

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Article

Nalanda: The Earliest-known University

By Professor Benoy K Behl

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NATIONAL PAGE 6

950,000 tonnes of fertilizers, 13,000 tonnes of pesticides approved for import

SUNDAY EDITION

Bago investment committee endorses 1 US\$1.2M project in August

THE Bago Region Investment Committee (BRIC) greenlit one foreign enterprise with an estimated capital of US\$1.2 million, according to its meeting held on 16 August.

Between 1 February 2021 and August 2024, \$201.315 million and K81.11 billion flowed into the region, creating 12,490 jobs for locals.

The factories in the designated area of the industrial park are given priority for investments. The labour-intensive businesses, such as CMP enterprises and import-substitution businesses with local products, will be prioritized as well. Additionally, BRIC endorses food processing factories in the region after conducting social and environmental impact assessments in line with rules and regulations of the Food and Drug Administration to ensure food safety. — ASH/KK



Myanmar's local products are displayed at the HKTDC Food Expo PRO in Hong Kong SAR.

Myanmar showcases local products at HKTDC Food Expo PRO

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Consulate General in Hong Kong SAR is participating in the HKTDC Food Expo PRO at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) from 15 to 19 August.

The event, organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), features exhibitors from 21 countries and regions, including Hong Kong, Mainland China, Australia, Canada, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, the

Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam.

Myanmar is showcasing local products such as Haw

Nan instant coffee and Genius Shan Highlands Coffee (100 per cent Arabica coffee) produced by Aung Nay Lin Htun Co Ltd, as well as instant noodles from Cho Cho Industry Ltd and A Mee Instant Shan Noodles. — ASH/TMT

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NATIONAL

Metta Day ceremony with 84,000 flowers at Shwedagon Pagoda



The picture captures the celebration of Metta Day held at the Shwedagon Pagoda in 2023.

ACCORDING to U Bo Thin, a member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, the Metta Day and 84,000 pieces of miscellaneous flowers offering ceremonies will be held at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

As the Shwedagon Pagoda conducts day festivities throughout the year, the Metta Day ceremony will also be held at the ancient Buddha image prayer hall in the southern corner of the pagoda on 19 August (Wagoung full moon day).

"Shwedagon Pagoda will be offered with 84,000 pieces of miscellaneous flowers on Wagaung full moon day (19 August). At 5:30 in the morning, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, religious associations and staff will offer the morning alms with fruit, flowers, water, lights and incense sticks to Shwedagon

Pagoda. At 6 am, the Metta Day ceremony will be held at the ancient Buddha image prayer hall. At 7 am, the small pagodas built with miscellaneous flowers are brought from the ancient Buddha image prayer hall to the pagoda's square by walking clockwise. Afterwards, the Padamya Myetshin Buddha Image will be offered with flower pagodas. It is also scheduled for the pilgrims to observe the Sabbath, the merit-sharing ceremony and offering day alms to Ovadacariya Sayadaws and invited Sayadaws," said U Bo Thin.

Over 500,000 pilgrims from local and abroad visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in January, over 500,000 in February, over 800,000 in March, over 600,000 in April, 570,000 in May, over 540,000 in June and over 440,000 in July. — ASH/MKKS

Vitex seeds sell well in medicinal market due to foreign demand



Photos show Vitex plant and its seeds.

VITEX (chaste tree) seeds are selling briskly in the medicinal ingredient market, according to market sources.

Vitex seeds are mainly helpful for running nose, headache, stroke and eye diseases, and they are bought for traditional medicines in China. As these seeds are in stock, sales are brisk, and drugs made from these seeds are used all over the world, according to the pharmaceutical market.

"It can cure running nose. It is also used for headache medicine. In addition, it can be used for eye disease, stroke, and pain medicine. We export it to China. It has health effects that are formulated as medicine. Vitex has a good market. Its trading is good. We continu-

ously buy and stock it from the market. We export after drying it. It is produced for about three seasons a year," said a seller of traditional medicinal ingredients in Ahlon township.

It naturally grows in central Myanmar, and its seeds are actively traded in the Yangon market this season due to China's demand.

"Vitex seeds fetched a higher price last year. This year, the price has dropped a bit. It is cultivated and grows naturally. The plant is small. It is produced in the areas of Myittha, Bagan, and NyaungU," he said.

Myanmar started to export Vitex seeds to China with a trial in 2015, and the market has become strong since then. — Thit Taw/ZN

Science Festival 2024 continues its third day

THE Science Festival 2024, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Science and Technology and Rosatom of the Russian Federation, continued its third day in Yangon yesterday and was attended by Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya.

In the morning, the deputy minister attended the talk "Tough Question: Become a Female Scientist" held at the Singapore Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI) and organized by the Yangon Technological University and Mandalay Technological University with the purpose of emerging women scientists in Myanmar.

Directors-general and officers from departments of the Ministry of Science and Technology, as well as 152 students and eight teachers from the basic education middle and high schools under the Ministry of Education, attended the event. The experts presented about the science and technology, nuclear and engineering subjects, and how to become the scientists. Students also exchanged their views on the subjects.

In the afternoon, quiz competitions for science and nuclear technology were organized. The awarding ceremony for the students who are granted the schol-

arships provided by the Rosatom for master's degrees at the universities of the Russian Federation for the 2024-25 Academic Year was held, and the deputy minister provided the awards. Quiz games for uplifting critical thinking for science subjects, innovation and collaborative skills were organized as part of the DIY Science Session by the Rosatom. The deputy minister observed the competitions and awarded the students. Then, the students formed the letter 'ATOM', and the balloons with 'May the Nuclear Power be with You' were released into the sky. — MNA/TMT

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (14:00) hours MST on 17-8-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 12:30 hrs MST today, the low-pressure area over Northwest Bay and adjoining West Bengal, India and Bangladesh reached to South Bangladesh. It is likely to move north-northwestwards and may further intensify into a well marked low pressure area over Bangladesh and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal, India, during next 36 hours. Thereafter, it is likely to move west-northwestwards and may cross Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, India. — DMH

NATIONAL

Myanmar attends International Military Technical Forum in Russia

A delegation led by State Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San attended the International Military Technical Forum (ARMY-2024) and the plenary meeting in the Kubinka region of Moscow, Russian Federation from 12 to 14 August.

At the opening ceremony on 12 August, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation delivered a speech via video message before the Minister for Defense of the Russian Federation gave an opening remark and officially inaugurated the Army Forum 2024. Following the ceremony, officials from the invited companies discussed the production status and capabilities of the military equipment displayed in the booths. The attendees toured the military equipment and vehicles.

On the morning of 13 August, the Union Minister and his team visited the Army 2024 forum exhibition for the second day, where they learned about technical equipment for drones and anti-drones, advanced weap-



State Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San attends the International Military Technical Forum (ARMY-2024) and the plenary meeting in the Kubinka region of Moscow, Russian Federation, from 12 to 14 August.

ons and ammunition, and viewed the displayed combat vehicles. They also observed and studied UAVs and drones.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation held a meeting with Minister for Defence Mr Andrei Belousov of the Russian

Federation at the Ministry of Defence's meeting hall to discuss increasing cooperation between the two countries in various

fields. They focused on strengthening friendship, enhancing military technology cooperation, and exchanging views on sending scholars and the current situation in Myanmar and the region.

On 14 August, the Union Minister visited the Myanmar Embassy, where he met with the ambassador, the military attachés (Army, Navy and Air), and their families to explain the current developments in the State and present gifts to the families of the staff.

The Army 2024 Forum, held in the Kubinka region of Moscow from 12 to 14 August, featured more than 1,500 booths of advanced technology and was attended by high-ranking defence officials from 52 countries, including 21 deputy prime ministers and defence ministers. The delegation led by Admiral Tin Aung San returned to Yangon on 16 August and was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by the Yangon Region Chief Minister, the Commander of Yangon Command, the Russian Federation's military attaché to Myanmar, and other relevant officials. — MNA/TH

Union Ministers attend ASEAN-China Forum on Nuclear Tech in Bangkok



Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw visit an exhibition displayed by China National Nuclear Cooperation in Bangkok, Thailand, on 16 August 2024.

