korea in October, alongside winners from over 25 other countries. — ASH/TKO



Press Conference for 2024 Asia Model Festival Face of Myanmar Grand Final.

MoST to commemorate centennial anniversary of engineering education in Myanmar

THE Ministry of Science and Technology is planning to hold a conference in coming November to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of engineering education in Myanmar, which started in the 1923-1924 academic year.

The conference will address future engineering education strategies and establish processes to support the country's long-term sustainable development, while also providing young people with the opportunity to learn from and be inspired by the historical milestones of Myanmar's engineers, fostering creativity in modern engineering technology, and cultivating a new generation of engineers whom the country can actually rely on. The event also aims to promote university-industry collaboration, support

national economic development, improve the availability and distribution of research results to entrepreneurs and the public, and strengthen the exchange of experience and technology among engineers at home and abroad.

At the conference, the directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Science and Technology, rectors from technological and computer universities, and principals from government technological colleges will present papers on the history of engineering science, related projects, and research findings. — ASH/TH

A documentary photo depicts the first graduation ceremony of the Rangoon Institute of Technology (now Yangon Technological University) in 1964.



Myanmar ships 62,000+ tonnes of natural rubber worth US\$87M in Q1

MYANMAR exported more than 62,000 tonnes of natural rubber to international trading partners in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year 2024-2025, bagging over US\$87 million, the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization reported.

Myanmar aims to meet the rubber export target of over 300,000 tonnes in the current FY. Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes, and more than 200,000 tonnes of rubber were exported to foreign trade partners.

Myanmar's rubber prices are influenced by global demand for rubber and rubber production in Southeast Asian nations, as well as the market supply.

The rubber price in Mon State, a significant rubber production state in Myanmar, is closely tied to those factors as well, the traders elaborated. Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber sea-



The rubber latex tapping process is being demonstrated.

son data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153

acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. — NN/KK

DICA report: 2,500 companies fail to file AR in July



The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

A total of 2,500 companies were struck off the register in July 2024 as they failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA notified any registered company that fails to file its AR on the MyCO that it is to be struck off the register from the date of the directive, under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

The DICA's statistics showed that 750 companies in January 2024, 600 in February, 1,650 in March and 2,000 each in April, May and June did not file the AR.

A total of 6,400 companies also failed to submit the AR in 2023. The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas

corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

CBM to inject US\$5M, 5M yuan in fuel oil, edible oil, pharmaceutical sectors

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will pump US\$5 million and five million yuan into fuel oil, edible oil and pharmaceutical sectors through foreign exchange trading platforms.

CBM sold 69 million Thai baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medical devices on online trading platforms through authorized banks on 1 August, with a view to controlling the volatile exchange rates in the foreign exchange market.

According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws.

CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



Photo shows Yangon Branch of Central Bank of Myanmar.

OPINION

Launch activities of nutritious weeks in August

PROMOTING maternal and child healthcare is crucial for fostering a healthy and capable population, which in turn strengthens the nation's health and sports sectors. A key aspect of this initiative is ensuring that health officials take proactive measures to prevent both infectious and non-infectious diseases. By focusing on preventative care, we can help people live healthier lives and improve life expectancy across the nation.

Improving the immune health of mothers and children is essential, and nutrition plays a vital role in this. The first week of August is observed as World Breastfeeding Week. During this time, the Ministry of Health spearheads efforts to enhance the nutritional well-being of mothers and children. This annual campaign aims to develop healthy and fit citizens by promoting the benefits of breastfeeding.

By focusing on nutrition and preventive care, we can build a stronger, more resilient population. As the Ministry of Health initiates nutritious activities in four weeks of August every year as part of improving the nation's life expectancy and health, not only pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, children under five years old and schoolchildren but the entire people have to consume nutritious foods in order to emerge healthy and fit generations.

diet provide their children with the nutrients necessary for good health and physical fitness. Therefore, both pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers should prioritize their nutritional intake to ensure the well-being of their children.

The fourth week of August is dedicated to eradicating iodine deficiency diseases. Iodine is critical for the health and fitness of both pregnant women and children, as it plays a key role in the development of body structures and neurological functions. Iodine deficiency can lead to serious issues, including neurological disorders in young children and low intelligence quotients. For pregnant women, a lack of iodine can result in complications such as miscarriages, posing significant risks to their health.

By focusing on nutrition and preventive care, we can build a stronger, more resilient population. As the Ministry of Health initiates nutritious activities in four weeks of August every year as part of improving the nation's life expectancy and health, not only pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, children under five years old and schoolchildren but the entire people have to consume nutritious foods in order to emerge healthy and fit generations.

The second week of August is dedicated to the nutritional development of children under five and school-aged children. It's essential that mothers breastfeed their infants properly, as this provides critical nutrition during the early stages of life. Additionally, proper nutrition is crucial for young children as they undergo rapid growth. A varied and balanced diet contributes not only to their physical development but also to their cognitive abilities, leading to higher intelligence quotients.

