

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

It is necessary to take security measures systematically to ensure public security and peace and stability in the region.

Terrorist networks must be exposed to reduce attacks



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing consoles patients during his visit to the Tatmadaw Hospital yesterday in Toungoo.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to consider the implementation of the long-term plan to restore peace and stability in the region and take secure and smooth transport measures.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by SAC Member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, Union-level dignitaries, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials, inspected progress in restoring peace and stability in the area of the Southern Command yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting hall of the Southern Command Headquarters, Commander Maj-Gen Kyi Thaik reported to the Senior General on subversive acts of some EAOs and PDF terrorists with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability in the area of Southern Command, their terror acts of blowing up communication routes, bridges and railways being used by the people, and efforts of Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force members in taking security measures for ensuring peace

and stability of the region.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General underlined that security measures must be taken systematically to ensure public security and restore peace and stability in the region. He noted the need to take security measures systematically to safeguard public security and the peace and stability of the area, as well as to expose information chain of terrorist networks to be able to reduce attacks. The Senior General stressed the

need to consider the implementation of the long-term plan to restore peace and stability in the region and take secure and smooth transportation measures.

On the occasion, the Senior General gave necessary guidance on local security, peace and stability of the region.

At the Tatmadaw hospital in Toungoo, the Senior General comforted Tatmadaw members and MPF members who were receiving medical treatments for their injuries suffered while serving the defence

and security duties of the State.

The Senior General asked about the conditions of Tatmadaw and MPF, who were injured while serving the defence and security duties of the State, and their health conditions individually and fulfilled the needs of those patients.

The Senior General presented cash awards and gifts to those patients. After asking about the hospital's requirements, the Senior General attended to the needs. — MNA/TTA

Article

Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

By Augustin

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Nationwide census to deploy over 40,000 enumerators

BUSINESS

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MoALI eyes cultivation of 700,000 acres of cotton this year

NATIONAL

Bagan sees steady tourist flow, expected to rise



Travellers are seen visiting the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone. **PHOTO: BAGAN THAR**

DURING the rainy season, Bagan in the dry zone has no shortage of daily tourists, and the number of visitors is likely to increase, according to locals.

The number is not as high as that in the fair weather season, but there is an uninterrupted daily arrival of tourists during the rainy season, and it is more crowded on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays. As there is an annual festival for "the day Boe Min Gaung left" in coming September, there will be more visitors, Bagan residents said.

"If the holiday period is two or three days long, there are a

lot of visitors. In previous years, during the rainy season, the number of tourists arriving was lower. During the festival of the day that Boe Min Gaung left, many tourists came to Bagan. They arrive in express buses. In a year when the Taungyone festival is held, visitors drop in Bagan after that festival. There is no shortage of tourists to Bagan. Only the number differs," said a Bagan hotel employee.

Some tour companies in Yangon Region are now selling package trips in September to the festival of the day Boe Min Gaung left (Popa) and to the Bagan-NyaungU pilgrimage

tour.

Family groups have decreased among the travellers during the school-opening season, but there are more young and middle-aged visitors and tourist arrivals are expected to increase again from the October Thadingyut holidays, which fall in the open season.

During this year's rainy season, most domestic travellers visit Bagan and Popa in the dry zone and Hpa-an with naturally beautiful scenes, while some make day trips to Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung beaches near Yangon. — MT/ZN



Director-General Mr Tao Pingsheng (R) of Foreign Affairs of Guizhou Province and Myanmar Consul-General U Thwin Htet Lin are seen at the meeting.

Myanmar, Guizhou discuss to enhance multi-sectoral development cooperation

DURING the meeting between Director-General Mr Tao Pingsheng of Foreign Affairs of Guizhou Province of China and U Thwin Htet Lin, Consul-General of Myanmar in Kunming, China, on 22 August 2024 in Guizhou Province, they discussed bilateral cooperation in multi-sectoral development, including education and tourism sectors between Myanmar

and Guizhou Province, China.

The meeting emphasized promoting bilateral ties with Guizhou province, increasing senior-level officials visits between both sides to address education, tourism, infrastructure, trade, agriculture and human resource development sectors, and strengthening beneficial relations with mutual interests and benefits. — ASH/KK

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Fuel oil tankers arrive as scheduled

SUPERVISORY Committee on Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil takes proper measures in accordance with the shipment plan to ensure local fuel consumption. On 22 August, six oil tankers arrived at the pilot bar of the Yangon River, and four oil tankers docked at the jetties of Thilawa Port and refilled over 70,000 tonnes of diesel and 11,000 tonnes of petrol at the storage tanks. Moreover, the committee supervises departures of bowsers to regions/states.

Due to heavy rainfalls across

the nation, delays occurred in fuel oil distribution processes, and so over 1,000 bowsers distributed fuel oil to over 3,000 filling stations across the country, including about 100 fuel stations in Nay Pyi Taw while 200 in Yangon, 700 in Mandalay and 250 in Shan State (South), aiming to reduce heavy queues at the stations. Moreover, the fuel oil was distributed to the stations in need under urgent and unique plans. About three million gallons of petrol and diesel have been distributed to date. The



Tankers berth at Thilawa Port for fuel supply in Myanmar.

bowsers also supplied fuel oil to the stations in time, and the sales returned to normal.

Moreover, the prices at the fuel stations declined compared to previous days, and the com-

mittee is ensuring the continuous arrival of oil tankers from abroad. — MNA/KTZH



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the maintenance work of the Myolay Fortress, Ketumati City in Toungoo yesterday.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning inspected preparations to preserve the cultural heritage of the ancient Ketumati City of Toungoo.

At the meeting hall of the local airbase in Toungoo, the Senior General gave guidance on how to prioritize the maintenance of the moat and bridges, as well as the walls and the royal palace area, step by step.

He underscored that it is necessary to systematically preserve the designated areas of cultural heritage under the law, adding that urban areas must be reclaimed in the Toungoo region while considering the green areas along both sides of roads.

With regard to the reclamation of the new urban area in Ketumati City, the Senior General stressed that government offices and departments must be moved to necessary sites at first, whereas the area of Boktalok Lake must be reclaimed under the Protection and Preservation of Ancient Monuments Law.

He highlighted the need to build the new prison, railway and railway station to meet standards under work procedures.

The Senior General urged all to strive to produce 200 per cent of productivity through double cropping process in the farmlands in the Toungoo region with efforts to boost the per-acre yield of crops.

He called for breeding layers and broilers, domestic

Strategic Toungoo and Meiktila, accessible from Nay Pyi Taw, needs development undertakings

Development tasks must be undertaken in Toungoo to construct buildings and reclaim urban areas that meet the set standards.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General during the inspection tour of Toungoo

1. Development tasks must be undertaken in Toungoo to construct buildings and reclaim urban areas that meet the set standard.
2. Urban areas must be reclaimed in the Toungoo region, considering the green areas along both sides of roads.
3. Government offices and departments must first be moved to necessary sites, whereas the area of Boktalok Lake must be reclaimed under the law.
4. It is necessary to strive to produce 200 per cent of double cropping processes in the farmlands in the Toungoo region with efforts to boost the per-acre yield of crops.

chickens, cows and pigs, and dairy cows in order to contribute to local food security.

He continued to say that development tasks must be undertaken in Toungoo to construct buildings and reclaim urban areas that meet the set standard.

He stressed the need to make preparations to efficiently use water from the Khabaung Dam and take preventive measures for the overflow of water from the dam.

The Senior General reminded those present about the mine explosion commit-

ted by terrorists on the Bago-Toungoo railway section as well as the disturbance against schools.

He emphasized that the regional government needs to promote education standards in Bago Region.

He instructed officials to efficiently utilize arable lands to grow double and triple crops to benefit the region.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan, SAC Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Member Deputy

Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win reported on locations of the ancient Ketumati city, walls and moat, the Myolay fortress, a plan to build new Toungoo prison, a plan underway to build a detour railway of Toungoo, repairing of the exploded Bago-Toungoo railway section, reclamation of new urban areas of Toungoo, and development of Toungoo District.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, General Maung Maung Aye and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, union ministers, and officials.

