

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This photo depicts a general view of the Inwa palace tower in ancient Amarapura-era style. **PHOTO: BO SHAKE**

Inwa Palace Tower from Amarapura Era undergoes authentic restoration

About 90 feet (30 metres) high, the Inwa palace tower, built in 1822, is the only concrete work left from the palace of King Bagyitaw as a 19th-century Myanmar architecture.

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Pinya-Inwa Branch) is carrying out restoration work on the ancient palace tower of Inwa, which can still be seen as an Amarapura-era work, in this financial year, according to archaeologist and writer Bo Shake (Yadanapura).

About 90 feet (30 metres) high, the Inwa palace tower, built in 1822, is the only concrete work left from the palace of King Bagyitaw as a 19th-century Myanmar architecture.

“The palace tower was built during the reign of King Bagyitaw or Sagaing Min. It remains as an Amarapura work in Inwa. It is in Myanmar’s cultural style. You can’t go up to it because the wooden stairs are decaying. Now, the Pinya-Inwa Branch is repairing the decayed wood and making it stronger during this month. When the restoration is complete, they need to seek permission to climb the stairs or not,” he said.

Due to the earthquake that struck

in 1838, the tower tilted slightly to the north, and access to the top of the building was prohibited at this time.

The palace tower is located in the innermost compound among three walls of Inwa City, to the north of the palace buildings, which are also called the first or inner palace wall.

“Places of ancient cultural heritage are factories without smoke. We need to restore them to be sustainable as well as protect them against human destruction,” he said. — MT/ZN

Ayeyawady investment committee approves 8 projects in Apr-Aug

AYEYAWADY Region Investment Committee (ARIC) greenlit two foreign enterprises and six domestic projects made by Myanmar citizens with an estimated capital of US\$5.6 million and K20.8 billion in April-August of the current financial year, creating 1,382 jobs for locals, according to ARIC Director U Thet Paing.

The region is suitable for agro-based industries, attracting domestic and foreign investors. Moreover, some investors eye cutting, making and packing (CMP) garment businesses and service sectors in the region.

The committee is exerting continuous efforts to spur investments, support existing businesses, entice new investors, increase job opportunities in the region, enhance the socio-economy of the local community, and endorse businesses that are in line with rules and regulations. — ASH/KK



This photo shows ShuangXi (Pathein) Garment Co Ltd running operations in Pathein Industrial Park in Ayeyawady Region.

Article

Looking up Words in the Dictionary

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

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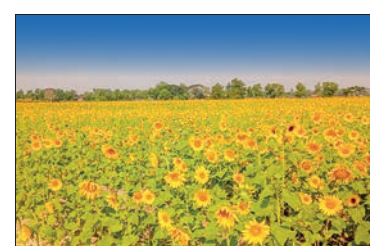
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Outstanding students and matric passer soldiers enjoy excursions abroad

BUSINESS

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MoALI to set up sunflower special zones in arable farmlands

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Daw Nyein Nyein Win, Director-General of the Department of Administration at the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, after the one-year probationary period.

Japanese bag-making course boosts Myanmar-Japan cultural exchange

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that a traditional Japanese bag-making course was held at the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo on 22 August. The event aimed to strengthen people-to-people relations and foster cultural exchanges between Myanmar and Japan.

During the course, Mrs Osawa Michiyo demonstrated how to make traditional Japanese bags using Myanmar textiles. The demonstration was attended by the staff of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché office,

along with their family members. The course was beneficial in enhancing Myanmar-Japan cultural exchanges and promoting Myanmar textiles and traditional foods among the Japanese.

Daw Lei Lei War, spouse of the Myanmar Ambassador to Japan, and Mrs Osawa Michiyo delivered speeches at the event.

Ambassador U Soe Han and his wife presented souvenirs and gifts to Mrs Osawa Michiyo and her team. Traditional Myanmar foods were then served to the guests. — ASH/TMT



This photo showcases Mrs Osawa Michiyo demonstrating how to make traditional Japanese bags.

Bagan Archaeology Branch maintains Shwezigon Platform to improve drainage



Maintenance works of ancient sandstone slabs in progress on the platform of the Shwezigon Pagoda.

PHOTO: BAGAN ARCH

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum is overseeing the repairs to the platform of Shwezigon Pagoda to improve drainage and the maintenance of the ancient sandstone slabs, according to the Bagan Archaeology Branch.

Currently, as water remains on the platform of the Shwezigon Pagoda after heavy rains, necessary repairs and maintenance are being carried out to improve drainage and make the ancient sandstone slabs appear flat. The work includes systematic documentation after making one-metre grid patterns with an area of 87 feet by 26 feet, measuring and researching sandstone

slabs, making drawings to fill in the gaps of the sandstone slabs, levelling after removing the layers of plaster between the sandstone slabs to improve water drainage, and cleaning of the lime plaster of the stone-carved alms bowls, under the supervision of the department, it said.

The Bagan region is hot and dry, but due to climate change, it now rains heavily in Bagan, and the rainwater cannot flow properly, causing water to accumulate near the pagodas and within their grounds. The waterways that have existed since the Bagan era are blocked by construction activities, such as roads and buildings, caus-

ing flooding. Therefore, the department is re-discovering and studying the original water channels.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum has stated that it is carrying out the tasks in line with the laws, management frameworks and guidelines that have been issued for the preservation of cultural heritage in the Bagan World Heritage Area. In doing so, the Bagan Archaeology Branch said that in addition to the staff of the department, related departments, heritage conservation committees, and participants in preservation are cooperating and coordinating. — MT/ZN

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Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the require-

ments for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

NATIONAL

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially discussed matters pertaining to further consolidation of the existing

Pauk-Phaw relations and implementation of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, as well as China's consistent support towards peace and sustainable socioeconomic development for Myanmar.