The third week of August focuses on the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. When expectant mothers consume nutritious foods, they are more likely to give birth to healthy babies. Similarly, breastfeeding mothers who maintain a nutritious

Warmly Welcome to the Newly Appointed Medical Doctors

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

THE Ministry of Health (MoH), Myanmar, laid down two objectives: to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases. To do that, the newly appointed medical doctors are one of the main implementing issues.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the ceremony of appointment of new medical doctors as Government Gazette Officers on 31 July 2024 at MICC II. At the ceremony, the Union Minister stressed that with a strong spirit and attitude, I want all of you to focus on healthcare activities in accordance with medical ethics and carry out professional activities. As newly appointed medical doctors, we want all of you to work hard to become excellent medical doctors who the people can trust. In this ceremony, 581 medical doctors were newly appointed.

When newly appointed medical doctors begin their careers, they need to focus on several fundamental principles to guide their practice. The following are some basic principles that are typically emphasized:

- **Patient-Centred Care:** Prioritize the needs, preferences,

and values of patients. That involves active listening, empathy, and involving patients in decisions about their care.

- **Clinical Competence:** Continuously update and apply medical knowledge and skills. This includes staying current with advancements in medicine and adhering to evidence-based practices.

- **Professionalism:** Demonstrate integrity, respect, and ethical behaviour. That involves maintaining patient confidentiality, being honest, and upholding the standards of the medical profession.

- **Communication Skills:** Effectively communicate with patients, families, and colleagues. That includes clear explanations of diagnoses and treatments, as well as active listening.

- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Work collaboratively with other healthcare professionals. Recognize the value of different roles in the healthcare team and engage in cooperative problem-solving.

- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Apply analytical skills to assess complex



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win is addressing the opening speech to Newly Appointed Medical Doctors.

medical situations, make informed decisions, and solve problems.

- **Empathy and Compassion:** Show understanding and kindness towards patients, recognizing their experiences and emotions. Providing comfort and support is crucial in inpatient care.

- **Adaptability:** Be open to change and adaptable in various clinical settings. Medicine

is an evolving field, and flexibility is essential for effective practice.

- **Self-Care and Resilience:** Manage stress and maintain personal well-being. The demands of a medical career can be intense, so it's crucial for doctors to take care of their own health to provide the best care for their patients.

- **Ethical Practice:** Adhere to

ethical guidelines and make decisions that align with moral and professional standards. That includes balancing patient autonomy with medical advice and considering the implications of treatment options.

- **Lifelong Learning:** Commit to ongoing education and professional development. Medicine is a dynamic field, and continuous learning is

essential for maintaining competence and improving patient care.

These principles help new medical doctors navigate their roles effectively and provide high-quality care to their patients while maintaining their own professional growth and well-being.

Top of Form Bottom of Form

Greetings on your appointment as a medical doctor! That is a remarkable achievement and proof of your dedication, hard

work, and passion for medicine. As you step into this new chapter, you're not just starting a job – you're embarking on a lifelong journey of learning, growth, and making a meaningful impact on people's lives.

Your role is pivotal in not only diagnosing and treating but also in providing comfort, guidance, and hope to those in need. Remember, every challenge you face is an opportunity to grow, and every success is a step forward in your

journey to make a difference and embrace your responsibilities with confidence and compassion. Lean on your peers, mentors, and support systems as you navigate this exciting path.

Moreover, congratulations to the newly appointed medical doctors! That's a significant achievement and authentication to years of hard work and dedication. We hope that all of you can bring success and fulfilment to this noble profession.



The photo shows the Union minister and newly appointed medical doctors having refreshments together.

From ice baths to osteopaths: unproven therapies at the Olympics



Put on ice: A cryotherapy room in Paris to be used by athletes during the Olympics. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

The Paris Olympics have highlighted the use of questionable therapies like ice baths and osteopathy, which lack robust scientific support.

THE Paris Olympics have been a showcase not only for athletic prowess but also for therapies such as ice baths and osteopathy which have little scientifically proven medical value, according to experts.

The Olympics have long been a fertile ground for questionable medical treatments, as athletes seek out every way possible to improve their performance and tamp down their pain.

"In sport there is a lot of propaganda for all kinds of 'alternative medicine' — there is a lot of demand from athletes," French neurologist and pain specialist Didier Bouhassira told AFP.

At the Rio Games eight years ago, cupping was the latest pseudoscientific fad. Though praised at the time by athletes such as US Olympic swimming great Michael Phelps, there is little scientific evidence that applying heated cups to the skin has any more benefit

than a placebo.

For this year's Games, which kicked off in Paris on Friday, ice has been all the rage.

Cryotherapy — which includes cold-water swimming, ice baths and more advanced cooling chambers — is touted to help athletes recover after vigorous exercise.

The new ice age

According to a recent editorial published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, the federations taking part in the Paris Games together requested more than 16,000 tonnes of ice — at a cost of 2.5 million euros (\$2.7 million).

No vendor was able to supply such a massive amount of ice, so the Olympics will have to make do with 650 tonnes, the editorial said. That is still 10 times more than was required at the Tokyo Games

only three years ago.

The editorial's authors criticised the routine use of cryotherapy for athletes between training sessions.

While ice baths can treat some conditions, such as heat stroke, athletes often use it "to obtain benefits which are not evidence-based", they wrote.

"Ice could have the opposite effect to that expected such as delayed tissue regeneration or impaired recovery."

The authors also stressed the environmental impact of producing, transporting and storing such vast amounts of ice.

Long way from science

Another alternative medicine sought out by athletes — osteopathy — is no newcomer to the Olympics.

Osteopaths are on the staff of federations and integrated into the teams at the official Olympic clinic which monitors athletes daily.