After the meeting, the Senior General inspected the maintenance of the ancient Ketumati City, Yodaya Gate at the eastern moat, and excavation of the western wall, water moat, and Myolay Fortress in the southeast corner of the city.

During the inspection, the Senior General gave guidance on prioritizing the excavation of the walls of the ancient city.

The Senior General took an RBE special train from Toungoo to Thauंगाinggon railway stations, and inspected the site chosen for the construction of the new Toungoo station.

The Senior General also viewed round maintenance of the Toungoo-Yedashe railway section, agricultural tasks of the Toungoo region, and undertakings of urban development. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

2024 ISR U-18 Athletics Championship kicks off

THE 2024 Inter-State and Region U-18 Athletics Championship began with an opening ceremony at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, Nay Pyi Taw, graced by State Administration Council members. Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, U Min Thein Zan, declared the event open, emphasizing athletics' role in showcasing human potential.

During the ceremony, Daw Jennifer Tin Lay donated 14 international medals to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs' Museum. The competition featured various events, including men's and women's



The 2024 Inter-State & Region U-18 Athletics Championship in action yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

400 metres, 4x100-metre relay, pole vault, and more. No-

table performances included Thant Zin Aung breaking the

10,000-metre walking race record with 48 minutes 48.14

seconds and Naing Lin Tun, 47 minutes 51.15 seconds and Nan Aom Seng Kham setting a new record of 36.55 metres in discus event.

The championship, running from 23 to 26 August, also includes the women's 5,000-metre walking race, hammer throw, long jump, 800-metre, 200-metre, 400-metre hurdles, and 2,000-metre steeplechase. With 452 athletes from 30 teams, the event aims to build camaraderie and support the development of young talents. The public is welcome to enjoy competition of the athletes. — MNA/KZL

Frontline Tatmadaw members, security forces provided with cash, foodstuffs



Union ministers and officials view round the preparation for food donations yesterday.

THE well-wishers, ministries, and region and state governments donate cash and foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and security forces stationed on the frontlines for national defence.

The families of the State Administration Council Chairman's Office and Ministries 1, 2,

3 and 4 at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office donated 11 types of foodstuffs, including tea mix, lemon tea, dried fish, Dagon rum, Red Ruby and Premium Gold, yesterday.

Union Ministers Admiral Moe Aung, U Ko Ko Hlaing and U Aung Kyaw Hoe, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Khun Thant Zaw

Htoo, and U Htin Kyaw Thu and departmental officials observed the packing processes of food items at the State Administration Council Chairman's Office.

Food worth K8,450,000 will be delivered to the Nay Pyi Taw Command for frontline Tatmadaw members and security forces. — MNA/KTZH



Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe receives Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, yesterday.

Bangladeshi Ambassador calls on Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further consolidation of existing friendly ties and expansion of cooperation in various fields of mutual interest, including trade and investment, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges between Myanmar and Bangladesh. — MNA

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NATIONAL

NSPNC and NCA signatories meet

A meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and representatives from NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) was held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Border Affairs and NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung led the meeting, which included U Khun Okka from the NCA-signatories, Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Chair Saw Mra Raza Lin, Saw Kyaw Than Htay, Head of Central Rela-

tions Department of the Democratic Kayin Benevolent Army (DKBA), Saw Maung Maung, Central Executive Committee member of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council, Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) Vice-Chairman Kyar Phu, New Mon State Party (NMSP) Central Executive Committee Member U Naing Aung Mange, and Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) Joint General Secretary 1 Khun Min Thein, and officials.

Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Saw Mra Raza Lin offered opening remarks. Lt-Gen Min



The talks between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and NCA-signatory EAOs in progress yesterday.

Naing, NSPNC Secretary, then discussed the agenda of the meeting. They discussed hu-

manitarian assistance and regional development.

The session concluded with

closing remarks by Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Saw Mra Raza Lin. — MNA/TS

NSPNC, NCA signatories, and political parties' working group meet on general election



A tripartite dialogue between the NSPNC, NCA-signatory EAOs and working group of political parties underway yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

A tripartite meeting involving the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC), representatives from NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), and the political parties' working group took place at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was chaired by NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, with participants including NSPNC members, representatives of NCA

signatories, representatives from the political parties' working group, officials, and others.

Opening remarks were made by Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Chair Saw Mra Raza Lin, representing NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), and Dr Aye Maung, Chairman of the Arakan Front Party, representing the political parties' working group.

Lt-Gen Min Naing, NSP-

NC Secretary, provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting. Discussions focused on election-related issues and prioritizing peace and stability to hold a successful election. Participants exchanged views on the necessity of cooperation in holding elections in ethnically armed regions.

The meeting concluded with Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung expressing gratitude to all attendees and a group photo marking the event. — MNA/TS

Nearly 700,000 tourists visit Myanmar from January to July 2024

ACCORDING to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, nearly 700,000 tourists entered Myanmar during the seven months from January to July 2024.

During this period, the majority of tourists visited destinations in Yangon, Bago, Mandalay, and Ayeyawady regions, as well as destinations in Shan State (East) and Shan State (South).

"In the seven months of 2024, nearly 700,000 tourists entered Myanmar. This figure is higher than the 610,000 tourists who visited during the same period last year. Most visitors came from China, Thailand, South Korea, and Japan," said an official

from the Hotels and Tourism Directorate.

This year, invitation trips to destinations in Myanmar have been organized through travel agencies from Thailand, China and Russia. New tourist destinations have also been identified in Yangon, Mandalay, and Taninthayi regions, as well as Mon, Kayin, and Shan states.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is working on developing Myanmar's tourism industry in collaboration with the Myanmar Tourism Federation, the Myanmar Hoteliers Association, and other relevant organizations. — ASH/MKKS



Tourists are seen at the Yangon International Airport.

NATIONAL

Campaign on developing reading habits, libraries held in Myaungmya

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, attended the ceremony to launch the "Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits" campaign at No 1 Basic Education High School in Myaungmya yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister, who is also chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Cooperation Development Committee, said the students should study well and respect their parents and mentors.

The awareness campaigns regarding reading are being conducted across the nation, and the State Head also focuses on



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn looks round the photo exhibition in Myaungmya yesterday.

library development and an increase in reading frequency. Students should cultivate reading

habits for their improvement. He then urged the students to read all varieties of books and publi-

cations and to become reliable citizens of the country.

He donated five DTH re-

ceivers and 15 DVB T2 set-top boxes for basic high and middle schools.

He also received K15 million for one new library construction project.

Next the region chief minister donated 6,460 books and publications for 323 libraries in the region to the region's Social Affairs minister.

After the entertainment programmes of famous singers and students, the Union minister gave cash awards to performers and observed the displayed books, journals, departmental booths, photo exhibitions, story-telling competitions, essay competitions, painting, quizzes, impromptu talks and fun game competitions. — MNA/KTZH



The third ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit in progress virtually, attended by MoSWRR Union Minister Dr Soe Win yesterday.

Myanmar joins online 3rd ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit

LAOS hosted the third ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit via videoconferencing yesterday, and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, the director-general of the Social Welfare Department, member of ACW Focal Point and AWPR and relevant officials joined virtually.

ASEAN leaders exchanged views during the event themed "Strengthening Care Economy and Resilience Towards ASEAN Community Post-2025".

During the Plenary Session, the Union minister highlighted the nation's social protection

strategic plan the ministry drafted in 2014 in line with ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, ASEAN Strategic Framework and Plan of Action for Social Welfare, cash assistance for pregnant women and mothers of children up to two years of age, social pension starting from the 2017-2018 financial year, K14 billion cash assistance for 290,000 in the 2023-2024 financial year under cash assistance plan for pregnant women and mother of children up to two years of age, and K16 billion for 160,000 people under social pension project.

