

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Tatmadaw, MPF, militia urged to boost capacity and capability



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing consoles one of the patients from Tatmadaw, MPF, and People's Militia at the Tatmadaw Hospital in Mandalay yesterday.

People's militia, war veterans, and members of the Myanmar Police Force need to join hands in serving the security and stability duties of relevant regions.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to consider long-term plans for peace and stability of the regions and secure and smooth transport measures.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted this during his inspection tour, emphasizing peace and stability in the region in the Central Command area yesterday morning.

At the meeting hall of the Central Command Headquarters, the Sen-

ior General, accompanied by 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 and **SEE PAGE 3**

Salient points from the speech of the Senior General in inspecting security measures of Central Command

1. It is necessary to systematically carry out peace and stability in the regions in order to ensure the safety of life and property of the people.
2. People's militia, war veterans and members of the Myanmar Police Force have to join hands in serving security and stability duties of relevant regions.
3. The capacity and capability of Tatmadaw and MPF members must be enhanced.
4. Peace and stability of the regions and secure and smooth transport measures must be considered in a long-term plan.

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YGN palm oil reference rate set higher at K6,375 per viss this week

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Seventh round of eye surgeries conducted at Sitagu Eye Hospital in Yangon

NATIONAL

UEC allows two new parties

THOSE who want to establish a political party apply to the Union Election Commission by stating the name of the party they wish to develop. To date, 17 groups have applied for the right to establish a party. Among them, the Unity and Development Party and the Socioeconomic Promotion Party were allowed to apply for the establishment of party as they conform with the Political Parties Registration Law and Rule yesterday.

The Unity and Development Party and the Socioeconomic Promotion Party, with the right to establish a party, must apply for registration as a political party to the Commission under Rule 7 of the Political Parties Registration Rule within 30 days from the approval date. Until 26 August, 14 political parties have been approved for the establishment. — MNA/KTZH

1 special criminal appeal case, 4 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 7 special criminal appeal cases, 2 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Maung, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Thauang Naing and Dr Ko Ko Naing was convened Monday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements for one special criminal appeal case No 13/2024 (Kayah), and four special civil appeal cases – Nos 5/2024 (Shan), 14/2024

(Mon), 23/2024 (Shan) and 42/2024 (Ayeyawady).

In addition, a total of nine special appeal cases; seven special criminal appeal cases – Nos 6/2024 (Mandalay), 7/2024 (Mandalay), 8/2024 (Mandalay), 9/2024 (Mandalay), 10/2024 (Mandalay), 11/2024 (Mandalay) and 12/2024 (Mandalay), and two special civil appeal cases Nos 38/2024 (Sagaing) and 47/2024 (Yangon) were heard. — MNA

Underpass between Shwedagon and People’s Square nears completion



This picture captures the construction site of the underpass.

THE construction of the underpass connecting Shwedagon Pagoda and the People’s Square is 79 per cent complete, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

This underpass, linking the west entrance of Shwed-

agon Pagoda to the People’s Square, is intended to enhance traffic safety, provide convenient access for visitors, and develop modern infrastructure.

The project is divided into three phases, with the first two phases completed

and the third still in progress. The underpass will be 23 feet wide and equipped with four escalators and two lifts. The construction, which began in October 2023, is expected to take about 14 months. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar, Thailand discuss boosting trade and tourism via key Shan State route

ACCORDING to the Shan State government office, Myanmar and Thailand discussed enhancing trade and tourism by utilizing the Tachilek-Kengtung-Taunggyi-Meiktila-Mandalay Road via the Tachilek Friendship Bridge.

On 23 August, Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump and U Zaw Lwin Oo, Chairperson of the Shan State government branch office (eastern Shan State), held discussions in Kengtung, eastern Shan State, about accelerating trade and tourism along this route.

Additionally, the delegation led by the Thai ambassador and Shan State government officials visited Kengtung Airport and inspected the trade flow and transport of goods along the Kengtung-Taunggyi Road. — ASH/TMT



Chairman U Zaw Lwin Oo of the Shan State government branch office (Shan State-East) is seen providing the gift to Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump.

Low-Pressure Area Condition

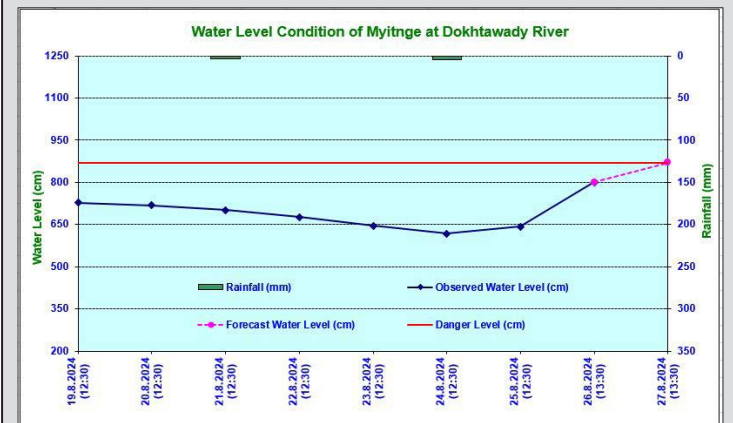
Issued at (07:00) hours MST on 26-8-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (05:30) hrs MST today, the low-pressure area over the South Bangladesh and adjoining North Bay of Bengal reached to interior of Bangladesh and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal, India.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 26-8-2024)

ACCORDING to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Dokehtawaddy River at Myitnge is observed as about 21/2 feet (70 centimetres) below its danger level 28.54 feet (870 cm). It may reach its danger level during the next one day. It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Myitnge, to take precaution measure. — DMH



COVID-19 report, 26 August 2024

NEW TESTS

21,762

NEW CASES

38

CASUALTIES

Nil

NATIONAL

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Sacred Buddha's Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mandalay



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing venerates the Buddha's upper left tooth relic enshrined at Swetawmyat Pagoda in Amarapura Township.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, along with the entourage and officials yesterday morning, paid homage to the Sacred Buddha's Tooth Relic Pagoda (Mandalay)

built on the Maha Dhammayanthi Hill near Shatawlay village Amarapura Township, Mandalay District, Mandalay Region.

Members of the board of trustees welcomed the Senior General, his wife and officials. He then paid homage to the pa-

goda and offered flowers, water, and candles. The Senior General and his wife also provided cash donations for overall renovation, which the members of the board of trustees accepted.

Afterwards, the Senior General, his wife, and officials paid

homage to the Buddha's upper left canine tooth relic, which was enshrined in the pagoda.

Consequently, the Senior General circled the pagoda in a clockwise direction, inspected the conditions of long-term and robust maintenance and gave instructions to ensure that the pagoda is always magnificent and what multi-renovations to be done to improve comprehensively.

Next, the Senior General, his wife and officials paid respect to

State Ovacariya Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Aggamahapandita Bhaddanta Vicarinda Bhivamsa, the Presiding Patron of the Mahavijitayon Monastery in Mandalay and enquired about the monk's health conditions, and instructed officials to fulfil the requirements of treatments.

The Senior General and his wife donated edible bird's nests, nutritious food and cash donations to the revered monk. — MNA/TS



The Senior General enquires about the health of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicarinda Bhivamsa.

Tatmadaw, MPF, militia urged to boost capacity and capability

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senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Command-

er-in-Chief, heard reports by Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik on taking security meas-

ures in the command area, attempts of some EAOs and PDF terrorists to jeopardize peace and stability of the region, killing innocent people, blowing up public transport routes, bridges and railways in addition to telecom powers, and continuous undertakings of Tatmadaw and MPF members in serving security duties for ensuring peace and stability of the region.