But osteopathy, which promises to restore health through manipulations of the body, has little scientific basis and its effectiveness remains hotly contested.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Illegal item confiscations: Timbers, mechanical oil, consumer goods, business equipment and vehicles



Confiscated vehicle which carries illegal items in Mandalay.

UNDER the supervision and control of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, illegal trade is effectively prevented and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

On 31 July, a combined team under the management of the Ayeyawady Region Illegal

Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted an inspection of a vessel from Uto Creek in Chaungtha Town. They found 44 packs of Furui MSG (monosodium glutamate), each containing 25 kilogrammes, without legal documentation, and 154 gallons of diesel (estimated

value of K1,706,012). The action was taken according to relevant procedures.

Moreover, on 1 August, under the management of the Customs Department, a combined task force inspected a container at Myanmar Industrial Port and found 124 packs of Ergotamine (estimated value of K36,456,000). They also discovered 4,995 kilogrammes of Happy Rose Tissues and 1,500 kilogrammes of 100% Polyester Fiber Fill (estimated value of K19,950,000) without official documents in eight containers at the Asia World Container Port Terminal checkpoint. Additionally, six unofficial solar inverters (estimated value of K5,550,000) were found in one passenger's load, along with two products, including 17 kilogrammes of Thermos 45 hybrid hot pepper seeds (estimated value of K56,000,000) from the Yangon International Airport. Illegal items also includ-

ed 630 packs of 25-kilogramme Inno Plus high-density polyethylene resin (estimated value of K28,350,000) from two vehicles (estimated value of K75,000,000) at the Mayanchaung checkpoint, which was travelling from Myawady to Yangon. The total estimated value of these seizures was K221,306,000, and the action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 1 August, the combined team under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated seven unofficial products, including 760 pieces of women's sweaters and 400 Mi handsets (second-hand) (estimated value of K94,096,170), and one Toyota Hilux Surf (estimated value of K25,000,000) which was transporting these illegal items from Muse to Mandalay at the Kyaukchaw checkpoint. They also seized 20,640 pairs of lady slipper short heels

(estimated value of K55,540,800) without official documents at the Kywetetson checkpoint, along with a Zar Tha Pyin truck (estimated value of K45,000,000) that was transporting these illegal slippers. The total estimated value of these seizures was K219,636,970, and the action was taken according to Customs procedures.

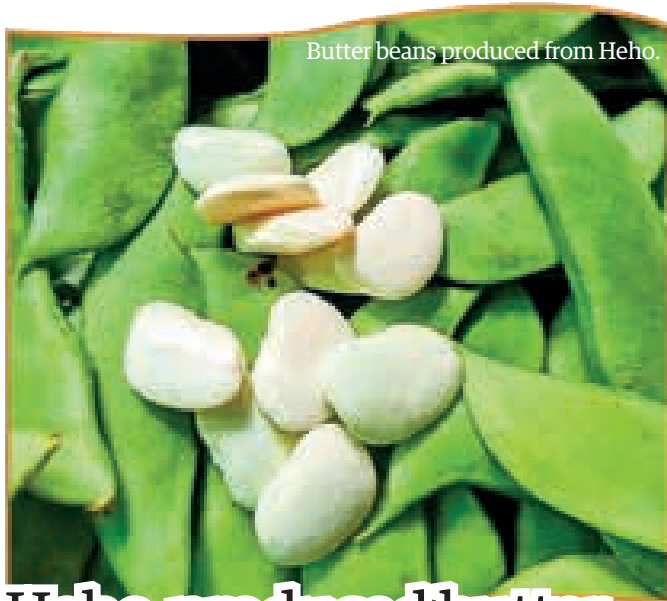
Furthermore, on 1 August, a combined team under the management of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 4.35 tonnes of illegal teak and 17.833 tonnes of other timbers in Pyinmana, Lewe, and Ottara-thiri Districts (estimated value of K7,045,666). The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, on 31 July and 1 August, 20 cases with a total estimated value of K449,694,648 were reported, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/TRKM

BUTTER bean produced from Heho, southern Shan State, has received loads of orders from Mandalay.

August is a month that butter beans are started harvesting.

"Price gets high a little here. The trade is doing well. Butter bean is harvested this month. But price will decrease gradually later. This bean is one of the most consumed items. It has received a lot of orders from Mandalay," said an official from Shwe Phuu Shan State-produced crops trading in Heho.



Heho-produced butter bean receives loads of orders from Mandalay

will fall in next months. Yangon market doesn't consume much butter bean but Bocade," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

Harvesting of beans is late this year compared to last year so prices are getting higher now. However, it is expected that beans prices will fall in next months.

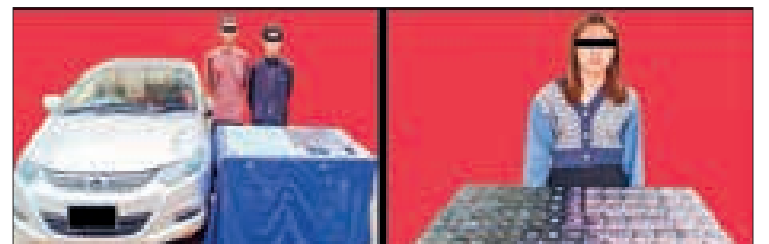
"This year's bean harvest season is late. Bocade production was abundant in the same period last year and this year is late. So price is good now. But it is likely that price

Drugs seized in Loilem, Namsang, Mingaladon

A combined team of anti-narcotics forces inspected a Honda Insight driven by Paing Zay Phyto accompanied by Pyay Thar Toe near Paungline village, Panglong of Loilem Township at 8:45 am of 3 August. The police seized 0.1 kilogramme of Ketamine and 0.75 kilogramme of Happy Water.

