

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Workers carefully organize rice bags in a Yangon warehouse—one to three bags are designated for rice reserve per tonne of rice export.

MRF to stockpile up to 1M bags of reserved rice

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) will store up to one million bags of rice, including Pawsan rice varieties, for the State's rice reserve.

The federation will add Pawsan rice in addition to Aemahta rice into the rice reserves. A bag weighs 108 pounds.

"Even Pawsan rice has been

planned for rice reserve in the coming paddy season. This move is to stabilize the market and facilitate consumers, especially low-income families. After MRF stockpiles them, the related departments and individuals will resell them to the employees. At present, there is adequate distribution of Aemahta rice," U Ye Min Aung, president of MRF.

The Ministry of Commerce and MRF decided to add more rice stocks to the rice reserve scheme with a view to stabilizing the market and beefing up stocks for low-income households.

According to the strategic plan of the rice reserve by the Ministry of Commerce and MRF, one to three bags are designated for rice reserve per tonne of rice export. — ASH/KK

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MoL fines overseas job agencies for service fee violations

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Work coord meeting for rice export to China held

PP collection for Myitkyina, Lashio branches available in Mandalay, Taunggyi

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Passport Office, individuals who have scheduled appointments to obtain a passport at Myitkyina and Lashio branches can now collect their passports in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi.

Those with appointments at the Myitkyina branch from 22 July onwards can pick up their passports at the Mandalay office starting 13 August. Similarly, those

with appointments at the Lashio branch from 5 July can collect their passports at Yangon and Taunggyi branches from 13 August.

The Myanmar Passport Board has been issuing passports at the Yangon office since 24 February and at Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Patheingyi, and Bago offices since 26 February – all through an online appointment system. — TWA/MKKS



The facade of the Myanmar Passport Office (Myitkyina).

NATIONAL



Photos show devotees and well-wishers throng on the platforms of the Shwedagon Pagoda (L) and the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda (R) yesterday.

Metta Akha Taw Day ceremonies held at Shwedagon, Kaba Aye pagodas

BUDDHISTS regard the full moon day of Wagoung as an auspicious day of Metta (loving-kindness) (Metta Akha Taw Day). Being Wagoung full moon day, Metta Akha Taw Day ceremonies were held at the Shwedagon Pagoda and Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda in Yangon yesterday.

Organized by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, events such as offering dawn meal to the pagoda and the ceremony of dispersing Metta were held at the designated places of the pagoda platform.

The Yangon Region chief minister and party, pagoda board of trustees and religious

organizations participated in the conveyance of flower stupas made of 84,000 flowers. They went round the pagoda by a clockwise procession. They then donated flower stupas at four prayer halls respectively.

They also observed the Sabbath from Ovadacariya of the pagoda board of trustees

Chairman of the Yangon Region Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Tipitaka Linkara Monastery of Thakayta Aggamaha Pandia Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Agga maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Dwipitakadhara Dr Bhaddanta Agga Sami.

They offered donations

to Sayadaws and shared their merits.

Likewise, the pagoda board of trustees of the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda organized Metta Akha Taw Day at the pagoda. Religious organizations recited Gatha, and shared merits gained. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/KTZH

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 4/2024

Fullmoon of Wagoung, 1386ME
19 August 2024

Allowing Kachin State People's Party (KSPP) to register as political party

AS of 19 August 2024, the Kachin State People's Party (KSPP), with its headquarters located at No 328, near Seinn Mya Ayeya Park, Pyidaungsu Road, Yuzana Ward, Myitkyina of Kachin State, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The registration number of the Kachin State People's Party (KSPP) is 51.

Sd/ Ko Ko
Chairman
Union Election Commission

2024 ISR U-18 track and field meet to be held in August

THE Department of Sports and Physical Education, in collaboration with the Myanmar Athletics Federation, will host the 2024 Inter-State and

Region U-18 Track and Field Meet from 23 to 26 August at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event will feature

competitions between 15 men's teams and 15 women's teams, and entry is free for all sports enthusiasts. — MNA/TRKM

COVID-19 report, 19 AUGUST 2024

NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
20,846	22	Nil

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NATIONAL

SAC members attend final match, awarding ceremony of 2024 ISR Futsal Championship

STATE Administration Council Members Daw Dwe Bu, Porel Aung Thein, Dr Hmuh Thang, Dr Ba Shwe, Khun San Lwin, U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental officials, and relevant officials attended the final match and awarding ceremony of the 2024 Inter-State and Region Futsal Championship yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They watched the men's final match between the Yangon Region team and the Kachin State team. Yangon Region team beat Kachin State team 3-1 in the final game.

Next, an awarding ceremony was held, and officials presented cash awards and medals to the best male and female athletes, the third-prize



The Yangon Region men's team raised the championship trophy at yesterday's event, graced by SAC members and dignitaries.

winning Sagaing Region team (women) and Bago Region team (men), and second-prize winning Kachin State teams (women) and (men) respectively.

Then, SAC members Porel Aung Thein and Daw Dwe Bu presented individual medals, cash prizes, and championship trophies to first-prize winning Yangon Region men's and women's teams.

The purpose of holding the 2024 Inter-State and Region Futsal Championship is to uplift Myanmar futsal, to unite futsal players from different regions and states, and to bring out a new generation of athletes. The event was held from 11 to 19 August with 525 players from 15 men's teams and 15 women's teams. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar reports no cases of mpox, boosts prevention drills

THE Ministry of Health has detected no cases of mpox (monkeypox) virus in the country after conducting 129 lab tests from 2022 to date, said Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, at a meeting to scale up measures to prevent the virus yesterday.

In his remark, the Union minister said the WHO released standing recommendations and that the country would also systematically conduct awareness

to follow the recommendations by cooperating with the relevant ministries. Moreover, the tight supervision of mpox will be made at borders without affecting domestic and foreign tourism.

During the meeting, the Union minister also clarified the mpox that was first detected in humans in 1970, in the DRC, and considered the upsurge of mpox as PHEIC in 2024.

He added that there are

significantly fewer chances that Myanmar would have mpox, according to WHO, but people should have knowledge of personal hygiene as mpox can be infected by humans through physical contact with someone with the infection.

Then, the attendees reported on mpox cases in the world countries, preventive measures in Myanmar and supervision of mpox at borders. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win addresses the meeting to ramp up prevention measures against mpox yesterday.

MoFA Deputy Minister receives UN RC/HC ai, UNOCHA Head



The UN Resident Coordinator ad interim and UNOCHA Head call on MoFA Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo received Mr Marcoluigi Corsi, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ai (UN RC/HC ai), and Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, Head of Office of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Yangon, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters related to the existing cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations agencies.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the meeting. — MNA

NATIONAL

3M acres of sunflower crops planned to boost local oil production

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung met Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein on 17 and 18 August, respectively. They discussed how the State economic promotion fund is supporting the cultivation of summer paddy, as well as the monsoon paddy project and oil crop project activities, sown acreage expansion of sunflower and cotton crops, to develop dairy cattle farming through inbreeding programmes.

The Union minister stated self-sufficiency in domestic edible oil with sunflower crops. The planting of sunflower crops in various regions and states is



Union Minister U Min Naung and officials are pictured during his inspection tours on 17-18 August.

targeted for 1.09 million acres. By 2027-2028, a total of 3.07 million acres of sunflowers will be

grown. The Union minister also focused on educating farmers to reduce the use of pesticides

that harm pollinating insects. He also stressed the need to increase domestic milk and

dairy production and reduce dairy imports. Over 60,000 dairy cows will be bred in five major regions from 2024 to 2028. He also said that ministries and state and regional governments need to collaborate on methods and technical support for this project.