UNION Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw attended the "Seminar on ASEAN-China Forum for Peaceful Use of Nuclear Technology" held yes-

terday in Bangkok, Thailand.

The seminar began with opening remarks by Mr Liu Jing, Vice-Chairman of the China Atomic Energy Authority, followed by discussions led by experts from various relat-

ed fields.

During the event, Union Ministers U Ko Ko Lwin and Dr Myo Thein Kyaw met Mr Liu Jing, Vice-Chairman of the China Atomic Energy Authority and Mr Zhang Kai, Vice-Chairman of China National Nuclear Cooperation.

They discussed potential collaborations with the People's Republic of China in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the development of human resources.

In the evening, they attended a dinner hosted by the China Atomic Energy Authority.

The Union ministers also visited an exhibition organized by China National Nuclear Cooperation, where they were welcomed by Mr Liu Jing, who provided insights into nuclear energy developments. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar to compete in 2025 ASEAN Skills Competition

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Labour, Myanmar will participate in the ASEAN Skills Competition, which will be held in the Philippines in 2025.

Myanmar will compete in six employment fields, including information and communication technology, manufacturing and engineering, construction and building technology, social and personal services, creative arts

and fashion, and transportation and logistics.

The deputy minister for labour stated that 92 skill standards have been approved across 70 job types for the skill development process. Additionally, from 2014 to date, 26,969 skilled workers, 275 assessment centres, 102 inspectors, and 866 assessors have been certified in 52 job types. — TWA/MKKS



This photo shows the Philippines accepting the bid to host the 14th ASEAN World Skills Competition in 2025.

NATIONAL

Kayin white thread-tying festival at Yangon's National Races Village



The Kayin traditional white thread-tying festival celebrated at the Union Hall of National Races Village in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, in progress yesterday. **PHOTO: SAN KYAW OO (IPRD)**

THE Kayin traditional white thread-tying festival was celebrated yesterday morning at

the Union Hall of National Races Village in Thakayta Township, Yangon Region. Religious

leaders attended the event, State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung,

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and his wife, SAC Central Advisory Body leader U Saw Tun Aung Myint and his wife, SAC Central Advisory Body member Saw Daniel, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, Minister for Yangon Region Ethnic Affairs U Saw Jacob Htoo and his wife, departmental officials, and members of the Kayin community.

To commence the festival, State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, SAC Central Advisory Body leader U Saw Tun Aung Myint, SAC Central Advisory Body member Saw Daniel, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, and Minister for Yangon Region Ethnic Affairs U Saw Jacob Htoo played the frog drum nine times.

Following this, State Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung delivered the opening speech. The Yangon Region chief minister and the SAC Central Advisory Body Leader also extended greetings at the festival.

The guests then enjoyed traditional Kayin dance performances. The festival continued with contributions from the youths of the Kayin Literature and Culture Association, who provided materials related to the white thread-tying tradition.

Additionally, SAC member Mahn Nyein Maung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, SAC Central Advisory Body Leader U Saw Tun Aung Myint, participated in the festival offering, and the ceremony continued. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/ TRKM

Myanmar delegation joins field visit of ASEAN-China Week 2024

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine participated in a field visit to prominent destinations and industries in Shanxi, China, from 13 to 15 August, together with ASEAN representatives.

On 13 August, they visited Tongtianxia, established in Chengzhi in 2014, and observed the viewpoint creations in that area.

Then, they studied the automatic LED production of Ga-oke Huaye Group, the Victory car production of Chenggong Automobile and the exciting programmes of Chengzhi National Spring Park.

On 14 August, they proceeded to Shanxi. They observed Pingyao, the world

heritage site, including the preservation of the ancient city, living cultures, banking and financial sector of China in the 19th century and early 20th century and the famous handicrafts of Pingyao.

In the evening, they enjoyed the cultural dance show that featured the history and culture of Shanxi.

On 15 August, they headed to Taiyuan, and they observed the role of the Qiao family in establishing trading and banking of China, living standards, tourist arrivals at the houses of the Qiao family, commodity production processes of Honghai and Donghu Vinegar Park.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back in Yangon on 16 August evening. — MNA/KTZH



ASEAN representatives, including Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine, pay a field visit in Shanxi, China, from 13 to 15 August.

Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

11 August

Supreme Court Judge appointed

The State Administration Council issued Order 46/2024 to appoint Dr Ko Ko Naing as Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Nuggets Viber group unlawful

The Central Bank of Myanmar stated on 9 August 2024 that illegal activities of certain destructive elements, including those in the Nuggets Viber group, are unlawful, advising the people to avoid engaging in unauthorized foreign currency transactions and only conduct such transactions through licensed banks and authorized money changers to prevent undesired losses and disruptions.

12 August

Appointment of Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Ms Ma Jia as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

13 August

Intl Youth Day marked

Myanmar possesses a massive workable force of youths, accounting for more than 33 per cent of the total population according to the 2019 interim census, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the International Youth Day held

at Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium C in Nay Pyi Taw.

142nd Pearl Emporium held

The 142nd Myanmar's South Sea Pearl Emporium



took place at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The emporium was held from 12 to 15 August to sell 175,000 pieces of South Sea pearl in 700 lots.

15 August

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by HE Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar and China hold bilateral talks

Myanmar discussed emphasizing the restoration of peace and stability as Myanmar and China have initiated the five principles of peaceful co-existence. Chinese side called for Myanmar to hold an all-inclusive election.

CBM announcement

The Central Bank of Myanmar has revised its interest rates to address inflation, offer better deposit returns, and boost economic growth by enhancing banks' loan capabilities. The new rates will take effect on 1 September 2024.

Workers heading abroad must have OWIC

The Ministry of Labour stated that job seekers abroad need to register for passports for visits (PV), for jobs (PJ), for education (PE), for business (PB), for religion (PR), for dependent (PT) and for seaman (PS).

17 August

University entrance applications invited

Those who prioritize the pharmacy universities, medical technology universities, nursing universities, and community health universities are required to submit their application envelopes to 23 designated universities under the Ministry of Education. Those who prioritize the Universities of Medicine and Universities of Dental Medicine have to directly submit their application envelopes to five medical universities and two dental medicine universities as well as the Human Resources for Health Department (Nay Pyi Taw) from 26 August to 12 September. — GNLM/TTA

MoH Union Minister virtually attends 3rd Voice of Global South Summit Health Ministers meeting

THE Government of India held the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit under the theme "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future", with the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi in attendance and delivering the opening speech. Myanmar's Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended and delivered a speech via videoconferencing.

Indian Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda first delivered the opening remarks. During the discussion, Myan-

mar's Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said that they would like to cooperate with countries in the southern part of the world, including India, and that the Department of Food and Drug Administration in Myanmar and in focusing on food safety, and that the entire food chain from production to consumption is concerned with safety as herbal plants, improvement of quality, exchange of experience and knowledge about traditional medicine are being carried out and to cooperate with partner countries. In the near future, My-



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attends the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit organized by Government of India via videoconferencing yesterday.

anmar is planning to conduct the World Health Organization SETPS survey throughout the country and carry out activities to promote a healthy lifestyle. In addition, Myanmar will continue to increase health awareness and upgrade health care activ-

ities to the public, and to take responsibility and cooperate to achieve better health care for all people under the theme of "One World, One Health".