He also mentioned the establishment of day-care centres for the aged, training courses for taking care of the aged and cash assistance for organizations, 24-hour hotlines to report violence against women established in 2016, ECCD-related measures, the opening of 2,700 pre-primary schools and 535 child-care day centres across the nation, and the Strategic Plan of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2022-2027) of the country.

Myanmar's Social Welfare Department won the Care Economy Award during the event. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Media spread fake news

MALICIOUS media outlets are spreading false information on social media, claiming that security forces murdered two civilians of ChaungU township in Sagaing Region, and one of the dead bodies was found at a specific location in the ChaungU-Pakokku road section.

According to a security

official, PDF terrorists frequently asked for money in townships, recruited locals and killed those who did not support them brutally.

False claims were reportedly circulated through malicious media outlets, defaming security forces. — MNA/KTZH



This Screenshot validates misinformation.

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NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister attends MRTV's Friday Night Show

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, along with the cultural attaché and members of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, attended the "International Songs" performance by the MRTV Orchestra at the Friday Night Show programme held at Myanma Radio and Television's Studio A on Pyay Road, Yangon, yesterday evening.

The Union minister and Ms Anastasia Solovieva, cultural attaché of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, along with her delegation, were welcomed by the Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, as well as by officials and vocalists.

Ms Anastasia Solovieva and her delegation then awarded



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and audience watch the Friday Night Show at MRTV in Yangon yesterday.



cash prizes to the artists of the MRTV orchestra.

Furthermore, the Union minister presented commemorative gifts to Ms Anastasia Solovieva and her delegation. Afterwards,

the Union minister and Ms Anastasia Solovieva, along with her delegation, greeted the artistes of the MRTV orchestra and posed for a commemorative photo.

To entertain the public,

MRTV will broadcast the Friday Night Show at 9:00 pm every Friday. The programme will feature modern music, including international music and music from ASEAN countries, and will be

aired on MRTV HD. In addition to being available on the MRTV Telegram channel and the MRTV app, it will also be broadcast on various social media platforms. — MNA/TH

Illegal goods and vehicles seized



Confiscated illegal items.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken in accordance with the law to combat illegal trade activities.

On 21 August, an inspection team led by the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force carried out checks at the Thanlwin Bridge Joint Inspection Point. They intercepted a vehicle heading from Hpa-an to Yangon, which was carrying two units of Life PO4 battery (3,000 Ah) two units of 50 hybrid solar inverters, 50 rolls of artificial leather rolls (PVC), 1,450 Orange single wheels with an iron tube and accessory, 70 bottles of China-made PVC pipe glue, 12 bags of plastic resin weighing, 25 kilogrammes each), 60 bags of plastic white powder, 4,140 kilogrammes of China-made ball bearings, along with one King

Long bus, all without proper documentation. The estimated value of the seized goods totalled K135.87 million.

Additionally, on 21 August, at Yangon Airport (Warehouse), an inspection led by the Customs Department seized human hair weighing 5,880 kilogrammes imported from India, valued at approximately K48.59 million. Another seizure occurred at the Dry Port of Ywathagyi, where a truck from Hpa-an to Yangon was found transporting undeclared 380 bags of Thai-made PVC resin, valued at K15.20 million, and a Hino Truck, with a total estimated value of K93.79 million.

On the same day, under the management of the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, combined inspection teams conducted checks in Labutta and Myanaung Districts, seizing a boat carrying 0.164 tonnes of illegal teak and 5.769 tonnes of other timbers at an estimated value of K3.97 million.

In Mandalay Region, on 21 August, inspections at the city's entry points led to the seizure of 78 China-made bicycles and 12 types of consumer goods, at a value of K35.99 million, along with a Mitsubishi Fuso truck. Another inspection

at Singaing city's entry point resulted in the seizure of 3,780 China-made bicycle seats and 16 types of consumer goods, at a value of K46.04 million, along with a Nissan Diesel truck, totalling K147.03 million.

Moreover, on 22 August, at the Taninthayi Region's fishing port in Kawthoung Township, 825 pieces of Thai-made Digital brand tiles and other goods valued at K5.27 million were seized.

Similarly, on 22 August, in Toungoo District, 0.830 tonne of illegal teak valued at K730,400 was seized under the Forest Law. On 23 August, in Bago District, unlicensed vehicles, including a Toyota Success and a Honda Fit, at an estimated value of K18 million, were seized under the Import and Export Law. Additionally, in Nyaunglebin and Pyay Districts, 2.825 tonnes of illegal teak wood and 1.450 tonnes of hardwood, valued at K3.34 million, were seized under the Forest Law, totalling K22.07 million.

In total, 30 cases of illegal trade, at an estimated value of K408.01 million, were seized between 21 and 23 August, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZL

Digital payroll for civil servants to extend

THE Central Bank of Myanmar issued a directive that digital salary payments for civil servants will be extended.

Ministries and government organizations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area initiated the digital payroll service as of May 2023, and at present, civil servants in Yangon, Mandalay, and other regions and states have been paid monthly by digital pay, worth totalling more than K9 billion.

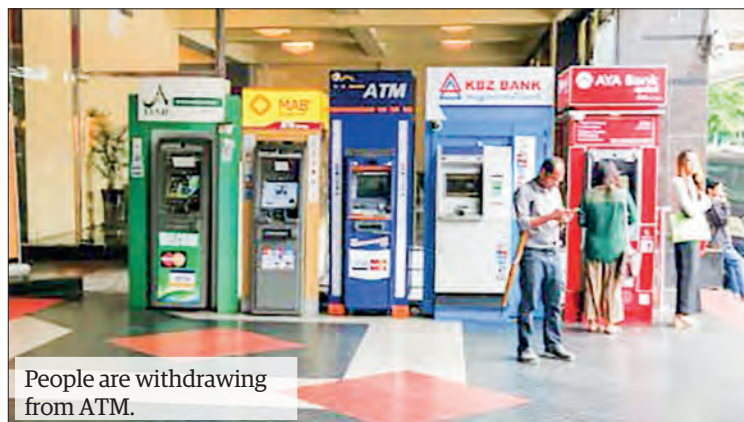
In order to help civil servants efficiently withdraw, ATMs have been provided in different regions and states, so far 1908 ATMs in Yangon Region, 707 ATMs in Mandalay Region and 332 ATMs in Nay Pyi Taw and will expand, if necessary, the directive said.

CBM has also instructed

government organizations in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay to expand the digital payroll system through negotiations with respective banks.

At present, authorized payroll service providers, KBZ, UAB, CB, AYA, Wave Money, OK Dollar, Zego Money, Uni Pay, True Money, Shwe Rural and Urban Development Bank, Trusty Ecommerce, A Bank, AGD, MAB, M-Pitesan and MCB Bank are included.

A list of people on the payroll and how to receive payroll service from banks or financial institutions need to be proposed to CBM, and ministries and government organizations will need to cooperate in practising a digital payroll system, it said. — TWA/ZS



People are withdrawing from ATM.

OPINION

Preserve cultural heritage as a national duty

MYANMAR is a country rich in ancient cultural heritage, with numerous historical sites and artefacts, both aboveground and underground, that reflect the nation's history and identity. It is the responsibility of all Myanmar citizens to safeguard these tangible and intangible cultural assets to prevent their loss.

The loss or damage of cultural properties and historical records due to climate conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, or human actions is a significant loss for the entire nation. Therefore, it is crucial for responsible citizens to actively work to preserve these ancient cultural heritages, ensuring their protection as long as Myanmar exists.

Myanmar has a unique and extensive history, with some of the earliest city-states in Southeast Asia. The country is home to an ancient cultural heritage dating back to the Neolithic era, as well as

artefacts from the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age. Additionally, Myanmar's rich history includes cultural properties from various historical periods, such as the Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Toungoo, Nyaung-pya, and Konbaung eras.