Then, chief ministers discussed the respective projects of oil crop production to increase the country's economy. Furthermore, the Union minister met farmers from Sarmalauk Village of Nyaungdon Township, accompanied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win. They also inspected the planting of monsoon paddy fields and the spreading of manure there. — MNA/TRKM

Deputy Education Minister heads for 2024 China-ASEAN Education Week

DEPUTY Minister for Education Dr Moe Zaw Htun, leading Myanmar delegation to the People's Republic of China, departed Yangon by air yesterday morning to participate in the 2024 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week.

Dr Moe Zaw Htun and the delegation were seen off by Dr Win Win Than, Rector of Dagon University, as well as officials and deputy Directors-General at Yangon International Airport.

The event, which focuses on education collaboration between China



Deputy Minister for Education Dr Moe Zaw Htun and delegates are seen before leaving for China yesterday.

and ASEAN countries, from 20 to 25 August 2024. — MNA/KZL

MoSWRR Deputy Minister receives UN RC/HC ai, UNOCHA Head

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Kyi received Mr Sajjad Mohammad Sajid, Head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and Mr Marcoluigi, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ai (UN RC/HC ai) at the ministry's office yesterday afternoon.

They exchanged views on the soonest possible signing of a letter of agreement between the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement

and UNOCHA, assistance in entry visas for UNOCHA's foreign staff, UNOCHA's provision of humanitarian aid to those

in need in Myanmar, and association registration of international non-governmental organizations. — MNA/TS



The UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator and the UNOCHA Head call on MoSWRR Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi yesterday.

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NATIONAL

Announcement on WHO's Mpox PHEIC Declaration

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox) a global public health emergency on 14 August 2024. This decision was due to a surge in Mpox cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and other African countries. The epidemic has particularly affected the eastern part of the DRC, where the Clade 1b variant has spread both transnationally and to neighbouring countries.
2. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has been actively monitoring and inspecting cases of fever with vesicular rash in public hospitals and health departments across Nay Pyi Taw, as well as in states and regions, since the WHO first announced Mpox on 23 July 2022. Although the WHO downgraded Mpox from a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 11 May 2023 due to a noticeable decline in outbreaks, Myanmar has continued to monitor Mpox symptoms. To date, the MoH has conducted 129 laboratory examinations with no confirmed cases of Mpox.
3. Despite the lower risk of a Mpox outbreak in Myanmar compared to neighbouring and regional countries, the MoH is working with relevant ministries and departments to monitor the disease at international airports, ports, and border crossings. Quarantine facilities are arranged, and medicines and medical supplies are provided for patients who test positive. Public awareness programmes to prevent the disease have also been intensified.
4. Mpox primarily spreads through close physical contact, including sexual contact, skin-to-skin contact, and direct contact with an infected person, animal, or contaminated material.
5. To prevent Mpox infection, it is essential to avoid close contact with suspected cases. If close contact is unavoidable, wearing gloves and masks is recommended. Regular handwashing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer is advised, and so is wearing gloves and masks when handling materials and goods that may be contaminated.
6. MoH urges the public to promptly report to the nearest health department if they experience symptoms such as red spots and blisters on the face, hands, legs, mouth, or genital area, accompanied by fever, swollen lymph nodes, headache, muscle pain, and fatigue. Additionally, individuals who have been in contact with someone from an outbreak region should avoid travelling, both internationally and domestically, for 21 days.

Ministry of Health



Global maritime demand to require 300,000 more seafarers in 5 years

CAPTAIN Soe Min Aung, president of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation, said that the demand for sailors and officers in the global maritime industry could reach more than 300,000 in the next five years. Thus, more Myanmar sailors with better qualifications are required.

With increasing tonnage and number of ships, sailor demand is also expected to rise in future.

“Where there is a vacancy, if we can provide a qualified sailor, we will get a job. There is a huge demand for seafarers in the global ship-

ping industry. To fill the gap, our sailors need to be skilled and well-qualified. And since we only have to use English on a ship that goes around the world, we think sailors need to be able to speak, read and write workable English at least. In the next five years, we need over 300,000 sailors – both men and women. So, employers will recruit sailors who meet their expectations,” said Captain Soe Min Aung.

MSF is currently offering free occupational English course in the workplace and free practical training courses for deck seafarers in one batch

after another, which attract many interests.

“As a federation, one of our objectives is to help the development of the vocational skills of the Myanmar seafarers. On the one hand, we also aim to support the improvement of the social life of their families. In order to fulfil these two objectives, we have organized a free basic course for deck seafarers and a free English course in the onboard workplace,” he said.

For any information or requirement on matters related to sailors, individuals can contact and seek assistance from the MSF, he added. — MT/ZN

Mawlamyine, Hpa-an, and Thaton lead orders for Popa's guavas

TASTY and crispy guavas produced from the Popa area have been ordered chiefly from Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Thaton, according to fruit market sources.

Popa's guava is one of the most consumed tasty fruits in Myanmar.

“We deliver to Yangon and Mandalay. More people eat Popa's fruits. Its price is higher than others. With more consumption, its trade is better. We deliver at most 50 to 60 bags at a time. But, as it is comparatively cheaper than other fruits, there is more consumption. Sales are brisk. We mainly send it to Maw-

lamyine, Hpa-an, and Thaton. We also send it to Yangon and Mandalay if there are orders,” said a Popa's guava retail/wholesale shop owner from Kyaukpadaung.

In addition, Yangon people eat more Popa's guavas as they are sweeter, crispier and more tasty than other guavas.

“The taste of other kinds of guavas is less tasty. This one is crispy. It is better to eat it after making the salad. This is grown in our areas. It is produced in all seasons. Only the yield differs. Now it is plenty, but the price is good with many supplies,” she added. — Thit Taw/ZN



NATIONAL

Myat Mawtin Pagoda welcomes nearly 500,000 pilgrims in Jan-Aug

ACCORDING to the Pagoda Board of Trustees, Myat Mawtin Pagoda in Ayeyawady Region welcomed almost 500,000 pilgrims from January to August 2024. The annual Myat Mawtin Buddha Pujaniya Festival is held from the 1st Waxing of Tabaung to the Fullmoon of Tabaung, attracting most of the pilgrims during this period.

"Pilgrims from across the nation come to pay homage at Myat Mawtin Pagoda. From January 2024 to date, we have welcomed over 500,000 pilgrims. March, during the Pagoda's Buddha Pujaniya Festival, sees the highest number of visitors. Pilgrim numbers are also high from January until the festival in March. Currently, during Lent, we see over 1,000 pilgrims on

Sabbath days and around 200 on regular days," said a member of the Pagoda's board of trustees.

As part of a five-year plan running from 2022 to 2026, the four pagoda platform are under renovation. The religious hall is being enlarged to accommodate more pilgrims, and accessible accommodation facilities are under construction at present. — ASH/MKKS



An aerial panoramic view of the Myat Mawtin Pagoda and its scenic surroundings in Ayeyawady Region.

MoL fines overseas job agencies for service fee violations



Warning measures against foreign employment agencies and illegal labourers who did not follow the rules set by the Ministry of Labour in 2018.

THE Ministry of Labour has announced that foreign employment agencies will face fines if they collect service fees without having job offers. Agencies that charge service fees in advance, engage in fraudulent activities,

or misuse funds must return all money collected and pay a fine of K500,000 per worker.

Furthermore, if agencies receive service fees but fail to send workers due to various reasons or if complaints are not resolved, a fine of K400,000

will be imposed. This fine applies if workers are not sent within three months of signing the contract or if the agency does not fulfil the service after collecting the fee in advance.

Agencies that retain documents without sending workers abroad or fail to issue requested documents will face a fine of K300,000. Additionally, when the required statistics, documents, and supporting materials related to the despatch process are not submitted on time, fines will be applied: K100,000 for the first offence, K200,000 for the second, and K300,000 for the third. Repeat offences during the licence period will result in increased fines. — TWA/TKO

July 2024 JLPT results available online from 26 Aug

THE Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Organizing Committee of the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni has announced that the online results for the JLPT held on 7 July will be available from 7:30 am on 26 August.