Health Ministers and Deputy Ministers from 15 countries, including India, Myanmar, Cam-

bodia, Laos, the Philippines, SCO member countries, African countries, and Pacific Islands countries, gave their speeches. The Union minister and the responsible personnel attended the meeting through videoconferencing. — MNA/TKO

NATIONAL

950,000 tonnes of fertilizers, 13,000 tonnes of pesticides approved for import

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, over 950,000 tonnes of fertilizer and more than 13,000 tonnes of pesticides were approved for import in the first four months of this financial year. These approvals, granted between April and July 2024, were based on submissions from companies. As of 22 July 2024, over 400,000 tonnes of the 600,000 tonnes of fertilizer licensed for import

have already been brought in. The ministry has set a target to import 1.6 million tonnes of fertilizer during the 2024-2025 financial year. Efforts are underway to ensure that licensed companies import the remaining quantities on schedule, as discussed in the ministry's coordination meeting on 15 August. Dr Ye Tint Tun, Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, stated, "Due to insufficient domestic pesticide



File photo shows imported fertilizers being discharged from the vessel at Yangon Port.

production, we need to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) under the Pesticide Law." He also highlighted the need to improve laboratory capabilities to

ensure the quality of raw materials used in domestic pesticide production, which relies heavily on imported materials. The Pesticide Registration

Board has issued a total of 4,237 pesticide registrations, and discussions are underway to approve an additional 93 types of pesticides. — TWA/KZL

Myanmar and Russia to build foliar fertilizer factory in Nay Pyi Taw

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, Myanmar and Russia will collaborate to establish a factory in Nay Pyi Taw to produce foliar fertilizer. The two countries have already discussed signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for bilateral economic and technological cooperation, as well as importing natural fo-

liar fertilizer from Russia. Additionally, they have explored collaboration in investment, agriculture, and mining. Myanmar has approximately 15 million acres of monsoon paddy, with an annual rice production of 1,088 million tonnes. As fertilizers for farmland are imported each year, there is a significant demand. During the 2022-2023 financial

year, Myanmar imported over 22 million tonnes of fertilizer, with nitrogen urea fertilizer and compound fertilizers being the most significant imports. The Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee has set a target to import 1.6 million tonnes of fertilizer during the 2024-2025 financial year. — ASH/MKKS



This picture captures spraying of humic foliar fertilizers by a staff of the Yezin Agriculture Research Department.



The poster of the 'May Myan Chin Thee Khan Par' music video.

Mi Sandi releases music video 'May Myan Chin Thee Khan Par'

THE music video 'May Myan Chin Thee Khan Par' (No Queries, Please) by composer and singer Mi Sandi was released on 17 August. Mi Sandi composed the song herself and was joined by singer Su Hlaing for a duet on the album. "I want my fans to feel the song that truly captures the

depth of heartbreak. It's about the pain of a girl who has loved deeply and patiently, only to end the relationship. This is for the fans who have been waiting for Mi Sandi's break-up songs for four years," Mi Sandi said. It has also been announced that the music video will be available on Mi Sandi's Pabies online music page. — ASH/TRKM

MRF reannounces affordable rice price scheme for consumers

MYANMAR Rice Federation notified further consumers to contact the federation to reach the affordable rice scheme if needed.

Myanmar Rice Federation has been selling rice at affordable prices since 31 May by joining hands with affiliated associations, depots, and companies. The cheap price scheme is available until October.

The affordable rice price scheme covers 68 retail shops in 30 townships of Yangon, including Hlinethaya, Hlaing, Sangyoung, Thakayta, Dawbon, South Dagon, South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, North Dagon, Insein, Shwepyitha, Thingangyun, Mingaladon, Ahlon, Thanlyin, East Dagon, Pazundaung, Kamayut, Latha, Yankin, Kyimyindine, Mingala Taungnyunt, Tamway, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung, Dala, Seikkyi Khanaungto, Bahan and Dagon Seikkan townships. Employees from industries, factories and civil servants can contact MRF.

MRF declared on 9 July that cash on delivery sales for Shwebo and Ayeyawady Pawsan started in the Yangon Region on 10 July, according to its an-



Rice bags are well-organized for sale at the supermarket.

nouncement 10/2024.

This move is to prevent those unscrupulous persons from impersonating MRF with fake Facebook pages to deceive buyers for money, to entice retailers to cooperate in rice distribution at fair prices, and to provide better service for them.

MRF arranged this cash-on-delivery sale through retail shops across 33 townships of Yangon rather than pre-paid sales on 10 July. Shwebo and Ayeyawady Pawsan rice will be distrib-

uted according to the set prices starting from 10 July.

MRF notified consumers to contact the nearest retail shops across 33 townships to purchase rice. This scheme is planned to proceed to Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and other cities. Individuals can contact MRF through 09 400067260, 09400067270 and 01 8221448, 01 8220131, 01 8210287 of the Wahdan Commodity Centre and 09769029428 of the Bayintnaung Commodity Centre, MRF notified. — NN/KK



A glimpse of the thriving long-staple cotton plantation.

Long-staple cotton harvest season kicks off

THE Consumer Affairs Department stated that the harvest season of monsoon long-staple cotton commenced.

There are 13,397 acres of long-staple cotton in Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, with 5,182 acres in Kyaukse Township, 169 acres in Singaing Township and 6,524 acres in Myittha Township.

Long-staple cotton is now harvested on 330 acres in Myittha Township and 190 acres in Singaing Township, according to the district's Settlement and Land Records Department.

An acre can produce 400-500 visses of long-staple cotton. Monsoon cotton was cultivated in April and May.

Cultivation input cost, including labour wages, is estimated at K300,000. Cotton plants bloom after 25-30 days of cultivation, and cotton can be harvested 50-60 days after flowering.

Mature cotton fibre has higher quality and cotton ginning factory and traditional weaving workshops purchase it. — NN/KK

Pesticide technical committee reviews 93 types of registration



A pesticide shop is seen in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region.

THE Pesticide Technical Committee has been examining 93 types of pesticide for registration to put them forward to the Pesticide Registration Board, according to a technical evaluation meeting held at the Agriculture Department's meeting hall on 15 August.

Experts from the Environmental Conservation Department and Ministry of Health and crop protection professionals from the Agriculture Depart-

ment attended that pesticide evaluation meeting.

Pesticide inspection includes testing pesticides at farms on a trial run and conducting chemical tests and quality tests at the laboratory under the Pesticide Law. They proceeded to the Pesticide Technical Committee and Pesticide Registration Board.

Dr Ye Tint Tun, Director-General of the Pesticide Technical Committee,

addressed that the efficiency assessment of pesticides while seeking registration for importation and distribution of pesticides, environmental impact assessment and chemical residue for a long term must be considered.

"We need to invite foreign direct investment (FDI) to produce pesticides locally under the Pesticide Law amid weak output."

Modernizing laboratories is also required for quality tests and analysis of imported pesticide raw materials to produce them locally.

He also instructed officials to reduce chemical pesticide use in accordance with the State's policy and use organic fertilizer by providing technical assistance. He urged the committee to scrutinize information on pesticides to restrict pesticides that have never been utilized.

Pesticide Registration Board granted 4,237 licences, including 117 trail registrations, 1,868 temporary registrations, 2,251 registrations for complete utilization permits and one for utilization after modification. — NN/KK

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OPINION

Welcome additional allowance for employees amid rising costs

RECENTLY, Myanmar's National Committee for Setting Minimum Wages announced an additional K1,000 allowance for daily wage workers, raising the minimum wage to K6,800 for an eight-hour workday. This change is effective from 1 August, following a previous increase in October 2023 when the minimum wage was set at K4,800, with a K1,000 monthly allowance added for the first time.

Myanmar's Minimum Wage Law, enacted in 2013, mandates a review and adjustment of the minimum wage every two years to reflect changing economic conditions. The initial minimum wage was set at K3,600 in 2015, followed by an increase to K4,800 in 2018. The law's requirement for a regular review has not been met at this time, leading to the introduction of the additional allowance. The process of resetting the minimum wage for the third time has been delayed by more than six months, primarily due to factory closures, workforce reductions, and other economic challenges.

Although the government adds an extra allowance for workers, employers in the private sector should not cut the welfare services for employees.

Authorities need to reduce taxes and costs for businesspersons so as to reduce burdens for manufacturing industries. Only when the government, businesspersons, and employees are in unison at the workplace will employees have improved socioeconomic lives.

goods as much as possible. This would demonstrate a sense of responsibility and solidarity with the general public, who are often forced to cut back on basic expenses and take on debt to survive.

By adopting a mindset that recognizes all people as part of a broader community, business owners can foster a culture of empathy and support for those struggling in difficult economic times. The extra allowance for employees is a small but important step in helping workers manage the rising cost of living, and it highlights the need for continued efforts to support vulnerable populations in Myanmar.