Both sides also exchanged views on closer collaboration in the regional and international arena, especially ASEAN and the United Nations. — MNA



Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



The commemorative group picture taken at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

2024 MOFCOM Scholarship Awarding Ceremony held

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw attended the 2024 MOFCOM (Chinese Ministry of Commerce) scholarship awarding ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia first briefed the intention of MOFCOM scholarships to Myanmar.

The Union minister then said that human resources development plays a significant role in national development, and the Chinese government offers the Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS), Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC), Youth Excellent Scholarship (YES), and MOFCOM schol-

arships yearly. Among them, it includes various subjects such as education, management, people's policy, international relation, business, statistics and law which support the capacity building of government employees. During the scholarship tour, they can study the progress, language and culture of China and should try to strengthen further cooperation and bilateral relations between the two countries. The staff officers and staff who receive the scholarship try hard and should apply their knowledge properly in their workplace and make efforts to be qualified human resources for the country.

The Union minister, the Chinese ambassador and the

economic and commercial counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar presented the admission letters to the scholarship winners.

The MOFCOM launched short-term discussions and offered master's degree programmes and doctoral programmes to develop human resources in Myanmar. It provided 14 PhD degrees and 51 Master's degrees in 2023 and seven PhD degrees and 65 Master's degrees in 2024.

After the ceremony, the Union minister met the Chinese ambassador and discussed the enhancement of bilateral relations and economic and investment affairs. — MNA/KTZH

Russian Ambassador calls on MoI Union Minister

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than received the delegation led by Mr Iskander Azizov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, at the ministry's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides cordially discussed and exchanged views on the soonest complete operation of the No 2 Steel Factory (Pangpet) project by the Ministry of Industry and TPE Co Ltd of the Russian Federation, installation of the melting furnace, equipment in oxygen workshops for conducting test runs, the provision of technical support for the operation of the factory, signing the contract framework after the two parties have completed the final discussion and negotiation, and further collaboration with stronger friendship between the two countries. — MNA/TS



Union Industry Minister Dr Charlie Than receives Mr Iskander Azizov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation yesterday.

Objectives of 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2024



- (a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- (b) To explore, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- (c) To explore and preserve the traditional cultural heritage for the young generation and further propagate the national spirit
- (d) To serve as a national cultural entity for State development, peace, and stability

NATIONAL



Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia calls on Union Minister U Min Naung yesterday.

MoALI Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Ambassador Ms Ma Jia of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Both sides cordially discussed matters in connexion with cooperation in the development of the agricultural sector between the two

countries, the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund Project, collaboration with the General Administration of Customs (GACC), and trade activities in farm products.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation, directors-general and officials were also present on the occasion. — MNA/TS

MoE Union Minister back from ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe (R) is pictured on his arrival back yesterday.

A delegation led by Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, who attended the 13th ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting, the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers' Meeting, and the 7th East Asia Education Ministers' Meeting, returned to Yangon from Thailand yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by rectors of Yangon

University, Yangon East University, and Yangon West University, as well as education officials from the Yangon Region Basic Education Department.

The 13th ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting and related conferences, held under the theme "Transforming Education in the Digital Age", took place in Buriram, Thailand, from 25 to 26 August. — MNA/KZL

Outstanding students and matric passer soldiers enjoy excursions abroad

AS per the instruction made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, students and soldiers who passed the matric exam of the 2023-2024 academic year with flying colours went on a foreign excursion to study international culture and enrich knowledge.

The group left for China on 26 August evening. The group contained 29 people-children of in-service and war

veteran members, five national-level outstanding students, 16 students who got the highest marks, one soldier who passed with three distinctions, two soldiers who passed with two distinctions in the 2023-2024 matriculation examination, and five principals/administrative officials, and was led by Col Thurein Tun of the office of the Adjutant-General from Commander-in-Chief (Army) office. They will visit China from 26 to 31 August.

Tatmadaw has presented awarded prizes to the children of Tatmadaw families, war veteran members and Tatmadaw substitute staff who passed the matriculation exam with distinctions since 2011-2012. Among them, the outstanding soldiers and youths were arranged to go on foreign excusing in 2013, and the plan was suspended during the outbreak of COVID-19 and resumed in the 2023-2024 academic year. — MNA/KTZH



Top-performing students pose for the group documentary picture before leaving for China on 26 August.

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NATIONAL

MoCRD Union Minister attends 2024 Union Minister's Cup Award Ceremony

UNION Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe attended the award ceremony for the 2024 Union Minister's Cup National (Open) Football Tournament yesterday at No 6 Basic Education High School, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. The event featured competitive matches between teams from various departments and universities.

Earlier in the day, the Union minister met Russian Am-

bassador Mr Iskander Azizov to discuss potential cooperation, including establishing a herbal medicine factory and signing a Memorandum of Cooperation for economic and technological collaboration. They also discussed enhancing bilateral relations and projects like growing Russian oilseed crops.

In the evening, the Union minister supported the ongoing football matches, where the Department of Rural Development secured third place, and



Union Minister U Hla Moe awards the championship trophy to the University of Cooperatives and Management (Sagaing) yesterday.

the University of Cooperatives and Management (Sagaing) claimed the championship tro-

phy. Awards were presented for best forward, midfielder, defender, and goalkeeper, with

the top teams receiving trophies, cash prizes, and medals. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo holds talks with Ms Edem Wosornu, Chair of Emergency Directors Group (EDG) and Director for Operations and Advocacy Division at UNOCHA in New York, and her delegation yesterday.

MoFA Deputy Minister receives EDG Chair, UNOCHA Director for Operations and Advocacy Division

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo received the delegation led by Ms Edem Wosornu, Chair of Emergency Directors Group (EDG) and Director for Operations and Advocacy Division at UNOCHA in New York, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on the current and further cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations and facilitation for the provision of humanitarian assistance to the needy population.

