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By **Dr Dipesh Shah** **PAGE 8-9**

CBM to inject US\$100M into fuel oil sector

CENTRAL BANK of Myanmar (CBM) planned to contribute US\$100 million towards the fuel oil sector, according to its notification issued on 14 August.

CBM announced on 9 August that it would sell \$6 million, five million yuan, and 10 million baht in edible oil, fuel oil, and pharmaceutical sectors through online forex trading platforms in the coming weeks.

CBM sold \$5 million and five million yuan for fuel oil, edible oil and pharmaceutical sectors on 2 August, after selling 69 million baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medical devices on 1 August.

CBM injected \$15.4 million and five million yuan into the foreign exchange market in July with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and stopping the currency devaluation. 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



Ancient pre-Bronze and Iron Age earthen utensils donated to Archaeology Department.

MoRAC rewards collector for transferring 28 ancient utensils



This photo shows an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay branch) providing a reward and certificate of honour to a collector for transferring 28 ancient utensils to the department on 13 August 2024.

The Department of Archaeology and the National Museum (Mandalay branch) under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture reported that a reward and certificate of honour were given to a hobby collector who transferred 28 ancient utensils dating back to the Bronze and Iron Ages, to the department on 13 August.

U Bo Naing Win from Myintha Village, Kyahnyut Village-tract, Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region, transferred two glass rings and 26 earthen vases used by society during the rise of the Bronze and Iron Ages to the department. The department rewarded him with K506,000. The director in charge of the Mandalay branch presented the award on behalf of the department director-general.

“Mandalay Region is rich in cultural heritage from all ages, making it essential for citizens to participate in preserving these ancient cultural assets to ensure they do not disappear. It is also important for the

people to be involved in preserving this heritage. The State is lavishly rewarding antique collectors who come forward and contribute their items,” said U Pauk Pauk, a consultant from the Mandalay branch of the Department of Archaeology and the National Museum.

The department regards individuals who hand over goldware, silverware, and other antiques as beneficiaries and rewards them. The transferred items are evaluated based on their original value, current market price, intrinsic value, and historical significance. The inspection team considers the type of material used, the level of craftsmanship, and the historical context in their evaluation.

The department distinguishes between periods from the Stone Age to the colonial period in order to award additional rewards: 50 to 100 per cent for the period of the item, 30 to 80 per cent for the craftsmanship of the period, and 40 to 80 per cent for the item's additional value. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed U Zaw Min Aung, Director-General of the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union, as Director-General of the Office of the Chief Justice of the Union from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

142nd Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium 2024 successfully completes

THE 142nd Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium 2024 continued the event yesterday morning for final day at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Starting in the morning, local and foreign traders inspected the rest of the pearl lots displayed for sale inside the hall. Then, they placed proposed price lists of Tender 5 with pearl lots numbered from 461 to 580 and Tender 6 with pearl lots numbered from 581 to 700 into the respective tender boxes.

In the afternoon, Patron of the Myanmar Gems Emporium Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi was also present at the event.

Afterwards, emporium officials announced that 196 pearl lots were sold after

checking the proposed prices of the 240 pearl lots from Tenders 5 and 6. In addition, a total of 14 lots of pearl which were failed to win the tender proposals from Tender 1 to Tender 5, and as such, a total of 210 pearl lots were sold yesterday.

The emporium was held from 12 to 15 August. The 142nd Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium was successfully held by selling 177 out of 230 pearl lots on the second day, 184 out of 230 pearl lots on the third day and 196 out of 240 pearl lots on the fourth day in addition to 14 more pearl lots, respectively, for both local and foreign merchants with the open tender system under the management of Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium Committee. — MNA/TRKM



The final day of the 142nd Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium 2024 in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing sees off the Political Bureau Member of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China yesterday.

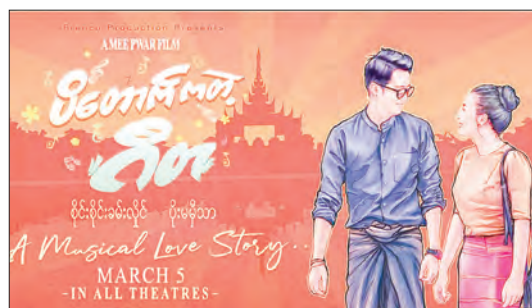
Political Bureau Member of CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister departs Nay Pyi Taw

MEMBER of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China HE Mr Wang Yi and the delegation left Nay Pyi Taw on a special plane yesterday morning.

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China HE Mr Wang Yi and his delegation were seen off by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry 2 at the

State Administration Council Chairman's Office, Ambassador-designate Ms Ma Jia of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. — MNA/TS

Filmmakers to face copyright requirements for theme songs



Posters showcase the Myanmar series 'Tay Tasay (Musical Ghost)' and the film 'Patauk Katae Gita' which include most theme songs.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), it is now necessary to provide proof of copyright ownership or licensing for any theme songs used in their movies or TV series.

It is implementing a new copyright law for theme music in films and TV series. That means filmmakers must now obtain copyright permissions before using any theme songs in their productions.

“We are applying a new copyright system

for theme music on 15 August. That means any serials, movies, commercials, or music videos submitted for censorship after that date must have obtained the necessary copyright permissions for their theme songs beforehand,” MMPO Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay said.

Therefore, producers are required to contact the Myanmar Music Association (Central) to secure the rights for theme songs that will be used in their series or films. — ASH/TRKM

DPM MoFA Union Minister leaves for Thailand to attend 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, left for Thailand yesterday to attend the 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in

Chiang Mai. The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe is seen at the Yangon International Airport yesterday before departing for Thailand.

Myanmar's POEA receives award from 2024 EPS Conference

AMBASSADOR of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea U Thant Sin attended the 20th Anniversary of the Implementation of Employment Permit System (EPS) and 2024 EPS Conference and the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) of Myanmar received an award, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The 20th Anniversary of the Implementation of Employment Permit System (EPS) was convened at the Lotte Hotel (Jamsil) on 12 August. Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea U Thant Sin and ambassadors from 17 EPS member states that are sending workers to the Republic of Korea attended the event.

During the event, U Thant Sin highlighted the importance of providing more knowledge-sharing programmes for employers and employees to ensure workplace safety. In his speech, the ambassador also explained that the Myanmar Embassy is regularly providing information on occupational safety and informing the workers of abiding by rules and regulations of the host country. Moreover, the ambassador discussed that the



Ambassador U Thant Sin attends the event.

newly arrived EPS workers are welcomed by Labour Attache at the airport, and they are briefed and given awareness measures at workplace. The ambassador added that the Myanmar Embassy is constantly cooperating with Korea employers to fulfil the Myanmar workers' requirements.

The conference was co-chaired by Mr Lee Jung-Sik, Minister of Employment and Labour of the Republic of Korea and Mr Lee Woo Young, President of Human Resources Development of Korea.

In the opening speech, Minister Lee Jung-Sik acknowledged that the EPS

system has been successfully implemented in collaboration with labour sending countries for 20 years. In addition, Mr Lee reaffirmed to increase the recruitment of foreign workers in manufacturing sector and emphasized to ensure equal opportunities and rights for foreign workers in order to meet the current situation of labour demand in Korea.

On the occasion, awards were given to the respective national labour-sending agencies, and Chairman of the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) of Myanmar received an award. — ASH/TMT



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin poses for the group photo session at the meeting in Laos.