Results can be viewed at <https://www.jlpt.jp/e/guideline/>

results_online.html until 2:30 pm on 31 October. The date for issuing certificates will be announced separately.

The JLPT, ranging from N1 to N5, qualifies successful candidates to work for companies in Japan or for Japanese companies operating in Myanmar. — TWA/TKO



Candidates for Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) in 2023.

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YGN palm oil reference rate set at K6,170 per viss this week

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market hit a seventh-week high of K6,170 per viss this week ending 25 August, which increased from K5,945 recorded last week ending 18 August 2024, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The rate started to rise from K5,390 per viss during the week ending 14 July.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook Page of the Department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK



Palm oil is arranged for sales at the market.

Work coord meeting for rice export to China held



Lorries loaded with export-import cargoes line up for crossing at the Muse 105-Mile border post.

THE Agriculture Department, Consumer Affairs Department and Myanmar Rice Federation jointly arranged a work coordination meeting at Mingala Hall of the Union of Myanmar

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 16 August 2024 to discuss export procedures while rice and broken rice are sent to China.

The meeting highlighted inspec-

tion tours in line with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol (SPS Protocol), issuing pest-free certificates, standard operating procedures of rice mills and warehouses of rice exporting companies in accordance with rules and regulations, occupational health and safety of mills, analyzing inventory list of the warehouses and online registration process with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

The Agriculture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation called for Expressions of Interest from new companies that want to seek legal permits for rice export to China in the second week of July. Those companies were notified to submit EOI forms by 31 July.

The SPS protocol is a must in seeking registration with GACC for legitimate rice export to China. — NN/KK

Feed mills sourcing maize amid shortage

LIVESTOCK feed mills are purchasing maize amid low supply in the domestic market.

Exporting companies sourced the maize in June and July. Then, they were exported to foreign markets through Yangon and Mandalay ports. At present, they have completed the purchase order according to the contracts.

High demand for mills amid low supply in the market led to price rises. Myanmar's maize is primarily sent to Thailand and delivered to China, India, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Thailand gives the green light for maize imports under zero tariff (with Form-D) between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the rights of their growers if the maize is imported during the maize season of Thailand. Therefore, only a few days are left to export Myanmar's maize to Thailand with duty-free privilege.

Additionally, China has been purchasing Myanmar's maize through cross-border trade under the alternative development programme. Legitimate maize trade between Myanmar and



This photo shows harvested corn at the corn plantation.

China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted to export maize.

Myanmar exported more than one million tonnes of maize in the first quarter of the current financial year (2024-2025), with 390,000 tonnes in April, 370,000 tonnes in May and 390,000 tonnes in June, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar conveyed over 2 million tonnes of maize to foreign trade part-

ners in the 2022 corn season, and the majority of them went to Thailand, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah, and Kayin states as well as Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons: winter, summer, and monsoon season. Myanmar's annual corn output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK

OPINION

Be ready to fight against mpox

THE World Health Organization (WHO) on 14 August declared the ongoing mpox (monkeypox) outbreak in parts of Africa as a public health emergency of international concern. This highly contagious disease, previously known as monkeypox, has already claimed the lives of at least 450 people during an initial outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The virus has since spread across central and east Africa, alarming scientists due to the rapid spread of a new variant and its high fatality rate.

In July 2022, the WHO classified monkeypox as a global health emergency, finding that the virus could be transmitted through sexual contact, occurring in more than 70 countries. Although the number of cases eventually declined, leading the WHO to lift the emergency status in May 2023, concerns about the virus remain.

While the current situation is concerning, authorities and health organizations are working to monitor and control the spread of monkeypox to prevent it from becoming a more extensive global health threat. Currently, Myanmar needs to make the necessary preparations to prevent a possible outbreak of monkeypox. Whatever it may be, all people, including health staff, need to be ready to fight against monkeypox.

nasal congestion, and cough may also occur. These symptoms typically begin within 21 days of exposure to the virus. It is necessary to welcome that Danish drugmaker Bavarian Nordic recently said it was ready to produce up to 10 million doses of its vaccine targeting monkeypox by 2025.

A person infected with monkeypox can transmit the virus to others from the onset of symptoms until the rash has fully healed and new skin has formed. Fortunately, there have been no reported cases of monkeypox in Myanmar so far, and the country remains unaffected by the outbreak.

While the current situation is concerning, authorities and health organizations are working to monitor and control the spread of monkeypox to prevent it from becoming a more extensive global health threat. Currently, Myanmar needs to make the necessary preparations to prevent a possible outbreak of monkeypox. Whatever it may be, all people, including health staff, need to be ready to fight against monkeypox.

The Health Agency of the African Union stated that more than 18,000 people suffered from Mpox in Africa this year. Monkeypox is primarily transmitted through close contact, such as skin-to-skin contact, sexual contact, and even through talking or breathing in close proximity to an infected person. The virus may cause a mortality rate of approximately four per cent.

Currently, the WHO has confirmed at least 92 cases of monkeypox in regions outside of Africa, including Europe, the United States, Canada, and Australia. However, experts from WHO believe that the current monkeypox infections can be controlled and are unlikely to lead to a pandemic on the scale of COVID-19.

Early symptoms of monkeypox resemble those of the flu and include chills, exhaustion, fever, headache, muscle aches, backache, and swollen lymph nodes. Respiratory symptoms like sore throat,

Managing the school with fifty students on her own was incredibly challenging for May Thu. The most disheartening aspect was the lack of parental support for their children's education. Many parents did not see the value in sending their children to school because of their low living standards. One day, May Thu visited Ahar Warr's house because he had been absent from school.

"Is there anyone? Is Ahar Warr here?" she shouted. A woman came out and replied, "He is not here. He is in the field, doing his own work. And who are you?"

"I'm Ahar Warr's teacher. I came here because he has been absent for a few days," May Thu explained.

"Oh! I see, Miss Teacher. But I have to say that we cannot send him to school anymore because we need to survive first. No one gives

From Struggles to Triumph

By Yin Nwe Ko

AS soon as May Thu rang the bell, all the students rushed inside because it started raining. She sat down in the armchair, sighed deeply, and began preparing the question forms for the upcoming monthly test. May Thu graduated from The Yangon University of Education and had been transferred to a primary school in Moe Pyar village due to a shortage of teachers. Moe Pyar was a poor village, and the villagers did not prioritize education. They preferred to work and earn money instead of sending their children to school. This presented a significant challenge for May Thu when she first arrived.

May Thu had hoped to be transferred to an excellent high school near her home. However, things did not go as she wished, and she had no choice but to accept the assignment. The village was far from her home, so she had to stay in the village during weekdays and could only go home on weekends. Sometimes, she couldn't even go home on weekends, especially when she had to prepare for monthly tests. As the youngest teacher who could handle all responsibilities related to the school, she was often overwhelmed. There were only two teachers at the school: Daw Tin Htay Lwin and May Thu. But after two months, Daw Tin Htay Lwin retired, leaving May Thu as the only teacher responsible for the students.

Managing the school with fifty students on her own was incredibly challenging for May Thu. The most disheartening aspect was the lack of parental support for their children's education. Many parents did not see the value in sending their children to school because of their low living standards. One day, May Thu visited Ahar Warr's house because he had been absent from school.

"Is there anyone? Is Ahar Warr here?" she shouted. A woman came out and replied, "He is not here. He is in the field, doing his own work. And who are you?"

"I'm Ahar Warr's teacher. I came here because he has been absent for a few days," May Thu explained.

"Oh! I see, Miss Teacher. But I have to say that we cannot send him to school anymore because we need to survive first. No one gives

us free food for no reason. You must understand, Miss Teacher," the woman responded.