Although the government adds an extra allowance for workers, employers in the private sector should not cut the welfare services for employees. Authorities need to reduce taxes and costs for businesspersons so as to reduce burdens for manufacturing industries. Only when the government, businesspersons, and employees are in unison at the workplace will employees have improved socioeconomic lives.

Although the government adds an extra allowance for workers, employers in the private sector should not cut the welfare services for employees.

The introduction of the extra allowance is seen as a positive step to help employees cope with rising costs, particularly in the face of steep increases in commodity prices. Myanmar is currently experiencing high inflation, leading to significant price hikes in essential goods such as fuel, medicines, cooking oil, and basic foodstuffs. These increases have placed a heavy burden on daily wage workers and the general population, who are struggling to make ends meet.

Business owners are urged to consider the daily hardships faced by low-income families. Despite rising fuel and transportation costs, businesses are encouraged to reduce their profit margins on

At the ancient University of Nalanda, there was a spirit of vibrant intellectual thought and a climate of discussion and debate. The many 'acharyas', or learned professors at Nalanda, authored hundreds of works on philosophy, metaphysics, psychology, logic, medicine, astrology, arts, literature and other subjects.

The study at Nalanda was about life itself and what reality is. It was based not upon faith but on unshakable logic and pursuit of the truth. The study was of our minds, our perceptions, and what knowledge is. The intellectuals here analyzed the qualities that led to Enlightenment through knowledge and sought to create a logical path that could lead us to true and lasting awareness - A path which would work for all.

This was the first known great University in the world. Nalanda was also at the apex of a consortium of universities



Seal found at the Nalanda University. This was a vast educational institution with thousands of scholars and teachers. It must have required a complex and effective administrative system. (Collection: ASI Museum, Nalanda) **PHOTOGRAPH BY BENOY K BEHL**



There is a distinct and fine school of art which developed at the university. The style spread through eastern India and beyond the shores of the country. **PHOTOGRAPH BY BENOY K BEHL**

Nalanda: The Earliest-known University



Nalanda University, Bihar. The university of Nalanda was one of the greatest centres of learning that the world has seen from the 4th to the 12th centuries. **PHOTOGRAPH BY BENOY K BEHL**

that had developed in ancient and early medieval times in South and South East Asia. It was from these ancient universities that concepts of rigorous and logical study finally spread to other parts of the world, leading to the founding of universities in Europe. The consortium of universities with Nalanda at its apex included Vikramshila, Odantapuri, Somavihara Paharpur, Sumatra Indonesia, Takhashhila, and Palkh (now in Afghanistan). Nalanda was the earliest-known university in the world, and it was the first consortium. It is quite amazing to see that such study and sharing of universal knowledge took place in the First Millennium.

The Government of India is making a notable effort to revive the real legacy of Nalanda so that people can see the value of this tradition and how it enriches the tapestry of global knowledge. What is more, the comparative study of the Nalanda tradition and modern science can definitely uplift our civilization. This ancient tradition is a science of life which can help us so much.

Nalanda in the 21st century

The honourable Prime Minister of India inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University, an international university, close to the site of the ancient ruins of Nalanda, in Bihar, on 19 June 2024.

The modern Nalanda University was established as an "international institution for the pursuit of intellectual, philosophical, historical and spiritual studies". The impetus to setting up this institution came under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi when a major push was given from 2014 onwards to establish the University as an international centre of learning and scholarship, reminding the world of the 21st century of the eminence of ancient Nalanda.

This international University, apart from India, has the participation of 17 other nations: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan,

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The University has 137 scholarships for international students. It offers postgraduate and Doctoral research courses and short-term certificate courses. It has six schools: the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy & Comparative Religions; the School of Historical Studies; the School of Ecology and Environmental Studies; the School of Sustainable Development and Management; the School of Languages and Literature; and the School of International Relations and Peace Studies which is yet to commence.

A Library with a capacity to hold 300,000 Books and serve up to 3,000 users is scheduled to be completed by September 2024. This would be in keeping with the glorious tradition of the original Nalanda University.

Ancient Nalanda

The best-known Buddhist universities, Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Odantapuri, were in Eastern India, in the present-day Bihar region. The greatest of these centres of study was at Nalanda. It was a hub of learning where pilgrims and scholars came from



Shantarakshita. The great Buddhist teacher Shantarakshita from the Nalanda University, who helped to establish Buddhist culture in Tibet. It was he who invited Guru Padmasambhava to Tibet. **PHOTOGRAPH BY BENOY K BEHL**

all corners of Asia.

Nalanda was visited by the Buddha himself. In the 3rd century BCE, Emperor Ashoka is believed to have made offerings to the chaitya of Sariputra and erected a temple here. However, the origins of the University itself are obscured in the mists of time. The medieval Tibetan historian Taranatha mentions that the great Buddhist philosopher Nagarjuna, who was born in the middle of the 2nd century CE, taught here.

Excavations at the Nalanda site have revealed numerous stupas, monasteries, hostels, staircases, meditation halls and other structures. These speak of the splendour of the University, which was also famed for its three magnificent libraries.

The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang of the 7th century writes that, of the myriad Buddhist establishments of India, Nalanda "is the most remarkable for its grandeur". The priests and other residents "always reach the number of ten thousand".

Another Chinese traveller, I-Tsing, travelled to India at the end of the 7th century. He reported that in these monasteries, Buddhist sutras were taught, as well as Sanskrit grammar, Indian Logic and Metaphysics, fine arts and medicine.

There was a rigorous oral entry examination, and only the best

By Professor Benoy K Behl

Art Historian, Filmmaker and Photographer

students were admitted. It was a residential university where the staff and students had free board and lodging. No tuition fees were charged. Xuanzang records that there were students here from Tibet, China, Korea, Japan, Sumatra, Java and Sri Lanka. It was truly an international university.

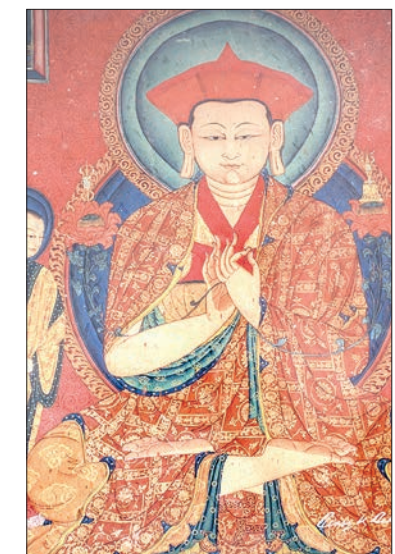
The highest intellectual atmosphere of debate and scholarship was maintained at Nalanda University. This was the thriving intellectual environment of Nalanda, which produced the most notable Buddhist thinkers and brought about significant developments in Buddhism.

Famous Intellectuals of Nalanda

The most revered name in Mahayana Buddhist philosophy is that of Nagarjuna, who was born in the middle of the 2nd century CE in South India.

He was a luminary of the Nalanda University, and he formalized the concept of Sunyata or 'Emptiness'. The Madhyamika School of Buddhism, or 'The Middle Path', was created on the teachings of Nagarjuna.

Dinnaga of Nalanda University was born at Kanchipuram in South India. He lived in the 5th century and is known as the founder of the system of Buddhist Logic. He authored over a hundred treatises on the subject, most of which are still preserved



Atisa, Mural, Tholing Monastery, Tibet. **PHOTOGRAPH BY BENOY K BEHL**

in Chinese and Tibetan translations.

When Xuanzang visited Nalanda, he studied under the famed Guru Dharmapala. The teacher was also known for having spread the knowledge of Buddhism in Indonesia.

One of the noted students of Dharmapala was the brilliant logician Dharmakirti. He lived in the 7th century and was born at Tirumalai in South India. Dharmakirti's writings mark one of the highest points reached in speculative philosophy.