Myanmar delegation arrives back after ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin attended the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting and related meetings in Vientiane, Laos, on 12 and 13 August and arrived back in Yangon yesterday.

On the first day of the meeting, the Union minister highlighted the prioritized sectors of Laos that play crucial roles in essential infrastructure development, cooperation and resilience of ASEAN and expressed full support for priorities and drafting of the 2025 ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Post-2025 Strategic Plan.

During the ASCC Council High-Level Interface with ASCC

Eminent Persons for the Development of the ASCC Post-2025 Strategic Plan, the Union minister mentioned the discussions of eminent persons that guarantee sustainable development and uplift the socioeconomic status of people.

On the second day of the meeting, the Union minister discussed ASCC programmes, including strategic wisdom, adaptability, and sector-wise cooperation.

The Union minister met the staff of the Myanmar Embassy in Vientiane on 14 August and urged them to make efforts for the interests of religion and people showing loyalty to the country and citizens. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL



Myanmar marks World Breastfeeding Week 2024 and Nutrition Promotion Week

THE Ministry of Health held a commemorative event for World Breastfeeding Week 2024 and Nutrition Promotion Week at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win said this year's theme

is "Closing the Gap; Breastfeeding Support for All" and that all should work together to ensure better health conditions and nutrition for children and women.

He then mentioned the social affairs objectives of the State Administration Council and presented awards to students who won

prizes in basic education high and middle-school-level essay competitions.

He also observed the displayed mini booths, feeding nutritional Vitamin A to pre-primary children and giving vitamins and supplements to expectant mothers. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win (R) is pictured at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister receives Chinese Consul-General

MANDALAY Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung received Ms Gao Ping, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Mandalay, at the Mandalay Region government office yesterday.

They cordially discussed

measures of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries and further enhancement of the existing "Pauk-Phaw" relations based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

They then exchanged

gifts.

Relevant officials of the Mandalay Region government and the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Mandalay were also present at the event. — MNA/KTZH



The commemorative group photo at the meeting between Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung and Chinese Consul-General in Mandalay Ms Gao Ping yesterday.

Myanmar's first airline service centre by MAI launches



Myanmar's first airline service centre, Shoppe by MAI, is unveiled at the MAI office.

SHOPPE by MAI, Myanmar's first airline service centre, was launched in Yangon yesterday.

The launch was held at the International Business Centre (IBC) in Hlaing Township, Yangon. Shoppe by MAI is a one-stop service centre that can provide customers with all the airline services.

Located at IBC, the beautiful modern office design will give customers comfort and provide a one-stop service for airlines.

Shoppe by MAI is a combi-

nation of comfort and innovation, and it is not an ordinary service centre, but it will fulfil the needs of travelling and daily life. It will feature MAI's partners UAB Bank and Miracle Café and Lounge, deal with customers' enquiries and offer all necessary services.

Customers can buy MAI's and Mingalar's tickets, other services and souvenirs, plus UAB's financial services while relaxing at the Miracle Café and Lounge.

— Htet Oo Maung/ZS



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 Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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NATIONAL

Bomb blast derails track on Yangon-Mandalay railway in Pyu Tsp



Photos (left & right) show The RGC 89 rail vehicle derailed after a mine blast.

THE RGC89 rail vehicle, which departed for security patrol from Nyaungbintha Station of Pyu Township located on Yangon-Mandalay railway, faced mine-attack yesterday afternoon near Mile Post 132, between the telegraph pillars No

5 and 6 by the terrorists using a remote mine. The RGC-89 derailed, and thus, passenger and freight train transport was delayed.

The regional authorities and security forces rushed to the scene of the incident and

investigated the area. The Myanma Railways staff pulled up the derailed structure to re-open the railway section as quickly as possible.

Due to the explosion, three feet of the iron track in the east of the Up train railway

and three feet of the track in the west of the Down train – which is currently under upgrading project were damaged, and No 1Up Yangon-Mandalay train and No 11Up Yangon-Mandalay passenger train encountered delays on their

schedules. Likewise, No 903 Uprtrain had to wait at the Pyuntaza Station at 7:05 am. Repairing process finished in the afternoon. The railway section located between Pyu and Nyunglaybin was then reopened, and the train schedules resumed.

Since 1 February 2021, terrorist groups have been perpetrating 171 mine attacks and explosions within railway areas and stations, 79 blasts on railway bridges and station yards, and 16 instances of blazing stations and employee housings. Their terror acts are aimed at destabilizing the rule of law and endangering the safety of travellers. However, the government prioritizes maintaining smooth and comfortable travelling services for the public. — MNA/TMT

Counter-argument to false information

Security forces accused of burning 2 villages, stealing public property in Gangaw

REPORTS have emerged that security forces set fire to Lonchon Village and Magyeekhin Village in Gangaw Township, Magway Region, on 14 August, allegedly destroying three houses in the process and stealing public property using two vehicles. These claims have been circulated by malicious news media outlets, raising concerns among the public.

However, according to a statement from a security official, the valid sequence of events differs significantly. Security forces were reportedly responding to a tip-off from a resident, who indicated that PDF terrorists had gathered

near the village. The ensuing operation resulted in clashes, during which PDF members sustained injuries and fled the area. Houses in the village were then set on fire by fleeing terrorists, not by security forces.

The security official further emphasized that malicious news media fabricate the accusations of arson and stealing against the security forces to mislead the public and create fear. The official also noted that collaboration between security forces and responsible citizens successfully thwarted PDF terrorist activities.

These false allegations and propaganda are part of ongoing efforts by these malicious news



This screenshot validates misinformation.

media to distort the truth and incite panic among the people. — MNA/KZL

Fake news claims political inmates were forced

THE Tachilek News Agency Facebook page fabricated stories that prison officers and guards were oppressing political prisoners in Myaungmya on 13 August.

According to the on-the-ground inspection of the matter, there are no political prisoners in the prisons; only those who have violated any existing law are being punished.

Prisoners detained in Myaungmya Prison are managed by the responsible staff only in accordance with the prison laws and rules, and in teaching new and old prisoners about prison rules, regulations and dos and don'ts, without asking for money or beating them in their living

environment and the dormitory. In addition, the cleaning activities are done according to the laws and regulations.

While serving in prison, employees are not allowed to consume alcohol, and if they drink alcohol, they will not be permitted to enter the prison and will be punished according to the law and procedure. Prison administration officials have issued orders to ensure that staff do not collect money from prisoners for various reasons or torture them unjustly, according to prison officials.

Therefore, the report by Tachilek News Agency's Facebook page is just misinformation and fabricated to mislead the public. — Ko Phyto/TKO

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



NATIONAL



The Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

Uppatasanti Pagoda to receive whole-body gold foils

GOLD foils will continue to be offered to Uppatasanti Pagoda in August, according to the pagoda board of trustees.

Gold foils are being offered to 3,485 square feet area of the Uppatasanti Pagoda, and donors have completed a total of 2,318 square feet area, while 1,167 square feet area remains to be donated.

The third donation ceremony will be held this month, and the well-wishers are encouraged to donate one gold plate measuring one foot x one foot which weight one tical at the rate of K2.5 million.

The donors can contact 09 442252670 (Board of Trustees Office, Uppatasanti Pagoda) and can send donations to AYA PAY (Merchant ID.20044314) and KBZ PAY (ID.70240001001). — TWA/MKKS

Yangon River tide expected to reach 21.65 feet

THE Myanma Port Authority has issued a warning that the Yangon River may experience an extraordinary tide of up to 21.65 feet.