However, over time, many royal palaces, walls, moats, religious edifices, centuries-old public buildings, and other landmarks across regions and states have gradually disappeared. In response, the government undertook restoration projects from 1988 to 2010, renovating replicas and ancient royal palace structures in places like Mandalay, Shwabo, Bago, and Bagan to allow future generations to appreciate these historical sites.

Unfortunately, some cultural properties, including royal palace structures, walls, and moats, have been subject to theft and destruction by unscrupulous individuals over successive eras. Neighbouring countries in the region have successfully preserved their ancient cultural heritage,

turning them into tourist attractions and public observation sites. Myanmar is following suit by focusing on excavating and preserving ancient royal cities' walls and moats, such as those in Bago-Hanthawady and Bagan, as well as maintaining ancient lakes. Current efforts also include preparations to rebuild significant historical structures like the Shishay bridge in Mandalay's royal city, the royal palace of Toungoo, and the walls of Ketumati City.

It is essential for all Myanmar citizens to take pride in their ancient cultural heritage and the nation's long history. Preserving these cultural treasures is not just an individual responsibility but a national duty. Culture is the essence of national identity, and if it fades, the nationality itself risks disappearing. Regardless of political changes or governing bodies, Myanmar people must work together with local authorities to ensure the long-term preservation of all cultural properties and heritages. Sharing knowledge about preservation activities with future generations is also vital to this mission.



IDIOMS enrich everyday language by adding colour and depth to communication, making expressions more vivid and memorable. They reflect cultural nuances and shared experiences, fostering a more profound understanding among speakers of different languages. Mastering idioms not only enhances fluency but also bridges gaps between diverse linguistic communities, making conversations more engaging and meaningful.



ရွက်ကြမ်းရေကျို /rwakkram:re-kyui/

- ရုပ်ရည်အသင့်အတင့်ရှိသူ။ တယ်မလှသော်လည်း ရွက်ကြမ်းရေကျိုရှိပါ၏.....
- သူ့ရုပ်ရည်က သိပ်အချောကြီးမဟုတ်သော်လည်း ရွက်ကြမ်းရေကျိုထက်တော့ သာသည့်ဟုထင်သည်။
- ရွက်ကြမ်းရေကျိုရုပ်ရည်လောက်ပဲရှိတဲ့ ကေသီဟာ မိုးလို ချစ်စရာကောင်းတဲ့ ကောင်မလေး ဖြစ်ချင်မိတယ်...

- Tough leaves offer value in broth, like unconventional beauty in women
- Tough leaves enrich broth, much like unconventional beauty adds worth.
- Unattractive leaves can still enhance broth, just as women can.
- Valuable attributes exist in tough leaves, paralleling unique female beauty.

A Rough Leaf Still Good for a Broth

When the leaf of an edible plant becomes tough and loses its tenderness, it is no longer suitable for eating on its own.

However, it can still be used as an ingredient in a broth to extract the nourishing essence it retains. Similarly, a girl or young woman who may not be conventionally beautiful but is not unattractive either is described as a "rough leaf still good for a broth".

When a leaf of an edible plant becomes tough, it's no longer ideal for eating fresh but can still impart valuable flavour to a broth.

Similarly, a girl or young woman who might not fit conventional beauty standards but has her own appeal can be likened to a "rough leaf still good for a broth". This Myanmar idiom suggests that while she may not be perfect by usual measures, she still has significant worth and value. Her qualities, like the tough leaf, contribute uniquely to a greater purpose or role, embodying the idea that true value often lies beyond surface appearances.

USAGES:

- Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.**
- Definition: What one person finds beautiful, another may not, suggesting that beauty is subjective.
 - Example: "I think my sister is gorgeous, but I know some people don't appreciate her style. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."
- Don't judge a book by its cover.**
- Definition: One should not judge someone or something based

- solely on appearance.
- Example: "Even though he looks scruffy, don't judge a book by its cover; he's one of the smartest people I know."

There's more than meets the eye.

- Definition: People or things often have hidden qualities or deeper significance than their appearance suggests.
- Example: "She may seem quiet, but there's more than meets the eye; she's a brilliant artist."

Every cloud has a silver lining.

- Definition: Even in difficult or unattractive situations, there is always a positive aspect.
- Example: "After losing my job, I felt hopeless, but I've started my own business—every cloud has a silver lining."

Hidden gems.

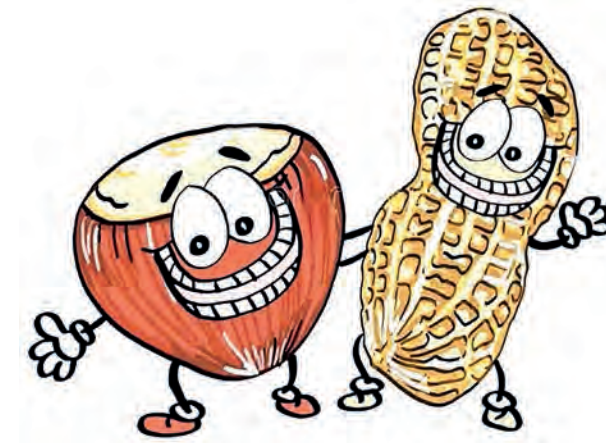
- Definition: People or things that are not immediately recognized as valuable or beautiful but possess great worth.
- Example: "This small café may not look like much, but it's a hidden gem with the best pastries in town."

Still waters run deep.

- Definition: A quiet or reserved person may have a rich inner world or complex thoughts and feelings.
- Example: "At first, I thought he was shy and boring, but I've realized that still waters run deep; he has fascinating stories to share."

An old shoe is better than a new one.

- Definition: Familiarity and reliability can outweigh superficial beauty or newness.
- Example: "I know my old car isn't flashy, but it gets me where I need to go. An old shoe is better than a new one."



အဆန်ချောင် /a.hcanhkyang/

- ထိုအသီးအတွင်း၌ အနှံ့သော အဆန်ချောင် အစေ့သီးရှိသည်။ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် ထိုအဆန်ချောင် အစေ့သီးကို သစ်ကားသီးဟု ခေါ်ဝေါ်ကြသည်။
- အဆန်မတည့်တော့တဲ့ အဆန်ချောင်၊ ဖြူဖြူဖွေးဖွေး အနှံ့တွေဖြစ်လာမယ်.....
- ကြက်ဥစသည်တို့တွင်အရည်အနှစ် မအောင်မမြင် မပြည့်မဝ ဖြစ်သည်။
- ကြက်ဥအဆန်ချောင်သည်။

- Be loose in the shell.
- "A pod with a loose seed" symbolizes mental weakness.
- A deficiency or inadequacy in one's mental faculties.
- Individuals who exhibit a lack of mental strength or capability.

Loose Seed Symbolizes Untapped Potential and Instability

In this Myanmar idiom, the seed represents untapped potential and vitality, embodying the possibility for growth and development. The pod, on the other hand, symbolizes the individual who possesses this potential but may not have fully harnessed it.

When the seed is loose within the pod, it suggests instability or

a lack of secure grounding, reflecting a deficiency or inadequacy in one's mental faculties. This looseness implies that the individual may not be fully utilizing or cultivating their inherent potential, resulting in an incomplete or underdeveloped capacity for growth.

Thus, the image of the loose seed highlights the need for greater focus or support to realize one's abilities and achieve personal development fully.

USAGES:

All bark and no bite

- Definition: Someone who seems threatening or aggressive but cannot back up their threats.
- Example: "He talks a big game in meetings, but he's all bark and no bite when it comes to making tough decisions."

All hat and no cattle

- Definition: A person who pretends to be essential or capable but lacks the necessary skills or resources.
- Example: "She claims to be an expert, but it's clear she's all hat and no cattle when you see her work."

A wolf in sheep's clothing

- Definition: Someone who seems harmless but is actually dangerous or deceitful.
- Example: "The new manager seems friendly, but I suspect he's a wolf in sheep's clothing."

Empty vessels make the most noise.

- Definition: People who lack knowledge or substance often make the most commotion or talk the most.
- Example: "He often dominates the conversation, but remember, empty vessels make the most noise."