According to further investigations, Ma Su Wai Wai Tun's house, at No 2 village of Matmonmone village-tract in Namsang Township, was inspected at 10:45 am and found 0.05 kilogramme of Ketamine and 0.474 kilogramme of Happy Water. Similarly, at 5:30 pm, a Toyota Crown driven by Samswe accompanied by Echar was also searched at Weinkyauk Ward of Tachileik. The combined team seized 0.87 kilogramme of Katamine and 0.225 kilogramme of Happy Water.

Moreover, police searched a motorbike driven by Pyae Phyto Aung (aka) Kalar on Bo Min Yang Road of Chittigon Ward in Mingaladon Township at 5 pm on the same day and seized 10,000 stimulant pills. With further investigations, Ma Ei Myat Myat Phue who ordered to sell the stimulant pills at the same place at 5:30 pm. Offenders were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/TRKM



Paing Zay Phyto, Pyay Thar Toe and Ma Su Wai Wai Tun seen with seized narcotic drugs.

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WORLD

Centennial Italian-style complex welcomes foreign visitor influx

A Mexican tourist wandered through a vibrant district adorned with Italian-style architecture, showcasing Gothic, Roman, and Baroque elements.

BRENDA Olvera, a Mexican tourist, took a boat cruise along the Haihe River and was captivated by the grandeur of the tall skyscrapers and the vibrant scenery that bordered its banks.

“Tianjin is stunningly beautiful. It’s like a dream, and it’s different from other cities I’ve seen,” Olvera said. This marked her first visit to Tianjin, a northern Chinese port city, following over a year of living in Beijing, the Chinese capital.

Upon disembarking from the cruise at a nearby dock, Olvera found an area of Italian-style buildings buzzing with activity. Drawn by the lively music, Olvera found herself in an area where Gothic, Roman and



This photo taken on 23 July 2023 shows the Italian-Style Area in Hebei District, north China’s Tianjin Municipality. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Baroque architectural styles greeted her eyes, delivering another visual feast. “It feels as if I’ve been instantly transported to Italy.”

Built in 1902, Tianjin’s Italian Style Area is the sole well-preserved Italian-style architectural complex in Asia. It is home to traditional restaurants, shopping malls, boutique retailers and international brand hotels, where the charm of tradition intertwines with international flair.

With the ongoing refinement of China’s 72/144-hour visa-free transit policy, an increasing number of foreign travelers are eager to embark on a “China Travel” adventure. — Xinhua

Model explores jet lag effects

Jet lag is when your body’s internal clock is out of sync with the new time zone you’ve traveled to. It usually happens after a long flight across different time zones.

TRAVELLING to exotic locations is an excellent way to broaden one’s horizons, but jet lag may be an unpleasant side effect. Adjusting to a new time zone is frequently accompanied by weariness, difficulties sleeping, and a slew of other issues that may turn an otherwise great vacation into an unpleasant one.

Jet lag is caused by an imbalance between the circadian system — the body’s internal clock — and the surround-

ing environment. Around the turn of the century, scientists began to recognize that the body contains many internal clocks that are calibrated in different ways, and that jet lag-like symptoms can occur when these clocks fall out of sync with each other. This can occur in a variety of ways and becomes more common with age.

In Chaos, from AIP Publishing, a team of scientists from Northwestern Universi-

ty and the Santa Fe Institute developed a theoretical model to study the interactions between multiple internal clocks under the effects of aging and disruptions like jet lag.

Modern research has shown that circadian clocks are present in almost every cell and tissue in the body. Each relies on its own set of cues to calibrate; the brain’s clock depends on sunlight, for instance, while the peripheral organs calibrate at mealtime.

“Conflicting signals, such as warm weather during a short photoperiod or nighttime eating — eating when your brain is about to rest — can confuse internal clocks and cause desynchrony,” said author Yitong Huang.

At this point, little is known about how the body’s various internal clocks affect each other. The added complexity of accounting for multiple clocks means researchers tend to use simplified models.— ANI



Jet lag is caused by an imbalance between the circadian system — the body’s internal clock — and the surrounding environment. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

French director accused of abuse

A French magistrate has ordered film director Christophe Ruggia to stand trial on charges of sexually assaulting an actor when she was a minor, sources close to the case said on Saturday.

The trial at the Paris criminal court, set for 9 and 10 December, follows allegations that

Ruggia sexually assaulted actor Adele Haenel in the early 2000s when he was in his mid to late 30s and she was under 15.

In a court document, the investigating magistrate noted that Haenel’s accusations against director Ruggia were detailed and had led to psychological harm for her. — AFP

Extreme weather events linked to child marriage

ONE of the negative consequences of catastrophic weather incidents around the world that most people might overlook is an increase in underage marriages.

Researchers at The Ohio State University conducted a systematic review of 20 studies connecting droughts, floods and other extreme weather events to increases in child, early and forced marriages in low- and middle-income countries.