The extraordinary tide is expected to rise from about 20.44 feet to 21.65 feet from the datum between 19 and 25 August. However, in 2014-2015, the water level in the Yangon River had risen to a height of 22 feet from the datum. Therefore, there is no cause for concern, according

to the statement.

The Myanma Port Authority has informed that when the estimated tidal height of the Yangon River exceeds 20 feet from the datum, the people living near the river banks should prepare in advance.

Similarly, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued a flood warning at 14:00 hours on 15 August 2024. According to the Myanmar Standard Time

13:30 time measurement, the Sittoung River water level in Toungoo Township was more than 1.5 feet (52 centimetres) below the danger level of 19.69 feet (600 centimetres) in the town. The water of the river may reach the danger level of the city within the next two days; therefore, people living near the river bank and in low-lying areas in Toungoo Township are advised to be extra cautious. — TWA/TKO

Yangon River's water level on 15 August.



CBM seeks bid for procurement of one-year technical service

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar (CBM) called for bids from foreign firms through an open tender system to invite technical services contracting for one year at the CBM (head office) in Nay Pyi Taw and its

branches in Yangon and Mandalay.

The open tender is for procurement of technical services related to CBM/G16: Hardware Requirement for Currency Management (CMD) Appli-

cation (Server & Switch) and CBM/G20 (Lot 1): Hardware Requirement for MIS Reporting System (Server & Storage).

Tender forms are available at the Infrastructure Maintenance Section, Information and

Technology Division, Administration and Human Resources Development Department of the CBM (Yangon branch) between 14 and 23 August within office hours. The deadline to accept tender is 23 August on

the afternoon of 23 August.

Individuals can enquire about details through the Infrastructure Maintenance Section and email inframaint@cbm.gov.mm. — TWA/KK



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (head office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Labour demand surges at garment factories

LABOUR-AFFAIR activists say labour demand has been high at garment factories as a result of labour shortage.

At present, garment factories have also made vacancy announcements via Facebook pages.

“Many vacancy announcements for garment factories have been seen recently. They’ve made announcements for vacancies at factories as well as online. Most vacancies are called depending on skills. Some factories don’t pay overtime payment and other allowances,” said a labour activist.

As some workers from industrial zones went abroad, some factories have made new recruitment.

“Now, industrial zone workers went to overseas countries such as China and Thailand. In particular, skilled workers from some factories went abroad. Some factories are still able to maintain their skilled workers. Overall, the labour shortage is happening. When skilled workers are trained for years, factory owners are affected to some extent. Because it needs to take time, maybe a year, two or three years, to train newcomers,” he said.

Most workers went to foreign countries illegally, and some who have contacts are doing well, but some are getting into trouble, he said, urging to approach legal migration only. — MT/ZS

Mon State’s salt production aims for exports beyond self-sufficiency

MON State’s salt output exceeded domestic consumption, so the Department of Consumer Affairs is endeavouring to penetrate foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency.

Salt production season begins around December, halts in April, sometimes due to heavy rain and ends in May. Salt farming businesses are found in Thanbyuzayat, Ye and Paung townships in Mon State.

Salt from Mon State is distributed to Mon State, Kayin State, Taninthayi Region and Mandalay Region. Salt export will help create jobs for locals and generate foreign earnings.

There were foreign purchase proposals for coarse salt produced by Mon State in previous years.

Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the last week of September 2022 with a company from the Republic of Korea for the exportation of sun-dried coarse salt from Mon State, and a container loaded with 20 tonnes of salt was exported to ROK on a trial basis. Efforts are being undertaken to place orders in more markets.

Twenty tonnes of coarse salt from Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State,

were exported to Japan on a trial basis in August 2022 as well.

Mon State, the second largest producer in Myanmar, produces over 40,000 tonnes of sun-dried salt yearly, including magnesium chloride (MgCl₂), iodized salt (I₂) and table salt (NaCl). There are 12 fine and coarse salt processing factories in the state.

In the 2023-2024 salt production season, there were 90 salt producers in Mon State, covering 4,700 acres. The salt output was expected to reach 47,000 tonnes, yet heavy rainfall reduced the yield to 45,000 tonnes. — NN/KK



A farm worker prepares for harvesting salt.



MGMA to conduct Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course Batch 242

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will offer a Basic Sewing Machine Operator Training Course (Batch 242) from 26 August to 13 September 2024 at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC).

The course will provide practical and technical approaches to sewing machines, different sewing methods, labour laws and practices.

This training will also help those hunting jobs from regions outside Yangon connect with the garment factories with a view to creating job opportunities.

Those who wish to attend the training can enrol through the contact numbers of MGHRDC at 09 940858350, 09 450723262, 09 9403912570, 09 784085794 and 09952802635. — NN/KK

Detached houses selling well in Dagon Myothit (North)

SEPARATE houses are sold in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, a part of Yangon development, according to the sources in the real estate market.

Currently, prices and transactions seem to be good in Dagon Myothit (North).

“In North Dagon, there are transactions at its own prices. Now, the price has increased a little. Some property owners refused to sell their separate houses. Only land plots without a house sell well in Dagon Myothit (North). At present, plots with separate houses are also selling at their own pace,” said an official from the Kyaw Property Compa-

ny. Moreover, detached houses in Bahan township are also selling well.

“As in other townships, we also have transactions in Bahan township — especially detached houses in Bahan Golden Valley. Better houses sell better. They are land plots with a house. And separate houses in Yankin township are bought,” he said.

In the realty market in Yangon Region, there are townships that are not selling usually this year, but there are also townships that are selling well. The real estate market varies by location and township, said the agents. — Thit Taw/ZN

OPINION

Lend a helping hand to people with disabilities

MYANMAR'S constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens, including those with disabilities. It emphasizes that people with disabilities can showcase their talents and skills in various sectors, just like their able-bodied counterparts. In Myanmar society, discrimination against people with disabilities is uncommon, and there is a strong tradition of lending a helping hand to those in need. This supportive attitude is deeply rooted in the teachings of various religions, fostering a culture of peaceful coexistence among people of different faiths.

On 18 March 2024, Myanmar reconstituted the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to strengthen the protection and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities.

Myanmar society does not set aside people with disabilities. On the other hand, eminent persons with disabilities are serving the interests of the nation and the nationals. As all Myanmar people have been living in the country through thick and thin, sharing the same future, anybody should not consider discrimination against people with disabilities and needs to give a helping hand to those persons with compassion.

Furthermore, the government is planning to continue providing cash assistance to registered people with disabilities. Additionally, 29 special private schools and units are being established nationwide to offer educational opportunities for children with disabilities. These schools are crucial for the overall development of these children. The government, along with private charitable organizations, is encouraged to support these special schools to ensure they have the resources needed to fulfil their mission.

Myanmar is making significant strides in supporting people with disabilities through legal frameworks, strategic planning, and the establishment of special educational institutions. The collective efforts of government bodies, organizations, and society at large are essential in ensuring that people with disabilities have equal opportunities to thrive in all aspects of life.

Myanmar society does not set aside people with disabilities. On the other hand, eminent persons with disabilities are serving the interests of the nation and the nationals. As all Myanmar people have been living in the country through thick and thin, sharing the same future, anybody should not consider discrimination against people with disabilities and needs to give a helping hand to those persons with compassion.