Also present at the meeting were the permanent secretary and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Executive Secretary of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) and the WHO Director of Health Emergency Interventions, who are Emergency Directors based in Geneva, and the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim, Head of UNOCHA (Myanmar) and Head of Coordination Unit (UNOCHA, Myanmar) based in Yangon. — MNA

MSWRR Deputy Minister meets EDG and humanitarian agencies

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Kyi met New York-based Emergency Directors Group (EDG) of UN agencies and humanitarian agencies at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on the need of humanitarian aid in Myanmar, formation of the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), cooperation with UN organizations and international NGOs in re-

sponding to Cyclone Mocha, producing entry visas and extension of visas for foreign staff of international organizations, the prospect of signing the letter of agreement between the ministry and OCHA and enhancing the capacity of staff.

The director-general of the Department of Social Welfare, the director-general of the Department of Disaster Management, and delegation members of EDG were also present at the meeting. — MNA/TRKM



This picture captures Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement discussing with Emergency Directors Group.

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NATIONAL

Vocational training course for adults with disabilities to begin in September



The School for the Adults with Disabilities (Yangon).

A second three-month vocational training course for the 2024-2025 academic year will commence on 9 September at the School for Adults with Disabilities (Yangon), according to the Department of Social Welfare.

The course will offer training in hair-cutting, tailoring, computer skills, photography, and screen printing.

Individuals with disabilities aged between 18 and 45 are eligible to apply. Selected applicants

will receive free accommodation, meals, and educational materials throughout the training period, as well as travel expenses to and from Yangon for those residing outside the city.

Interested individuals can submit their applications to the School for Adults with Disabilities (Yangon), located within the Social Welfare Training Institute compound at 65 on Kyaikwyne Pagoda Street in Mayangon Township, Yangon. — TWA/MKKS

Yangon Region-level games to precede 2024 National Sports Festival

IN preparation for the 2024 National Sports Festival, the Yangon Region-level Games will be held from 16 to 24 September, featuring competitions in 24 different sports.

The Yangon Regional Sports and Physical Education Committee, consisting of 32 members, was established on 5 March to enhance sports activities in Yangon Region and achieve success in regional and state sports competitions. This formation coincides with the upcoming fifth National Sports Festival, which will take place in Nay Pyi Taw.

District-level competitions will be organized as part of the Yangon Region National Sports Festival, from which athletes will be selected and trained in camps starting in October.

The sports festival will include 25 sports disciplines, such as athletics, swimming, football, chess, table tennis, and sitting volleyball. The first National Sports Festival was held in 1992, followed by the second in 1994 and the third in 1997, all in Yangon. The fourth National Sports Festival was held in Nay Pyi Taw in 2015. — TWA/MKKS



The sitting volleyball.

Lain Maw Thee releases new music video 'Loan Laut Pi'

ON 26 August, singer Lain Maw Thee released a music video for her new song titled 'Loan Laut Pi' (It's Enough). The song was composed by So Tar, with actress Wai Lar Yee and actor Shine Latt starring in the music video, which Hnin Hsu directed.

"I've been preparing for this song for months, and now it's finally out as a single. I'm curious to see how it resonates with listeners through their feedback. We've put a lot of thought into the music video as well, aiming to deliver the best experience for the audience. So, please give ear to it and share your thoughts," Lain Maw Thee said.

The song was distributed on 26 August via the Tay Than Thar Application and Online App. Earlier



This photo depicts a scene from the 'Loan Laut Pi' music video.

in January 2024, Lain Maw Thee also released a music video for 'Ason Yout Chit Tat Khe Thaw'. — ASH/TRKM

Thailand repatriates 110 Myanmar citizens detained in Thailand through Kawthoung

A total of 110 Myanmar citizens who were arrested in Thailand for various reasons have been repatriated via Kawthoung, according to reports. The group, comprising 86 men, 22 women, and two children, returned to Myanmar on 26 August, arriving at Bayint Naung Port from Ranong, Thailand, via sea route.

Upon arrival, the returnees were provided with medical check-ups by the health department at the Nawaratt Sports Hall in Kawthoung. Myanmar authorities, in collaboration with NGOs, processed the returnees' personal information. They will be sent back to their respective hometowns according to official procedures. — TWA/KZL



Myanmar nationals arriving at Bayintnaung Port in Kawthoung on 26 August after being repatriated from Thailand.

Sustainable tourism training for cultural heritage post-pandemic held on 26 Aug

UNDER the 2023 Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund, the opening ceremony for Training on Making Tourism More Sustainable in Cultural Heritage Destinations in the Post-Pandemic was held on 26 August at the Golden Palace Hotel in Bagan City.

Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe explained that training was opened based on the outcome of the Seminar on Making Tourism More Sustainable in Cultural Heritage Destinations in the Post-Pandemic held on 23 August in Bagan, with the presence of representatives and experts from Mekong-Lancang member states. Myanmar's hotel and tourism sector saw four projects operated under the 2021-2023 Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund: The establishment of the Tourism Research Centre



The commemorative group picture taken at the opening event in Bagan on 26 August 2024.

project in 2021, the establishment of the Bakery & Pastry Training project in 2022, the construction project of the Centre for Tourism Development – Keng Tung in

2023 and Making Tourism more Sustainable on Cultural Heritage Destinations in Post Pandemic Project – Bagan.

He remarked that the im-

plementation of projects could exchange ideas and knowledge among Mekong-Lancang members, tackle challenges in the post-pandemic period, and draw

up management policies and sustainable strategies for preserving cultural heritage destinations. The ministry will endeavour to explore the benefits of successful project management to recover the tourism industry.

He also urged trainees to realize theoretical concepts for preserving cultural heritage destinations, tourism destination management policy and procedures, tourism promotion and human resource development strategies, apply in practical situations, and participate in sustainable development efforts of Myanmar's tourism industry.

The deputy minister, officials concerned with related departments, the hotels and tourism associations, civil service organizations, hotel managers, and trainers and trainees attended the opening ceremony. — NN/KK

Global Game Exhibition G-STAR 2024 invites Myanmar businesses

GLOBAL Game Exhibition G-STAR 2024, which is scheduled to take place at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Centre (BEXCO) from 14 to 16 November 2024, cordially invited Myanmar businesspeople engaged in the game industry, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

This exhibition aims to promote the competitiveness of game companies in regional countries, accelerate cooperation between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea in the game industry, and create a global marketplace for game companies and game developers in ASEAN.