These were typical conversations May Thu had about her students. Sometimes, she would see Daw Bhu Ma, a fish seller and the mother of Ei Phyu Sin, another student.

"Oh! Daw Bhu Ma, why didn't Ei Phyu Sin come to school yesterday? Is she sick?" May Thu asked. "No, Miss Teacher, she is selling fish in another village. And by the way, she won't be going to school anymore because she has to work instead of wasting her time," Daw Bhu Ma replied before continuing her rounds, hawking her fish.

Despite these challenges, May Thu found solace in her students, who were eager to learn and play like all children. Their innocent faces, smiles, and words were flawless and gave her the strength to keep going. She hoped that one day, she could educate more children from this village and help them become great people who could contribute to the country.

One particular student, Ei Phyu Sin, always greeted May Thu warmly with "Mingalar Par Sayar-ma" (Hello, Teacher) every morning. This simple greeting filled May Thu with hope and determination. She believed that through education, the children of Moe Pyar could have a better future.

Overcoming Obstacles

May Thu's journey in Moe Pyar village was not an easy one. The villagers' reluctance to send their children to school was rooted in their daily struggles to make ends meet. Many of them worked as farmers, fish sellers, or labourers, barely earning enough to feed their families. Education seemed like a luxury they couldn't afford. However, May Thu was determined to change their mindset.

She started by visiting the homes of her students to talk to their parents. She explained the importance of education and how it could improve their children's lives in the long run. She used examples of successful individuals who had come from similar backgrounds and emphasized that education was the key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

One of her most memorable

visits was to the home of Hla Hla Win, a bright girl with a keen interest in learning. Hla Hla Win's parents were hesitant to send her to school because they needed her help in the fields. May Thu patiently explained how Hla Hla Win's education could lead to better job opportunities and a more stable future for the family. After much persuasion, Hla Hla Win's parents agreed to let her attend school regularly.

Building Trust and Encouraging Attendance

Building trust with the villagers was crucial. May Thu organized community meetings where she invited parents to discuss their concerns and learn more about the benefits of education. She also involved the village elders, who were respected figures in the community, to advocate for schooling.

Gradually, more parents started to see the value of education and began sending their children to school. To make the school more appealing, May Thu introduced various activities and programs. She organized sports events, art competitions, and cultural festivals, which not only made learning fun but also showcased the talents of the students. These events brought the community together and fostered a sense of pride and unity.

May Thu also implemented a reward system to encourage regular attendance. Students who attended school consistently and performed well in their studies received small prizes, such as notebooks, pencils, and storybooks. This initiative motivated the children and made them look forward to coming to school.

Improving the School Environment

The primary school in Moe Pyar was in a dilapidated state when May Thu first arrived. The classrooms were dark and cramped, with broken furniture and limited resources. May Thu knew that creating a conducive learning environment was essential for the student's growth and development.

She started by rallying the villagers to help with the repairs. Together, they fixed the roofs, painted



GOOGLE PHOTO

the walls, and built new desks and chairs. The villagers' involvement in the renovation process instilled a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the school.

May Thu also reached out to NGOs and government agencies for support. She managed to secure donations of books, stationery, and teaching aids, which greatly improved the quality of education. With better resources, she was able to introduce new subjects and extracurricular activities, such as science experiments, gardening, and storytelling sessions. As she was not a strong male teacher, those activities made her very exhausted. But she never gave up.

Fostering a Love for Learning

May Thu's teaching methods were innovative and engaging. She believed in making learning interactive and hands-on, which helped the students grasp concepts better. Instead of relying solely on textbooks, she used real-life examples and practical demonstrations to explain lessons.

For instance, during a science lesson about plants, May Thu took the students to the village fields to observe different types of crops and learn about their growth process. She also encouraged the students to ask questions and explore their surroundings, fostering a sense of curiosity and discovery.

In language classes, May Thu used storytelling and drama to make learning enjoyable. She organized reading sessions where students could read aloud and discuss stories, improving their reading and comprehension skills. She also introduced creative writing exercises, encouraging the stu-

dents to express their thoughts and ideas through writing.

Empowering Students and Building Confidence

One of May Thu's main goals was to empower her students and build their confidence. She believed that every child had the potential to succeed, regardless of their background. She encouraged her students to dream big and work towards their goals.

May Thu identified the strengths and interests of each student and provided opportunities for them to shine. She supported Hla Hla Win in her passion for mathematics, helping her participate in inter-school math competitions. Hla Hla Win's success in these competitions boosted her self-esteem and motivated her to pursue higher education.

Another student, Kyaw Min, showed a talent for art. May Thu organized an art exhibition in the village, showcasing Kyaw Min's paintings along with the works of other students. The exhibition received widespread appreciation from the community and inspired Kyaw Min to consider a career in art.

The Impact of Education

May Thu's dedication and efforts start to bear fruit. More children began attending school regularly, and their academic performance improved significantly. The parents, who were initially sceptical, began to see the positive changes in their children. They realized that education was not a waste of time but a valuable investment in their future.

The village also began to

change. With educated children, the villagers started to think differently about the importance of learning and personal growth. They began to understand that education could open doors to new opportunities and a better quality of life.

Looking Towards the Future

May Thu's journey in Moe Pyar village was a testament to the transformative power of education. Despite the challenges and obstacles, she remained committed to her mission of educating the children and improving their lives. Her determination, patience, and innovative teaching methods made a lasting impact on the community.

May Thu's story spread beyond Moe Pyar village, inspiring other teachers and educators to follow her example. She was invited to speak at educational conferences and workshops in the town, where she shared her experiences and strategies for overcoming challenges in rural education.

As the years passed, many of May Thu's students graduated from primary school and continued their education in higher institutions. Some of them pursued careers in teaching, healthcare, engineering, and other fields, becoming role models for the younger generation.

May Thu continued to teach in Moe Pyar village as a headmistress of that primary school because she happened to marry a young man in the village, her passion for education undiminished. She remained dedicated to her students and their dreams, constantly finding new ways to

make learning meaningful and enjoyable.

May Thu's story is a powerful reminder of the difference one dedicated teacher can make in the lives of many. Her journey in Moe Pyar village exemplifies the importance of education in breaking the cycle of poverty and empowering individuals to achieve their full potential.

Through her perseverance and innovative teaching methods, May Thu not only educated her students but also transformed the community's perception of

education. Her impact reached far beyond the classroom, fostering a love for learning and a belief in the power of education to create a brighter future.

May Thu's students will forever remember her as the teacher who believed in them, encouraged them to dream big, and guided them towards a better life. Her legacy will continue to inspire future generations, proving that with dedication, passion, and resilience, one person can truly make a difference.



Flood condition of Thanlwin River
ACCORDING to the 07:30 hours MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about one inch (two centimetres) above its danger level 24.61 feet (750 centimetres). It may continue to rise about 0.5 foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Sittoung River
According to the 07:30 hours MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about more than 0.5 foot (22 centimetres) above its danger level 35.10 feet (1070 centimetres). It may continue to rise about four inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory
It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Hpa-an Township and Madauk, to take precaution measure.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 19 August 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over South Bangladesh still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and may cross Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, India. Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 20 August 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Northern Shan State, scattered in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Magway Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Shan states.

NATIONAL

4 Chinese, 17 Myanmar nationals nabbed in online scam crackdown

IN a major crackdown on online fraud, a combined security team from the Myanmar Police Force arrested four Chinese nationals and seventeen Myanmar nationals involved in a fraudulent online money scam. The arrests took place on 18 August 2024, at approximately 4:30 pm in Chanayethazan Township,

Mandalay Region.