GIFT IFSC: Emerging as a preferred new age global financial centre

THE Government of India implemented a major financial sector reform by establishing the country's maiden International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat. The IFSC has been developed as a unique international financial jurisdiction within on-shore India, which has been designated as a non-resident zone under the Foreign Exchange Management (FEM) Act. This special status enables financial transactions to be carried out in any of the fifteen foreign currencies notified, including USD, GBP, Euro and Yen.

The IFSC has been set up with two primary objectives, namely: —

- Onshoring India-centric international financial services business, and,
- Serve as a preferred gateway for channelizing global capital flows into and out of the country.

Over the last few years, GIFT IFSC has made remarkable progress in positioning itself as a 'New Age Global Financial Centre,' providing an ideal platform for the global financial services industry to integrate more efficiently with the Indian economy. A key landmark in IFSC's journey so far has been the establishment

of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) as a unified statutory body for the development and regulation of IFSCs in India. Since October 2020, IFSCA has assumed its statutory powers and has notified over 29 regulations and more than 14 frameworks encompassing the entire spectrum of financial services, including banking, capital markets, insurance, the fund industry, fintech, aircraft leasing, ship leasing, and global corporate treasury centres. The Government endeavours to develop GIFT IFSC as an internationally recognized financial centre with trusted business regulations, competitive tax regime and ease of doing business.

Today, the GIFT IFSC initiative is a testament to India's firm resolve to undertake bold and transformative reforms in the financial sector. This ambitious project is envisaged to catalyze global capital flows into the country and accelerate the integration of the Indian economy with the global financial ecosystem. As of July 2024, more than 600+ entities across banks, capital markets, insurance, fintech, aircraft leasing, ship leasing, bullion exchange, etc., have been registered with the IFSCA. The financial service market is gaining momentum with the healthy and



growing participation of global and domestic financial services institutions. The business growth in some of the key sectors is highlighted below:

Banking Sector: The Banking ecosystem in GIFT IFSC is rapidly evolving with a healthy mix of foreign and domestic banks, primarily catering to the

foreign currency borrowing requirements of Indian corporates and public sector enterprises through external commercial borrowing, trade finance, etc. Transactions under these heads, previously booked from overseas financial centres, are now being booked out of GIFT IFSC. As of March 2024, the total asset size

of IFSC Banking Units (IBUs) crossed USD 60 billion, and the cumulative value of transactions undertaken by IBUs crossed USD 795 billion.

Fund Industry: The growth of a robust fund industry in GIFT IFSC has a transformative impact in catalyzing global capital inflows into India, including for

the start-up ecosystem. Previously, the pooling of international capital for investments in India was structured through funds (private equity, venture capital, hedge funds, etc.) set up in offshore jurisdictions. Now, with enabling regulations, a competitive tax regime, and beneficial cost of operations, GIFT IFSC is emerging as a preferred jurisdiction for the pooling of global capital by foreign and Indian fund managers. In the last three years, there has been rapid growth in Fund Management Entities (FMEs) and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) registered with IFSCA. The cumulative FMEs and funds registered rose from 39 and 33 in September 2022 to 114 and 120, respectively, in March 2024.

Aircraft Leasing: The aviation industry in India is on the cusp of unprecedented growth, with a strong order book of more than 1,500+ aircraft placed by Indian airlines and a projected demand for over 2,200 aircraft by 2042. Currently, most aircraft operated by Indian airlines are leased from offshore lessors that have access to competitive capital costs. The aircraft leasing and financing business, the most profitable segment in the aviation

By Dr Dipesh Shah

value chain, was entirely residing in foreign jurisdictions. Recognizing the immense potential of aircraft leasing and financing business, IFSCA introduced the enabling leasing framework, and the Government supported the endeavour by providing several tax incentives. In three years, green shoots have been visible in IFSC, and more than 28 aircraft lessors have already been registered. These have leased more than 120+ aviation assets, including commercial aircraft, helicopters, aircraft engines and ground support equipment.

Foreign universities initiative: The IFSC, being an offshore jurisdiction, is uniquely positioned to become an 'International Higher Education Hub' by attracting top-quality international universities that are keen on exploring India for its talent and demographic profile. IFSCA achieved a significant milestone in FY24 when Australia's Deakin University became the first foreign university to be granted final registration for their international branch campus in GIFT IFSC under IFSCA (setting up and operation of international branch campus and offshore education centres) Regulation, 2022.

University of Wollongong of Australia became the second foreign university to receive in-principal approval for their international branch campus in GIFT IFSC.

Global In-House Centres: Globally, information technology and digital practices have facilitated the cross-border flow of services such as accounting, auditing, taxation, and book-keeping and have fuelled the growth of Global In-House Centres (GIC). GIFT IFSC is uniquely positioned to offer such services to global clients. A leading US institution, Bank of America, has already set up a large GIC unit in GIFT IFSC, which provides in-house support services to the bank's global operations. Several other international firms are now looking at the GIC opportunity in GIFT IFSC.

In the future, GIFT IFSC is slated to play a significant role in achieving the vision of a developed India@2047.

Dr Dipesh Shah is Executive Director (Development) at International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), GIFT City

(Views expressed in the article belong solely to the author).

Could awake kidney transplants become the norm?

This approach, pioneered by Dr Satish Nadig, offers a promising shift in kidney transplantation practices, potentially enhancing recovery and reducing complications associated with general anesthesia.

“I saw everything,” says 74-year-old Harry Stackhouse from Illinois, who was awake during his recent kidney transplant. He felt no pain as he chatted with doctors, examined the donor organ, and watched the surgical team staple him back up.

Stackhouse was discharged just 36 hours after the procedure at Northwestern Medicine, which aims to make transplants without risky general anesthesia commonplace.

Performed in a little over an hour on 15 July, this was the second such surgery led by Satish Nadig, director of the Chicago-based hospital system's Comprehensive Transplant Centre. He has since carried out a third.

“We're at an inflection point in transplantation today in being able to use the technologies that we have around us to really push us into this next era,” Nadig told AFP.

It may sound off-putting or even scary, but the medical benefits of using a spinal anesthetic for kidney transplants — similar to what's already done during cesarean sections — are well established. General anesthesia requires intubation, which can damage the vocal cords, delay bowel function, and cause “brain fog” that persists, particularly in older patients.

But while the medical literature mentions a smattering of awake kidney transplants going back decades across several countries, it's

never been fully embraced.

This year marks only the 70th anniversary of the first successful live donor human kidney transplant, Nadig points out, and there's been reluctance to challenge the status quo.

“However, now the outcomes for kidney transplantation are fantastic and it's time that we question the paradigms that we have historically stuck to.”

Life restoring

Stackhouse, a father-of-six who worked as a painter and decorator, says he first fell ill in December 2019 with flu-like symptoms, which worsened to the point he could barely walk.

A few months later he ended up in the emergency room, where he learned he not only had Covid-19 during the most dangerous early phase of the pandemic, but one of his kidneys had failed and the other was functioning at only two percent.

He resigned himself to thrice-weekly dialysis sessions, but as the ports began failing and his veins started closing up, his daughter Trewaunda urged him to consider a transplant, offering to get herself tested as a donor.

Initially reluctant to “intrude” on his children's lives, Stackhouse finally agreed.