The learned Santarakshita of the Nalanda University founded the first monastic order in Tibet. He also modelled Samye, the first monastery of Tibet, on the Odantapuri Mahavihara in Eastern India. At his suggestion, the Tibetan king also invited Guru Padmasambhava, who was then teaching in the region of Kashmir at that time. Padmasambhava, who was also of the Nalanda University, went on to become the most revered person in the entire Himalayan and trans-Himalayan region, where he is known as the 'The Second Buddha'. The Guru swept across the mountains, establishing Buddhism in Ladakh, Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur, Tibet, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.

Atisa or Dipankara Srijnana (980-1054) was born in East Bengal, studied at Nalanda University and then became one of the lead-

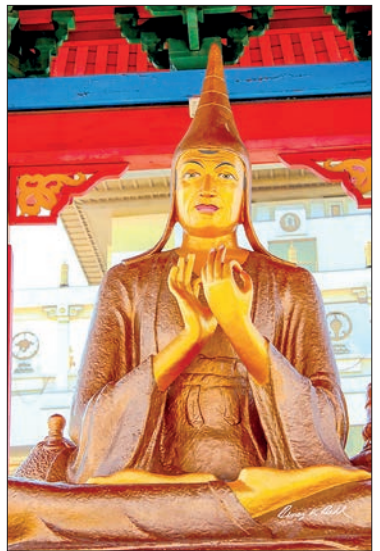
ing teachers at the University of Vikramshila, also in Bihar. King Yeshe' Od invited him to Tibet, and he accepted his invitation at the age of 60 in CE 1040. He left Vikramshila and stayed in Tibet until his death. He consolidated the true knowledge of Buddhism in that land.

The Art of Nalanda

Nalanda marks the beginning of the Pan-Indian medieval idiom in art. The perfected human form was created in Indian art by the 5th century CE to help in meditation and to awaken the grace within us. At Nalanda, in the post-Gupta period, the focus came on the dynamism of the intellect, which analyses in acute detail the qualities which lead to nirvana. This is seen reflected in the vitality and sharp features of the stucco sculptures found at Nalanda. The figures have a greater stylization than in earlier Indian art.

Angular and dynamic relief made in the plinth of stupas was a common feature during the Pala period. This is found beginning at Nalanda and spreading across Eastern India and Bangladesh, going up to Tripura, where it is seen in the remains of the Pilak stupa in Udaigiri District. The educational and cultural legacy of the Nalanda University is remarkable.

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



Atisa, Golden Abode of Shakiyamuni Temple, Elista, Kalmykia, European Russia. The temple at Kalmykia honours 17 great Acharyas of the Nalanda University. If it fascinating to see how the traditions of Nalanda spread across Indonesia, Tibet, Mongolia, Buryatia, Kalmykia and other countries. **PHOTOGRAPH BY BENOY K BEHL**



Bodhisattva, Main Temple, Nalanda Site, c. 7th Century CE, Bihar, India. Photograph by Benoy K Behl

NATIONAL Entertainment

New drama series of author and director Thoe Saung ready

THE film shoot of the new drama series of author and director Thoe Saung will begin in mid-August, according to actor Htoo Aung.

The plot and script of the series called "Pawa Par Par Thanakha" were made

by Mel Khine and director Thoe Saung will make it for Yee Mon Aung Film Production.

The cast is Htoo Aung, May Grace, Than Zin Maung, Pyae Kaung Su Thant, Mel Tin, academy

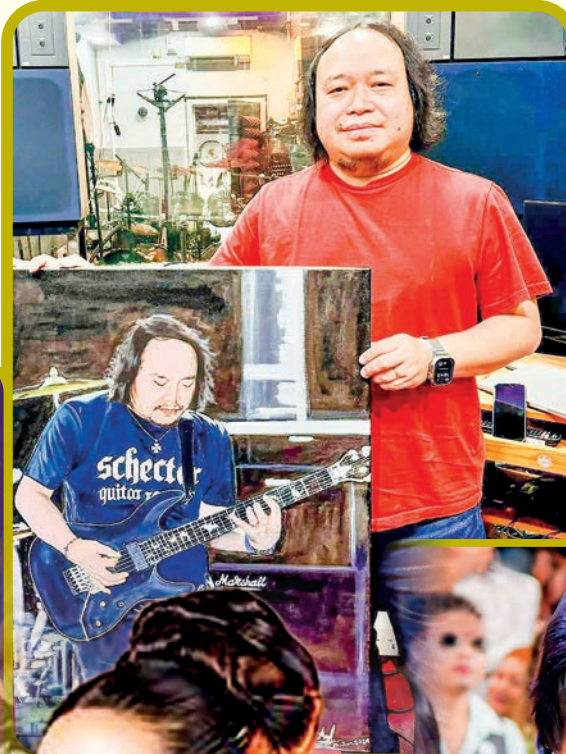
Myint Myint Khine, Htoo Thar, Thar Thar, Zwe, Nay Min Lin, Paing Gyi and other artistes. - ASH/KTZH

The photo shows artistes of new series.



Chit San Maung

CHIT SAN MAUNG, a lead guitarist of the Iron Cross band and founder of PTL Studio, is interested in painting. "As I grow old, I have different feelings and emotions for paintings. I have the paintings of Sayagyi U Win Pe, No No, Saya Zaw Win, Saya Thit Wint Htan (Sho Lu), and Saya Ko Aung (Chiang Mai)." He also appreciated the art exhibition "The Eyes' of Sayagyi U Win Pe.



Thiri J Maung Maung

SINGER Thiri J Maung Maung, daughter of famous singer J Maung Maung, donated K500,000 at Botahtaung Pagoda, marking her father's birthday on 12 August. The two singers also donated a day meal at the orphanage.

Paing Takhon

PAING TAKHON attended the launching ceremony of I'Aura Myanmar held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 August. The actor said, "I don't feel like Thailand anymore because there are many Myanmar people. Myanmar and Thailand cannot be distinguished." The product launch ceremony was also attended by Thai artistes Son Yuke Songpaison and Lily Pantila, as well as Myanmar artistes Paing Takhon, Miss Grand Myanmar Ei Ei Aung Htun (aka) Mee Mee, Thae Su Nyein, singer Cherry Thin, influencers Phyu Phyu Htwe and Nay San, and presenter Soe Tun Win.

Kyaw Kyaw

THE squirrel-masked actor revealed his actual face at the quarterfinal of The Mask Singer Myanmar on 2 August. The show is broadcast via Channel 9, MNTV and SkyNet Music channel. The masked actor is Kyaw Kyaw, and the actor also appreciated fans and judges who guessed him.

Thazin Htoo Myint

THE actress recently took the 'Htoo Sone' character in the 'Yin Phwint Pya Chin Thi' movie broadcast via Mahar Application. She also starred in the 'Lat Saung' (Gift) series that will be broadcast via M Entertainment Channel at 7 pm every weekend starting on 30 August.

Celebrity Brief

Poe Mamhe Thar

THE 'Fire' movie directed by director Mee Pwa was screened on 16 August. The actress received applause from fans for her outstanding acting skills. The cast in the film includes Academy Nay Win, Aye Chan Maung, Academy Khin Wint Wah and Poe Mamhe Thar. - Htun Htun/KTZH



WORLD

PM Modi proposes 'Global Development Compact' to assist partner countries in balanced, inclusive growth

The summit, hosted virtually, seeks to unite Global South nations to discuss and prioritize various issues collectively.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday proposed a comprehensive 'Global Development Compact', that will assist partner countries in the Global South in achieving balanced and inclusive growth using India's experience in development journey and development partnerships.

India will start a US\$2.5million special fund to assist in trade promotion activities and will also

provide US\$1million fund for capacity building and trade promotion, Prime Minister Modi announced in his closing remarks at the third edition of the Voice of Global South Summit.

PM Modi emphasised that the Global Development Compact will be inspired by development journeys decided by countries of the Global South and won't crush poor nations under



Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a new 'Global Development Compact' during the third Voice of Global South Summit. **PHOTO: ANI**

huge debt.