In his discussions, the Senior General underlined that it is necessary to systematically carry out peace and stability in the regions in order to ensure the safety of life and property of the people. People's militia, war veterans and members of the Myanmar Police Force have to join hands in serving security

and stability duties of relevant regions. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to consider long-term plans for peace and stability of the areas and secure and smooth transport measures. He noted that it is necessary to enhance the capacity and capability of Tatmadaw and MPF members and people's militia. The Senior General gave guidance on the need to continuously take information about security and the restoration of security, peace, and stability in other regions.

At the local Tatmadaw hospital in the royal Mandalay City, the Senior General comforted Tatmadaw members, MPF members, and people's militia receiving medical treatments for their

injuries sustained in serving the State's defence and security duties and asked them about suffering wounds, and healing of injuries and diseases individually. The Senior General fulfilled the needs reported by Tatmadaw and MPF member patients.

He then presented cash awards and gifts to those patients.

The wife of the Senior General and party also comforted families of Tatmadaw members receiving medical treatment at the female ward of the hospital and presented cash awards and gifts.

The Senior General asked officials about the hospital's requirements and attended to their needs. — MNA/TTA



The wife of the Senior General (front 2nd R) provides one of the female patients with cash awards and gifts.

NATIONAL

Educational trainees have to disseminate academic knowledge to students in assigned regions

Trainees from various parts of the nation attending the degree college have to consider how to improve education in their regions.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance that ethnic trainees attending the education degree college need to teach their students to broaden knowledge actually and raise the high rates of changing students' grades in order to accumulate educated human resources.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so in his meeting with tutors, teachers and trainees at Mandalay Education Degree College of the Teacher Training Department under the Ministry of Education yesterday morning.

Principal Daw Moe Moe Kyi reported to the Senior General on facts about the degree college, academic matters and the needs of educational infrastructures.

Speaking at the meeting, the Senior General recounted that as the 2014 population and household census showed the weakness in the education sector of the country, these weaknesses must be addressed to build the State with better human resources by encouraging the education sector.

He continued that trainees from various parts of the nation attending the college have to consider and seek the best ways to improve the education standard of the people in their regions.

While attending the degree college, trainees need to discuss how to overcome the difficulties of their regions, he added.

The Senior General underscored that trainees must join the training sessions during the four-



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets ethnic trainees attending Mandalay Education Degree College yesterday.

year period and must apply their experiences from the training in the practical fields.

He underlined that trainees should not feel lethargic about reading and continuously read for literary knowledge as they must teach students.

He noted that trainees can improve their assigned towns and villages with the use of their experiences and knowledge of social systems.

The Senior General highlighted that **it is necessary to build a disciplined and systematic society to initiate the State with a strong multiparty democratic system. To do so, the trainees who would serve academic duties must collaborate on the emergence of the aforesaid society.**

Taking lessons from the past events of the country, he urged those trainees to participate in shaping the future State through education.

The Senior General spotas lighted that **trainees have to seek knowledge and educational techniques from the college to be able to strive for participation in the enhancement of the education sector of the State as well as to have success in their lives.**

The Senior General and his wife presented public science treatises, fiction and non-fiction books for the library of the degree college and teaching aid to the principal.

The Senior General cordially greeted tutors, teachers and students. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General in the meeting with teachers and trainees at Mandalay Education Degree College

1. Trainees from various parts of the nation attending college have to consider and seek the best ways to improve the education standard of the people in their regions.
2. Trainees must join the training sessions during the four-year period and must apply their experiences from the training in the practical fields.
3. Trainees should not delay reading and continuously read literary knowledge as they must serve the teaching staff.
4. Trainees have to learn knowledge and educational techniques from the college to be able to strive for participation in the enhancement of the education sector of the State as well as to have success in their lives.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

2024 ISR U-18 Athletics Championship concludes

STATE Administration Council Members Daw Dwe Bu, Porel Aung Thein, Mahn Nyein Maung, 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 U-18 Athletics Championship yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

First, they watched the final matches of men's and women's 100-metre race and men's 2,000-metre steeplechase.

After the matches, Union ministers Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Dr Soe Win, U Min Thein Zan, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, U Tun Ohn and U Aung Kyaw Hoe and SAC member U Yang Kyaw awarded the first, second and

third prize winners of women's javelin, 400x4-metre relay, pole vault, triple jump, 1,500-metre, javelin, 1,500 metres, while SAC member U Shwe Kyein to first, second and third prize winners of women's 100-metre race, Khun San Lwin to winners of men's 100-metre race, Dr Ba Shwe to winners of men's 2,000-metre steeplechase, Dr Hmuh Thang to winners who broke the old records in men's 10,000-metre walking race, women's discus and women's 2,000-metre steeplechase.

Then, SAC member Mahn Nyein Maung presented the Championship Trophy to the Shan State women's team, the Championship Trophy to the Sagaing Region men's team by Porel Aung Thein and the



SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu presents the Overall Championship Trophy to the Sagaing Region team yesterday.

Overall Championship Trophy to the Sagaing Region team by Daw Dwe Bu.

The 2024 Inter-State and

Region U-18 Athletics Championship was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 23 to 26 August, and 452 athletes of 15 men's teams

and 15 women's teams from different regions and states participated in the event. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar delegation attends 7th ASEAN+3 Meeting, 7th East Asia Education Ministers' Summit



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe poses for the documentary group photo at the seventh ASEAN +3 Meeting and the seventh East Asia Education Ministers' Summit in Thailand yesterday.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe attended the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Meeting held at Buriram Chang Arena in Thailand yesterday.

Thailand hosted the event under the theme "Transforming Education in the Digital Age", and it was attended by representatives from ASEAN plus three (China, Japan, and

Korea).

During the event, the representatives and the ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General discussed the digital education system in China, Japan, and Korea, as well as further cooperation in education among ASEAN plus three countries. They then approved the joint declaration and posed for a document photo.

Moreover, the represent-

atives from dialogue countries of East Asia such as Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Korea, Russia and the US attended the 7th East Asia Education Ministers' Summit, and they discussed the digital education system and further cooperation.

They then observed the educational booths at the event. — MNA/KTZH



Since 21 August, 9,450 travellers arriving from abroad have been monitored. No suspected cases have been identified so far.

2nd coord meeting for Mpox prevention held in Yangon Region

THE second coordination meeting for Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) prevention in Yangon Region took place yesterday morning at the regional government office.

Professor Dr Thida Hla from Yangon General Hospital began by explaining the measures being implemented for Mpox prevention and the protocols for treating any detected cases in the region.

Following this, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Htay Aung, Minister for Natural Resources U Zaw Win, and Secretary of the Regional Government U Nyi Nyi Min discussed the regional government's support for Mpox prevention ini-

atives.

On 21 August, Yangon Region Minister for Natural Resources U Zaw Win, Minister for Social Affairs U Htay Aung, Professor Dr Thida Hla, and officials from the Regional Public Health Department inspected health workers conducting surveillance at the Yangon International Airport.

Since 21 August, 9,450 travellers arriving from abroad have been monitored. No suspected cases have been identified so far. However, preparations are in place to transfer any suspected patients to Waibargi Hospital for further care if necessary. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/TKO

NATIONAL

5th National Sports Festival aims to scale up national consolidation, sports standards

THE Prime Minister has instructed officials to organize the fifth National Sports Festival with full of essence aiming at scaling up national consolidation and promoting sports standards, said Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who is also Chairman of the Working Committee on Organizing the Opening and Closing Events, at the committee's third meeting yesterday.

In his speech, he noted that the festival is to be held on a grand scale to strengthen the national spirit and support the country with sports spirit. The festival is a major one for the country and the entire people.

He then instructed the relevant groups to make preparations



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn chairs the Working Committee on Organizing the Opening and Closing Events yesterday.

for opening and closing events in September depending on the decisions made during the meeting, the duties of the committee to assign responsibilities to the relevant groups and the inspection tour to Wunna Theikdi Stadium made by the experts and committee officials.