Putting on a front

- Definition: Hiding one's true feelings or intentions behind a false appearance.
- Example: "She seems happy at work, but she's just putting on a front to hide her stress."

The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

- Definition: The actual value or quality of something is revealed only through practical experience or testing.
- Example: "We can discuss plans all day, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating; we'll see how it performs once the project starts."

A facade

- Definition: A deceptive outward appearance that does not reflect one's true nature or feelings.
- Example: "Although he appears confident, it's just a facade; he's anxious about the presentation."



မျက်နှာလွှဲခဲဝစ်

Connecting on the Universal Dance of Words

By Augustin

/mje` hnahlwe ge: pji` /

- ရောက်ချင်ရာရောက်ဟူသော သဘောဖြင့် မျက်နှာလွှဲ၍ ခဲကိုပစ်သကဲ့သို့ အလုပ်ကိစ္စကို ကိုယ်မိ ရင်မိ ကြပ်မတ်ခြင်းမရှိဘဲ လုပ်သည်။
- ဖြစ်လိုရာဖြစ်စေပုတာဝန်ခံသဘောထားသည်။
- မျက်နှာလွှဲခဲဝစ် လျစ်လျူရှုကာ ဥပက္ခာပြုလာခဲ့ကြ၏။
- ကံတရားက ကိုယ့်ကိုဆိုအမြဲ မျက်နှာလွှဲခဲဝစ်လုပ်တတ်တယ်....
- အိပ်ယာထက်လှုံ့နေရသည့် ရှေ့နံ့ကိုကြည့်ပြီး ချစ်သမီး ဆန်ပြုတ်ပန်းကန်ကို ယူလာခဲ့သည်။ ရန်ဖြစ်ထားပေမယ့် ကိုယ့်လင်ဖြစ်နေတော့လဲ မျက်နှာလွှဲခဲဝစ်နေဖို့က ခက်သည်....

Throwing A Stone Without Facing the Target

Throwing a stone without facing the target ensures it will miss its mark, highlighting the importance of clear direction. Success requires not just effort but also a precise aim and focus on your goals.

Ignoring your target can seriously hinder your success. If you don't focus on your goals, you are likely to struggle to achieve the desired outcome.

Carelessness and a lack of attention to detail can lead to unintended consequences, complicating or even derailing your efforts. Precision and careful actions are essential for completing tasks effectively. When distractions and imprecision influence your work, you're less likely to meet your objectives efficiently.

For success, it is crucial to maintain a clear focus, pay attention to details, and stay committed to your goals. This approach ensures that your efforts are purposeful and aligned with your desired results.

Don't disregard your target; failing to do so will impede your success. Careless actions will not prevent unintended consequences, so don't overlook the importance of paying attention. Imprecision and distraction are not conducive to accomplishing tasks effectively.

USAGES:

- "Miss the mark"**
- Definition:** Failing to achieve a goal or target.
- Example:** His lack of preparation led him to miss the mark during the presentation.
- "Barking up the wrong tree"**
- Definition:** Pursuing a mistaken or misguided course of action.
- Example:** By blaming the marketing team, he was barking up the wrong tree; the issue was with the product itself.
- "Haste makes waste"**
- Definition:** Acting too quickly can result in mistakes and poor outcomes.
- Example:** She rushed through her report, leading to errors—a clear case of haste makes waste.
- "Look before you leap"**
- Definition:** Consider the consequences before taking action.
- Example:** Before signing that contract, make sure to look before you leap; it could be a costly mistake.
- "Fool's errand"**
- Definition:** A task that is pointless or unlikely to succeed.
- Example:** Trying to change her mind was a fool's errand; she was firm in her decision.
- "Put all your eggs in one basket"**
- Definition:** Risking everything on a single venture without alternatives.
- Example:** Investing all his savings in that start-up was risky; he shouldn't put all his eggs in one basket.
- "Cut corners"**
- Definition:** Doing something in the quickest way, often compromising quality.
- Example:** They cut corners on the construction project, leading to safety issues later.



NATIONAL



The picture captures the census being collected by using mobile tablets.

Nationwide census to deploy over 40,000 enumerators

THE national census, which will involve more than 40,000 enumerators, is scheduled to take place on 30 September midnight, according to the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

Based on the projected population of approximately 56

million and 13 million households in 2024, 42,000 auditors and enumerators will carry out enumerations at about 111,000 data collection sites, according to the Central Census Commission.

The census will be complet-

ed using tablet devices, and the data will be submitted online to the head office. The pilot population census will help update the voter list for the upcoming general election, as stated by the Union Minister for Immigration and Population. — TWA/MKKS

Yangon Children's Hospital plans to open extended medical ward



The Yangon Children's Hospital.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health, plans are underway to open a new building as an annexe of the medical ward at Yangon Children's Hospital (YCH) in Dagon Township, Yangon Region. Construction Task Force 1 of the Ministry of Construction undertook the construction of this new extension, and the building will be transferred as soon as possible to accommodate inpatients and provide treatment.

Yangon Children's Hospital in Dagon Township has a medical ward, a paediatric surgical ward, a neonatal ward, an intensive care unit, and a paediatric orthopaedic ward. The recently completed six-story building is large enough to accommodate and treat many children; therefore, preparations are underway to extend the medical ward. Yangon Children's Hospital began as a 60-bed facility in 1962 and was upgraded to a 550-bed hospital in 2006. The hospital's emergency and outpatient departments are open 24 hours a day. — ASH/TKO

2,446 traffic accidents causing 1,299 deaths nationwide during seven months

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, 2,446 traffic accidents caused 1,299 deaths in the country during the seven months of this year.

These accidents, which occurred from January to July, resulted in an average of 12 incidents per day and caused 3,492 injuries. The majority of the accidents occurred in Yangon Region, where there were

503 incidents, killing 264 and wounding 557. Additionally, 115 accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway left 61 dead and 216 hurt.

However, compared to the same period last year — when there were 2,858 accidents, 1,504 deaths, and 4,020 injuries — the number of road accidents and fatalities has decreased slightly. — TWA/TRKM

Agricultural land survey to verify accurate cultivation area records



The picture captures officials inspecting agricultural land areas in 2023.

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MoALI) has announced plans to cultivate all arable land fully and to verify the accuracy of the current agricultural land area records. The ministry is committed to ensuring that every piece of cultivable land is utilized to its full potential, focusing on

improving the per-acre yield rather than expanding the sown acreage.

Efforts will be concentrated on achieving target yields for ten major crops, even though production might decline in some regions due to climate change. The overall national agricultural output is expected to increase, thanks

to enhanced productivity in other areas. MoALI Union Minister U Min Naung stated this during a meeting at the ministry's office on 21 August.

The ministry will scrutinize the agricultural land records and supervise cultivation of crops on all arable lands. The verification process will also involve a detailed analysis of different crop types to confirm the accuracy of the land records.

In the 2023-2024 financial year, 33.78 million acres were cultivated for ten major crops, consuming a total of 413,000 tonnes of necessary inputs, according to the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Myanmar has approximately 12.25 million hectares of cultivable land, with 70 per cent of the population relying on the agriculture sector for their livelihood. — TWA/KZL



This photo shows firefighters rescuing a man trapped in a truck crash near Shwe Nyaungpin in Mingaladon Township, Yangon.

MoALI eyes cultivation of 700,000 acres of cotton this year

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) will make efforts to improve the productivity of cotton from 700,000 acres this year.

The ministry will provide seed, inputs and technical assistance to reach the whole 700,000 acres earlier designated for cotton cultivation and to achieve a value chain from farm to fabric cotton production.

A work coordination meeting to expand the cultivation of oil crops, sunflower and cotton and ramp up production was held at the ministry's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 August 2024.

Union Minister U Min Naung for MoALI, deputy ministers, the permanent secretary, directors-general, directors from the Agriculture Department, officials concerned with oil crop special zone and cotton project managers attended the meeting.