After meeting with Nadig and learning about the AWAKE Kidney Program, which



The surgery, performed using a spinal anesthetic rather than general anesthesia, allowed Stackhouse to be discharged just 36 hours later, a significant improvement over the typical recovery time. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

uses accelerated surgery without general anesthesia in kidney transplantation, he decided to go ahead with the procedure.

“Believe it or not, I didn't feel a thing — it was amazing,” Stackhouse told AFP.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

MoL urges migrant workers to register and obtain OWIC

THE Department of Labour has advised that everyone who is going to work abroad must register as an overseas worker with the Ministry of Labour and obtain an Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC) before going abroad.

Those who are going to work abroad will need to apply for a passport for job (PJ) type and must register with the ministry before leaving Myanmar.

Now, PV (Passport for Visit) holders, supposed to visit foreign countries with a visa, are applying for employment visas, not for visiting and working abroad. If any problems arise abroad, they are facing difficulties in solving issues, the ministry said.

When PV holders are prohibited at the departing airports and border gates, they can suffer unnecessary losses, and to avoid them, they need to apply for PJ from the very



This photo shows the issuance of an Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC) at the Yangon Region Office of the Department of Labour at 8th-Mile, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, in 2023.

beginning in accordance with the procedures, register as overseas workers and acquire OWIC for official departure.

Passport types are passport for visit (PV), passport for job (PJ), passport for education (PE), passport for business (PB), passport for religion (PR), passport for dependent (PT) and passport for seaman (PS), it said.

Section 9(a) of the law

states that overseas employment seekers shall register themselves as overseas employment seekers at the department for the type of overseas employment for which the department requires compulsory registration, and section 10(b) states that “certificates of registration must be issued to them before leaving for abroad, the ministry said. — MT/ZN



This photo shows some inundated paddy fields.

Interest-free paddy seedlings and fertilizer for flood-affected fields

A plan to provide interest-free paddy seedlings and fertilizer has been arranged for paddy fields that are required to re-grow due to being flooded, said Myanmar Rice Federation President U Ye Min Aung.

There was heavy rain due to climate change, leaving nearly 1 million acres of rain-fed paddy plantation flooded. Seedlings are required to re-grow after they get damaged by floods; therefore, necessary assistance has been planned by both the government and MRF, he said.

“Paddy is a crop with resilience of flood to some extent. It doesn’t need to do much in some areas where water drops. However, seedling fields need to be re-grown if they get damaged by floods. To fix it, the government provides the aid that is needed, and at the same time, rice millers, companies, and our MRF have also planned to give necessary assistance. We have prepared to provide interest-free financial assistance for seeds and fertilizers if there are submissions, along with proper statistics. We will give free, just like we donate to some areas that have been in a very tough situation. We will provide help by properly scrutinizing,” he said.

Scrutiny has been underway on submissions for a list of paddy fields that need to be re-grown, he said. Not all flooded paddy fields are likely to get damaged, and he added that he can save them by giving nutrients and fertilizers if they are not infected. — MT/ZS

Crackdown on illegal goods sees seizure of foodstuffs, vehicles

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to curb illegal trade continue with effective law enforcement measures. On 13 August, inspection teams led by the Customs Department seized various undeclared goods, including China-made ceramic tiles (913.92 square metres), marble tiles (2,457.60 square metres), and three other types of goods from six containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. Additionally, at Yangon International Airport, customs officials confiscated 29 boxes of Synergy dietary supplement, and four units of supermicro refurbish server parts from the luggage of two passengers, valued at an estimated K18,060,000. Legal action is prosecuted in accordance with Customs procedures.

On the same day, under the management of the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force, authorities at

the Thanlwin Bridge checkpoint apprehended a vehicle travelling from Thamanya to Yangon. The car was found to be carrying 190 bottles of China-made alcohol yeast powder, 30 bags of Thai-made Nutrimix animal feed, and 900 packs of bubble wrap, valued at K28,250,000, without proper documentation. Legal proceedings are underway as per Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 13 August, the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force intercepted an unregistered Honda Partner near Hinthada Township’s North Ooyin Ward, seizing the car, valued at K22,000,000, under the Export-Import Law.

Moreover, on the same day, the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized a Hino truck carrying 0.374 tonne of illegal timber in Setoktara Township, Minbu District, with an estimated value



Photos show confiscated illegal goods in states and regions.

of K17 million. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Additionally, on 13 August, in Shan State, the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections near the Kengphong checkpoint, Kentung, seizing a Shwe Nyi Ko truck carrying illegal goods valued at K80 million. The confiscated items were processed according to Customs procedures.

In Bago Region, on the same day, two Toyota Hilux vehi-

cles were seized near Phayagyi Junction, carrying undeclared goods, including 40 jerrycans of Malaysian palm oil (18 litres each) and 120 bottles of Thai vegetable oil (one litre each). Additionally, 1.696 tonnes of illegal teak and 1.652 tonnes of timbers were confiscated, valued at K46,277,544, in Toungoo District on 13 August.

Likewise, various goods, including 60 bottles of Gold Label whisky and 192 bottles of Red Label whisky from Scotland, as

well as five other types of goods, were seized from a vehicle near 73rd Street, Mandalay, on 14 August, estimated at K42,180,000. In another case, a Scania bus was intercepted carrying various goods valued at K50,000,000.

In total, 19 cases involving illegal goods, with an estimated value of K560,159,921, were recorded on 13 and 14 August, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. Legal action was pursued in all cases. — MNA/KZL

Fearing Iran attack, Israeli museum hides top artworks

Notable works by artists like Pablo Picasso and Gustav Klimt were among those relocated after the 7 October attack by Hamas, which sparked the ongoing Gaza war.



The Tel Aviv Museum of Art. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

AN Israeli museum that hid some of its most valuable artworks after the 7 October attack has now stashed away even more, fearing a strike by Iran.

Paintings by Pablo Picasso and Gustav Klimt are among the treasures moved by Tel Aviv Museum of Art to the “safe”

— a secured basement meant to shield them from missiles. Museum staff moved many of the masterpieces at the start of the Gaza war, which was triggered by the Palestinian group Hamas’s unprecedented attack on Israeli soil on 7 October.

Now, as Israel braces itself for a threatened bombardment

by Iran and its proxies, including Lebanon’s Hezbollah, they have moved other pieces that were at risk.

It has left some galleries vacant, with blank walls decorated only with empty hooks and the small, printed descriptions for the artworks that previously hung there. — AFP

Indian YouTuber arrested after peacock curry video



The Indian peacock, notable for its vibrant colours, holds significant cultural importance in India, and its population has declined due to urbanization and habitat loss, leading to stringent wildlife protection laws. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

AN Indian would-be social media star has been arrested and detained after outrage by his video of cooking and eating the country’s protected national

bird, a peacock, police said.

Police said that Kodam Pranay Kumar was detained Monday and sent to jail after “other videos in his mobile

phone confirmed” that the bird he’d cooked for his curry dish was indeed a peacock.

The colourful birds are protected under stringent wildlife laws.

“He is now in jail on 14 days remand under the Wildlife Protection Act and now the court would decide whether he’d remain inside or get a bail,” Akhil Mahajan, police superintendent in southern state of Telangana told AFP.

Investigators are also trying to ascertain how and where Kumar managed to get a peacock for the video, which has since been removed from his channel. The video showed him cooking peacock curry, “a stunt allegedly pulled to attract more views”, The Times of India reported. — AFP

Meth found in sweets handed out by New Zealand charity

FOOD parcels dished out by a New Zealand charity unknowingly contained pineapple sweets laced with potentially lethal amounts of methamphetamine, police said Wednesday.