Then, the secretary of the committee and other attendees discussed event planning, Free Fall carrying region/state flags and State flags, stage design, opening and closing event plans budget status, performance, technological matters, access to electricity, firework decoration and live streaming plans.

After hearing the reports, the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Nationwide crackdown yields K937M in illegal trade seizures

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat illegal trade continue effectively in accordance with the law.

On 22 August, the Rakhine State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections at No 1 Port of the Myanma Port Authority in Sittway, seizing 256 barrels of illegal gasoline valued at approximately K180 million. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On 23 August, the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized smuggled goods worth about K2.5 million in Kawthoung, adhering to Customs procedures.

Also on 23 August, the Magway Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized an unregistered Bongo vehicle and an unregistered Loujia motorbike worth around K8.7 million in Minhla and Aunglan townships, respectively. The action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

On the same day, the Customs Department seized



Confiscated illegal items in Mandalay Region.

smuggled goods valued at approximately K256.98 million at the Asia World container checkpoint, along with 20 types of business supplies, including ten Star Link routers and other consumer goods worth about K90 million at Yangon International Airport. These seizures followed Customs procedures.

On 24 August, the Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 1,080 bottles of vegetable oil and other commodities worth K8.4 million, as well as a Mitsubishi Canter valued at K15 million near the

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), following Customs procedures.

On the same day, the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized four types of illegal consumer goods worth around K21.87 million and a Hino Ranger truck valued at approximately K35 million at the Kywetatson checkpoint. Additionally, they seized three types of consumer goods and seven types of car accessories worth about K254.739 million, along with a Mitsubishi Fuso truck and a Hino truck valued at K62 million, in line with Customs procedures.

On 25 August, the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized four unregistered motorbikes worth K1.65 million in Sagaing and Kalay townships under the Import-Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that from 22 to 25 August, 22 arrests were made, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods valued at approximately K937.535 million. — MNA/TMT

Counter-argument to false information

Fake news: 3 out of 4 detainees killed, 5 houses torched in Kanbalu

THE malicious media intentionally spread fake news, claiming that security forces raided U Khin Kyi village in Kanbalu Township of Sagaing Region on 25 August, and they arrested four civilians, murdered three of them, and set fire to five houses.

According to a security official, PDF terrorists attacked security forces who are taking security measures about 3,000 metres southeast of Chatthin

village of Kanbalu Township using heavy and small weapons on 25 August. When the combined security forces launched a counterattack, terrorists retreated. After security measures, security forces seized three dead bodies of terrorists, handmade weapons, and grenades.

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



Screenshots reveal misinformation.

YGN palm oil reference rate set higher at K6,375 per viss this week

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market edged higher to K6,375 per viss this week ending 1 September, which increased from K6,170 recorded last week ending 25 August 2024, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

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



Cooking oil bottles are organized for sales at the supermarket.

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 Hot Line: 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

Myanmar ships 100,000 tonnes of sugar to Vietnam

MYANMAR has conveyed 100,000 tonnes of sugar to Vietnam so far, according to the Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Products Association.

The association exports sugar depending on output and domestic consumption. It has been aiming for other foreign markets beyond Vietnam.

The sugar mills notified sugarcane growers that they raised the price of sugarcane to K150,000 per tonne for the 2023-2024 sugarcane season.

They set the sugarcane floor price at K90,000-K100,000 per tonne last season, 2022-2023. Sugarcane and sugar traders emphasized that the rise in the offering price is aimed at covering the high input cost of the growers amid the increase in sugar prices.

Additionally, sugar mills encouraged the growers to ramp up per-acre yield and expand the cultivation acres.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Vietnam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Vietnam only, as stated by the Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Association.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/KK

SWD invites trainees for 4th school-based domestic vocational training

THE Department of Social Welfare will be recruiting trainees for the fourth school-based domestic vocational training in the 2024-2025 financial year at its schools in ten major cities, including Yangon, from 2 September to 11 October 2024.

The training will take place at its schools located in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Patheingyi, Yangon, Sit-tway, Ywangan, and Dawei.

The training will provide sewing courses (women, children, and men clothing, coats), domestic handicraft training (crochet, embroidery, sewing), baking, cooking, and floral design training with domestic and foreign experts through technical and practical approaches.

There are eight batches every academic year, with each batch



Trainees are practising sewing machine operations in the previous training.

taking six weeks.

Those interested individuals can contact the respective domestic vocational schools in regions and states.

For further detail, individuals can enquire about Yangon school in Bahan through contact numbers 09 427900046, Mandalay schools

through 02 4036798, Mawlamyine through 057 2027166, Toungoo through 054 2823571, Myitkyina through 074 2522558, Pyapon through 09 262757899, Patheingyi through 042 25373, 042 21037, Sit-tway through 043 22067, Ywangan through 081 4768015 and Dawei through 059 2024009. — NN/KK

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OPINION

Set limits on children's screen time to protect eye health

INTERNATIONAL media highlights a growing concern: children using screens for more than three and a half hours daily are at risk of developing dry eye disease. In today's digital age, where mobile phones, tablets, computers, and laptops dominate everyday life, this trend is leading to various negative impacts on both children and adults.

For many, screens are an integral part of daily routines, including work and entertainment. However, extended screen use has been linked to various eye problems, even for adults. Excessive screen time, including watching television, can contribute to eye disorders and related health issues. For children, the risks are even more pronounced, potentially leading to serious problems such as cerebral issues and eye conditions.

By implementing these restrictions, parents and educators can help ensure that children grow up with healthier eyesight and better prospects for success in school and life. The advancement of technology brings both advantages and disadvantages to the society. As human are high in intelligence and critical thinking skills, they have to limit too much using of screen time their eyes to be used along their lives. Hence, families and parents have to manage the screen times of children for their future.

A survey by the Pew Research Center found that 95 per cent of teenagers aged 13 to 17 use smartphones regularly. Excessive phone use, especially for gaming, can lead to issues like poor memory retention, reduced concentration, and declining academic performance.

Children with vision problems often struggle more in school compared to their peers. These difficulties can extend into adulthood, affecting their ability to compete in the job market. This situation may contribute to feelings of frustration and depression among affected individuals. Therefore, it is crucial to set limits on screen time for children to protect their eye health and overall well-being.

By implementing these restrictions, parents and educators can help ensure that children grow up with healthier eyesight and better prospects for success in school and life. The advancement of technology brings both advantages and disadvantages to the society. As human are high in intelligence and critical thinking skills, they have to limit too much using of screen time their eyes to be used along their lives. Hence, families and parents have to manage the screen times of children for their future.

Studies suggest that children should spend less than three hours per day in front of screens. If screening time exceeds this limit, approximately 90 per cent of children could develop eyesight issues or other eye disorders. Researchers have identified a strong link between prolonged screen exposure and the development of myopia (near-sightedness). Children who frequently watch television or use smartphones face a 39 per cent risk of developing myopia, while those who use computers for extended periods have an 80 per cent risk.

As digital devices become more prevalent in education and leisure activities, an increasing number of youths are experiencing eye problems, leading to a rise in the use of corrective eyewear. A survey

Libraries as Lifelong Learning Centres

By Wint Htet Aung



The photo showcases the National Library of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

LIFELONG learning can be defined as all purposeful learning activities undertaken on an ongoing basis with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competence. It contains various forms of education and training, formal, non-formal and informal, e.g. the traditional school system from primary to tertiary level, free adult education, informal search and training, individually, in a group setting or within the framework of social movements.

All these forms of education and training rely on working methods that develop the individual's ability to search for information and build knowledge actively and independently. Libraries have the potential to make a difference between a traditional system of formal education and a broader system of learning. Libraries are socially inclusive places, offering a wide choice of different media and professional guidance in information search. In today's digital age, where information is just a few clicks away, we often take the word "library" for granted. Libraries have been an integral part of human civilization for centuries, serving as repositories of knowledge, culture, and history.