The Union minister addressed reviewing arable areas,

choosing crops depending on regions and states, and monitoring growers to conduct farm operations in all arable farmlands. He focused on attaining per-acre yield growth for ten main crops rather than expanding acres. He also mentioned the need to achieve growth in overall agricultural outputs year over year despite a drop in yield in disaster-stricken areas.

The ministry is aiming to meet the cotton demand of domestic garment factories and attempting to cultivate foreign cotton varieties to enhance cotton quality and productivity. A plan to develop hybrid long-staple cotton of good quality on 10 per cent of cotton acres is underway. The ministry aims to produce 20 per cent of hybrid long-staple cotton and 80 per cent of local origins in the long term. Getting the correct prices is crucial in pursuing high quality. The Union minister reiterated that all stakeholders concerned, including cotton



A glimpse of the thriving long-staple cotton plantation.

traders, cotton ginning factories' employers, and growers, should coordinate to create a quality-based market such as A Grade, B Grade, and C Grade.

Additionally, it plays a pivotal role in disseminating knowl-

edge on nursing, irrigation and harvesting methods to meet cotton yield targets. He also encouraged cottonseed oil production and strictly monitored growers not to use genetically modified cotton seeds in line

with Seed Law.

Growers and relevant departments need to make concerted efforts to remedy the loss triggered by climate change and natural disasters, he added. — NN/KK

Shan State's djenkol beans gain popularity in Yangon, Hpa-an, Myawady, and Mawlamyine



INCLUDING the Yangon Region, djenkol beans produced from Shan State are consumed the most in Hpa-an, Myawady and Mawlamyine, and orders become mounted, according to the vegetable market.

Djenkol beans, produced by Shan State, are one of the most-consumed foods, and their price has been higher this year compared to last year. In Yangon, they are distributed at the Danyingon market and the Htaukkyant market.

"Price quite differs this year compared to last year. The price is pretty good this year.



Shan State's djenkol beans are one of the popular seasonal foods in Myanmar.

The trade also increases. The price fluctuates, and demand becomes better. Sometimes, we need to break the trading because of the weather for about three days, but orders increase when we resume the trade. Rather than people in Shan State, djenkol beans are consumed the most by people in the lower part such as Hpa-an, Myawady, Mawlamyine and Yangon," said an official from a Shan djenkol bean

and pear wholesale centre at Aungban vegetables wholesale trading centre. It is the harvest season of Shan State's djenkol beans, which starts in July and ends in Thadingyut (Myanmar lunar month).

"Shan's djenkol beans sold in a basket and weigh eight visses," he added.

Djenkol bean is a seasonal food, and many people enjoy eating it boiled, grilled or salted. — Thit Taw/ZS

MoALI to cut soybean import in three years

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will make efforts to ultimately lessen expeller soybean imports, which are required for processing animal feed in three years, said Dr Aung Gyi, Deputy Minister.

The ministry held a workshop related to the importation of veterinary medicines, feedstuff and pedigrees on 20 August in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Deputy minister, directors-general from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Trade Department, Department of Consumer Affairs and representatives from Myanmar Livestock Federation, Myanmar Veterinary Medical Association, Myanmar Livestock Producers and Distributors Association, Myanmar Animal Feed Producers and Distributors Association, group of entrepreneurs for pedigree and livestock farming and importing companies and in-

teees attended the workshop.

The deputy minister remarked that the ministry is attempting to reduce expeller soybean imports, which are required as protein in feedstuff production, in three years and process soya bean meal as import substitution.

Myanmar has to import over 800,000 tonnes of raw expeller soybean from the US, Argentina, Africa and Thailand to meet growing domestic consumption requirements for feedstuff in poultry, fish and livestock farming. Feedstuff is primarily used in fish farming.

Soybean is utilized in making soy milk, dried soybean, fermented bean curd and various snacks locally. The soybean is primarily cultivated in southern Shan State and Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Mandalay regions, and it is also found in Chin State, Rakhine State, and Taninthayi Region. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD

Alipay app available in 16 languages to facilitate foreigners travelling in China

This move follows recent efforts by the People's Bank of China and other authorities to improve payment services, making them more accessible for both elderly individuals and foreigners.

CHINESE payment services platform Alipay recently announced that it now provides services in 16 languages, which it expects will help international tourists travel in China more smoothly.

Services on the smartphone app are now available in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Russian, Turkish, Malay, Indonesian, Thai, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese, in addition to the Chinese and

English services already in use.

With the latest update, foreign visitors in China can use the app's payment service in the language of their choosing. Other frequently used services in the app, including a hotel booking platform, can be translated into that language with a single click using Alipay's translation tool.

The People's Bank of China, the central bank, in February held a meeting to optimize pay-

ment services in the country. Relevant government authorities have since collaborated to refine the national payment services system, providing increased convenience to elderly people and foreigners in China.

In June, a research group at the Beijing Foreign Studies University's Silk Road Research Institute released a report on the travel and payment experiences of foreigners in China. — Xinhua



A man uses a self-service ticket machine at a station of subway Line 9 in Shenzhen, south China, 20 November 2017. PHOTO: MAO SIQIAN/XINHUA/FILE

Japan steelmakers to invest in Australian mine for stable coal supply

The coal is of higher quality, producing fewer emissions, aligning with the steelmakers' goal of eco-friendly steel production.



Nippon Steel will spend about 108 billion yen for a 20 per cent stake, while JFE Steel will invest 54 billion yen for a 10 per cent share.

PHOTO: NIPPON STEEL

JAPAN'S major steelmakers, Nippon Steel Corp and JFE Steel Corp, said Thursday that they will invest a combined 160 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) in a coal mine owned by an Australian mining firm

to secure a stable supply of high-quality coal.

In a bid to achieve eco-friendly steelmaking, Nippon Steel will pay about 108 billion yen to acquire a 20 per cent interest in the

Blackwater coal mine in the state of Queensland, while JFE Steel will obtain another 10 per cent, valued at around 54 billion yen.

The mine, which has an annual output of 10.1 million tonnes and is held by Whitehaven Coal Ltd, has ample resources and is expected to be minable for over 30 years. The coal is of higher quality, meaning it emits less emissions when burned, according to the two Japanese companies.

"If there are high-grade assets available, we will continue to consider acquiring them," said Ryuichi Nagai, a managing executive officer of Nippon Steel. The firm has been diversifying its resource procurement sources and has also invested in a Canadian mining company. — Kyodo

Monthly pension for elderly S Koreans far below minimum living cost

THE monthly pension for elderly South Koreans stayed far below the minimum cost of living in 2022, statistical office data showed Thursday.

The elderly aged 65 and above received a combined pension of 650,000 won (US\$486) per month on average in 2022, up 8.3 per cent compared to the previous year, according to Statistics Korea.

According to the National Pension Research Institute estimate, it was far below the minimum living expense of 1,243,000

won per month required for the age group.

The number of elderly people receiving any pension totalled 8,182,000 in 2022, up from 7,768,000 in the prior year.

It accounted for 90.4 per cent of the total population for the age group, continuing to grow since 2016. Of the total recipients, 40.4 per cent got a monthly pension of between 250,000 won and 500,000 won, followed by 27.5 per cent taking 500,000 won to one million won and 19.9 per cent obtaining less than 250,000 won. — Xinhua



In 2022, the average monthly pension for South Koreans aged 65 and older was 650,000 won (\$486), which was significantly below the required 1,243,000 won for a basic living. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PEXELS

Mpox vaccine maker gets European order for 440,000 doses

DANISH drugmaker Bavarian Nordic said Wednesday it had signed a contract to supply 440,000 doses of its mpox vaccine to an “undisclosed European country”.

The World Health Organization (WHO) last week declared the rapid spread of the new, more dangerous mpox strain, dubbed Clade 1b, a public health emergency of international concern — the highest alarm the UN agency can sound.