The charity Auckland City Mission raised the alarm after discovering a batch of the sweets was contaminated with the highly addictive illegal drug, police said.

“An investigation is under way and police are treating the matter as a priority given the risk to the public.”

The New Zealand Drug Foundation said a test sample of an innocuous-looking piece

of white candy in a bright yellow wrapper indicated methamphetamine.

Foundation spokeswoman Sarah Helm said the tested sweet contained approximately three grams of meth — up to 300 times greater than the common dose taken by users.

“Swallowing that much methamphetamine is extremely dangerous and could result in death.”

Helm urged people who had received any confectionaries from the Auckland charity not to consume them.

“We don’t know how widespread it is.” — AFP



People look at the electric motorbikes during the launch of an e-bike project in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, on 5 July 2023. PHOTO: JOY NABUKEWA/XINHUA

Africa embraces green transport with rapid adoption of e-bikes

IN Kenya’s capital Nairobi, motorcycles have become an essential choice for residents due to their flexibility, convenience and affordability, with an increasing number of electric models on the roads.

Driven by growing environmental awareness and technological advancements, many African countries have begun actively promoting electric motorcycles in recent years to reduce pollution and shift towards sustainable transportation.

In Kenya’s capital Nairobi, motorcycles have become an

essential choice for residents due to their flexibility, convenience and affordability, with an increasing number of electric models on the roads.

Driven by growing environmental awareness and technological advancements, many African countries have begun actively promoting electric motorcycles in recent years to reduce pollution and shift towards sustainable transport. With the development of online motorcycle taxi services, the African motorcycle market is experiencing significant growth. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Fitch downgrades Israel citing war in Gaza

US credit rating agency Fitch has downgraded Israel a notch, warning that its ongoing conflict against Hamas in Gaza could last “well into 2025” and weigh on economic activity.

Fitch lowered Israel’s rating from “A+” to “A”.

“The conflict in Gaza could last well into 2025 and there are risks of it broadening to other fronts,” Fitch said in a note on Monday.

“In addition to human losses, it could result in significant additional military spending, destruction of infrastructure and more sustained damage to economic activity and investment, leading to a further deterioration of Israel’s credit metrics.”

Public finances have been hit, with Israel projected to run a budget deficit this year, Fitch said.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted the economy is “solid and functioning well”.

“The lowering of the rating is

The downgrade reflects concerns that the ongoing conflict with Hamas in Gaza might continue into 2025, potentially causing significant economic strain.



The ongoing war has significantly impacted tourism, leading to decreased visitor numbers and economic losses for regions that once thrived on travel and hospitality. Aerial view of the harbour and old town of Acre, Israel. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

a consequence of Israel’s dealing with a multi-arena war that was imposed on it,” it said in a statement Tuesday.

“The rating will go up again when we win – and we will indeed win.” International mediators have invited Israel and Hamas to resume negotiations this week on a ceasefire and hostage release deal, an invitation which Israel has accepted.

Hamas has urged mediators to implement a truce plan earlier presented by US President Joe Biden instead of holding more talks. Fitch said that the conflict continuing into next year would force Israel to keep its military spending high and that there would be further disruption to tourism, construction and production in border areas. Israel has exchanged near-daily cross-border fire with Hezbollah in Lebanon, prompting the mass evacuation of Israeli civilians from areas near the border.

— AFP

BRIEFS: ECON

Pakistan’s central bank governor urges innovative strategies to resolve economic issues

GOVERNOR State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad on Wednesday stressed the need for adopting new and innovative strategies to resolve perennial economic issues in Pakistan.

The central bank is particularly addressing challenges in the context of digital innovations and emerging cybersecurity threats, Ahmad said.

He urged the banking industry to upgrade their systems to enhance cybersecurity and inform their customers in advance to protect their credentials from potential fraudsters. The governor also pointed out that inflation had significantly decreased to 11.1 per cent in July this year, down from 28.3 per cent in July 2023.

He said that the situation regarding foreign reserves has improved, with reserves rising to US\$9.3 billion despite ongoing debt repayments. — Xinhua

Pacific’s GDP to grow 3.3% in 2024, 4% in 2025: ADB

THE Pacific subregion economy is forecast to grow 3.3 per cent this year and four per cent in 2025, according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report released on Wednesday.

The Pacific Economic Monitor (PEM) says the recovery of resource extraction in Papua New Guinea, stable visitor arrivals in most tourism-dependent economies, and stimulus from public infrastructure projects will drive the growth.

However, the report also cautioned several downside risks, including labour shortages, reduced fiscal space, continued exposure to disaster risk, and volatility in global commodity prices and supply chains. — Xinhua

Laos records US\$154 mln in trade deficit in July

LAOS recorded a trade deficit of 154 million US dollars in July, according to the latest figures from the Lao Trade Portal website. Total value of trade in July amounted to over 1.2 billion dollars, of which 533 million dollars were for exports and 687 million dollars for imports, said a report issued on Wednesday from the website. Laos’ main export products included mixed gold, electric equipment, rubber, pa-

per, wasted wood, sugar, cassava flour, copper ore and cassava.

The country’s main imports included diesel, mechanical equipment, finished chemical products, land vehicles, electrical appliances, steel, plastic products, gasoline, vehicle spare parts and beverages.

China, Vietnam and Thailand are among leading export destinations for Lao products. Meanwhile, major import sources to Laos included China, Thailand and Vietnam, according to the report.

— Xinhua



Cassava flour is a popular alternative to wheat flour, especially for those on gluten-free or grain-free diets. The cassava root is peeled, grated, dried, and then ground into a fine powder. **ILLUSTRATION PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

UBS earnings exceed forecasts as it absorbs Credit Suisse

SWISS banking giant UBS reported better-than-expected earnings on Wednesday as the integration of Credit Suisse led to lower costs.

The group reported a net profit of more than \$1.1 billion for the quarter from April to June, well above the median analyst forecast of \$608 million.

The results are not comparable to the \$29 billion the bank earned in the same quarter last year thanks to a one-time accounting gain when UBS was strong-armed into buying its rival Credit Suisse.

In the second quarter of this year, revenue fell seven per cent to \$11.1 billion, pulled down by lower interest income which was only partly compensated by higher revenue from capital markets and investment banking.

UBS said it made a further \$900 million of cost cuts from absorbing Credit Suisse, compared with \$1 billion in the first quarter, bringing total savings to \$6 billion. The bank is targeting \$7 billion of cost savings by the end of 2024, just over half of the \$13-billion objective it set for the end of 2026.

“Our first-half results reflect the significant progress we have made since the closing of the acquisition as we deliver on all of our commitments to stakeholders,” Director-General Sergio Ermotti said in a press release. — AFP

Japan cancels flights and trains as another typhoon approaches

HUNDREDS of Japanese flights and trains were cancelled Thursday in the middle of a major holiday week as another typhoon roared towards the archipelago.

Days after Tropical Storm Maria dumped record rains, Typhoon Ampil was set late Thursday to skirt the Tokyo region — home to almost 40 million people — and then churn up the Pacific coast on Friday and Saturday.

ANA cancelled some 280 domestic flights due on Friday affecting more than 60,000 passengers, while Japan Airlines scrapped 191 domestic and 26 international services, hitting 38,600 customers.