The word "library" has its roots in the ancient world, with its origin deeply intertwined with the concept of collecting and preserving written knowledge. The term "library" is derived from the Latin word "librarium" or "bibliotheca", which refers to a place where books and scrolls are stored. The Latin term itself found its roots in Greek, with "bibliothēkē" (βιβλιοθήκη) being the word for a collection of books.

The earliest known libraries date back to the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt. The Royal Library of Alexandria in Egypt, established in the 3rd century BCE, is often considered one of the most iconic ancient libraries, with its vast collection of scrolls and its role in fostering intellectual exchange.

As language and culture spread across regions, so did the concept of libraries and the terms used to describe them. In the Latin Middle Ages, "librarium" began to encompass not only the physical space but also the broader idea of a collection of knowledge and culture. During this era, scholars and collectors played a crucial role in shaping the meaning of "library". Private libraries became symbols of intellectual prowess and cultural refinement.

The Renaissance period marked a significant turning point in the history of libraries and the word itself. The term "library" began to encompass not only the physical space but also the broader idea of a collection of knowledge and culture. During this era, scholars and collectors played a crucial role in shaping the meaning of "library". Private libraries became symbols of intellectual prowess and cultural refinement.

Libraries come in various types, each designed to serve specific purposes and cater to different audiences. According to the mode of services rendered to the readers, libraries are broadly divided into four types:

1. **Academic Library:** Academic libraries play a crucial role in supporting the scholarly pursuits of students, faculty, and researchers within educational institutions. These libraries house

vast collections of books, journals, periodicals, databases, and digital resources covering various academic disciplines. Academic libraries are often organized into subject-specific sections, allowing users to access materials relevant to their fields of study. They provide quiet study spaces, computer labs, and collaborative areas for group work.

2. **Special Library:** Special libraries are specialized information centres that cater to the specific needs of organizations, industries, or professions. These libraries are often found in corporations, government agencies, research institutions, law firms, medical facilities, and other specialized settings. Special libraries curate collections tailored to the specific subject area or field, providing technical reports, industry publications, legal documents, medical literature, and other relevant materials. These libraries support decision-making, promote innovation, and facilitate knowledge dissemination within their organizations. Special libraries may also provide customized services such as competitive intelligence, patent searches, and information analysis.

3. **Public Library:** Public libraries are community treasures that serve as accessible hubs of knowledge and cultural enrichment for people of all ages and backgrounds. These libraries offer various resources, including books, e-books,

audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, and multimedia materials. Public libraries provide welcoming spaces for reading, studying, and community engagement, often equipped with comfortable seating, study rooms, and computer facilities., and

4. **National Library:** National libraries hold a special place as the custodians of a nation's cultural heritage, intellectual achievements, and historical records. These prestigious institutions serve as repositories of national literature, documents, and important collections that reflect the identity and history of a country. National libraries often have legal deposit requirements, which oblige publishers to submit copies of their published works, ensuring the preservation and accessibility of the nation's published output. They play a vital role in disseminating knowledge that contributes to scholarship, national memory, and cultural heritage. National libraries also organize exhibitions, lectures, and public events to promote public engagement with their collections and foster a sense of national pride and understanding.

The world we live in today demands continuous learning and adaptability, both professionally and personally. Lifelong learning has transcended the confines of formal education, becoming a fundamental principle for personal growth, career advancement, and so-

support adult education and skill enhancement throughout one's life. They offer resources and programs catering to adult learners, providing opportunities for skill development, career advancement, and personal growth. Workshops, seminars, and courses organized by libraries help adults acquire new skills, stay updated with industry trends, and adapt to the changing job market, reinforcing the concept of lifelong learning.

- **Digital Transformation:** Libraries in the Modern Era: Now, libraries have embraced technological advancements, expanding their reach and impact. Digital libraries and online platforms provide an extensive collection of e-books, audiobooks, educational videos, and interactive learning modules, making information accessible anytime and anywhere.

This digital transformation has democratized learning, allowing individuals to engage in lifelong learning beyond the physical constraints of a traditional library.

- **Community Engagement and Inclusivity:** Libraries promote community engagement and inclusivity, ensuring diverse populations can access educational resources and opportunities. They actively reach out to underserved communities, providing tailored programmes and services to bridge educational gaps. By focusing on inclusivity, libraries empower individuals from all walks of life to embark on a lifelong learning journey, contributing to a more informed and educated society.

Libraries are vital catalysts for lifelong learning, enriching lives, and empowering communities through education, knowledge, and inclusivity. Their evolving role as dynamic learning centres underscores the enduring importance of libraries in promoting a culture of continuous learning. As society advances, libraries will continue to shape and nurture the minds of individuals, ensuring that the pursuit of knowledge remains an everlasting voyage.

References: *International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Librarian House Library & Information Science Education Network*

- **Adult Education and Skill Enhancement:** Libraries

ARTICLE

WOUNDS

By Khin Maung Myint

WOUNDS can be both physical and psychological, each carrying its own weight and pain. The physical ones, like a fresh skin wound, are immediately visible — bloody, messy, and raw, like the brutality of a gunshot wound with the head blown apart. These injuries scream for attention, their pain obvious and undeniable. But concealed wounds are a different beast. These are the psychological scars, the traumas that remain hidden beneath the surface, invisible to the naked eye.

They don't bleed, but they throb endlessly, with a pain that lingers long after the initial trauma. These wounds are often ignored or dismissed by others, yet they can be just as devastating, if not more.

The pain from these wounds is silent, but it echoes in the mind, sometimes for a lifetime. Healing them can feel like an impossible task, where relief is a distant dream, a miracle that seems just out of reach.

While physical wounds may heal with time, leaving scars as a reminder of the past, these hidden wounds — emotional traumas, unresolved grief, or deep-seated fears — can haunt a person indefinitely.

They shape how we see the world and ourselves, often requiring just as much care and attention as any physical injury.

Understanding and acknowledging both types of

wounds is crucial for true healing, as one without the other leaves a person only partially whole.

To those who inflict pain, whether physical or emotional, the question stands: are you truly proud? Do you find satisfaction in the wounds you've caused, in the suffering you've left behind? It's easy to wield power when it's at someone else's expense, but what does that power truly gain you?

Wounds, whether visible or hidden, bear a heavy toll not just on the victim but on the inflictor as well. The act of causing harm may momentarily feed a sense of control or superiority, but it leaves behind a hollow victory, one that erodes the soul over time. Every wound inflicted is a reflection of something broken within the one who causes it.

So, in the quiet moments, when the dust settles, and the echoes of pain have faded — what remains? Is there pride in the destruction left in your wake, or just an empty silence that serves as a reminder of what you've lost in the process?

True strength isn't found in inflicting pain but in understanding and healing it. Pride that comes from hurting others is fleeting, a facade that eventually crumbles, revealing the emptiness beneath. Real pride comes from building, not destroying — from lifting others up, not tearing them down.