Global Game Exhibition G-STAR 2024 can help participants expand horizons and market potentials of game companies. This exhibition has been held annually since 2014, providing the largest gaming convention in South Korea.

Additionally, it will bring ASEAN game companies to the global market platform, so the ASEAN-Korea Center plans to showcase its products. Game software (online, mobile, video, board, pc, arcade, console, cloud,

indie, XR, AI, IP) and game-related hardware will be featured. Three business people from each country of ASEAN will be invited to join the G-STAR-2024.

ASEAN-Korea Centre will cover the background decoration of each company at their booth and the installation of booths. Yet, it will not bear the additional cost of decoration. An individual from each company will be provided four-night stay accommodation. Air tickets and transportation from Gimhae International Airport to Shilla Stay Haeundae must be borne by themselves.

Participating companies need to build a folder separately with the official company name through AKC's Google Drive link. Digital images of Game Software and Game-related Hardware), digital logo images of the companies, company brochures and product catalogues are required to be compressed into the file.

Individuals can enquire about the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

MoALI to set up special sunflower zones in arable farmlands

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will designate special zones for oil crop sunflowers after choosing potentially arable farmlands capable of growing sunflower crops.

The ministry will help arrange for soil laboratory tests, recommend fertilizer type and ratio, provide irrigation water and conduct beekeeping and crop farming integration.

The ministry contributes loans towards oil crop cultivation under the State Economic Promotion Fund to ensure edible oil sufficiency and reduce palm oil imports. It has been expanding oil palm cultivation to three million acres in the 2024-2025 financial year, covering over 375,000 acres in Sagaing Region, 242,000 in Magway Region, over 181,000 in Mandalay

Region and over 19,000 in Kachin State.

A work coordination meeting to expand oil crops (sunflower and cotton) cultivation and improve yields in Kachin State, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions was held at the meeting hall of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department in Mandalay on 25 August.

Union Minister U Min Naung for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation elaborated on expanding sunflower cultivation in each region to cut palm oil imports and secure edible oil domestic consumption, and plans to ramp up production and quality cotton production for domestic garment factories.

He also coordinated related institutions to provide seeds, fertilizer, irrigation water and technical assistance. — NN/KK



This panoramic picture captures a thriving sunflower plantation.

OPINION

Produce purified drinking water for the people

CLEAN drinking water is essential for public health, and it must meet specific standards, such as being free of sediment, colour, taste, harmful bacteria, and minerals that could pose health risks. Drinking water can carry invisible bacteria and viruses, making unclean water a source of diseases, including infectious diseases.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2022, approximately 1.4 million people die annually from diseases linked to contaminated water, with 80 per cent of these deaths occurring in underdeveloped countries. Alarmingly, one in five child deaths is caused by unclean water. Therefore, access to clean and safe water is critical for a healthy lifestyle.

In Myanmar, the consumption of purified drinking water has surged since the government adopted a market economy.

Currently, around 400 purified drinking water industries operate in Yangon City alone. However, the market is also flooded with illegally produced water, posing challenges to the legal industry. Licensed companies are struggling to maintain their share of the market due to lower prices of illegally produced water.

Actually, any businessperson must consider the interests of consumers when manufacturing any products. Drinking safe water is essential for people in their daily routine to build a healthy life. According to the report of the Ministry of Health in 2007, some 82 per cent of people have access to safe water. That is why it is necessary to check sale centres of purified drinking water and factories and take action against offenders under the law.

Producing purified drinking water requires recommendations and approval from the Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Despite the existence of numerous drinking water factories across Myanmar, many fail to comply with regulations. While labelling might indicate that water is purified, some small-scale, unregistered operations can easily produce bottled water without proper oversight. This lack of regulation and oversight threatens public health as consumers may unknowingly purchase and consume unsafe water.

The booming market for purified drinking water in Myanmar is at risk due to illegal competition and rising production costs. Strict enforcement of regulations and increased oversight are necessary to protect public health and ensure that all drinking water on the market meets safety standards. Without these measures, the spread of waterborne diseases could continue to pose a significant threat, particularly to children and vulnerable populations.

Like the fort, the school has thick rubble walls that help bounce back the heat, while the interior is plastered with lime, a porous material that regulates humidity and aids natural cooling.

Unlike the ancient fort, its roof is lined with solar panels, which provide all the school's power in an

FROM Oxford, a dictionary is a book that gives a list of the words of a language in alphabetical order and explains what they mean or gives a word for them in a foreign language; for example, an English-Myanmar dictionary. It even says that a dictionary is a book that explains the words that are used in a particular subject; for instance, a dictionary of science. On the other hand, Longman states that a dictionary is a book that gives a list of words in alphabetical order and explains their meanings in the same or another language; for example, an English-English dictionary. The origin of the word 'dictionary' is supposed to be 'dictionarium', which is derived from Medieval Latin between the years 1500 and 1600, meaning 'word'. Whatever is said, the dictionary probably works as a writing tool or clue for would-be authors, especially foreign ones. If a dictionary is used well by a writer, it will become the best reference book for him or her to a certain extent.

Some writers say that grammar does not need to be studied, and a dictionary can never be used, regardless of the type of reading material studied. Contextualized meaning should not

always do well in all conditions of reading; they must believe. In actual fact, some writers have had enough reading and others are native speakers who have adequate language acquisition and/or language learning while living in their own nations. For myself, what I think is that learners who have not yet acquired language acquisition or language learning ought to study the dictionary as much as they can. Of course, the word meanings that native speakers or properly studied language learners without any dictionary apparently differ from those of dictionaries. As there are often many kinds of dictionaries – monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual, they would frequently work like thesauruses, encyclopaedia, or grammar books for future writers. In English dictionaries, nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositional phrases, and conjunctions will be described below in short and to the point as part of most studies.