Bavarian Nordic said the order was anticipated and included in the company’s projections for the

year. “The latest order was planned as part of our original guidance for this year, and as such, will not impact the remaining capacity that is available to support governments and organizations to address the current WHO declared Public Health Emergency of International Concern for mpox,” Paul Chaplin, CEO of Bavarian Nordic, said in a statement.

The vaccine maker said last week that it was ready to supply up to 10 million doses of its vaccine targeting mpox by the end of 2025. — Xinhua

S Korean banks’ net income falls in H1

SOUTH Korean banks’ combined net income fell in double digits in the first half of 2024 due to lower non-interest income, financial watchdog data showed Thursday.

Preliminary net income of local banks totalled 12.6 trillion won (US\$9.4 billion) in the first six months of this year, down 11.0 per cent compared to the same period of last year, according to the Financial Supervisory Service.

Interest income grew 1.4 per cent to a record high of 29.8 trillion won (\$22.3 billion) in the first half.

The average net interest margin, or difference between interest re-



Shinhan Bank Headquarters, Seoul, South Korea. **PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

ceived and interest paid, declined 0.06 percentage points to 1.62 per cent, while interest-bearing as-

sets expanded 4.1 per cent in the six-month period. Non-interest income retreated 11.4 per cent over the year to 3.4 trillion won (\$2.5 billion) in the first half. — Xinhua

New Zealand acts on Australia tomato virus find

AS New Zealand greenhouse tomato growers are concerned about a virus found in Australia, New Zealand’s biosecurity department has placed import restrictions on tomato seed imports from Australia.

The department has stepped up biosecurity requirements in response to the Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV) recently detected at two South Australian growing properties, Stuart Anderson, Biosecurity New Zealand deputy director general, said on Thursday.

“Imported seeds for sowing from Australia

will now require testing for the virus prior to arrival in New Zealand, which is a requirement that is already in place for other countries where the virus is present,” Anderson said.

New Zealand has also temporarily suspended tomato imports from all Australian states except Queensland, where there is no evidence of the disease or links to the affected properties in South Australia, he said, adding the situation continues to be monitored closely to ensure New Zealand growers are protected. — Xinhua



New Zealand greenhouse tomato growers are concerned about a virus found in Australia. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (234N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (234N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-8-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 14 VOY.NO. (04)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 14 VOY. NO. (04)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNIVERSE LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC MARYLAND VOY.NO. (1025073)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC MARYLAND VOY.NO. (1025073)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIS (S’PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PESTANA VOY.NO. (03/24)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PESTANA VOY.NO. (03/24)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Prime Minister underscored the timeless relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace in building a harmonious society.

PHOTO: ANI

PM Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in Kyiv, highlights relevance of his message for peaceful society

Modi highlighted Gandhi's enduring message of peace, noting its relevance in addressing contemporary global issues.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv and emphasized the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace in shaping a harmonious society. Prime Minister underscored the timeless relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace in building a harmonious society. He noted that the path shown by the Mahatma offered solutions to present-day global

challenges, a press release by the Ministry of External Affairs said. Mahatma Gandhi's statue, located in the 'Oasis of Peace' park in Kyiv, serves as a beacon of hope and peace for humanity.

The Prime Minister also shared a picture on his X handle and said, "Paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Kyiv. The ideals of Bapu are universal and give hope to millions. May we all follow the path he showed to humanity."

The Gandhi statue, symbol-

izing the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and his principles of peace and non-violence. The bronze statue of the Mahatma at AV Fomin Botanical Garden was unveiled in 2020 on the occasion of the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Meanwhile, PM Modi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also honoured the Memory of Children at the Martyrologist Exposition at the Ukraine National Museum in Kyiv. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arrest warrant sought for those responsible for S Korea's battery plant fire

An arrest warrant was sought for those responsible for South Korea's battery plant fire in June that claimed 23 lives, Yonhap news agency reported on Friday, citing the police and the labour ministry.

The police and the labour ministry held a joint press conference after investigating the cause of the deadly accident that occurred at a plant of the local lithium battery producer Aricell in Hwaseong, about 45 kilometres south of the capital Seoul, on 24 June.

The investigation found that Aricell continued to manipulate test samples since it began to supply battery products to the military in 2021 in a bid to illegally pass quality inspections. — Xinhua

Landslide kills 9 on resort island in southern Thailand

NINE people were killed and some others were missing in a landslide triggered by heavy rain on Thailand's southern resort island of Phuket on Friday, authorities said.

About 200 millimetres of rainfall recorded overnight led to a landslide and flooding in several areas of Phuket province, causing damage to at least 250 households, according to a local public relations office. — Xinhua



Thailand has been struck by heavy monsoon rains over the last week. PHOTO: THE NATION/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

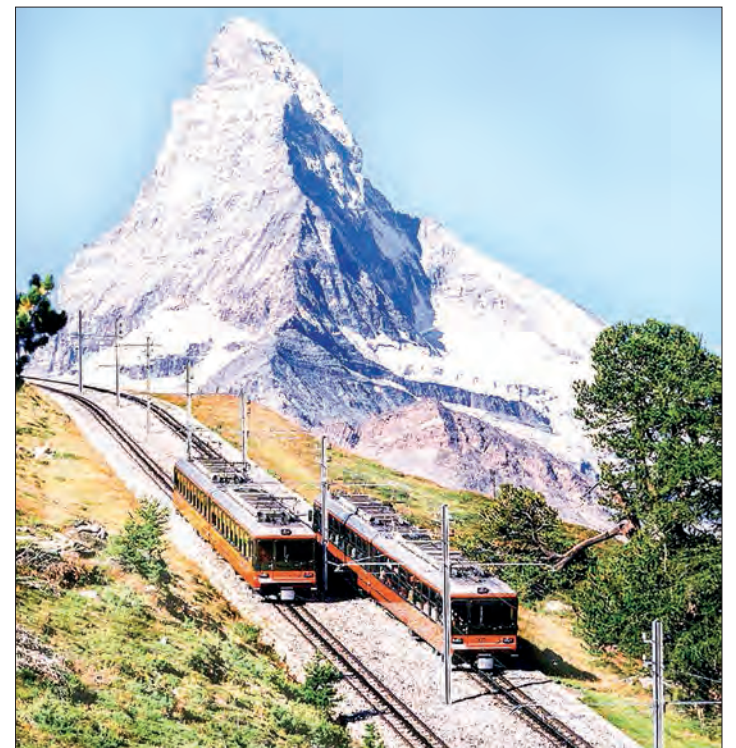
Switzerland's UDC party accuses government of undermining country's neutrality

THE largest party in the Swiss parliament, the Democratic Union of the Centre (UDC), accused President Viola Amherd and the government of undermining Switzerland's neutrality by seeking to join the EU's Military Mobility project.

On Wednesday, the Swiss government said that it intends to join the EU's Military Mobility project, which aims to facilitate the movement of troops and military equipment across European territory.

"The UDC resolutely opposes Switzerland's participation in the EU military pact PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation). The Federal Council is thus frivolously abandoning the neutrality and sovereignty of our country. By participating in the EU military pact, the Federal Council, through gross negligence, is also endangering the security of the Swiss population. The UDC demands that the Federal Council bring this issue before parliament without fail," the party said in a statement on Wednesday.

The UDC also accused the European Union of pursuing an expansionist policy in



Switzerland is notable for its landscapes and tourism facilities (Matterhorn from the Gornergrat Railway). PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. "The goals of Switzerland as a neutral and sovereign state do not coincide at all with the goals of the EU. Especially since the EU considers itself a geopolitical player and pursues an obvious expansionist policy towards Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldo-

va," the party added.

Switzerland is not a member of the European Union or NATO. However, the Swiss Foreign Ministry's 2022 foreign policy report announced the country's intention to strengthen security cooperation with the alliance. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Man City welcome back Gundogan, Slot's home debut and pressure on Maresca in EPL



Ilkay Gundogan has returned to Manchester City after just one season at Barcelona. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BRIGHTON and Manchester United kick off matchday two in the Premier League on Saturday in what looks to be just one of a host of interesting games, with some coaches already under early-season pressure to

deliver. Brighton coach Fabian Hurzeler got off to a flying start, as the 31-year-old's team won their opening game 3-0 away to Everton, and have since brought in Georgino Rutter and Brajan Gruda, who could start against Manchester United.