India today hosted in a virtual format the third Voice of Global

South Summit, which envisages bringing together countries of the Global South to share their

perspectives and priorities on a common platform across a whole range of issues. — ANI

Indonesian president highlights economic achievements in his final Independence Day address



Indonesia's President Joko Widodo (front R) speaks at the Annual Session of the People's Consultative Assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia, 16 August 2024. **PHOTO: ARIFIN/XINHUA**

IN his final Independence Day address before leaving office, Indonesia's President Joko

Widodo on Friday highlighted the nation's economic achievements during his tenure.

Speaking at the Annual Session of the People's Consultative Assembly, Widodo, who has been in office since 2014, expressed gratitude for the support of the Indonesian people and emphasized the importance of the collective efforts that have brought the nation to its current progress.

Widodo highlighted economic resilience seen during his tenure benefiting the Southeast Asian country in the face of global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, pointing out that Indonesia's economy has maintained a growth rate of around five per cent. — Xinhua

Mpox vaccine maker ready to produce 10 million doses

DANISH drugmaker Bavarian Nordic said Thursday it was ready to produce up to 10 million doses of its vaccine targeting mpox by 2025 after the World Health Organization declared a surge in the virus in Africa a glob-

al public health emergency.

Alarmed by a rise in cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the spread of mpox to nearby countries, WHO experts said Wednesday that the "situation constitutes a public health

emergency of international concern". "We have additional manufacturing capacity of two million doses for 2024 and (a total of) 10 million doses by 2025," Rolf Sass Sorensen, vice-president of Bavarian Nordic, told AFP. — AFP

BRIEF STORIES: WORLD

Forest fire forces evacuations in Turkish resort

TURKISH authorities evacuated scores of buildings in the Aegean resort of Izmir on Friday as a forest fire touched residential districts of the city.

Authorities said 16 buildings had been damaged by fire, while Agriculture Minister Ibrahim Yumakli said at least 87 houses and 44 businesses and offices were ordered emptied because of the looming flames.

A refuge for stray dogs was among buildings evacuated, media said.

The fire started Thursday and was pushed towards Türkiye's third largest city by winds blowing at 50 kilometres (30 miles) an hour. The strong winds prevented the use of water-bombing aircraft, NTV television reported. — AFP

Cambodia records 3rd rare Mekong river dolphin death

A rare Mekong Irrawaddy dolphin had been found dead after being entangled in a fisherman's illegal gillnet in northeast Cambodia, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said in a news release on Saturday.

The 2.1-metre-long female dolphin, weighed 108 kilograms, was spotted dead on Friday near the Kampi dolphin pool in Preaek Prasab district of Kratie province, the news release said, adding that the animal is aged between eight and 10 years old.

"The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries considers the death of this juvenile dolphin as the loss of a precious natural treasure of Cambodia and the world," the news release said.

"The ministry calls on fishermen to immediately stop using gillnets and electro-fishing in the dolphin protected area," it added. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Ethiopian PM inaugurates construction of Chinese-contracted special economic zone

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Wednesday launched the construction of Chinese-contracted “Addis Tomorrow Special Economic Zone” at the heart of Addis Ababa, the country’s capital.

The launching ceremony came a year after the Addis Ababa City Administration and China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) inked a deal to build the economic zone, with a planned area of 35 hectares, at an estimated cost of US\$700 million. Speaking at the event, Abiy said the economic zone is part of the government’s commitment to transforming Addis Ababa into one of the most beautiful cities in the world by building smart communities with various facilities, including residential houses, shopping malls, hotels, and recreational centres.

“This is the start of our big dream of making Addis Ababa at-

The economic zone aims to transform Addis Ababa into a premier city with smart communities, featuring residential areas, shopping malls, hotels, and recreational centres.



This photo taken on 13 February 2024, shows a city view of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **PHOTO: LI YAHUI/XINHUA**

tractive as its name ‘New Flower’ refers to, and my gratitude goes to CCCC and the city administration for kicking start this project,” Abiy said. According to the prime minister, the Addis Tomorrow Special Economic Zone will be connected to other economic areas whose constructions are underway in other parts of the capital through the ongoing Addis Ababa corridor development.

“CCCC has proved to be successful in its undertakings in Ethiopia, and I hope it will finalize the construction of the economic zone on time and up to (a) high standard,” Abiy said.

Adanech Abiebie, mayor of Addis Ababa, said the development of the economic zone is part of the administration’s move to change the image of the city, improve the lives of people, create enormous job opportunities, and provide high-standard housing facilities. — Xinhua

UK growth slows slightly in second quarter

BRITAIN’S economy grew 0.6 percent in the April-June period, a slight slowdown compared with the first three months of the year, official data showed on Thursday.

The country’s economy is growing after it exited a mild recession at the end of last year, helped by inflation falling back from four-decade highs.

Gross domestic product had expanded by 0.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2024, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. The data covers the period just prior to Britain’s general election in early July, which resulted in the centre-left Labour party winning power on a promise to grow the country’s economy by a sizable amount.

“The new government is under no illusion as to the scale of the challenge we have inherited after more than a decade of low economic growth and a £22 billion (\$28 billion) black hole in the public finances,” finance minister Rachel Reeves said Thursday in reaction to the latest gross domestic product figures. “That is why we have made economic growth our national mission and we are taking the tough decisions now to fix the foundations, so we can rebuild Britain and make every part of the country better off.”

Weak June

The GDP data revealed also that the economy recorded zero growth in June, or end of the second quarter, owing “to a weak month for health, retailing and wholesaling, offset by widespread growth in manufacturing”, noted Liz McKeown at the statistics office. — AFP



People brave the rain near Big Ben in London, Britain, on 2 August 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

Vietnam positioned as magnet for chip industry’s major players

MANY companies have positioned Vietnam as a “magnet” for major players in the chip industry and are turning to the Southeast Asian country for its talent pool and competitive labor costs, local media cited Nikkei Asia on Friday.

The availability of tech workers in a time of shortage could help Vietnam achieve one of its long-held dreams, moving up the tech value chain, Vietnam News reported.

Marvell described Vietnam as a strategic location for the development of engineering talent while Alchip Technologies, Chinese Taipei’s leading provider of AI chip design services, is expanding its R&D team into Vietnam, according to an article recently published by Nikkei Asia.



This trend positions Vietnam as a significant hub for semiconductor talent. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Robert Li, Synopsys vice president of sales for Chinese Taipei and Southeast Asia, told Nikkei Asia that the high degree of interest among Vietnam’s students and workforce to be trained in semiconductor engineering, coupled with the government’s funding and programs, is helping establish the country as a semiconductor talent hub. — Xinhua

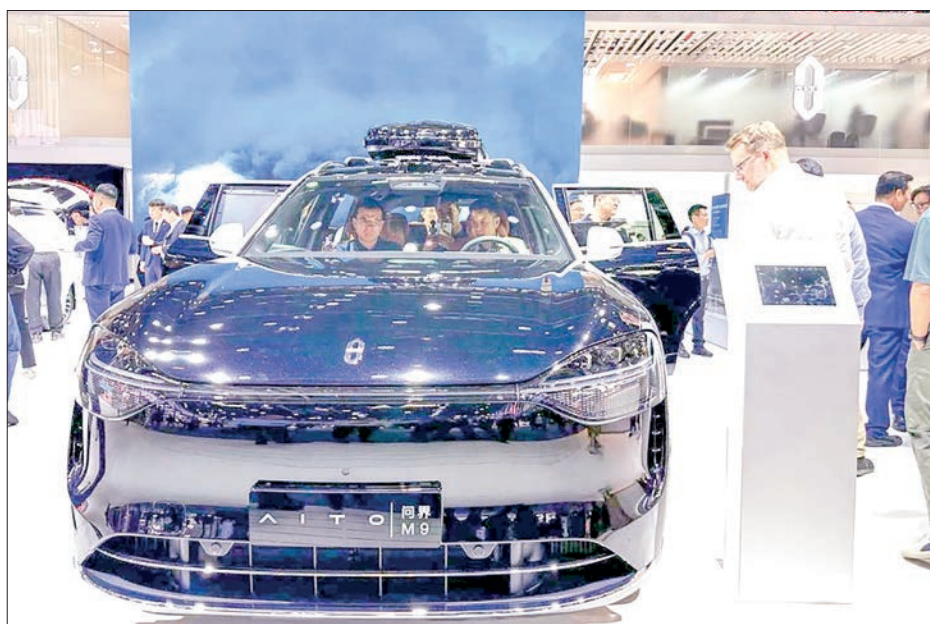
China doubles subsidies to boost auto trade-ins

The move aims to address weak consumer demand and stimulate economic growth.