The suspects were apprehended at a residence located on 27th Street, between 65th and 66th Street, in the Pyigyimythan Ward. The raid was conducted following reports that the individuals were engaging in online scams. They found Yanlong, aged 28, two other Chinese

men and a Chinese woman and Myanmar nationals: 10 men and six women, including Ye Myint aged 20 (father U Youk Soup), from Htunsan Village, Laukkai Township in Shan State. The homeowner, Daw Sanda, was also identified.

During the operation, authorities discovered and seized

a variety of equipment used for fraudulent activities. This included four sets of computers, two laptops, one 5BB Broadband Wi-Fi device, three Ruijie Regee Wi-Fi extenders, and other related materials.

The suspects, including Yanlong, two other Chinese men, one Chinese woman, ten Myanmar

men and six Myanmar women along with Ye Myint, and the homeowner, Daw Sanda, are currently facing legal action under the Electronic Transactions Law, Section 33(a)/38. The case is being handled by the Chanayethazan Township's No 3 Police Station, which is conducting further investigations. — MNA/KZL



Four Chinese 17 Myanmar nationals are seen being arrested for online scams (L) with fraud-related evidence and items being seized (R).

Illegal items confiscated across nation

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illicit trading across the nation.

On 16 August, during the inspection made by combined teams under the management of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, 1.872 tonnes of illegal teak worth K585,000 were seized in Lewe district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On the same day, a combined team under the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted an inspection and confiscated an unregistered Honda Fit worth K6,000,000 at the entrance checkpoint in Kanpya village of Magway. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 17 August, the Customs Department seized K15 million worth of China-made spray gun (4,160 kilogrammes) at Asia World Port Terminal and K20.28 million worth of India-made recombinant hu-

man erythropoietin injection and three types of US-made goods including Starlink router at Yangon International Airport, totalling K35.28 million. The action was taken in accordance with Customs procedures.

Similarly, the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured 5,000 kilogrammes of Thai-made aluminium sulphate and 630 kilogrammes of super cell blowing agent, and 625 kilogrammes of China-made organic peroxide worth K3.875 million and one Higer bus worth K20 million that carried these illegal products, at the Thanlwin Bridge checkpoint. The amount of seizures was K23.875 million and the action was carried out according to Customs procedures.

Moreover, the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made the seizures of K26.69 million worth of three different types of China-made products and one Charm truck worth K30 million near Singaing

Township. In addition, the task force seized 39 types of products including excavator spare part Carrier roller and Bottom truck roller worth K 49.0347 million and Mitsubishi Fuso truck and Nissan Diesel truck worth K68 million totalling K173.72 million near the BOC petrol station in Paleik town.

On 18 August, the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized one unregistered Toyota Wish worth K8 million at the Kantalu checkpoint and six unregistered motorcycles including Super Anbo worth K1.2 million in Shwebo township, and K19.654 million worth of 12 products, totalling K28.85 million, at the Yadanabon checkpoint in Sagaing. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 23 arrests on three consecutive days from 16 to 18 August, with an estimated value of K268.32 million. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

False claims of Tatmadaw air support in Central Myanmar fire

REPORTS circulating that Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) conducted an air-strike on the Myingyan-Natogyi border and areas in Thabeikkyin and Tagaung on 18 August are false. These reports have been spread by malicious news media, creating misinformation.

Upon investigation, local authorities and residents confirmed that these reports were inaccurate. There were no air-strikes by the Tatmadaw on that day in these regions. Security forces in Myingyan-Natogyi and Ngazun towns have been effectively targeting insurgent hideouts based on local intelligence, while PDF terrorist groups have engaged in sporadic attacks.

The only damage observed was minor and limited to the outer walls of ancient pagodas in the vicinity due to exchanges of fire with insurgents. Insurgents, known for attacking Buddhist sites, have been reported to vandalize pagodas repeatedly.



This screenshot validates misinformation.

Myanmar respects freedom of worship for all religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism, and both the government and Tatmadaw continue to support and uphold religious practices.

This misinformation is aimed at creating unrest and disparaging Tatmadaw's reputation. Security forces have clarified that these reports are intended to undermine public trust and create discord. — MNA/KZL

Singaporean PM pledges efforts to strengthen bilingual education

SINGAPOREAN students who are strong in their mother tongue, Mandarin, Malay, or Tamil, will have wider access to higher-level classes from the secondary school to nurture proficiency, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said at the National Day Rally on Sunday.

English is Singapore's working language. Mandarin, Malay, or Tamil are also commonly seen in the country.

"Bilingual education enables Singapore to draw the best from the East and the West and to connect with other countries. That's why we can maintain unique competitiveness over the years," he stressed.

Lawrence Wong shared his experience of learning Mandarin and noted that it benefited him a lot.

"During my visit to China, I met several young Singaporeans. The bilingual foundation from school helped them quickly become fluent in Mandarin after starting there," he added.

He hoped more families could use their mother tongue at home to keep the edge. — Xinhua

Mother & daughter devote efforts to gynaecology for decades in SW China

YUE Yicheng was a pioneer of obstetrics and gynaecology in China. She had been engaged in the medical treatment, teaching, scientific research and management of obstetrics and gynaecology for six decades when she was alive. Her daughter Xie Shuxiang was deeply influenced by Yue's career and determined to follow her steps since childhood. After graduation, Xie Shuxiang has also been working in obstetrics and gynaecology, and has made great achievements in the field of reproductive endocrinology. "We were not only mother and daughter, but also colleagues who had worked together for 30 years. We learned and made progress together," Xie Shuxiang said. — Xinhua

Xie Shuxiang hugs the statue of her mother Yue Yicheng at West China Women's and Children's Hospital in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, 14 August 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



France pays tribute to screen legend Alain Delon



This photograph shows a tape of the movie "Le clan des Siciliens" and a picture of late French singer Johnny Halliday (L to R), late French actor Jean-Paul Belmondo and late French actor Alain Delon in front of the entrance of the property of late French actor Alain Delon La Brulerie, in Douchy, central France, on 18 August 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRANCE on Monday paid homage to film legend Alain Delon following his death at 88, with tributes pouring in for the actor who became one of his country's biggest stars, but was also shadowed by controversy.

Delon had made it clear he did not want a national memorial event, but rather burial near his dogs on his property in Douchy in central France where he died. He had already started sounding out the authorities and had their agreement in principle, local official Christophe Hurault told AFP.

His three children, Anthony, Anouchka and Alain-Fabien, having squabbled bitterly for months over his medical treatment, spoke in a unified voice Sunday when they announced their father's death.

Now they have to manage the funeral of the screen icon, deciding whether to limit it to close family or extend it to the cinema world. — AFP

Sydney opens new driverless metro line

SYDNEY'S new multi-billion-dollar driverless metro line officially opened to commuters on Monday.

The first passenger service on the Sydney Metro City Line departed Sydenham station in Sydney's inner western suburbs at 4:54 am on Monday morning, travelling the 15.5 kilometre tunnel under the central business district and Sydney harbour to arrive at Chatswood in the city's north shore at 5:16 am.

Crowds queued from 1 am local time on Monday to ride the first service on the extension of the existing driverless metro line, which was initially scheduled to open on 4 August but was postponed due to safety

regulator approvals.

Trains will run every four minutes on the line during morning and evening peak periods, every five minutes in the middle of weekdays and every 10 minutes at night and on weekends.

The state government of New South Wales (NSW) estimates the service will carry up to 250,000 passengers on a typical weekday and save commuters traveling from Sydenham to Barangaroo in central Sydney 27 minutes.

Construction on the project began in 2017 and cost 21.6 billion Australian dollars (US\$14.4 billion), making it the largest public transport project in Australian history. — Xinhua

New Zealand's new road policing targets drunk, drugged drivers

NEW Zealand's new 1.3 billion NZ dollar (US\$790 million) Road Policing Investment Programme aims to improve safety on roads nationwide by targeting drunk or drugged drivers, the leading contributors to fatal crashes.