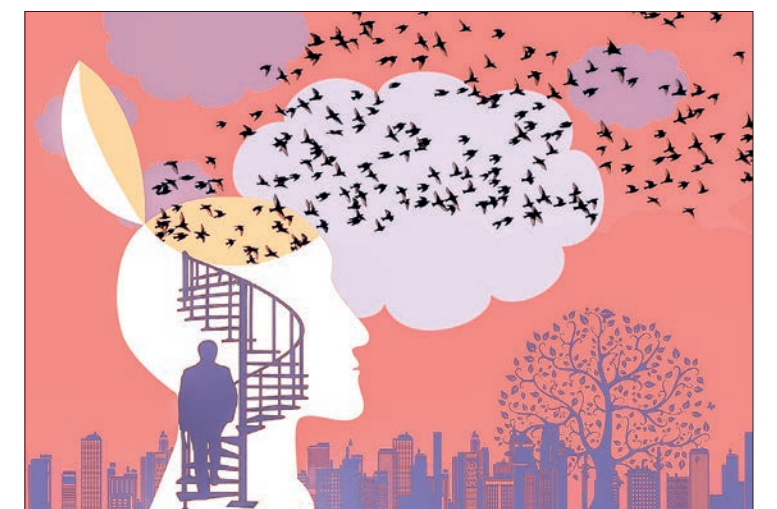


ILLUSTRATION IMAGE: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ APA ONLINE

NATIONAL



This photo depicts patients with eye diseases receiving treatments at the Sitagu Eye Hospital on 23 August 2024.

Seventh round of eye surgeries conducted at Sitagu Eye Hospital in Yangon

THE Sitagu Eye Hospital in Yangon has conducted its seventh round of eye treatments. Beginning 23 August, specialists at the hospital, located near the Bailey Bridge in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon, will perform surgeries for 300 patients with eye conditions. These patients were examined and scheduled for surgery in June, and the hospital has been contacting them by phone to inform them of their appointments.

On 24 and 25 August, a total of 165 patients underwent surgery. New patients will receive treatment during the hospital's upcoming eighth round of eye surgeries, according to Sitagu Eye Hospital (Yangon).

Since the programme began in January 1993, Sitagu Sayadaw has established around 50 eye hospitals across the country, restoring the eyesight of over 200,000 patients. — TWA/MKKS

MSWRR's K30B aid supports 300,000+ children, pregnant women, elders this FY

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided K14 billion in financial assistance to over 200,000 pregnant women and children under two years and K16 billion to over 100,000 senior citizens.

The ministry drew up the National-level Welfare Strategic Project in 2014. It is committed to comprehensive and inclusive social protection coverage to fill the needs of all children, women, elders, the disabled and vulnerable particular groups.

Those who are entitled to enjoy social security benefits in the 2023-2024 FY are decided upon with the social management system.

Government, philanthropic groups, non-governmental institutions and citizens need to make concerted efforts harmoniously to carry out social protection works so



This photo shows the ceremony of providing cash assistance to pregnant women and children under two years from 39 village-tracts of Gwa Township, Thandwe District, Rakhine State, held on 31 August 2023.

that they can help people in need to stand with confidence and self-esteem and contribute to human resource practices.

Additionally, the ministry started providing social pensions to sen-

ior citizens and cash assistance to the Home for the Aged, Centre on Philanthropy, Women Care Centre, voluntary night school for primary education and pre-primary schools yearly. — TWA/KK

Changes to marine engineering certification requirements

ACCORDING to the Marine Engineering Division of the Department of Marine Administration, individuals who present a sea service approval as engine room crew will be eligible to take the skill certificate exam.

From 1 September onwards, only those who submit a sea service approval, verified by the Marine Engineering Division, will be

permitted to attend Marine Engineering Knowledge Courses. These courses include the Ratings Forming Parts of an Engine Room Watch Course (Reg: III/4), Ratings as Able Seafarer Course (Reg: III/5), and Workshop Skills courses. Approval is required both for course attendance and for taking the proficiency certificate exam.

Candidates intending to take

the skill certificate exam, knowledge certificate courses, and workshop skills courses must report through the online system via the relevant Seafarer Recruitment and Placement Services (SRPS) companies. They should obtain the sea service testimonial and present it to receive the Sea Service Approval, as specified by the Marine Engineering Division. — TWA/TKO

Hein Latt launches two new books at Lantern House in Yangon

ACCORDING to writer Hein Latt, his two new books, titled 'Myanmar Pyaw Thaw Myanmar Sakar' (Myanmar Spoken by Myanmar People) and 'Laukmanya Tiluk', were introduced at The Lantern House in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, on 25 August.

The book launch was attended by fellow writers Maung Yint Mar (Kyauggon), Maung Thway Thit, Nway Ko Tu (Pakokku), Aung Soe Oo, May Zune Aye, and Ma Aye Phwint.

Hein Latt commented, "Today, everything, including paper, is so expensive that many writers are holding back on publishing their work. Despite this, I have managed to produce seven books in just eight months because I want readers to have access to new materials. Five of these books were self-published, while these two were published and distributed nationwide by Khit Publishing House. 'Myanmar Pyaw Thaw Myanmar Sakar' aims to highlight contemporary Myanmar slang to prevent it from being misinterpreted as the standard language, and 'Laukmanya Tiluk' explores Indian beliefs." — ASH/TRKM



This photo shows the launch of two new books held by author Hein Latt at The Lantern House.

Cambodia completes restoration of Angkor Wat ground floor's southern central stairs, Naga balustrades

CAMBODIA'S APSARA National Authority (ANA) archaeologists had successfully completed the restoration of the southern central stairs and Naga balustrades on the ground floor of the famed Angkor Wat, said an ANA's news release on Sunday.

Angkor Wat is a major temple in the UNESCO-listed Angkor archaeological park in the northwest country's Siem Reap province.

Soy Sophearin, head of the Angkor Wat restoration site, said the restoration work had begun on 15 May this year and concluded on 15 August, reinforcing the structure's foundation, repairing stairs and restoring Naga balustrades to their original positions.

"Prior to the repairs, the Naga balustrades had collapsed and were in a state of disrepair, making them unstable," he said. "The restored Naga balustrades are now sturdy enough to ac-

commodate visitors safely, alleviating concerns about potential collapse."

Sophearin said the restoration team employed appropriate techniques to ensure the longevity of the structure.

In addition to this project, he said the ANA is actively assessing other areas for future restoration to enhance the preservation of the Angkor Archaeological Park.

The 401-square-kilometre Angkor archaeological park is home to 91 ancient temples, which had been built from the ninth to the 13th centuries.

The Angkor park, which is the kingdom's most popular tourist destination, attracted a total of 584,375 international tourists during the first seven months of 2024, making a gross revenue of US\$27.17 million from ticket sales, according to the state-owned Angkor Enterprise. — Xinhua



This undated file photo shows the stairs and Naga balustrades at the Angkor Wat in Siem Reap province, Cambodia. Cambodia's APSARA National Authority (ANA) archaeologists had successfully completed the restoration of the southern central stairs and Naga balustrades on the ground floor of the famed Angkor Wat, said an ANA's news release on Sunday. **PHOTO: ANA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

China's summer box office revenue exceeds 11 billion yuan



A movie goer buys tickets at a cinema in Beijing, 21 August 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA'S 2024 summer box office revenue has reached 11.1 billion yuan (about US\$1.56 billion) as of Sunday, with domestic comedy "Successor" at the top of the revenue chart.

Summer is one of the most lucrative box office seasons. Since 1 June, about 271 million movie tickets have

been sold across the country, according to ticketing platform Maoyan.

Blockbuster "Successor" has pocketed around 3.2 billion yuan in box office revenue since it was released on 16 July, accounting for nearly 29 per cent of total summer box office revenue.

Starring the acclaimed

comedic duo of Shen Teng and Ma Li, the film tells the story of a wealthy couple who create a challenging environment for their son to spur his personal growth, prompting some reflections concerning contemporary parent-child relationships.

"Successor" was followed by Sam Quah's latest crime thriller "A Place Called Silence," which has generated over 1.3 billion yuan during the summer movie-going season. This film explores the topic of campus bullying, a significant societal concern that has sparked heated discussions on social media in recent years.