The two main themes related to nouns in the English language are whether they are countable or uncountable and their singular or plural forms. For example, the word 'exercise', which means a set of movements or activities, can be used as a countable noun, like

Looking up Words in the Dictionary

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

exercises for the guitar. But for physical or mental activity, it can only be used as an uncountable noun, as in the sentence 'Walking is good exercise'. NOT 'Walking is a good exercise'. The word 'money' can be used merely as an uncountable noun, e.g., Love and kindness cannot be bought with money. Some words in English, like series, are usually singular as countable nouns – for instance, almost all Korean movies consist of a series of 16 episodes. Other English words, such as notes, are usually plural as countable nouns. For example, this catalogue contains detailed notes on each book. Some English dialogues even get plural nouns right, like the classroom language 'Any questions?' and 'Any other questions?'. 'Any question?' or 'Any other question?' is wrong.

Among parts of speech in English, verbs are the most widespread, used not only in speaking but also in writing. On English verbs, it should be noted that the

verbs are transitive or intransitive, and they are phrasal verbs, idioms, or collocations. In the sentence 'I wrote a love letter to my little sister', the verb 'wrote' is transitive because the love letter is a direct object. The verb 'die' as in the sentence 'She died suddenly' is intransitive since after that, the verb does not go with an object. In the sentences 'He is going in for TOEFL', 'The boys may win her over' and 'Not to worry – I'll see to it', the verbs 'go in for', 'win over' and 'see to' are phrasal verbs. The word structures of phrasal verbs are 'verb × preposition', 'verb × adverb', 'verb × adverb × preposition', or 'verb × particles'. In 'His mother passed away the other day', the verb 'pass away' is an idiomatic expression, which means 'die', as these two words cannot be translated word by word. As in the sentence 'It's a crying shame to spend all that time', the words 'be a crying shame' serve as a collocation, meaning that we find something

extremely bad or shocking. Hence, if we use a verb in English, there is a must question to ask: Whom or what? Verbs that have the answer to whom or what are transitive. If not, such verbs are intransitive. All phrasal verbs, idioms, and collocations should be learnt in clusters, and the last two cannot be used in word-for-word translation.

As regards adjectives in English, they can be found before a noun, after a verb, especially be, or both and are degradable or non-degradable. The sentences 'You are sick' and 'You are a sick person' are able to be written with the meaning of a person having a fever. The sentence 'You are ill' will be written with the meaning mentioned above, but the sentence 'You are an ill person' is not usually written. Some adjectives are degradable, such as in the sentences 'This sum is hard', 'This sum is harder than that sum', and 'This sum is the hardest in exercises'. However, other adjectives are non-degradable, and when

degraded, they will become illogical. Thus, the adjectives 'right', 'correct' and 'wrong' should not have such degrees of comparison as 'righter, rightest', 'correcter, correctest,' or 'wronger, wrongest' respectively. The word 'right' itself has been meaningful there is no need for it to make a degree of comparison, and so have another two.

What is more, good care should be taken to prepositional phrases and conjunctions while looking up words in the dictionary. In 'I'm a night person, so I like to study at night', the words 'at night' work as a prepositional phrase. This sentence can be written as 'I'm a night person, so I like to study by night' or 'I'm a night person, so I like to study in the night'. In the phrase 'in the night', the definite article 'the' will be added. According to Cambridge Grammar, the phrase 'by × time' will mean 'before the time', at the time', or 'not later than the time mentioned later'. The sentence

'Everybody must get to the meeting by 10 o'clock' can say 'Everybody must get to the meeting before 10 o'clock', 'Everybody must get to the meeting at 10 o'clock', or 'Everybody must get to the meeting not later than 10 o'clock'. Also, some conjunctions in English, like although and though, should make a noticeable difference. The sentence 'Although the kitchen is small, it is well designed' can be rewritten as 'Though the kitchen is small, it is well designed', 'Even though the kitchen is small, it is well designed', 'Although small, the kitchen is well designed', 'Small though the kitchen is, it is well designed', 'The kitchen is small, although it is well designed', and 'The kitchen is small, though it is well designed', without any change of its meaning. But we cannot write the sentence as 'Although the kitchen is small, however, it is well designed' or 'Even although the kitchen is small, it is well designed' for the simple reason that the former faces redundancy, i.e. although it has the same meaning as however, and the latter is not a common usage, i.e. even although.

Language learners will not need to use dictionaries for sure. However, making use of diction-

aries cannot be in vain, as mentioned above. Considering the use of a dictionary, we should have had different dictionaries to hand at first. Next, we will have to use a kind of dictionary with example phrases and sentences, which could provide the first step towards accurate and fluent writing in the future, overcoming a limited vocabulary. Lastly, language-to-language dictionaries should also be used so that language learners will see authentically defined meanings of vocabulary in the language. In my experience, using such dictionaries sometimes seems a tedious job, particularly when a learner does not get the meaning of the vocabulary that he wants to know. At such times, we had better use bilingual or multilingual dictionaries rather than monolingual ones. Moreover, what language learners had best be aware of is that some vocabulary has not been inscribed in the dictionary yet, particularly slang and current usages. Therefore, we need to learn new words from daily newspapers, journals, magazines, and television. After all, language learners ought to do extensive reading, keep a sort of dictionary at hand, and use vocabulary as and when.

Indian desert school's unique design offers respite from heat

Architect Diana Kellogg's design integrates modern technology with traditional techniques: the school's roof is equipped with solar panels, ensuring a reliable power supply despite frequent electricity outages in the area.

IN THE sweltering heat of India's Thar desert, where summer highs soar above 50 degrees Celsius, an architecturally striking school is an oasis of cool thanks to a combination of age-old techniques and modern design.

The Rajkumari Ratnavati girls' school uses the same yellow sandstone as the 12th-century fort in nearby Jaisalmer, in India's western state of Rajasthan, dubbed the "golden city" due to the colour of the rock.

Like the fort, the school has thick rubble walls that help bounce back the heat, while the interior is plastered with lime, a porous material that regulates humidity and aids natural cooling.