Overall, the studies provide compelling evidence of the prob-

lem, said Fiona Doherty, lead author of the study and a doctoral candidate in social work at Ohio State.

It’s not that extreme weather has a direct effect on child marriages, Doherty said.

“What these disasters do is exacerbate existing problems of gender inequality and poverty that lead families to child marriage as a coping mechanism,” she said.

The study was published recently in the journal International Social Work. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD



REN is responsible for the planning, construction, operation, maintenance and global technical management of both these grids and associated infrastructures. **PHOTO: REN**

Portugal approves major investments in national energy grid

REN's investment includes grid connections in Sines and reinforcements for a photovoltaic plant.

THE Portuguese government announced on Friday that it has greenlit a series of significant investments by Redes Energéticas Nacionais (REN) aimed at extending and developing the National Transmission Network (RNT).

The approval, announced in a statement by Environment and Energy Minister Maria da Graça Carvalho, underscores the country's commitment to enhancing its energy infrastructure and promoting sustainability.

The specific investment plan by REN includes the creation of grid connection capacity in the high-demand area of Sines and reinforcements to integrate a photovoltaic plant into the grid.

Additionally, the development of the RNT in the north-east of the country will focus on integrating renewable energy sources and supplying new very high voltage grid infrastructure.

The minister emphasized the strategic importance of these investments, noting that they serve as a "sign of encour-

agement" to both domestic and international companies looking to invest in Portugal.

"We want to encourage companies, both domestic and foreign, to invest in our country and contribute to building a more sustainable future," she stated.

The move aligns with Portugal's broader energy strategy to foster renewable energy integration and infrastructure development, positioning the country as a leader in sustainable energy solutions in Europe. — Xinhua

German economy dragged by weak growth, rising layoffs, bankruptcies

High inflation, elevated interest rates, and weak export demand contribute to the issues.

GERMANY has been grappling with a challenging economic landscape this year amid weak macroeconomic indicators and rising financial distress.

A series of latest data underscored the country's underlying economic weaknesses. The Federal Statistical Office reported on Tuesday a 0.1 per cent decline in GDP for the second quarter, which marked a persisting economic stagnation amid high inflation, elevated interest rates, and weak export demand.

"The German economy

is stuck in crisis," said Klaus Wohlrabe, head of surveys at ifo, while commenting on the office's report. "Hardly any improvement is to be expected in the third quarter of 2024 either," he said. "That is indicated by the results of the ifo Business Climate Index in July."

The ifo Business Climate Index, a key indicator of German economic trends, fell to 87 points in July from 88.6 points in June, marking a third consecutive decline, the ifo Institute reported on 25 July.

— Xinhua



This photo taken on 25 March 2023 shows a Deutsche Bank branch in Berlin, Germany. **PHOTO: REN PENGFEI/XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hawaii announces \$4 bln settlement in wildfire lawsuits

A \$4 billion settlement has been reached to end thousands of lawsuits filed in the wake of devastating wildfires on Maui nearly one year ago, the governor of Hawaii announced Friday.

Defendants including the state of Hawaii, Maui County, and Hawaiian Electric utility will pay the money to compensate victims — including about 2,200 who filed lawsuits — for losses from deadly wildfires on the island of Maui.

"This Global Settlement of over \$4 billion will help our people heal," Hawaii Governor Josh Green said in a release.

"Settling a matter like this within a year is unprecedented, and it will be good that our people don't have to wait to rebuild their lives as long as others have in many places that have suffered similar tragedies."

The settlement was reached after four months of mediation, but must be approved by a judge to become final. — AFP

Tanzania's electric SGR train service starts commercial operation from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma

TANZANIAN President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Thursday officially launched the commercial operation of the country's electric standard gauge railway (SGR) passenger train service from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma, the capital of Tanzania.

Commercial trial operation of the SGR passenger train service between the two destinations started last month.

Hassan was among hundreds of passengers on board the electric SGR train as it left the port city of Dar es Salaam in the morning and arrived in the capital Dodoma after three and a half hours.

Hours later, another electric SGR train ferrying Tanzania's Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi left Dar es Salaam for Dodoma, covering 722 km.

Speaking on arrival in

Dodoma, Hassan said the enhanced train speed will significantly reduce travel times and facilitate the efficient movement of goods and people throughout Tanzania.

"Travel time using the electric SGR train between the two destinations takes about three and half hours, while it takes more than nine hours of travel by bus between the two destinations," said Hassan. — Xinhua

BMW's supply centre expansion project starts construction

THE expansion project of a supply center for German automaker BMW has started construction in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, with a total investment of 270 million yuan (US\$37.8 million).

The groundbreaking ceremony of the project, which is the second phase

of the Runbang Damei Automotive Supply Chain Industrial Park, was held on 31 July in the China-Germany Equipment Manufacturing Industrial Park in Shenyang.

The project covers an area of 80,000 square metres and features a planned floor area of 49,000 square metres. — Xinhua

EU behind suspension of Russian oil transit to Hungary



An oil processing facility of the Lukoil company near the city of Pokachi. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

THE fact that the suspension of Russian oil transit via Ukraine to Hungary has been coordinated by the European Union has been confirmed, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said on Saturday.

"The events and my talks of the last few days have confirmed my feel-

ings that this is a process coordinated from Brussels," the minister said at an event organized by the Corvinus University.