20th Century Studios' sci-fi thriller "Alien: Romulus", the seventh instalment of the successful "Alien" franchise, is in third spot, earning approximately 515 million yuan since making its debut on 16 August. — Xinhua

Meeting on nominating Great Tea Route to UNESCO heritage list held in Mongolia

AN academic conference focusing on the nomination of the Great Tea Route, which spans China, Mongolia, and Russia, for the UNESCO World Heritage List was held at the Chinese Cultural Centre here in the Mongolian capital on Monday.

The conference, sponsored by the Chinese Embassy in Mongolia and the Cultural and Tourism Department of central China's Hubei province, was co-organized by the Chinese Cultural Centre in Ulan Bator and the Hubei Provincial Cultural Relics Protection Centre, among others.

"Today, we are not only discussing the revival of an ancient trade route but also embarking on a new chapter of friendship and cooperation among China, Mongolia, and Russia. The Great Tea Road, a golden ribbon weaving across the Eurasian continent, has witnessed

the historical integration and interaction of civilizations from China, Mongolia, and Russia, as well as between the East and the West," said Li Zhi, counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Mongolia and director of the Chinese Cultural Centre, during an opening ceremony.

Li emphasized that the Great Tea Road is not just a trade route for tea and other commodities, but also a vital bridge for cultural exchange, sharing of ideas, and emotional connections.

"The Great Tea Route and its surrounding things symbolize the history of our past cooperation, the successes of our current collaboration, and the potential for future development and partnership," said Byambasuren Davaatseren, head of the Cultural Heritage Protection Department at the Ministry of Culture of Mongolia. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Four technological developments to spur momentum for new quality productive forces: Kevin Kelly

DEVELOPMENTS in energy networks, robotic tasks, real-time language translation and accelerated innovation will collectively boost new quality productive forces, said Kevin Kelly, founding executive editor of the US magazine *Wired*, in a forum of the 2024 Sun Island Annual Conference for Entrepreneurs that concluded on Saturday.

Themed “New Quality Productive Forces: New Industries, New Models, New Dynamics,” the conference was held in Harbin, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province.

At the main forum, Kelly shared via video his opinions on new quality productive forces and envisioned future changes in human life.

Kelly said that renewable and evenly distributed energy sources, such as solar and wind power, can constitute localized energy production and what he called the “energy networks”.



An aerial drone photo taken on 20 August 2024 shows a view of Sun Island scenic spot in the Taiyangdao (Sun Island) National Wetland Park in Harbin, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Such decentralized energy sources will liberate humanity from dependence on finite resources like oil or uranium and facilitate future increases in productivity, he added.

The second game changer

is robotic tasks, noted Kelly. He further explained that this means most human work will be split into different tasks, many of which will be accomplished by robots and artificial intelligence (AI), while humans will

be freed to focus on more valuable and genuinely desired work.

“You’re not gonna lose your job. You’re just gonna have new tasks,” Kelly said, adding that this technological development would create plenty of new jobs

and possibilities that did not exist before.

The renowned internet expert also envisioned that real-time translation will connect global talent and the economy in a previously unseen manner, stimulating the vitality of new quality productive forces. He is impressed by the real-time translation devices and applications developed by Chinese companies like iFLYTEK.

Highlighting the quick emergence of innovations as another impetus for new quality productive forces, Kelly said this is enabled by the development of online video platforms, which allow people to learn and share without industry barriers.

Technologies like virtual reality, 3D experiences and AI-assisted learning will be integrated into these platforms and create many more well-educated innovators, he revealed. — Xinhua

European airlines suspend flights amid escalating Israel-Hezbollah conflict



Stranded passengers wait at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, 25 August 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SEVERAL major airlines in European countries announced the suspension of flights to and from Israel and Lebanon Sunday following escalating hostilities between the two Mideast countries.

According to French news channel BFM TV, Air France has

decided to suspend its flights to Israel’s Tel Aviv and Lebanon’s Beirut until at least Monday due to growing tensions in the region.

“Today’s and tomorrow’s flights are cancelled,” an Air France spokesperson said, noting that the suspension could

be extended after the company conducts a new assessment on Monday.

Similarly, British Airways announced a suspension of flights to and from Israel’s Tel Aviv until Wednesday.

“Due to the escalating situation in the region, Wizz Air is temporarily suspending flights to and from Israel on the 25th of August,” Hungarian budget airline Wizz Air also posted on its website. Greek flag carrier Aegean Airlines cancelled several flights to Israel and Beirut on Sunday. Its official website listed three flights to Tel Aviv and two flights to Beirut, including one scheduled for Monday, as cancelled.

German airline giant Lufthansa extended its suspension of flights to Beirut until 30 September, and to Tel Aviv and Tehran until 2 September. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam’s motorcycle, car joint venture sector to grow 4.8% by 2028

THE earnings from the Vietnam’s motorcycle and car joint venture sector will witness compound annual growth rates of 1.6 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively in 2024-2028, Vietnam News reported Monday, citing SSI Research.

According to SSI Research, while the third-quarter revenues of the car industry may have suffered as customers put off buying decisions, in anticipation of possible incentives, pent-up demand is poised to fuel revenue growth in the last quarter.

The accumulated demand is forecast to be the catalyst for revenue growth in the fourth quarter. — Xinhua

New Zealand addresses energy security, affordability

THE New Zealand government has moved to address the serious risk to energy security and affordability,

“New Zealand currently has an energy shortage. The lakes are low, the sun hasn’t been shining, the wind hasn’t been blowing, and we have an inadequate supply of natural gas to meet demand,” Energy Minister Simeon Brown said on Monday.

That has led to New Zealand currently having the highest wholesale electricity prices of any of the countries New Zealand normally compared itself to, Brown said, adding that it is devastating for New Zealand’s manufacturing and export sectors. — Xinhua

Tokyo stocks fall moderately as firmer yen weighs on exporters

TOKYO stocks finished lower Monday as exporters pared part of their earlier losses, helped by the US dollar's rally against the yen after its steep drop in the foreign exchange market. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 254.05 points, or 0.66 per cent, from Friday at 38,110.22. The broader Topix index finished 23.31 points, or 0.87 per cent, lower at 2,661.41.

On the top-tier Prime Market, decliners were led by transport equipment, bank and rubber product issues.

The US dollar briefly dropped to 143.45 yen, its lowest level in three weeks, after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell told the Jackson Hole symposium on Friday that the "time has come" to adjust US monetary policy, fueling expectations the Fed will cut its key interest rate at its September meeting.

The yen, seen as a safe-haven asset, was also initially boosted on concerns that Middle East instability may raise oil prices, as the conflict between Israel and Lebanese Shia militant group Hezbollah

flared over the weekend.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 143.89-92 yen compared with 144.35-45 yen in New York and 145.81-83 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Friday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.1180-1182 and 160.89-93 yen against \$1.1187-1197 and 161.52-62 yen in New York and \$1.1119-1120 and 162.13-17 yen in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond ended at 0.880 per cent, down 0.010 percentage point from Friday's close. The debt was bought, sending yields



A financial data monitor in Tokyo shows the US dollar trading in the mid-143 yen level on the morning of 26 August 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

lower, tracking a fall in US long-term Treasury yields after Powell's remarks.

The Tokyo stock market mostly mirrored the currency movements,

with exporters such as auto stocks meeting heavy selling on the view that a stronger yen is likely to squeeze their profits.

But exporters were

able to trim their earlier losses, as the dollar rebounded to around the 144 yen line due in part to easing Middle East fears, brokers said. — Kyodo

Dutch hit Uber with 290-mln-euro fine over driver data



(FILES) The logo of the ride sharing service Uber is seen in front of its headquarters in San Francisco, California, on 26 August 2016. Dutch regulator hits Uber with 290-million-euro fine over driver data transfer. PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN / GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA / AFP

THE Dutch data protection watchdog said Monday it hit ride-hailing app Uber with a 290-million-euro (\$324 million) fine over the transfer of personal data of European drivers to US servers. The regulator said the transfers were a "serious violation" of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), as they failed to appropriately protect driver information.