Unlike the ancient fort, its roof is lined with solar panels, which provide all the school's power in an

area with frequent electricity cuts.

Temperatures inside the school, designed by US-based architect Diana Kellogg and built by local artisans — many of them parents of pupils — can be as much as 20 per cent lower than those outside.

"I love going to the school," said eight-year-old Khushboo Kumari, one of the 170 students.

"The air feels as if it is coming from an AC."

The school's classrooms are arranged around an open elliptical courtyard resembling a Roman coliseum, and walls with grids of vents create shade while allowing for cooling airflow.

Elevated windows allow hot air to escape as it rises. Rainwater is harvested from the flat roof.

In some places, the walls are

dotted with perforations -- a technique known as "jali" that was traditionally used for modesty, shielding women from view in the conservative society.

At the school, it is used to promote ventilation, creating a breeze channelled by the building's oval shape.

"There is cross-ventilation," said school supervisor Rajinder Singh Bhati, aged 29. "The white tiles on the terrace reflect the sunlight."

"It is totally eco-friendly."

'Airy and cool'

India this year baked in its longest-ever heatwave, according to government weather experts.

Temperatures surged above 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit), with warnings people



An architecturally striking school is an oasis of cool thanks to a combination of age-old techniques and modern design. **PHOTO: AFP**

will face increasingly oppressive heat in the future.

Manohar Lal, 32, the father of pupil Khushboo, said students looked forward to class thanks to the relative cool.

"There are frequent power cuts in Rajasthan, and children have to suffer as temperatures touch almost 50 degrees Celsius in summer," Lal said outside his modest home of mud and brick, which does not have a ceiling fan.

"But there are no such worries in the school because it is powered by solar energy," he added.

"It is airy and cool, and that is why the children enjoy going to school".

'Feels like heaven'

The school is supported by the US-based CITTA Education Foundation, meaning pupils attend for free in a state where the literacy rate for women is about 52 per cent.

Uniforms, school materials and lunch for pupils are also provided.

"It's a big thing that they are

getting quality education free of cost, considering they can't even afford proper meals or clothing," said Hindi teacher Priyanka Chhangani, 40.

Kellogg, the architect, said combining tradition with modern design and sustainable techniques was key.

"Because the craftsmen were so familiar with the stone, we were able to integrate traditional architectural details along with indigenous heritage details, so that the structure felt authentic to the region", she said.

Her oval design was inspired by "feminine symbols of strength", she added. But while her design focused on tackling baking heat, it also faces an unexpected, climate change-driven problem — floods.

Intense rainfall during the annual monsoon is common from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing its frequency and severity.

That increased rainfall has begun to impact the school, which was designed for a drier climate.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL



The photo shows Myanmar nationals seeking passport extensions at the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore in 2023.

ME announces list of approved persons for PP renewals in Singapore

WITH the approval of the Myanmar Passport Office under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the list of approved persons for Myanmar passport renewal was announced on 27 August on the Facebook page of the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore.

Only the mother or father needs to come for a passport for their infants, and it is not required to bring the child, said the embassy. Further, the embassy has made weekly announcements to approved persons for passport renewal, out of registered applicants, via WhatsApp.

Fake documents or submissions through agents won't be considered for an extension, and the embassy warned that any private service company or agent are not permitted to provide this service and make a wait list for submitting documents to the embassy's WhatsApp.

Myanmar nationals in Singapore aged 65 years and above are not required to seek a reservation on the embassy's website or WhatsApp. Still, the embassy will provide a passport extension service for them as a privilege, and they can come in person in the morning. — MT/ZS

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation: Prison staff accused of assaulting inmates

A recent report by the Facebook page "Khit Thit" has been flagged as false, claiming that over 40 prisoners transferred to Thayawady Central Prison were physically assaulted by prison staff, resulting in head and body injuries, as well as being subjected to confinement and shackling. The report, published on 19 August, was identified as a deliberate attempt to mislead

the public.

Upon investigation, it was revealed that there are no political prisoners at the Thayawady Central Prison, only individuals who have been legally sentenced for violating existing laws. The transfer of 300 inmates from Insein Central Prison to Thayawady Central Prison involved routine searches to prevent the entry of prohibited items,

and no unprovoked assaults took place during the transfer. Furthermore, no prisoners with head or other injuries were found in the prison hospital.

Additionally, it was clarified that no punishments for solitary confinement were imposed. Instead, certain inmates who required special security measures were temporarily separated for observation for up to

one week. Educational sessions were conducted to ensure compliance with prison regulations, and no incidents of physical abuse or torture were reported. Any misconduct by prison staff would be subject to legal action. The Facebook page "Khit Thit" was accused of spreading false information to create public misunderstanding. — Kyaw Moe Aung/KZL

False claims: Security forces' shootout in Monywa leaves 6 dead

REPORTS circulated by malicious news media claim that a shootout between security forces in Monywa, Sagaing Region, led to the deaths of six people, including two children, on 24 August. These reports falsely attribute the fatalities to a shootout between security personnel.

In reality, the incident occurred on 18 August when six innocent civilians were murdered by PDF terrorists, who accused them of being informers. On 24 August, there were no shootouts involving security forces. According

to a security official, the troops did not engage in any shooting on that day and are continuing to identify terrorists responsible for the earlier murders.

The false narrative spread by this malicious media aims to mislead the public by covering up the actions of PDF terrorists and misrepresenting the role of security forces. Security officials are diligently working to maintain law and order and ensure proper investigation and legal action against the perpetrators. — MNA/KZL

Misinformation: Prison staff accused of beating female inmates

THE malicious media, Khit Thit, circulated false information on its Facebook page, claiming that female inmates were beaten at DaikU Prison on 20 August.

According to the investigation, the prison official instructed prison staff to make a body search on female inmates after their vis-

iting hour on 19 August. Meanwhile, five inmates refused the operation, and they shouted out using obscene language together with the other ten inmates, and the staff had to maintain that situation.