When asked if Brussels requested Kiev to suspend the oil transit, Szijjarto replied "yes, I think so."

According to the

minister, the EU could not accept that Hungary continues to pursue its own policy aimed at peace "despite all the pressure".

"The EU is very weak, but not weak enough so as to be unable to influence a candidate country if it jeopardizes

the energy supply of two member states," Szijjarto said.

In mid-July, Hungary announced the cessation of Lukoil oil supplies through Ukraine via the Druzhba pipeline. Slovakia made a similar statement, clarifying that the reason was the inclusion of the Russian company in the Ukrainian sanctions list.

In December 2022, Western countries imposed sanctions banning the supply of Russian oil to the European Union by sea. The Druzhba pipeline was exempted, as otherwise, several landlocked countries would have difficulty finding alternative suppliers. The pipeline starts in Almet'yevsk, passes through Bryansk, and then branches into two sections: the northern one (through Belarus towards Poland and Germany. — SPUTNIK

Fitch downgrades Kenya's credit

THE US ratings agency Fitch downgraded Kenya's credit rating Friday following its president's decision to scrap key measures of a controversial finance bill in the face of strong public opposition.

Kenyan president William Ruto cancelled a raft of planned tax hikes in late June after the initially peaceful rallies by those opposing the measures turned violent, leaving more than 20 people dead and the country's parliament ransacked.

"The downgrade reflects heightened risks to Kenya's public finances after the government backtracked on revenue measures in the Finance Bill 2024," Fitch said in a statement, adding that the outlook was "stable". — AFP

Indian outbound tourism to grow at over 11% CAGR through 2034

INDIA'S outbound tourism market is expected to reach US\$ 18817.72 million (US\$ 18.81 billion) in 2024 and grow at a CAGR of 11.4 per cent in the decade between 2024 and 2034 to reach approximately US\$ 55388.41 million (US\$ 55.38 billion), highlighted a FICCI-Nangia knowledge paper.

The paper titled 'Navigating Horizons: The Rise and Future of Indian Outbound Tourism', released during the '3rd Outbound Tourism Summit' here in the FICCI office earlier this week, asserted that few emerging markets and opportunities for outbound travel include various Southeast Asian,



India's online travel market, which consists of sales of travel services through online channels, is expected to grow at a CAGR of 10.5 per cent between 2024-29, from US\$ 17.24 billion to US\$ 28.40 billion. PHOTO: ANI

Middle Eastern, African and Eastern European countries.

India's online travel market, which consists

of sales of travel services through online channels, is expected to grow at a CAGR of 10.5 per cent between 2024-29, from US\$

17.24 billion to US\$ 28.40 billion.

International travel has thus been eased by the steady growth in affordable technology, states the paper.

It further states that the government administration and the tourism industry stakeholders in India may undertake various strategic interventions to promote the outbound tourism market. These include bilateral engagement; improved connectivity; support to travel industry stakeholders; marketing of international destinations; curated packages; and hospitality partnerships, among others. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VIMC DIAMOND VOY.NO. (0UV8US1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V VIMC DIAMOND VOY.NO. (0UV8US1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-8-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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.

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Putin announces int'l seamless railway connection plans

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Sunday unveiled plans to develop international transport corridors, including the establishment of a seamless railway network. "We aim to establish seamless railway communication from the Baltic and Barents Seas to the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean," Putin said in a video address on the occasion of Russia's Railway Workers' Day, which falls on the first Sunday of August.

"These are indeed grand tasks, and I am confident that with your expertise, experience, and commitment to the nation's interests, we will achieve them," added Putin. He also outlined key projects, including the construction of high-speed railways to be integrated with the Central Transport Hub in Moscow, the creation of international logistics corridors, and the enhancement of the transport route from Azov to the Black Sea.

The president emphasized the importance of further modernizing Russia's Eastern railway system, specifically the Baikal-Amur, the Trans-Siberian Railways, and the 700-kilometre-long Northern Latitudinal Railway in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District connecting to Arctic ports. —Xinhua

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced plans for a seamless international railway network, connecting the Baltic and Barents Seas to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.



The photo shows the departure of the domestically produced "Finist" electric train from the platform at Yekaterinburg railway station to Kamensk-Uralsky, in Yekaterinburg, Russia. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/SPUTNIK/FILE**

German tourist robbed near Lahore airport

A German tourist was robbed and attacked while camping near the Lahore airport. Berg Florian was sleeping in his tent in a park near Guldasth Town when two armed men attacked him, stealing his valuables, including an iPhone, cash, and a camera worth around Pakistani currency (PKR) 500,000, ARY News reported.

A 27-year-old German citizen, who came to Pakistan from Diyarbakir. The incident occurred within the North Cantonment area of Lahore, and a First Information Report (FIR) has been filed, as per ARY News.

Following the robbery incident, the German national tried to reach the Rangers office on his bicycle but collapsed due to the injuries, while the people standing nearby immediately took him to the Rangers Hospital, where he received medical assistance. The tourist also alleged that he informed about the robbery incident to the patrolling Dolphin Squad, but they demanded money from him. — ANI

BEIEFS: WORLD

US revokes plea deal with 9/11 alleged masterminds

UNITED States Department of Defence Secretary Llyod Ausin has revoked plea deals agreed to earlier this week with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other accused, who have been accused of plotting the September 11 attacks and are being held at the military prison in Cuba's Guantanamo Bay. A statement by the Pentagon on Friday said without elaborating on the details that plea deals had been entered into.