The programme to be implemented between 2024 and 2027 will increase the

roadside alcohol breath testing target from three million tests to 3.3 million tests per year, as well as 50,000 roadside drug tests annually.

Released on Sunday by Transport Minister Simeon Brown, the programme package also includes a focus on high-risk times with a requirement that 65 per cent

of breath tests are done at high or extreme alcohol risk times.

The plan has clear targets to ensure police are focused on the most high-risk times, behaviours, and locations, Brown said, adding that speed offenses on open roads and high-risk locations is also a focus of the programme.

"Alcohol and drugs are the number one contributing factor in fatal road crashes in New Zealand," he said, adding that between 2019 and 2022, crashes involving drug drivers claimed the lives of an average of 105 people each year and represented around 30 per cent of all road deaths in the country. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Vietnam's fruit-vegetable exports to hit record high growth in 2024



Staff members label durians to be exported to China at a durian processing plant in Dak Lak province, Vietnam, 15 September 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

VIETNAM'S fruit and vegetable exports could reach a record high of US\$7 billion this year given the context that the country has continuously reported double-digit export growth of those products, Vietnam News Agency reported Monday.

The Southeast Asian country earned \$3.83 billion from exporting fruits and vegetables in the first seven months of this year, up 24.3 per cent year on year, according to the Vietnam Fruit and Vegetable Association.

Among Vietnam's 10 biggest fruit and vegetable importers, nine markets recorded double-digit growth during the cited period.

Dang Phuc Nguyen, the association's general secretary, said the export values of Viet-

namese fruits and vegetables tend to increase. In addition to upholding its reputation in China, a traditional market, Vietnam has expanded exports to Northeast Asian countries.

Northeast Asia is a strategic market for Vietnamese fruits and vegetables. Export businesses not only benefit from tariffs but also can reduce transportation and logistics costs compared to markets such as the EU and the United States, Nguyen said.

In the Northeast Asian region, China is Vietnam's largest fruit and vegetable export market with 12 products.

Vietnam's Plant Protection Department is opening the market for citrus fruits, medicinal plants and frozen durian to China. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Albania sees surge in foreign tourists in 2024

ALBANIA welcomed 6.3 million foreign tourists in the first seven months of 2024, an increase of 1.2 million compared to the same period in 2023, Prime Minister Edi Rama announced on Sunday.

In his Facebook post, Rama attributed the increase primarily to the country's enhanced image, improved infrastructure, and the expansion of service offerings.

However, he expressed concerns about cities like Vlore and Saranda, where excessive price hikes led to a lower increase in business turnover compared to the national average.

Emphasizing this situation as a lesson that market operators should learn from, he stated that, starting next season, businesses will be required to display prices at the entrance of every establishment. — Xinhua

Thailand's economic growth quickens to 2.3% in Q2

THAILAND'S economy expanded 2.3 per cent in the second quarter of 2024 from a year earlier, driven by the tourism sector, private consumption and exports, official data showed on Monday.

The gross domestic product (GDP) in the April-June period accelerated from an upwardly revised 1.6 per cent growth in the previous quarter as government spending slightly rebounded, despite contractions in public and private investments, according to data from the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC). — Xinhua

Seven & i says to review acquisition proposal by Canada retail giant



Photo taken in Tokyo in May 2023 shows the logo of Seven & i Holdings Co. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE retail giant Seven & i Holdings Co said Monday it will review a proposal by Canadian convenience store giant

Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc to acquire all of its outstanding shares.

The operator of the Sev-

en-Eleven convenience store chain said an independent special committee formed by its board of directors will "conduct a prompt, careful and comprehensive review of the proposal".

As of Monday, market capitalization of Seven & i was around 4.6 trillion yen (\$31.5 billion). The company bought Speedway LLC, a US convenience store chain and gas station network, in 2021.

Alimentation Couche-Tard, which runs brands including Couche-Tard and Circle K, has 16,700 stores in 31 countries and regions, including Canada and the United States. — Kyodo

Dollar plunges to 145 yen amid caution over US data

THE US dollar plunged by around three yen to a two-week low in the 145 yen zone Monday in Tokyo, on selling fuelled by speculation US labour data could be revised down this week, further clouding the outlook for the world's

largest economy.

The yen was also bought by a news report that retail giant Seven & i Holdings Co, the operator of the Seven-Eleven convenience chain in Japan, received an acquisition offer from a Canadian firm, in a move that would increase demand for the yen, analysts said.

"If the deal went ahead it is likely to lead to an enormous yen purchase," with the deal likely costing over 5 trillion yen (\$34 billion), said Yukio Ishizuki, senior foreign exchange strategist at Daiwa Securities Co. — Kyodo

Markets split as traders prepare for Powell speech

STOCK markets diverged Monday following last week's strong performance, as traders await a meeting of central bankers that could give fresh signals about the US interest-rate outlook.

Positive data last week eased concerns about the health of the US economy after markets were hammered earlier this month due to recession fears and a Japanese interest-rate hike.

Traders are now turning their attention to the annual symposium of central bank chiefs later this week in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

The highlight will be Friday's speech by Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell, with investors hoping that he will flag an interest rate cut when Fed policymakers meet next month.

"Investors and analysts alike will be paying close attention to any signals from Fed officials about the future direction of US interest rates," said Luca Santos, currency analyst at ACY Securities.

"There's growing speculation that... Powell might hint at the possibility of starting rate cuts as early as September. But the size of the cut is still up in the air."

Santos said a "modest" cut of 0.25 percentage points seems likely while a larger 0.50-point reduction "would need stronger evidence of a weakening US job market". — AFP



Traders work the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 16 August 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Fiji opens first MSME information Hub

THE first-ever Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Information Hub has opened in Suva, the capital of Fiji, to support small businesses.

This initiative aims to support and elevate the businesses of MSMEs to reach their commercial growth potential and provide seamless service delivery, reported Fiji Broadcasting Corporation on Monday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, SMEs, and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, said access to information remains one of the top three challenges for MSMEs. The information hub will create the opportunity for businesses to easily access information on a variety of services and will also grant them assistance programmes, Kamikamica said. — Xinhua

Russia increasing hydrocarbon exports to China, becomes largest oil supplier

RUSSIA is increasing its hydrocarbon exports to China and is currently the largest supplier of oil to the Chinese market, the Russian government said on Monday.

"Strategic cooperation in the energy sector is deepening. The volume of Russian hydrocarbon exports to China is increasing: Russia is the largest supplier of oil to the Chinese market and also occupies a leading position in the export of coal and LNG," the government said in a statement.

Russia and China are systematically increasing natural gas supplies via the Power of Siberia



An oil pump jack operated by the Yamashneft Oil and Gas Production Division of Tatneft, are seen in Almetyevsk District of Russia's Republic of Tatarstan. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

pipeline, as well as are designing a gas pipeline for the Far East route

and working out the conditions for exporting gas through Mongolia,

the government added. — SPUTNIK

Indonesia, Saudi Arabia to build 60-megawatt floating solar plant in West Java

INDONESIA'S state-owned electricity company PT PLN Indonesia (PLN) has partnered with a Saudi Arabian company to develop a 60-megawatt floating solar power plant at Saguling Reservoir in West Java.

"This project aims to strengthen the renewable energy sector in Indonesia, minimize the impact of climate change, and reduce green-

house gas emissions," said PLN President Director Edwin Nugraha Putra on Sunday.

This project is also Indonesia's effort to accelerate the energy transition and support the target of net-zero emissions by 2060, Edwin added.

Targeted to be commercially operational by June 2026, Edwin believes this project will boost in-

vestment and strengthen Indonesia-Saudi Arabia relations.