Similarly, prison staff seized 27 handphones from 27 inmates prisons who were transferred from Kyaukmaraw Cen-

tral Prison. They were not satisfied with seizures and did not enter the prison cells and shouted out using indecent language. Then, the deputy in charge of the prison had to lock the prison cells but did not beat anyone.

After arriving at the prison, these five female inmates did not obey

prison rules, and they disturbed prison operations, started fights with female prison staff and cursed male prison staff.

The prison staff follow the prison rules and regulations when taking action against these female prisoners. But, the Khit Thit media attempted to mislead the people. — May Moe/KTZH



The screenshot validates misinformation.

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.

NATIONAL

Nationwide crackdown yields K596 mln in seizures of illegal goods

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

On 23 August, the Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections and seized 394 barrels of illegal gasoline valued at approximately K150.4 million, one Zone oil bowser, one Hintar oil bowser, and one NID oil bowser worth approximately K105 million near Balaminhin Bridge in Myitkyina Township. The action was taken in line with Customs procedures.

On 25 August, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections in Pyimana Township, seizing one unregistered Honda Super Four motorbike valued at approximately K6 million. The action was taken under the Import-Export Law. The team also seized 19.804 tonnes of illegal teak worth approximately K7.23 million in Lewe Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 25 and 26 August, the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections and seized 19 items of foodstuffs worth approximately K33.15 million and one express bus, one HiAce manufactured by industrial zone, one Yutong bus and one Mitsubishi Fuso bus valued at K160 million in Phayagyi Township. The action was carried out in line with Customs procedures. The team also seized 6.395 tonnes of illegal teak and 11.749 tonnes of other hardwood valued at K13.617 million in Taungoo District. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 26 August, the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections and seized 14 items of illegal medicines worth approximately K652,300 at three drug stores located in Shwepyitha Township. The action was taken as per relevant laws, rules and regulations.

On 26 August, the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections and seized 3.528 tonnes of illegal wood and consumer goods worth approximately K2.86 million in Myeik and Kawthoung districts, respectively. The action was taken according to relevant laws, rules and regulations.

On the same day, a combined team under the management of the Customs Department conducted inspections at Ywathagyi Dry Port. It seized one commodity worth approximately K10.035 million and one Yutong bus worth K70 million. The team also seized two Pioneer DJ machines and two kinds of other commercial goods worth K37.059 at Yangon International Airport. The action was taken as per Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 24 arrests on 23, 25 to 26 August, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods valued at approximately K596.008 million. — MNA/TMT



Confiscated illegal items in different states and regions.



The photo shows the entrance to Twantay Township in Yangon Region.

Twantay realty market rises, garden land transactions soar

THE property market in Twantay Township, which is predicted to develop when the Dala Bridge (Korea-Myanmar Friendship Bridge) is completed, has recently increased. Specifically, garden land transactions have mounted.

“Recently, land transactions are happening in Twantay Township. Rather than residential land plots, the sale of garden lands, which are inexpensive and sold in acres, increases now. The sale was also good about six months ago. The price is stable but a

little high in Htaunggyiwyne. Transactions of real estate which prices are on average are happening more than others,” said an official from Pyaesone real estate service agency in Twantay Township.

Transactions have increased visibly in Rantabin, Nyaunghtauk, Paungdawchoke, Kanbe, Pouttaw, Lakabone and Payargyi, and most buyers developed their lands into recreation places with plantation fields.

“Majority of buyers are from different cities such as Yangon and Mandalay. Rather

than buying, residents resell their lands. About three out of ten buyers bought land plots for investment purposes, and they renovated their lands into recreation places,” he said.

He said transactions are likely to develop more in the dry season.

“Most garden lands here have no concrete road; most are earth roads. So, roads are inconvenient in monsoon. But it will look good for buyers when they come to observe in the dry season, and transactions are likely to happen more often,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

Second batch exam for manufacturing sector to continue on 26 Sept

THE second batch of the EPS-TOPIK exam for the manufacturing sector will be continued on 26 September 2024, according to the Public Overseas Employment Agency (POEA-EPS).

Names and timetables for eligible candidates have been announced at POEA-EPS according to their batch. The timeframe for manufacturing the second batch will contin-

ue to be announced when HRD-Korea is submitted.

Both old students in the additional list of manufacturing first batch and SKY old students who are going to sit for the EPS-TOPIK’s manufacturing second batch are allowed free enrolment for studying old questions, revision and study group classes, said the Korean language training school.

Skills Test for passes in the 16th 0EPS-TOPIK exam’s construction, agriculture and livestock and service group 2 in 2024 was held from 28 July to 1 August.

EPS worker recruitment was introduced in 2006 in Myanmar in cooperation between the Myanmar Ministry of Labour and the Republic of Korea’s Ministry of Employment and Labour. — MT/ZS

ECONOMY WORLD

Thailand's exports rebound to 28-month high in July



Pedestrians cross a busy street in Bangkok on 21 August 2024. PHOTO: AFP

THAILAND'S exports surged to a 28-month high in July thanks to a marked increase in shipments to key markets, driven by higher demand for electronic products, which aligns with a growing digital economy, official data showed on Tuesday.

Exports, a key driver of the Southeast Asian country's economic growth, jumped 15.2 per cent last month from a year earlier to US\$25.72 billion, a

strong rebound from a 0.3 per cent dip in June, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The upsurge in export value was attributed to elevated prices for main agricultural goods amid a decline in global supply, said Poonpong Nayanapakorn, director general of the ministry's Trade Policy and Strategy Office.

Exports of agricultural products grew 3.7 per cent on robust growth in rubber and

rice shipments, while agro-industrial goods soared 14.6 per cent.

Industrial product shipments recorded an expansion of 15.6 per cent, owing to major increases in computer, telephone, air conditioning and oil-related products.