Major parts of Japan’s network of bullet train services are also scheduled to be cancelled on Friday

The typhoon is expected to affect Tokyo and the Pacific coast over the weekend, disrupting travel during the busy “obon” holiday week.



Hundreds of Japanese flights and trains were cancelled Thursday as Typhoon Ampil approached the archipelago, following record rains from Tropical Storm Maria. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

— including the busy section between Tokyo and the central city of Nagoya.

Ampil — and Maria before it — comes as Japan

marks the “obon” holiday week when millions return to their hometowns.

At 9:00 am (0000 GMT), Ampil was 300 kilometres

(190 miles) off the remote Pacific island of Chichijima, packing gusts up to 180 kilometres per hour. — AFP

Malaysia eyes opportunities at 21st China-ASEAN Expo



People visit the booth of Malaysia during the 20th China-ASEAN Expo at Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning, capital of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 19 September 2023. **PHOTO: ZHANG AILIN/XINHUA/FILE**

MALAYSIA has organized 150 Malaysian enterprises and 10 governmental departments and agencies to participate in the 21st China-ASEAN Expo, scheduled to be held from 24 to 28 September in Nanning of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous

Region, according to information revealed at a press conference on Wednesday.

Datuk Mohd Mustafa Abdul Aziz, chief executive officer of Malaysia External Trade Corporation, said via video link that Malaysia, as the country of

honour of the expo, will hold activities to link Malaysian enterprises and high-quality Chinese buyers in both countries before the event. A range of Malaysian agricultural and lifestyle products and tourist attractions will be showcased during the expo.

Wei Zhaohui, secretary-general of the China-ASEAN Expo Secretariat, said the expo will provide Malaysian businesses with specialized trade matching and investment facilitation services, and conveniences such as customs clearance, transport and duty-free options. A series of activities and platforms will help Malaysian products enter the market and expand the international influence of companies. — Xinhua

Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. to Aventine Limited. has been changed for the following pesticide manufactured by Arysta LifeScience Benelux Sprl, Belgium.

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

No.	Brand Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Proxanil 45 SC	Cymoxanil 4.6% + Propamocarb Hydrochloride 36% SC	P 2023 – 4703

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (184N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (184N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2024** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Thailand's Pheu Thai party chooses Paetongtarn Shinawatra as PM candidate



Pheu Thai party leader Paetongtarn Shinawatra, known by her nickname "Ung Ing" and the youngest daughter of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, gestures during a press conference as she is named the candidate to be Thailand's next prime minister at Shinawatra Tower in Bangkok on 15 August 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

THAILAND'S Pheu Thai party has chosen 37-year-old Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the daughter of billionaire ex-PM Thaksin Shinawatra, as its candidate for prime minister, it announced on Thursday, a day after a court dismissed the incumbent premier in an ethics case.

"We decide to nominate Paetongtarn Shinawatra," par-

ty secretary-general Sorawong Thienthong told a press conference in Bangkok.

Lawmakers will vote Friday in parliament — where Pheu Thai heads a governing coalition — on whether to approve Paetongtarn as prime minister.

The vote comes after Thailand's Constitutional Court sacked premier Sret-

“A parliamentary vote on Paetongtarn's candidacy is scheduled for Friday.”

tha Thavisin on Wednesday after ruling he had breached regulations by appointing a cabinet minister with a criminal conviction.

Srettha was the third prime minister from Pheu Thai to be kicked out by the Constitutional Court and leaves office after less than a year.

Thai politics has endured two decades of chronic instability marked by coups, street protests and court orders.

Much of it has been fuelled by the long-running battle by the military and pro-royalist establishment against progressive parties linked to Thaksin. — AFP

TOP STORIES: BRIEF

Explosions reported near two ships off Yemen

TWO ships reported nearby explosions on Tuesday off the coast of Yemen, maritime security agencies said, though neither event resulted in damage or injuries.

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden off Yemen have become perilous for shipping with the Huthi rebels, who control areas including the capital Sanaa, launching attacks they say are in solidarity with Palestinians in war-ravaged Gaza.

One ship positioned 63 nautical miles southwest of the rebel-held port city of Hodeida reported two nearby explosions early on Tuesday.

"A small craft was observed in the vicinity acting suspiciously and flashing lights towards the vessel," the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said.

The ship was then "attacked by an uncrewed surface vehicle (USV), which was successfully disabled", according to the agency, which is run by the British navy. "The vessel and crew are reported safe, and the vessel is proceeding to its next port of call." — AFP

Hamas not to participate in Gaza ceasefire talks

A Hamas official announced on Wednesday that the movement will not participate in the upcoming ceasefire negotiations in Qatar.

Suhail Hindi, a member of Hamas's Political Bureau, stated at a press conference that the group "will not participate in the upcoming negotiations scheduled to resume on Thursday in the Qatari capital".

Hindi clarified that Hamas had sought a clear commitment from Israel to adhere to the agreement made on 2 July which was based on a proposal from US President Joe Biden. He added that Hamas is prepared to engage in the implementation mechanisms of the agreement should the commitment be made.

The announcement by Hamas came shortly after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved sending a negotiating delegation to Qatar to discuss a ceasefire in Gaza, with full authority granted. — Xinhua

Pakistan-Russia trade to grow gradually after transport routes completed



Photo taken on 29 January 2018 shows a view of Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan's Gwadar. **PHOTO: AHMAD KAMAL/XINHUA/FILE**

Ongoing developments at Pakistan's Gwadar and Karachi ports are attracting interest from Central Asian countries for transit trade.

TRADE between Russia and Pakistan is expected to grow in the coming years after the corresponding transport corridors and sea routes are completed, Pakistani Maritime Affairs Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh told Sputnik.

"Russia is a huge market. We are very much interested to enhance our trade links and that of maritime links also. But you see, in the country's economy, it takes time and it will be gradually," Sheikh said.

Furthermore, additional fa-

cilities are under construction in Pakistan's ports of Gwadar and Karachi, which is attracting the attention of some Central Asian countries for transit trade as well, he said. "Gwadar is a deep-sea port and is a very good route for Central Asian countries and Russia even to South China ... (Central Asian states) are now taking some interest also in Karachi port. Recently, a ship vessel of containers for Central Asian countries has been unloaded at Karachi very recently last week. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Indian wrestler's petition for Olympic silver dismissed



The IOA further said it would provide any possible assistance to Vinesh going forward. **PHOTO: QUORA**

INDIA'S wrestler Vinesh Phogat's petition for a joint silver medal in the Paris Olympics was dismissed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

"The application filed by Vinesh Phogat on 7 August 2024 is dismissed," local media quoted the CAS initial order delivered on Wednesday as having said.

Phogat was disqualified hours before her finals in the women's 50-kilogramme freestyle match at the Paris Olympics for

being overweight by 100 gramme.

Her disqualification broke over a billion hearts in India, with people taking to social media to express their support and sympathy for the wrestler. Following her disqualification, she requested CAS to award her a joint silver medal. Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha expressed her shock and disappointment at CAS's decision to dismiss Phogat's application against the United World Wrestling (UWW) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

"The operative part of the 14 August decision, which dismisses Vinesh's application to be awarded a shared silver medal women's 50-kilogramme category at the Paris Olympic Games 2024, has significant implications for her in particular and the sporting community at large," the IOA said in a statement. — Xinhua

Myanmar's striker Win Theingi Tun joins Malaysian Club

Good luck our Captain in your new chapter!

FAREWELL

MYANMAR national women's team striker Win Theingi Tun has made a transfer to Malaysian club Sabah FC.