CHINA has increased a financial stimulus to encourage consumers to scrap their old vehicles and buy new ones, according to a circular issued on Friday. Subsidies for trade-ins of new energy passenger vehicles have doubled from 10,000 yuan (US\$1,399) — a figure stipulated in an April document — to 20,000 yuan, per the circular, which was released by the Ministry of Commerce and six other government departments.

Subsidies for trade-ins of fuel passenger vehicles have been raised from 7,000 yuan to 15,000 yuan. The new policy applies to all subsidy applications submitted between 24 April this year and 10 January 2025. Nearly five million new energy passenger vehicles and 6.57 million fuel passenger vehicles were sold to individual consumers in China from January to July, with those figures respectively surging 33.7

per cent and dipping 15 per cent year on year, industry data shows. A lack of effective demand is one of the challenges facing the Chinese economy, and policymakers are moving to promote stable growth in consumer spending. The 2024 government work report pledged to encourage consumer goods trade-in programmes among other measures to boost domestic demand. — Xinhua



The AITO booth attracts visitors at the Beijing auto show in April 2024. PHOTO: LI FUSHENG/CHINA DAILY

Shares in Germany's Bayer up after weedkiller court win



Shares of Bayer, the German chemicals company, surged over 10 per cent on Friday following a favorable court ruling in its ongoing legal battle over glyphosate-based weedkillers. PHOTO: ROUNDUP/ YOUTUBE

SHARES in German chemicals giant Bayer jumped more than 10 per cent Friday after a US court victory in the group's long-running fight against claims its glyphosate-based weedkillers cause cancer. An appeals court in Pennsylvania on Thursday rejected a claim by a landscaper that Bayer's Monsanto unit broke state laws by not putting a cancer warning on its Roundup weedkiller. The three-judge panel found that federal laws require uniformity in pesticide labels nationwide, which meant Pennsylv-

nia could not add a warning label. The plaintiff was diagnosed with a type of cancer called Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2006 after being exposed to Roundup. Bayer said it was "pleased" with the ruling, noting that it conflicted with decisions in other US appeals courts, and calling on the Supreme Court to step in and "settle this important issue of law". A Supreme Court ruling in Monsanto's favour could have an impact on the many outstanding cases related to Roundup, and reduce Bayer's liabilities. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TC SYMPHONY VOY.NO. (005E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TC SYMPHONY VOY.NO. (005E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V REYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24006)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V REYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (24006)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (912N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (912N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2410S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2410S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-8-2024** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



An aerial drone photo taken on 16 August 2024 shows vehicles running along the Yinchuan-Kunming highway in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.
PHOTO: FENG KAIHUA/XINHUA

17 AUGUST

Yinchuan-Kunming highway opens fully

A section of the Yinchuan-Kunming highway in Ningxia, from Taiyangshan to Pengyang, was completed and opened to traffic on Friday, marking the full opening of the 2,322-kilometre highway connecting Yinchuan in Ningxia and Kunming in Yunnan.

A section of the Yinchuan-Kunming highway within Ningxia, from Taiyangshan development zone to Pengyang, was completed and opened to traffic on Friday, marking the full opening of the Yinchuan-Kunming highway. The highway linking Yinchuan of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Kunming of southwest China's Yunnan Province, spans 2,322 kilometres. – Xinhua

16 AUGUST

UAE joins BRICS industrial centre launch

THE UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology on Friday joined its BRICS counterparts on the launch of a Centre for Industrial Competences in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to support the development of industrial skills and capabilities.

The declaration was made at the 8th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting, bringing industry, trade and technology ministries

together from the UAE, Russia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, and South Africa. The meeting, chaired by Russia, takes place under the theme of "strengthening multilateralism for equitable global development and security".

The centre will promote partnerships within the framework of the New Industrial Revolution (NIR) to identify interests, challenges, and opportunities in the rapidly evolving industrial landscape. – ANI

15 AUGUST

Japan marks WWII surrender anniversary

JAPAN marked on Thursday the 79th anniversary of its surrender in World War II, with a memorial to mourn the war dead held without COVID-related restrictions for the first time in five years.

Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, along with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and 4,023 people related to those killed attended the government-sponsored ceremony to mourn the roughly 3.1 million Japanese military personnel and

civilians who died in the war.

Participants observed a moment of silence at noon as part of the ceremony which took place without a limit on the number of attendees and allowed the singing of the national anthem with the lifting of coronavirus-related restrictions.

Kishida participated in the event for the third time and delivered a speech. A moment of silence was observed at noon. – Kyodo

14 AUGUST

German military base locked down

A German military base was sealed off for several hours Wednesday as authorities investigated suspected sabotage while a NATO airbase in the country faced an attempted trespassing incident, officials said.

The Bundeswehr base in Cologne-Wahn was locked down due to suspicions of attempted intrusion and sabotage, following the discovery of a hole in a fence near its water storage facilities.

While the perpetrators were not identified, the base's water supply was tested as a precaution, and the base reopened later in the day.

The incident raised concerns about potential

water contamination, prompting a temporary advisory against drinking the tap water.

The Cologne-Wahn base, which supports Ukraine and houses government aircraft, is crucial for military operations. Meanwhile, a NATO base in Geilenkirchen also experienced a security incident with an attempted trespasser, prompting increased security and routine checks, though the water supply was deemed safe.

Defence Minister Boris Pistorius confirmed swift action and laboratory analyses at both sites. These events highlight growing vigilance against possible sabotage. – AFP

13 AUGUST

US reveals names of Hiroshima victims

DECLASSIFIED official US documents showed Tuesday the names and other detailed identification information of American troops who died in the 1945 US atomic bombing of Hiroshima after being held captive in Japan.

The latest revelation followed a recently discovered US report that confirmed that 12 American troops were killed in the blast that reduced the western city in Japan to ashes on 6 August 1945.

But the one-page investigation report did not contain information that identified the 12 individuals. Kyodo News made information disclosure requests to obtain detailed documents from the US Department of the Army and the National Archives and Records Administration.

Information on all of the victims was disclosed, based on the names of the 12 that were made public through studies conducted by Shigeaki Mori, an 87-year-old Japanese historian and a survivor of the bombing. – Kyodo

12 AUGUST

UK welcomes de-escalation, remains vigilant

THE UK government welcomed Monday the "de-escalation" of far-right inspired disorder and rioting following a knife attack that killed three children, but insisted officials remain on "high alert".

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's spokeswoman addressed the violence that followed the stabbing of nine-year-old Alice da Silva Aguiar and two other girls, Bebe King and Elsie Dot Stancombe, at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class in Southport.

Mourners, including Alice's parents, expressed profound grief, describing her as full of joy and love. The incident, caused by misinformation about the perpetrator, led to riots and violence across England and Northern Ireland.

The spokeswoman noted a recent de-escalation but emphasized ongoing vigilance.

As of Monday, 975 people had been arrested and over 500 charged for involvement in the disorder, according to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). – AFP

11 AUGUST

Kagame sworn in for fourth term

RWANDA'S all-powerful President Paul Kagame was sworn in Sunday for a fourth term, saying regional peace was a "priority" in the face of ongoing conflict in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kagame swept to victory in elections last month with a staggering 99.18 per cent of the vote, giving him another five years in office.

Several dozen heads of state and other dignitaries from African nations joined the inauguration ceremony at a packed 45,000-seat stadium in Kigali, where many were dressed in the green, yellow and blue colours of the Rwandan national flag.

The outcome of the July 15 poll was never in doubt for the iron-fisted Kagame, who has ruled the small African nation since the 1994 genocide, as de facto leader and then president. – AFP

SPORTS

After Paris Olympics, Milan-Cortina 2026 enters critical final phase: official

THE Paris Olympics set an example of post-pandemic Olympics for the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games, and pushed Italian organizers to the final sprint of 18 months, a Milan-Cortina 2026 official said on Friday.