The Red Devils looked improved in their opening game, but still huffed and puffed before a late goal gave them three points against Fulham.

Aston Villa against Arsenal is probably Saturday's stand-out game, and Arsenal could have Mikel Merino available if he completes his transfer from Real Sociedad in time. — Xinhua

Kyaw Thet Oo crowns SINGHA-SAT TDT Prachinburi 2024

MYANMAR'S professional golfer Kyaw Thet Oo clinched the championship title at the SINGHA-SAT TDT Prachinburi 2024 golf tournament, part of the Thailand PGA Tour, held on 22 and 23 August at Kabin Buri Sport Club, Thailand.

Kyaw Thet Oo delivered an impressive performance over the two-round event, recording rounds of 64 and 69 to finish with a total of 11-under-par 133 strokes, securing the top spot. He outplayed the competition, with Donlaphatchai Niyomchon

(Thailand) finishing second with a 10-under-par and Gorrwich Yeamsiri (Thailand) taking third with a nine-under-par.

The tournament saw 117 competitors in total. With his victory, Kyaw Thet Oo not only claimed the champion's trophy but also earned a prize of THB100,000.

Kyaw Thet Oo continues to compete in international tournaments, including the All Thailand Golf Tour and the Thailand PGA Tour. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar's golf star Kyaw Thet Oo celebrates victory. **PHOTO: THAILAND PGA TOUR**

Paris Paralympics to showcase best of disability sports



The Paralympic symbol, the Agitos, is seen on the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France, 28 June 2024. **PHOTO: XU CHANG/XINHUA**

THE Paralympics begin in Paris on Wednesday, putting on display the talents of remarkable athletes in a city still riding the wave of the highly successful Olympics.

A new generation of Paralympians will be joined by seasoned veterans competing in many of the same sensational venues in the centre of the French capital that hosted Olympic sports.

A total of 18 of the 35 Olympic venues will be used for the Paralympics from 28 August to 8 September, including the Grand Palais which scored rave reviews for its hosting of the fencing and taekwondo. The La Defence Arena is back as well, hosting the 141 gold-medal events in para-swimming, as is the Stade de France which hosts athletics.

The opening ceremony will take place at Place de la Concorde, which hosted skateboarding and other 'urban' sports during the Olympics. Just as for the

Olympics ceremony on the River Seine, the ceremony takes place away from the main stadium for the first time at a Paralympics.

Ticket sales were sluggish, with less than half of the tickets reportedly sold by the time the Olympics were in full swing, but they have sped up markedly since then and organisers say several venues are sold-out. — AFP

Shan United drawn in Group D for AFC Challenge League 2024-2025

SHAN United has been placed in Group D of the East Asia Zone in the upcoming 2024-2025 AFC Challenge League, following the lot-drawing event for the tournament held on 22 August.

The tournament is divided into two zones: East Asia and West Asia. The West Asia Zone consists of three groups with four teams each, while the East Asia Zone features two groups with three teams each. The top two teams from each East Asia group will advance to the next stage. Meanwhile, in the West Asia Zone, the top teams from each of the three groups, along with the best runner-up, will move on to the next round. The quarter-finals will include four teams from each zone, playing within their respective zones. The champions of each zone will face off in the final.

The group stage matches for the West Asia Zone will be held from 26 October to 1 November, while the East Asia Zone's matches will take place from 27 October to 2 November. Group matches will be held in a single round-robin format, while the quarter-finals and semi-finals will be played over two legs. The final will be a single match.

In the West Asia Zone, Group A features East Bengal (India), Nejme (Lebanon), Bashundhara Kings (Bangladesh), and Paro (Bhutan). Group B includes Al-Arabi (Kuwait), Arkabek (Turkmenistan), Maziya (Maldives), and Abahani (Kyrgyzstan). Group C consists of Al-Ahli (Bahrain), Al-Fotuwa (Syria), Al-Seeb (Oman), and Hilal (Palestine). In the East Asia Zone, Group D includes Shan United (Myanmar), Tainan City (Chinese Taipei), and Young Elephant (Laos). Group E features Madura United (Indonesia), Svay Rieng (Cambodia), and Falcons (Mongolia).

Shan United will host their group matches in Myanmar, with all games set to be played at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon. This season, Shan United is also competing in the ASEAN Club Championship. Now, they will take on another challenge in the AFC Challenge League, representing Myanmar on the continental stage. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

PM Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in Kyiv, highlights relevance of his message for peaceful society
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WORLD

2,492-CARAT DIAMOND

World's second largest diamond found in Botswana

A massive 2,492-carat diamond – the second largest in the world – has been discovered in Botswana, the Canadian mining company that found the stone announced Thursday.

The diamond was discovered in the Karowe Diamond Mine in north-eastern Botswana using x-ray detection technology, Lucara Diamond Corp said in a statement.

Lucara did not provide an estimation of the value of the find. In terms of carats, the stone is second only to the 3,016-carat Cullinan Diamond discovered in South Africa in 1905.

"We are ecstatic about the recovery of this extraordinary 2,492-carat diamond," Lucara president William Lamb said in the statement.

This find was "one of the largest rough diamonds ever unearthed" and was detected using the company's Mega Diamond Recovery X-ray technology installed in 2017 to identify and preserve large, high-value diamonds, the statement said.

The managing director of Lucara Botswana, Naseem Lahri, presented the translucent stone, which is the size of a palm, to President Mokgweetsi Masisi at his office later Thursday.

"I'm told this is the largest diamond to be discovered in Botswana to date and the second in the world," Masisi said, congratulating the company on the find. "This is precious."
— AFP



Kursk II Nuclear Power Plant. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Putin: Ukraine attempted overnight strike on Kursk nuclear power plant

THE Kyiv regime's forces tried to bombard the Kursk nuclear power plant at night, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting focused on the situation in the Kursk, Belgorod and Bryansk regions.

The Ukrainian Army launched an offensive at 5.30 am on 6 August to seize territory in the Kursk region, but their advance was stopped, Chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff Valery Gerasimov said.

"The enemy tried to launch strikes on the nuclear power plant at night today," Putin said, adding that the "International Atomic Energy Agency has been informed, they promise to ... come themselves and send specialists for an

“ Russian President Vladimir Putin reported the attack and stated that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been notified and will send specialists for assessment.”

assessment.”

Gerasimov emphasized that the operation in the Kursk region aims to defeat the enemy and secure the state border. According to a report from the Russian Defence Ministry on 22 August, Ukraine's army has suffered losses of more than 4,700 servicemen and 68 tanks during the fighting in the Kursk area.

Gerasimov emphasized that the operation in Kursk region will be completed by defeating the enemy and reaching the state border. As the Russian Defence Ministry reported on 22 August, the Ukraine's army lost more than 4,700 servicemen and 68 tanks during the fighting in the Kursk area. — SPUTNIK



Photo taken on 6 May 2009 shows the South Hampstead High School in London. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZENG YI

UK exams results show growing gap between private, state schools

THE gap in top grades between private and state schools in the United Kingdom (UK) has widened this year, an educational charity reported this week, as indicated by the results of the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and A-level exams.

The Sutton Trust released an analysis on Thursday, the same day that the GCSE results

were announced, highlighting the increased disparity in top grades between private and state schools.

According to the report, independent schools saw a greater increase in the percentage of grades at A level or higher, compared to grades in academies and comprehensives. The gap between the two types of schools therefore widened

from 28.2 percentage points last year to 29 percentage points this year.

"This reflects a broader pattern of widening gaps between the most and least well-off young people since the pandemic and cost of living crisis," said Peter Lampl, founder of the Sutton Trust, who described the situation as "concerning."
— Xinhua