Though she was playing for Yangon United FC in the 2024 Myanmar Women's League season, the club agreed to terminate her contract to allow her to move to Sabah FC after receiving an offer from the Malaysian side. Sabah FC is set to compete in the 2024-2025 AFC Women's Champions League qualifiers, which will commence later this month, and they have signed Win Theingi Tun as part of their preparations.

Win Theingi Tun, who made history as the first Myanmar female footballer to play abroad, has previously played for three Indian clubs and one Thai club. Sabah FC will be her fifth international club. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Myanmar female forward star Win Theingi Tun. **PHOTO: YUFC**

WIN THEINGI TUN
7 Goals in 11 Matches

Mbappe bolsters stellar Real Madrid's La Liga title defence

EVEN if Kylian Mbappe had not completed his long-awaited move to Real Madrid this summer they would still be widely tipped to retain La Liga.

So with the French superstar joining the likes of Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham, Madrid seem almost certain to continue dominating Spanish football ahead of rivals Barcelona and Atletico Madrid.

Mbappe made his Real Madrid debut on Wednesday and started as he means to go on, scoring and lifting the UEFA Super Cup in a 2-0 win over Atalanta.

The big question for coach Carlo Ancelotti is how to fit Mbappe into his plans, although if any coach can manage to keep his stars happy it is the Italian, viewed as the best man-manager in the game.

England international Bellingham may drop back into the midfield role he occupied at Borussia Dortmund after being a key part of the attack for Madrid last season, particularly in the first half of the campaign.

Brahim Diaz, Arda Guler and others will also be looking to make an impact when they get their chances, with Ancelotti showing last season he was happy to rotate in La Liga.

"This problem has ruined my holidays," joked Ancelotti on Tuesday about his selection dilemma.

"The problem doesn't exist, because we have many games — last year those who played less still brought a lot to the team." — AFP



Real Madrid's French forward Kylian Mbappe in training. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Goalkeeper Szczesny set to leave Juventus

WOJCIECH Szczesny will leave Juventus before the start of the new season as the Polish goalkeeper agreed to terminate his contract by mutual consent.

Coach Thiago Motta informed the Polish international that there would be no place for him in the team. In July, Juventus signed Michele Di Gregorio, who will probably be the number one between the posts.

For Juventus, the problem was Szczesny's high salary, which according to Italian media is around seven million euros per year. The Pole's contract runs until July 2025. However, both parties reached an agreement to terminate the contract before the start of this season.

"I really believe in loyalty and fulfilling contracts. I never forced any transfer. But loyalty for me is also such a situation that if the club that gave you a lot needs to break the terms of the contract and needs your help, then you are also able to help," Szczesny was quoted as saying by Polish media "Foot Truck" on Wednesday.

The goalkeeper joined Juventus in 2017. He played 252 matches for the Italian team. — Xinhua

Thailand's Pheu Thai party chooses Paetongtarn Shinawatra as PM candidate
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WORLD



Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended his Independence Day address by warmly interacting with the crowd, including children and students, as they cheered and chanted slogans. **PHOTO: ANI**

NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENT

Israel to build new Jewish settlement between Jerusalem and West Bank

ISRAEL is to build the first West Bank settlement since 2017, announced the Israeli Civil Administration on Wednesday, the country's governing body that operates in the West Bank.

Israeli media reported that Nahal Heletz, the new settlement, will cover approximately 148 acres (about 600,000 square metres) southwest of Jerusalem, near the Palestinian city of Bethlehem.

The Times of Israel said that construction is likely years away since obtaining the zoning plans and construction permits would take time.

Peace Now, an organization opposing the settlements, warned that Nahal Heletz "will be an enclave in a Palestinian zone and will bring about friction and security challenges."

It said Nahal Heletz is designed to disrupt Palestinian territorial continuity and argued that it contributes to Israel's "de facto annexation" of the West Bank.

It also pointed out that the settlement will be built on land that belongs to Battir, a Palestinian village known for its ancient agricultural terraces recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. — Xinhua

PM Modi greets spectators, interacts with students after Independence Day address

PM Modi highlighted India's progress towards self-reliance, particularly in mobile phone manufacturing, which has now expanded to include exports. He also praised the growth of women's self-help groups, noting their impact on financial independence and societal change.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi concluded his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort by greeting children and spectators in the audience circle.

After his speech, PM Modi interacted with students, shaking hands with the crowd, and waving as they cheered and raised slogans like 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

This year's celebration marks the 11th time PM Modi addressed the nation

from the Red Fort on Independence Day, making him the third Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi to achieve this milestone.

The theme for this year's Independence Day is 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047,' aiming to drive the government's efforts to transform India into a developed nation by 2047.

During his address, PM Modi highlighted that India is moving towards self-reliance by improving domestic man-

ufacturing and has even started exporting to other countries.

He emphasized that India has become self-reliant in mobile phone manufacturing and is now exporting to other countries.

"There was a time when we imported mobile phones, but today we have built a mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem, and now we have started exporting mobile phones to the world," the PM said. — ANI

South Korea's Yoon calls for new working group with North

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Thursday proposed an "Inter-Korean Working Group" aimed at relieving soaring tensions with Pyongyang and exploring avenues for economic cooperation.

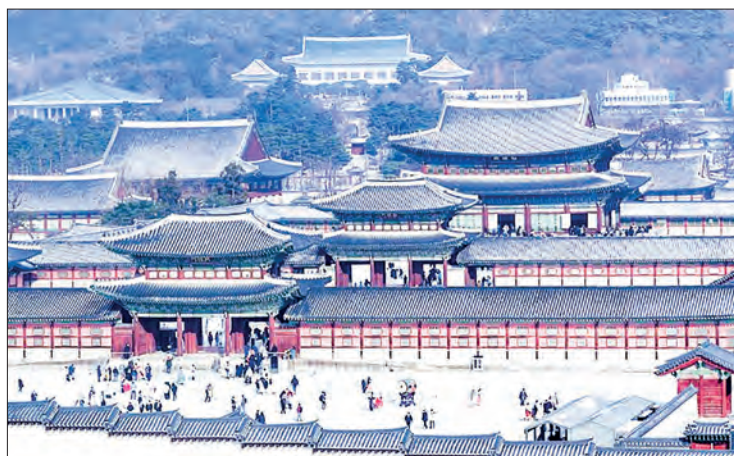
Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years, with the North recently announcing the deployment of 250 ballistic missile launchers to its southern border.

North Korea has sent thousands of trash-filled balloons southward since May, prompt-

ing Seoul to resume propaganda broadcasts along the frontier and suspend a 2018 deal aimed at lowering temperatures between the two militaries.

Declaring his "unification vision" Thursday at an event celebrating the country's liberation from Japanese rule, Yoon said: "As long as the state of division persists, our liberation will remain incomplete."

"The freedom we enjoy must be extended to the frozen kingdom of the North, where people are deprived of freedom and



This photo taken on 20 December 2023 shows the snow scenery of Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul, South Korea. **PHOTO: YAO QILIN/XINHUA/FILE**

suffer from poverty and starvation," he said, calling for the establishment of a new Inter-Korean Working Group.

The body "could take up any issue ranging from relieving tensions to economic cooperation, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and disaster and climate-change responses," Yoon said.

Yoon also underscored the "need to change the minds of the North Korean people to make them ardently desire a freedom-based unification". — AFP