Andrea Varnier, the chief executive of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic organizing committee, said that with the conclusion of the 2024 Olympics in Paris, the international sports spotlight is starting to shift to Italy. "The Paris Olympics have given us a boost of enthusiasm and energy that will be very useful in the final year and a half of preparations," Varnier said in a

statement emailed to Xinhua, adding that the Italian organizers are already relishing the opportunity. The Milan-Cortina 2026 is set to be decentralized, with venues dotting the map across the northern part of Italy.

However, the question of venues is not without some worries. The track being constructed at an expense of around 81 million euros (about US\$89million) for the luge, bobsleigh, and skeleton competitions is reportedly behind schedule. The International Olympic Committee has urged organizers to use already existing tracks near Italy in Switzerland or Austria. — Xinhua



President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Thomas Bach announces Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo of Italy to host the 2026 Olympic Winter Games during the 134th session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland, 24 June 2019. PHOTO: CAO CAN/XINHUA /FILE

Former US Open champion Raducanu and Olympic silver medalist Wang Xinyu to play in Hong Kong Open

FORMER US Open women's singles champion Emma Raducanu and Paris Olympics mixed doubles silver medalist Wang Xinyu will play the WTA Hong Kong Open in October, the Hong Kong, China Tennis Association (HKCTA) announced here on Friday.

Raducanu, ranked 71st in the world, and Wang Xinyu, the world No 41, will be joined by defending champion Leylah Fernandez of Canada and Guangzhou Open titlist Wang Xiyu in the WTA 250 tournament.

World No 6 Andrey Rublev of Russia has agreed to defend his title in the ATP250 tournament.

HKCTA president Michael Cheng said a new WTA 125 event will be added to the tennis calendar, making the Hong Kong Open a three-tournament fixture. The WTA125 tournament will be held from 30 September to 6 October the WTA250 event will take place from 26 October to 3 November and the ATP250 fixture has been scheduled from 29 December to 5 January next year.

"Hong Kong has the distinction of being only one of three cities in Asia, aside from Beijing and Tokyo, to stage both an ATP and WTA Tour event," said Cheng. — Xinhua

FIFA selects Uganda's referee Nabadda to officiate in U-17 Women's World Cup 2024

THE World football governing body FIFA has selected Uganda's leading female referee Shamira Nabadda to officiate at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2024.

FIFA communicated the selection of the 12 referees, 24 assistants and two support referees on Friday.

Sixteen teams including Kenya will participate in the tournament slated for 16 October to 3 November in the Dominican Republic.

Nabadda is the only referee selected from the Council of East

and Central African Football Association (CECAFA) Zone to officiate at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

The second African referee selected is Algeria's Mehat Ghada, and the assistants include Hamdi Soukaina (Morocco),

Abdelfattah Yara (Egypt), Kone Fanta (Mali), and Zambia's Nancy Kasitu.

It will be Nabadda's first time to officiate at a World Cup stage. She recently officiated at the Paris Olympics 2024 in France. — Xinhua

Romania gymnast Barbosu gets contested Olympic bronze

ROMANIAN gymnast Ana Barbosu received Olympic bronze at a ceremony in Bucharest on Friday after the International Gymnastics Federation awarded it to her instead of US gymnast Jordan Chiles following a bitter row.

A score revision over degree of difficulty lifted Chiles to third in the floor exercise at the Paris Olympics on 5 Au-

gust causing heartbreak for Barbosu who thought she had won bronze.

Romania appealed the decision, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled the US appeal for the score revision came too late.

Chiles, 23, said Thursday that being stripped of a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics has been devastating and heartbreaking and delivered her an unjust blow.

On Friday, Barbosu, 18, said she felt "very happy and grateful", though saddened that "there have been such problems at a high level".

"We as athletes have done absolutely nothing wrong," she said, adding she hoped for Chiles and fellow Romanian gymnast Sabrina Voinea, who also contested her own score in the floor final, to get "happy conclusions". — AFP



Romanian gymnast Ana Barbosu describes herself as 'happy and grateful' after getting Olympic bronze. PHOTO: AFP

Australia to trial digital travel passes as replacement for paper cards

Starting later in 2024, passengers on Qantas flights from New Zealand will be able to submit their immigration, customs, and biosecurity information digitally up to 72 hours before arrival.



This new system aims to streamline the process and will expand to other airlines in the future. **PHOTO: ISTOCK**

AUSTRALIA will trial digital passenger cards to replace paper cards for arrivals to the country, the border force has announced. Under the pilot programme for the Australia Travel Declaration, passengers on Qantas flights from New Zealand to Australia later in 2024 will be able to lodge their immigration, customs and biosecurity status digitally up to 72 hours prior to arrival in Australia.

The Australian Border Force (ABF) said in a statement on Friday night that the system will expand to other airlines as it progresses beyond the pilot stage. The digital system will replace the current Incoming Passenger Card (IPC) that must be filled in by all travelers to Australia declaring where they will stay and what goods they have brought into the country. The ABF said making the digital declaration up to 72 hours before arrival in Australia will give travelers the opportunity to leave prohibited goods behind.

“Digitizing the Incoming Passenger Card presents opportunities to streamline processes, improve data quality, and offer a seamless experience for users,” the statement said. Once completed, passengers using the new declaration will receive an email containing a QR code that can be scanned by ABF officers. — Xinhua



A drone photo taken on 21 February 2024 shows the snow covered Badaling Great Wall in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: LIU YU/XINHUA**

Beijing launches UAV delivery service on the Great Wall

Beijing has introduced its first UAV logistics delivery route at the Badaling section of the Great Wall. This new service allows tourists to receive summer relief items and emergency supplies within minutes.

Beijing has launched its first unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) logistics delivery route in the Badaling section of the Great Wall, which enables tourists to receive summer relief items and emergency supplies within minutes, said the Badaling scenic area

on Friday.

The south ninth watchtower on the extended line of the Badaling Great Wall serves as the delivery point for the new route. The area, which opened to the public at the end of 2023, mainly hosts activities such as outdoor hiking, adven-

ture crossings, Great Wall studies and travel photography. The lack of commercial facilities at the area makes it difficult for visitors to replenish supplies such as drinking water. To address the delivery of supplies, the Badaling Great Wall scenic area partnered with a delivery platform to launch the UAV delivery route. Once at the delivery spot, tourists may scan a QR code with their mobile phones to place orders on a food delivery platform, and the supplies will be delivered by drones within five minutes. A single trip to the spot usually takes 50 minutes on foot.

On the return trip, the drone may also transport the waste generated, significantly reducing the labour costs for the Great Wall’s maintenance staff, according to the delivery platform participating in the UAV service. — Xinhua

Paris Olympic cauldron could stay permanently

The seven-metre (23-foot) ring of flame is not actually fire, but is made up of clouds of mist lit by LED rays, built by French energy firm EDF and powered by 100-per-cent renewable electricity.



Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo wants the cauldron to stay. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Olympic cauldron rising over Paris beneath a huge balloon each night has become such a popular sight that it may become a permanent fixture in the City of Light.

The unique version of the Olympic flame, located in the Tuileries Gardens between the Louvre Museum and Concorde obelisk, has been one of many innovations for this year’s Games.

The seven-metre (23-foot) ring of flame is not actually fire, but is made up of clouds of mist lit by LED rays, built by French energy firm EDF and powered by 100-per-cent renewable electricity.

Each night at sunset, it is drawn up into the sky for two hours by a 30-metre helium balloon, coated in light-re-

flecting satin paint.

All 10,000 daily slots to watch it rise up-close have been booked out until the end of the Games on Sunday, and it will return for the Paralympics at the end of the month.

The “real” Olympic flame, transported from Greece to France, is installed a few steps from the cauldron in a lantern sheltered by a display case.

Now, many politicians are talking about making the cauldron a permanent addition to the Paris skyline.

The decision lies with President Emmanuel Macron’s government. He told reporters last week that the idea “would be a dream for many people” and that his team would “look at all that in due time”. — AFP