"Effective immediately, in the exercise of my authority, I hereby withdraw from the three pre-trial agreements," Austin wrote in a memo to Susan Escallier, who oversees the Pentagon's Guantanamo war court. — ANI

Egypt demands Israel withdraw from Philadelphi corridor, Rafah crossing

EGYPT on Saturday demanded Israel withdraw from the Philadelphi Corridor and the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing and halt the ongoing Israeli offensive on the besieged Gaza Strip, Egyptian sources told Xinhua on Saturday on condition of anonymity.

The Egyptian demands were presented on Saturday in a meeting with an Israeli security delegation visiting Cairo for talks with the Egyptian side on a ceasefire deal between Israel and Gaza-ruling Hamas. — Xinhua

BBC questioned over ex-anchor Huw Edwards indecent child images scandal



Former BBC news anchor Huw Edwards, one of the most recognizable faces on UK television, arrives at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London on 31 July 2024 after being charged with three counts of making indecent images of children. **PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP**

THE BBC is facing questions in the aftermath of its former star presenter Huw Edwards pleading guilty in an indecent child images scandal, particularly over the salary he received after his arrest.

Ex-news anchor Edwards, 62, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to three counts of making indecent images of children, having resigned from the BBC in April on "medical advice" six months after he

was first arrested.

The crimes occurred between December 2020 and August 2021, with Edwards receiving 41 indecent images of children over WhatsApp. Most children were aged 13 to 15 and one was between seven and nine.

The broadcaster acknowledged that it was "made aware in confidence" by the police that Edwards was arrested in November "on suspicion of serious offences".

He was already suspended from the BBC at the time, following allegations that he paid a young man for explicit images, which unfolded in July 2023. He remained on the payroll until he left the company in April this year.

BBC director Tim Davie said the broadcaster was "very shocked" at the details that came to light during the trial. — AFP

SPORTS

Vero Nika wins over Argentine Fighter by points

MYANMAR'S female fighter Vero Nika defeated Argentine fighter Florencia Greco by decision at Thai Fight in Nakhon Si Thammarat province, Thailand last night.

Greco proved to be a formidable opponent for Vero Nika, employing effective low kicks and clinch techniques.

Greco's high kicks in the final seconds of the second round and at the beginning of the third round posed significant chal-

lenges to the Myanmar fighter.

Vero Nika, who is close to finalizing a contract with Thai Fight, was determined to secure a decisive victory. Despite some periods of slower pace, Nika fought persistently and managed to outmaneuver Greco with sharp and precise strikes.

At the end of the match, Nika's ability to score effectively led to a point victory, adding another win to her Thai Fight record. — KZL



Vero Nika (left) lands her punch on Florencia Greco during the Thai Fight in Nakhon Si Thammarat province on 4 August 2024. PHOTO: TIGER MUAYTHAI

IN a thrilling encounter on the third match day of the 2024-2025 season of Myanmar National League (MNL), reigning champions Shan United tied 2-2 with Yangon United at Taunggyi Stadium.

The game saw both teams scoring twice each, with Shan United extending their unbeaten run to 61 matches despite the draw. Yangon United demonstrated solid form



Yangon United goalkeeper Pyae Phyo Aung and defender Thurein Soe block Shan United striker Rintaro's header during the Myanmar National League match played at Taunggyi Stadium on 4 August 2024. PHOTO: THAW GYI

MNL: Defending champion Shan share points with Yangon

on the road, taking a 2-0 lead in the first half but were unable to maintain their advantage as they conceded two goals in the second half. Shan United struggled initially, with Yangon United applying early pressure. Yangon United took the lead in the 14th minute with a header from Kaung Sithu. Shan United responded strongly, with Kyaw Phyo Wai scoring their second goal in the 26th minute.

In the second half, Shan United intensified their attack.

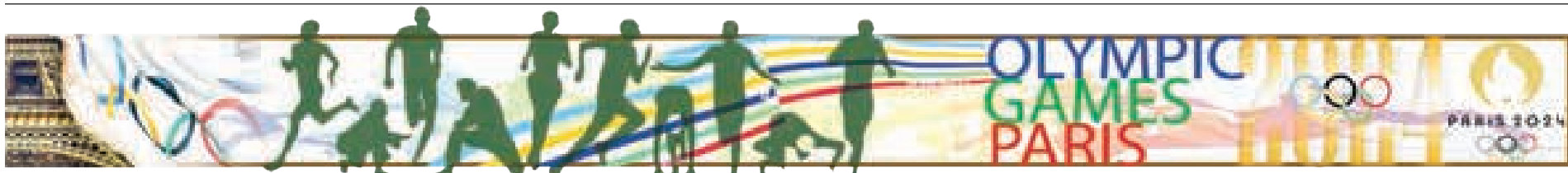
Mark Sekyi scored their first goal from a penalty in the 47th minute. Following this, Shan United increased their efforts and, in the 71st minute, Mark Saki scored again from a corner, securing the draw. Mark Sekyi was named Man of the Match for his efforts.

Following this draw, Shan United now leads the table with 13 points from five matches, while Yangon United holds 11 points from their five games.