"Uber did not meet the requirements of the GDPR to ensure the level of protection to the data with regard to transfers to the US. That is very serious," Dutch Data Protection Authority (DPA) chairman Aleid Wolfsen said in a statement. The DPA said Uber collected sensitive information of European drivers, including taxi licences, location data, photos, payment details, identity documents, "and in some cases even criminal and medical data of drivers". — AFP

German business morale falls again in August

GERMAN business confidence fell further in August, a closely-watched survey showed Monday, as Europe's biggest economy struggles to emerge from a weak period.

The Ifo institute's confidence barometer, based on a survey of around 9,000 companies, declined to 86.6 points from 87 points in July. "The sentiment among companies in Germany is on a downward trend," Ifo president Clem-

ens Fuest said following the fourth consecutive fall in the indicator.

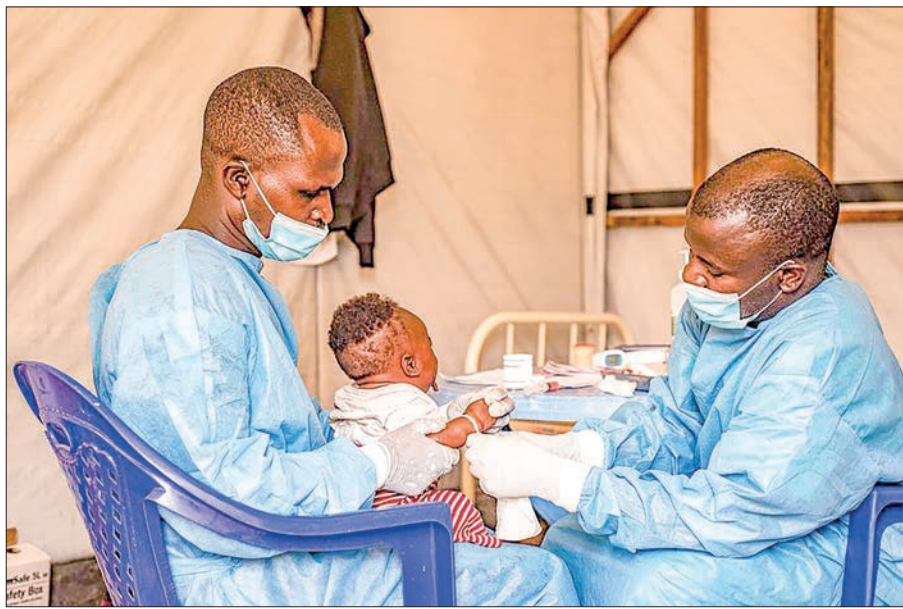
"The German economy is increasingly falling into crisis," Fuest said.

Businesses were both less bullish about the current economic environment and more pessimistic about their future prospects, according to the survey. Confidence among companies in the manufacturing sector in particular "fell considerably". — AFP

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (185N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (185N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-8-2024 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2410S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2410S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-8-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT/MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (881N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (881N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-8-2024 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES</p>
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ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Africa CDC warns of rising mpox cases, high death rate, limited diagnostics



A child who caught mpox gets treatment at a hospital in the Nyiragongo territory near Goma, North Kivu province, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 15 August 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has warned of the high burden of mpox cases, limited diagnostic capabilities, and the disease's high fatality rate as some of the pressing challenges hindering the continent's mpox response efforts as the number of cases surges across Africa.

Africa CDC Director-General Jean

Kaseya, in an update on the multi-country mpox outbreak in Africa issued Friday, said the challenges are also related to the rapid spread of the disease to new countries and disparate attempts to address mpox amid the greater need to improve coordinated efforts.

Data from the Africa CDC show that from the beginning of 2024 to 23 August,

a total of 21,466 potential cases of mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, and 591 deaths have been reported from 13 African Union (AU) members.

The 13 AU members that have reported mpox cases so far include Burundi, Cameroon, the Central Africa Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Gabon, Liberia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda.

"The cases and deaths seen are just the tip of the iceberg, given that mpox is mostly a mild condition and due to limited surveillance, testing, contact tracing, and reporting," Kaseya said in an update letter to African health ministers concerning the ongoing mpox outbreak in Africa.

He also warned of the high case fatality rate of mpox, which he said is mostly between 3 and 4 per cent, adding that the disease's link to HIV is also of particular concern for Africa.

According to Kaseya, several previously unaffected African countries have recently reported their first imported cases of mpox, and there is a high risk that the virus could spread beyond Africa. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippines detects 2 more new cases of mpox

THE Philippines has detected two additional new cases of monkeypox (mpox), bringing the number of active mpox cases in the country to three, the Department of Health (DOH) said on Monday.

DOH spokesperson Assistant Secretary Albert Domingo said the new cases include a 37-year-old male and a 32-year-old male from Metro Manila. The 37-year-old is currently confined at a hospital, while the 32-year-old is staying at home waiting for a confirmatory test result of a skin sample. — Xinhua

22 killed in flash floods, landslides across Thailand

TWENTY-TWO people have been killed and 19 others injured in monsoon-induced flash floods and landslides across Thailand that affected over 30,900 households in 13 provinces since 16 August, authorities said on Monday.

Authorities are ramping up efforts to drain floodwaters brought by heavy monsoon rains and provide relief to the remaining affected 737 villages in five northern provinces of the Southeast Asian country, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said in a statement.

The agency also warned residents in 31 provinces across the kingdom to be vigilant for flash floods, forest runoffs and strong winds until Thursday, as officials have been instructed to closely monitor the situation and prepare emergency response teams and machinery to be stationed in high-risk areas. — Xinhua

Casualties rise to 19 with 7 injured as flash floods strike eastern Indonesia

NINETEEN people have been confirmed dead, and seven others were injured after flash floods and landslides struck Indonesia's eastern North Maluku province on Sunday, damaging houses and infrastructure, a senior official said on Monday.

Fehby Alting, head of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Office in the province, told Xinhua that all the bodies of the nineteen victims had been discovered and heavy machinery had been deployed to accelerate search and rescue operations. To facilitate the relief efforts, the local administration declared a 14-day emergency status in the disaster-affected areas, Alting added. — Xinhua

Top DPRK leader oversees drone performance test: report

THE top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) oversaw on Saturday a drone performance test organized by the Drone Institute of the Academy of Defence Sciences, the DPRK's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Monday.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, got first-hand information on the drones currently being developed, which are intended to strike enemy forces on the ground and at sea, the report said.

During the test, drones of various types accurately identified and destroyed the designated targets after following different preset flight routes, it added.

Noting that developing different types of drones and enhancing their combat capabilities play an important role in war preparations, the DPRK



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects drones developed by the Drone Institute of the Academy of Defence Sciences on 24 August 2024. **(IMAGE PARTIALLY PIXELATED) PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

leader stressed the need to ramp up drone development and production, urging more intensive testing

of their combat applications and the swift equipping of military units with them, the report said. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Shan United to host AFC Challenge League Group D matches in Myanmar

FOR the 2024-2025 AFC Challenge League season, Myanmar's Shan United will host the Group D matches.

The competition will be organized into two zones: East and West Asian zones. In the West Asian Zone, there will be three groups, while the East Asian

Zone will feature two groups. The top two teams from each group in the East Asian Zone will advance to the next stage, and in the West Asian Zone, the top team from each group and the best second-placed team will also progress.

The knockout rounds will

see competition of four teams from each zone, with semi-finals and finals being played between one team from each zone. Group stage matches in the West Asian Zone are scheduled from 26 October to 1 November, and in the East Asian Zone from 27 October to 2 November. All group stage

matches will be played once, while the quarter-finals and semi-finals will be played over two legs, and the final will be a single match.