On 9 November 2023, Indonesia inaugurated the Cirata floating solar power plant, funded by United Arab Emirates-based company Masdar, covering an area of 250 hectares in West Java with a peak capacity of 192 megawatts, making it the largest in Southeast Asia. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL9 VOY.NO. (02N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL9 VOY. NO. (02N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

VACANCY

Urgently requires one Assistant Manager (Treasury & Remittance) for State Bank of India, Yangon Branch. Any Graduate and above with sufficient experiences may apply with details bio data by email to sbi.yangon@statebank.com or in person at SBI Yangon Branch latest by 23.08.2024."

State Bank of India
Yangon Branch, Tower B,
UFC, Yangon

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

MOSCOW would be happy if it could do something to help sign a peace agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

“If we can do something to move ahead with signing a peace agreement, to bring things to demilitarization and demarcation of the border ... we would be very happy about that,” Putin said at a meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart, Ilham Aliyev.

It is known that Azerbaijan is aiming to resolve the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Putin said, adding that he plans to tell Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan about the results of the negotiations in Baku.

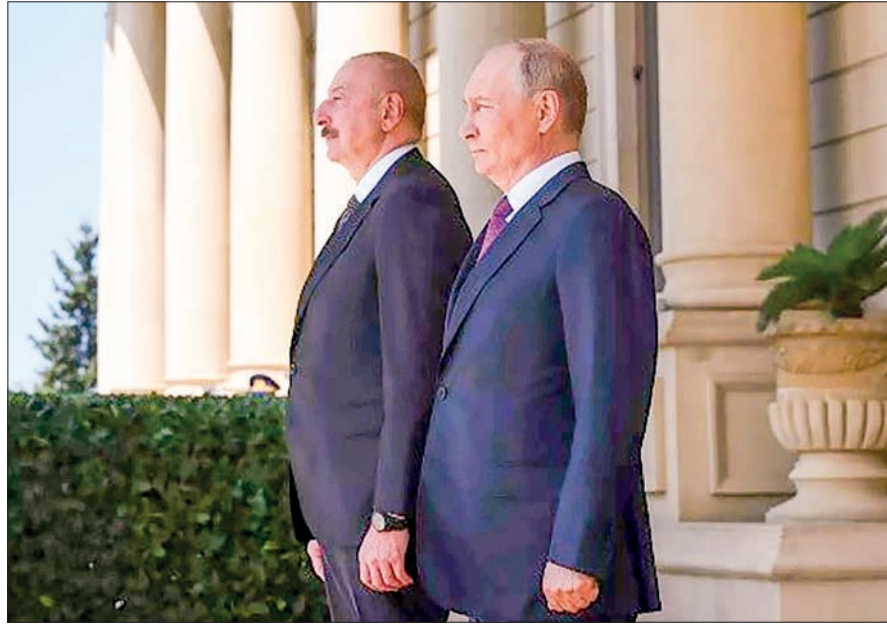
Russia and Azerbaijan have many areas for joint work, including issues of industrial cooperation, transport and logistics, and light industry, Putin said.

Aliyev’s visit to Moscow gave a good impetus to relations between Russia and Azerbaijan, the Russian leader added.

The president added that they discussed on Sunday the issue of settling the situation in the South Caucasus and will continue discussing it on Monday.

Additionally, Putin said that Moscow attaches great importance to the

Moscow would be happy to help sign Nagorno-Karabakh peace deal – Putin



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev attend a welcome ceremony at the Zagulba Residence outside Baku, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

attention Baku is paying to the development of the Russian language

and is ready to expand cooperation in the humanitarian area. — Sputnik

Iranian president’s FM pick says China, Russia among foreign policy priorities

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian’s nominee for foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, outlined key foreign policy priorities of the new administration on Sunday, emphasizing the importance of China and Russia.

Speaking before the Iranian parliament, Araghchi defended his vision for Iran’s diplomatic future, as reported by the official news agency IRNA.

He highlighted that China, Russia, and nations that have supported Iran through sanctions, as well as emerging powers in Africa, Latin America, and East Asia, will be central to the administration’s foreign policy. Araghchi said he is also committed to strengthening relations with neighbouring countries and integrating Iran’s infrastructure with theirs.

Regarding Europe, he suggested that improved relations would depend on Europe rectifying its “incorrect and hostile” stance towards Iran. — Xinhua

BRIEFS: WORLD

Russia to respond properly if Poland attempts to intercept Russian missiles over Ukraine

MOSCOW will give a specific and adequate response if Poland attempts to intercept Russian missiles over Ukraine, Oleg Tyapkin, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry’s Third European Department, said in an interview with Sputnik.

“If official Warsaw succumbs to an adventurous impulse and decides to attempt to intercept long-range weapons legally used by our armed forces to neutralize military threats emanating from Ukrainian territory to Russia, then the response to them will be adequate and quite specific. Russian diplomacy has repeatedly pointed out the risks that potential direct participation of Western states in military actions on the side of the Kyiv regime entails,” the Russian diplomat said. — Sputnik

19 students ill after inhaling rat repellent fumes in India’s Bengaluru

AT least 19 nursing students were ill after inhaling fumes from rat repellent sprayed inside their hostel building in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru, police said Monday.

The incident took place at the Adarsh Nursing College hostel. According to police, the students experienced breathing problems and nausea on Sunday night because of the rat repellent sprayed by the hostel management.

The students were shifted to a hospital and three of them were critical and were shifted to the intensive care unit of the hospital, a senior police official told media, adding the remaining ones were stable. — Xinhua

S Korea, US begin joint military exercise amid N Korea threat



An anti-terror drill is held as part of the US-South Korea joint annual Ulchi Freedom Shield military exercise at a bank in South Korea’s Daegu on 19 August 2024. **PHOTO: YONHAP/KYODO**

SOUTH Korea and the United States began a joint large-scale military exercise on Monday aimed at further strengthening their combined defence capabilities to cope with threats from North Korea, with a focus on readiness against Pyongyang’s weapons of mass destruction.

The annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise, which will last 11 days until 29 August, also features 48 field drills, up from 38 last year. The exercise began after North Korean state media framed it as “provocative war drills for aggression” the

previous day. The official Korean Central News Agency report, citing a statement by an institute under North Korea’s Foreign Ministry, said it is crucial for the country to “constantly maintain the balance of power for preventing a war by stockpiling the greatest deterrence”.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said the joint exercise includes training to cope with various threats from North Korea, such as missile launches, GPS jamming and cyberattacks. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Myanmar volleyball finals mark for International Youth Day

IN celebration of the 2024 International Youth Day, the Myanmar Volleyball Social Association Executive Cup finals for under-21 male and female teams took place at 8:30 am yesterday. The event was held at the gymnasium of Aung San Stadium in Yangon, with attendance from Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and other Yangon Regional government ministers.

During the finals, the Women's Youth Camp team defeated the Yangon Youth Team in three games. In the national competition, the Mandalay Team triumphed over the Shan (Youth) Team in three games as well.

Following the matches, an awards ceremony was organized. U Ye Naing, Chairman of the Myanmar Volleyball Social Association, presented individual medals and cash awards to the top male and female players, as well as the top four female teams. Regional ministers awarded medals and cash awards to the teams finishing in fourth, third, and second places in the men's event. Chief Minister U Soe Thein then awarded the



The Mandalay team and Shan (youth) competing in the national competition.

Mandalay team with individual medals, a cash award, and the championship trophy for winning the men's event.

The prize breakdown for the men's event was as follows: first prize was K10 million, second prize K5 million, third prize K2.5 million, and fourth prize

K1.5 million. The best player received K1 million. For the women's matches, the first prize was K6 million, second prize K3 million, third prize K1.5 million, and fourth prize K1 million, with the best player receiving K500,000. — Akar Linn/TMT

Myanmar U-12 team to compete in U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2024 in Japan

ACCORDING to the soccer tournament schedule, the Myanmar U-12 team will compete on 20 August in the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2024 in Chiba, Japan. The team departed for Japan on 18 August from Yangon International

Airport.