In another fixture at Thuwunna YTC, Maha United and

Dagon Port also ended 3-3. Dagon Port's goals came from Mogu at 25th and 45th +1 minutes and Aye Min Thu at 73rd minute. Maha United's goals were scored by Win Ko Thein at 61st minute, Thet Naing at 71st minute and Patrick at 79th minute. Maha United currently has 7 points, while Dagon Port has four.

The fifth MNL match day continues today as Thitsar Arman will face Ayeyawady United at Yangon United Sports Complex. — TWA/KZL



500,000 turned out for Paris Olympics cycling road race

AROUND 500,000 people lined the streets of Paris during the cycling road race, organisers said Sunday, in what is seen as further evidence of growing popular support for the Games.

The road race on Saturday saw cyclists speed through some of the most picturesque streets of the capital, including the famous Montmartre hill, while the start and finish line was in



Gold medallist Remco Evenepoel racing past the Sacre Coeur cathedral during the men's cycling road race. PHOTO: AFP

front of the Eiffel Tower.

A photograph of thousands of supporters lining the sweeping Rue Lepic in Montmartre has been compared on social media to a famous painting of popular fervour in 1878 by watercolour master Claude Monet.

"I don't know if it is an Olympic record but there were 500,000 people along the route," Paris 2024 spokeswoman Anne Descamps told reporters at a daily briefing on Sunday, citing figures from the Paris police department.

A strong start from France in the Games — the host country lies third in the medals table — coupled with national pride in seeing Paris put on a show for the rest of the world are seen as fuelling enthusiasm for the Olympics. — AFP



China-Thailand joint lab for climate, marine ecosystem model of int'l marine cooperation

Established in June 2013 in Phuket, the laboratory serves as the first joint marine research facility between the two nations.

THAILAND and China have many consensuses and cooperation in marine conservation and disaster prevention, especially the establishment of the China-Thailand Joint Laboratory for Climate and Marine Ecosystems, which has become a model of international marine cooperation, Thai marine experts told Xinhua.

Tipamat Upanoi, director of Phuket Marine Biological Center, said during the interview that their center has achieved a series of results in cooperation with its Chinese counterparts in the marine field in recent years, one of which is the establishment of China-Thailand Joint Laboratory, providing a platform for marine cooperation between the two countries.

The China-Thailand Joint Laboratory for Climate and Marine Ecosystems was officially inaugurated in Phuket, Thailand in June 2013. As the first joint marine research facility between the two countries, the laboratory is operated by the First Institute of Oceanography, the Ministry of Natural Resources of China and the Phuket Marine Biological Center of Thailand.



Visitors tour the aquarium in Thailand's Phuket Marine Biological Center on 23 July 2024 in Phuket, Thailand. **PHOTO: SUN WEITONG/XINHA**

"Protecting marine ecology is a global task that requires joint efforts from all countries," said Chalermrat Sangmanee, a fishery biologist from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources Thailand, who is also the Thai director of the China-Thailand Joint Laboratory.

Chalermrat said both Thailand

and China share a common view on jointly protecting the ocean, which is the main reason for the two sides to set up a joint laboratory, aiming to build a platform for cooperation in the marine field and promote marine ecological environment protection and sustainable development of marine resources. — Xinhua

DECARBONIZATION IN ASIA

Japan mulls Asia zero emission forum

JAPAN is considering holding the second summit of the Asia Zero Emission Community, a multilateral forum focused on decarbonization efforts in Southeast Asia, in Laos in October when leaders from ASEAN and its partner countries gather for a series of meetings, a government source said Sunday. Japan aims to reach an agreement with other AZEC participants — nine members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Australia — at the contemplated summit to establish a detailed plan for accelerating decarbonization in Asia over the next decade, according to source.

The first summit of the forum, an initiative proposed by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, was held in Tokyo in December 2023, following a ministerial meeting in the Japanese capital the previous March.

Japan hopes to use AZEC to encourage investment in the market for products and technologies aimed at reducing carbon emissions in Southeast Asian countries dependent on fossil fuels for their energy needs. — Kyodo

Indian Air Force Commander chosen for space mission

ISRO has partnered with NASA and Axiom Space Inc for the Axiom-4 mission, with Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair assigned as the prime and backup Mission Pilots, respectively.



Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has been chosen as the prime Mission Pilot for the Axiom-4 mission. **ILLUSTRATION: ISRO/ANI**

INDIAN Air Force Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla has been selected as the prime astronaut for the upcoming Indo-US mission to the International Space Station (ISS), the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has announced.

A joint statement signed between India and the US during the official state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2023 envisioned a joint ISRO-NASA effort to the ISS.

Towards the goal of mounting a joint ISRO-NASA effort, the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) of ISRO has entered into a Space Flight Agreement (SFA) with NASA-identified service provider Axiom Space Inc, USA for its upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the ISS, the Indian space agency said on Friday. A

National Mission Assignment Board has recommended two Gaganyatris as prime and backup Mission Pilot for this mission. These include Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (Prime) and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair (Backup).

"The assigned crewmembers will be finally approved to fly to the International Space Station by the Multilateral Crew Operations Panel (MCOP)," ISRO statement read. The recommended Gaganyatris will commence their training for the mission from the first week of August, ISRO said.

During the mission, the Gaganyatri will undertake selected scientific research and technology demonstration experiments on board the ISS as well as engage in space outreach activities. — ANI