In Group D of the East Asian Zone, Shan United (Myanmar), Tainan City (Chinese Taipei), and Young Elephant (Laos) will com-

pete. The group stage matches for this group will be hosted at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. Shan United will face Young Elephant on 27 October, Tainan City versus Young Elephant on 30 October, and Shan United will play against Tainan City on 2 November. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar team departs for Asia Junior Exchange Games 2024 in Tokyo

THE Myanmar team departed from Yangon International Airport yesterday evening to participate in the Asia Junior Exchange Games 2024, to be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 27 August to 2 September.

The send-off was attended by Director U Kyaw Min Than of the Department of Sports and Physical Education,

President U Aung Paing of the Myanmar Badminton Federation, President U Kyaw Kyaw of the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation, along with their respective officials, as well as parents and family members of the athletes.

The 20-member Myanmar team includes Vice-President U Tun Tun Oo of the Myan-

mar Badminton Federation, one badminton coach, and six badminton players. Also in the team are Vice-President U Aung Myat Kyaw of the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation, one Table tennis coach, and six table tennis players, along with one coach and one player from the para table tennis category. — Arkar Lin/TRKM



This photo shows the Myanmar team before heading to Japan.

Kvaratskhelia guides Conte's Napoli to convincing Bologna win

KHVICHA Kvaratskhelia starred as Napoli got their first win under Antonio Conte on Sunday by beating Bologna 3-0, while Roma slumped to a shock 2-1 home defeat to Empoli.

Georgia star Kvaratskhelia celebrated becoming a dad on Wednesday by netting Napoli's second with 15 minutes remaining in an absorbing

contest at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona.

But while his deflected strike ensured Napoli of the three points and redemption after last weekend's humbling at Verona, Kvaratskhelia's real touch of class came in stoppage time at the end of the first half.

The 23-year-old, who also hit the crossbar, clipped a de-

lightful pass over the Bologna defence for the onrushing Giovanni Di Lorenzo, who lashed home the opening goal and unleashed joy both in the stands and on the touchline.

"I think you saw it on the pitch, the energy, and I did everything for the team," said Kvaratskhelia to DAZN. — AFP



New Zealand's Lydia Ko holds up the winner's trophy after capturing the Women's British Open golf championship at the Old Course in St Andrews, Scotland, on 25 August 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

Ko wins Women's British Open, 2 Japanese share 7th

OLYMPIC gold medallist Lydia Ko claimed her third major title, and first in eight years, with a two-shot victory at the Women's British Open at St Andrews on Sunday.

The South Korean-born New Zealander shot a 3-under 69 to finish at 7-under 281 at the Old Course, where Akie Iwai and Mao Saigo were five strokes back in a tie for seventh, the highest among Japanese in the field.

Ko began the day three shots behind 54-hole leader Shin Ji Yai of South Korea. She made four birdies, including one on the par-4 18th hole, against a lone bogey.

"Winning the gold medal in Paris a few weeks ago was almost too good to be true," the 27-year-old Ko said. "I honestly

didn't think it could be any better and here I am as the AIG Women's Open champion this week."

"Obviously, being here at the Old Course at St Andrews, it makes it so much more special."

Shin struggled to a 74, leaving her tied for second with China's Yin Ruoning and Americans Nelly Korda and Lilia Vu.

A total of 19 Japanese golfers started at the home of golf this time. Iwai carded a 69 for her best finish in a major, while Saigo closed with a 72.

"It was a tough four days out there," said the 22-year-old Iwai, whose twin sister Chisato is also a professional golfer. "I managed to play patiently when I needed to. But to be honest, I wanted to put myself into contention." — Kyodo



WORLD

Big polluters urged to pay as key Pacific summit opens in Tonga

EMISSIONS-BELCHING nations were challenged to stump up for climate-related damage as a key Pacific islands summit opened on Monday, with low-lying Tuvalu declaring: "If you pollute, you should pay."

The Pacific Islands Forum got underway in Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa, with leaders hoping to draw global attention to the region's worsening climate plight.

"We really need to ensure that we continue to push for action from countries that are the most polluting," Tuvalu Climate Minister Maina Talia told AFP on the sidelines of the summit.

"Polluter pays should be on the table."

Pacific leaders will mount a renewed push later this week for a homegrown climate adaptation fund, an idea that largely hinges on financial contributions from foreign nations.

They will also push to speed the transition away from oil, gas and other highly polluting fuel sources.

"We cannot address climate change without addressing the root cause, which is the fossil fuel industry," Talia said.



Tonga's Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala (centre L), United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (centre R) and leaders attend the Pacific Islands Forum in Nuku'alofa on 26 August 2024. PHOTO: AFP

"It's disaster after disaster, and we are losing the capacity

to rebuild, to withstand another cyclone or another flood." That is awkward terrain

for forum member Australia, a coal-mining superpower belatedly trying to burnish its green

credentials.

Australia wants to co-host the COP31 climate conference alongside its Pacific neighbours in 2026.

But first, it must convince the bloc it is serious about slashing emissions.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is making a rare appearance at the summit, in a trip designed to highlight the Pacific's myriad climate threats.

"The decisions world leaders take in the coming years will determine the fate, first of Pacific Islanders, and then everyone else," Guterres said.

"If we save the Pacific, we save the world."

Foreign dignitaries were briefly sent scuttling for cover when a 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck off Tonga's coast early Monday. But no major damage or injuries were reported, and no tsunami warning was issued.

The summit had earlier kicked off with melodic Tongan choir singers and dancing school-children in traditional dress. — AFP

Paris commemorates 80th anniversary of liberation in WWII



Reenactors dressed in wartime uniforms parade on wartime military vehicles during a reenactment marking the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Paris from the Germans during World War II, in Paris on 25 August 2024. PHOTO: AFP

PARIS on Sunday celebrated the 80th anniversary of its liberation from German troops in World War II with tributes, military marches and the hoisting of a flag at the Eiffel Tower.

On 25 August 1944, the 2nd French Armoured Division entered the capital under the command of General

Philippe Leclerc de Hautecloque, ending 1,500 days of German occupation.

Their triumphant arrival followed a tumultuous week of uprisings, strikes, combat at barricades and street battles between French Resistance fighters and occupying forces.

On Sunday a parade followed one

of the itineraries of the French division from the south of the capital to its centre. The parade featured vintage military vehicles, as surviving veterans of the 2nd Armoured Division looked on.

President Emmanuel Macron led the commemoration, also attended by Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo and an audience including prominent cultural figures including American actor Jodie Foster.

"Beyond all divisions and contradictions, to be French is to be together," Macron said in a speech. "Free, and true to the great things that have been achieved and determined to achieve more together."

A torch for the Paris Paralympics, which open Wednesday, was lit, ahead of a flyover by the Patrouille de France, a unit of French air force fighter planes.

Earlier Sunday, the French flag was raised under the Eiffel Tower in memory of firefighters who at midday 80 years ago took down the Nazi flag that had been flying there for four years, and replaced it with the tricolour. — AFP

Thai PM says committed to further strengthening Thailand-China relations

PAETONGTARN Shinawatra, Thailand's new prime minister, stated on Monday that Thailand and China share a "close friendship" and she is committed to further strengthening bilateral ties.

Paetongtarn wrote on social media platform X that Thailand's friendship with China is based on "mutual trust and respect, a common vision towards prosperity and progress, as well as familial ties between our two countries' peoples."

The prime minister added that she is committed to further strengthening the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between Thailand and China and looks forward to jointly celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2025.

Paetongtarn, the 38-year-old Pheu Thai Party leader, was elected Thailand's new prime minister on 16 August after winning a parliamentary vote. She has received a formal appointment by Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn to become the second female prime minister and youngest leader in the country's history. — Xinhua