In the group stage, the Myanmar U-12 team will face the Tozuka Football Club Junior at 7:20 am on 20 August, Kashima Antlers Norte at 8:50 am on 20 August, and FC Basara Hyogo at 7:20 am on 21 August.



Myanmar U-12 team players are in action during the training session.

The Myanmar Football Federation has announced that AYA Bank is sponsoring the Myanmar U-12 team's

trip to Japan. The team consists of 18 players and six administrative and coaching staff members. — TWA/TMT



Olympic women's street skateboarding gold medalist Coco Yoshizawa attends a press conference in Tokyo on 19 August 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

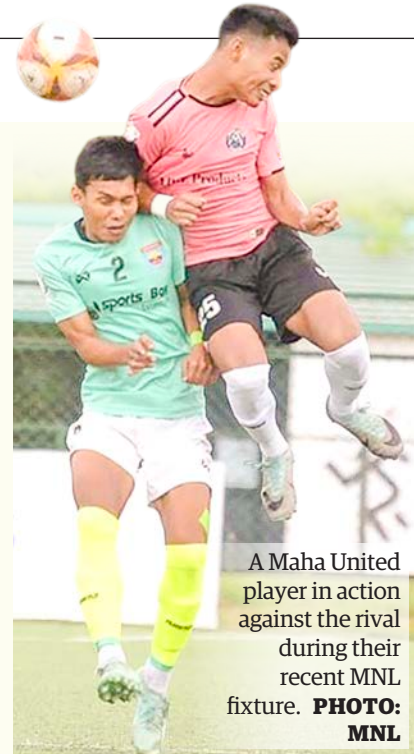
Yoshizawa to build body strength for 2028 Olympics

COCO Yoshizawa, the 14-year-old Olympic champion of women's street skateboarding in Paris, vowed Monday to strengthen her body towards the next Olympics in Los Angeles.

Yoshizawa led a gold-silver finish for Japan with Liz Akama on 28 July and has already voiced her intention to defend the Olympic title four years later.

"Risks grow when you try some new technique, so I want to be conscious of strengthening my body to avoid injury," Yoshizawa told a news conference hosted by the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo.

Yoshizawa had to survive an extremely tough battle against Japanese rivals to claim one of the three Olympic spots given to her country. — Kyodo



A Maha United player in action against the rival during their recent MNL fixture. PHOTO: MNL

Maha United claims victory in MNL

IN fixture seven of the Myanmar National League 2024-2025 season, Maha United triumphed over Thitsar Arman FC with a decisive 4-1 win at Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday.

The win propelled Maha United to sixth place in the standings, while Thitsa Arman FC remained at the bottom in 11th position following the loss. Maha United's dominance was evident from the start, as they took a two-goal lead in the first half. Goals from Aung Hlaing Win in 12 minutes and Patrick in 21 minutes ensured a solid first-half performance.

Despite both teams showing competitive spirit in the second half, Maha United extended their lead with additional goals. Kyaw Swa Min scored in the 50th minute, and Win Ko Htwe added another in 71 minutes. Thitsa Arman managed to pull one back with a goal from Min Maw Oo in the 86th minute. The standout player for Maha United was keeper Mon Htwal Aung, who was named the best player of the match.

As the seventh match of the season concludes, Shan United leads the table with 19 points, followed by Yangon United with 17 points, Hantawady United with 16 points, and Dagon Star United with 15 points. Yadanabon and Maha United are tied with 10 points each and SPEI with nine points while Ayeyawady United and Myawady sit with four points each. The bottom teams include Thitsa Arman, who scored three points, and Rakhine United, who scored one point. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Xi holds talks with Vietnam's top leader To Lam in Beijing

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chinese president, held talks with To Lam, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee and Vietnamese president, on Monday in Beijing. Xi welcomed Lam's state visit to China and once again congratulated him on election as general secretary of the CPV Central Committee.

China is the destination for Lam's first overseas visit after taking office as general secretary of the CPV Central Committee. Xi said this fully reflects the great importance Lam attaches to the relations between the two parties and the two countries, as well as the high level and strategic nature of China-Vietnam relations.

Xi expressed the willingness to establish good working relations and personal friendship with Lam to jointly guide the substantial development in building a China-Vietnam community with a shared future.



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese president, holds talks with To Lam, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and Vietnamese president, who is on a state visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 19 August 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Amid changes in the world, the times and history, China and Vietnam have maintained rapid economic development and long-term social stability, demonstrating the superiority of the

socialist system and the vitality of the socialist cause, Xi said, noting that China takes Vietnam as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy, and supports Vietnam in upholding the leadership of

the CPV, taking the socialist path suited to its national conditions, and further advancing the cause of reform, opening up and socialist modernization.

Xi underscored that at the

critical stage of national development and revitalization, China and Vietnam should, under the direction of the vision of building a community with a shared future, consolidate the development pattern featuring higher political mutual trust, more solid security cooperation, deeper practical cooperation, stronger public support, closer multilateral coordination and cooperation, and better management and resolution of differences.

China is ready to maintain close strategic communication and high-level exchanges with Vietnam, firmly adhere to mutual support, actively explore ways to expand synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the Two Corridors and One Economic Circle strategy, accelerate the "hard connectivity" of railway, expressway and port infrastructure, enhance the "soft connectivity" of smart customs, and jointly build a secure and stable industrial and supply chain, Xi said. — Xinhua

Indonesia leader reshuffles cabinet weeks before leaving office

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo reshuffled his cabinet on Monday just weeks before he steps down in an effort to ease the transition to his successor, Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto, his office said.

Widodo — more popularly known as Jokowi — will hand over the reins in October, departing with sky-high approval ratings over an economic track record that delivered consistent growth coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jokowi swore in new ministers for law and human rights, energy and mineral resources, and investment on Monday morning, as well as a new head of the food and drug agency and chief of the newly created national nutrition agency.

Former investment minister Bahlil Lahadalia, a close aide and vocal supporter of Jokowi, was appointed energy and mineral resources minister as the



Indonesia's President Joko Widodo signs during the swearing-in ceremony of ministers and a deputy minister at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta on 19 August 2024. **PHOTO: YASUYOSHI CHIBA / AFP**

Indonesian leader focuses on a drive to boost nickel output.

Rosan Roeslani, who was head of Prabowo's presidential campaign, replaced Bahlil as the country's new investment minister while Supratman Andi Agtas, a member of Prabowo's Gerindra party, became Minister of Law and

Human Rights.

"The appointments of these ministers... and agency heads are necessary to facilitate a smooth, orderly, and effective government transition," coordinator of the president's special staff, Ari Dwiipayana, said in a statement. — AFP

1st monkeypox case for 2024 detected in Philippines

A new case of monkeypox has been detected in the Philippines, bringing the total caseload to 10, the country's Department of Health (DOH) said Monday. The DOH said the newly recorded case, the first this year, was reported to the department on Sunday.

"The case is a 33-year-old male Filipino national with no travel history outside the Philippines but with close, intimate contact three weeks before symptom onset," the DOH said in a statement.

The country's last recorded case was in December 2023. All previous cases were isolated, cared for and have since recovered, the department said. — Xinhua

Indonesia to tighten health checks for arriving foreigners due to monkeypox — Reports

THE Indonesian Health Ministry will tighten the check for arriving foreigners to prevent the spread of the monkeypox virus, Indonesian news agency ANTARA reported on Sunday.

Earlier, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared the monkeypox outbreak in Africa a public health emergency of international con-

cern. According to the publication, the tightened checks will also affect foreign government officials visiting Indonesia.

The questionnaire will ask travellers to Indonesia about their medical history, recent contacts, and final destination. The Indonesian government hopes to obtain data to better prepare for any problems that may arise, the agency noted. — SPUTNIK