The data also showed that Thailand's imports rose 13.1 per cent year-on-year to \$27.09 billion in July, resulting in a trade deficit of \$1.37 billion. — Xinhua

Russian diamond exports to India surge by 22% despite G7 ban

THE statistics of India-Russia diamond trade have surfaced amid ongoing concerns in India over the G7 ban on Russian diamonds weighing above 0.5 carat, which kicked in January.

Russian diamond exports to India increased by around 22 per cent in January-June 2024 period as compared to the first six months of 2023, according to an analysis of official data by Russian media.

Around 77 per cent of the Russian exports to India were "gem-quality diamonds", the report based on official data



PHOTO: SPUTNIK

from the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

He noted that the global diamond industry was grap-

pling with a falling demand and declining prices.

Last year, the world diamond production witnessed a year-on-year (YoY) decline of eight per cent, leading to total output falling to 111.5 million carats, the Kimberley Process has learnt.

New Delhi, a major importer of Russian roughs and the biggest global exporter of polished diamonds primarily to the US and EU, has objected to a G7 proposal to route gems through Antwerp to validate their origin. — Sputnik

Germany confirms economy shrank in second quarter

THE German economy shrank by 0.1 per cent in the second quarter, final data confirmed Tuesday, weighed down by sluggish private consumption and a drop in industrial investments.

"After the slight increase in the previous quarter, the German economy slowed down again in spring," said Ruth Brand, head of federal statistics agency Destatis.

The quarter-on-quarter contraction confirmed an initial estimate released by Destatis at the end of July, which surprised analysts who had been expecting a small uptick in growth in Europe's largest economy.

The April-to-June period noticeably saw a 4.1-per-cent plunge in investments in machinery and equipment, and a two-per-cent fall in investments

in construction.

Household consumption was down 0.2 per cent on the previous quarter, as were exports amid weak foreign trade.

Germany, traditionally a driver of European growth, was the only major advanced economy to shrink in 2023 as it battled high inflation, an industrial slowdown and cooling export demand.

A recovery was initially expected to get under way at the start of 2024, but a string of disappointing data in recent months has suggested the rebound will take longer than initially thought.

"The German economy is currently back where it was a year ago: stuck in stagnation as the growth laggard of the entire eurozone," ING bank economist Carsten Brzeski said. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam's wood-timber exports to reach US\$25 bln by 2030

VIETNAM'S wood and timber exports are projected to reach US\$20 billion by 2025 and \$25 billion by 2030, according to the newly approved national forestry plan for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision towards 2050.

According to the plan, the Southeast Asian country's domestic consumption of wood and timber products is expected to reach \$5 billion by 2025 and \$6 billion by 2030, Vietnam News reported Tuesday.

By 2025, the income value from timber plantations per unit area should increase 1.5 times and by 2030, it should double, compared to 2020 levels.

Revenue from Vietnam's wood and wood product exports hit \$8.9 billion in the first seven months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 23.5 per cent, according to customs figures. — Xinhua

S Korea's rice paddy area hits record low in 2024

SOUTH Korea's rice paddy area hit a record low this year amid a continued fall in domestic consumption, statistical office data showed Tuesday.

The combined rice cultivation area stood at 697,714 hectares in 2024, down 1.5 per cent compared with the previous year, according to Statistics Korea.

The country's rice field area stayed above 1 million hectares in 2004, before sliding to 815,506 hectares in 2014 and falling below 700,000 hectares for the first time this year. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Toyota's fuel cell project starts production in Beijing

JAPANESE auto giant Toyota has begun operation of its Phase I fuel cell research and development (R&D) and production project in Beijing, said local authorities in the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area on Tuesday.

As one of the largest foreign-invested projects introduced by Beijing in the field of hydrogen energy, this project is expected to accelerate the resolution of industrialization challenges for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles while also promoting the development of the hydrogen energy industry.

Toyota Motor Corp and SinoHytec, a Beijing-based technology company, have joined forces to launch the project. Its factory covers an area of 113,000 square metres, with the first phase spanning 44,000 square metres. — Xinhua

ADB launches new 5-year strategy for Uzbekistan

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday said it has launched a new country partnership strategy for Uzbekistan, spanning the period 2024 to 2028.

The ADB said the new five-year strategy aims to facilitate the central Asian nation's transition to a green economy, support private sector development and competitiveness and promote investments in human capital.

The new strategy envisages ADB interventions in various sectors, including energy, public sector management and governance, finance, transport, agriculture and natural resource management, and urban development. The bank will also support development in education and social protection. — Xinhua

Markets stutter after rally, oil dips but Middle East worries linger

ASIAN markets were mixed Tuesday following a tepid day on Wall Street as traders took a breather from a recent rally fuelled by bets on a US interest rate cut, while oil held gains from a surge caused by Middle East tensions.

A string of supportive data in recent weeks and comments from top Federal Reserve officials have helped push equities higher in August after starting the month in turmoil on fears of a US recession.

Fed boss Jerome Powell confirmed in a much-anticipated speech Friday that the time had come to begin lowering borrowing costs from their two-decade highs as inflation slows to the bank's two per cent target and the labour market softens. Talk is now centred on how much the Fed will cut next month and how far it will go afterwards.

Powell was followed Monday by the head of the San Francisco Fed, Mary



A television station broadcasts US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell speaking in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York on 23 August 2024. PHOTO: AFP

Daly, saying it was "hard to imagine" not cutting next month, while Richmond chief Thomas Barkin indicated he supported "dialling down". Still, that was not enough to help traders build on their gains, with eyes now on the release of several data points while geopolitical concerns act as

a drag on sentiment.

"Right now, market participants are likely to focus on the state of the US economy in line with the Fed's interest rate cut cycle on whether the Fed is late in the game of enacting its interest rate cuts and the potential impact on risk assets," said OANDA's

Kelvin Wong.

"Any leading economic data and labour market conditions... that indicate a deterioration in growth and employment may trigger another similar risk-off episode. "If such a scenario occurs, the Fed may be forced to embark on larger interest rate cuts." — AFP

China's industrial profit growth accelerates amid sector recovery

CHINA'S industrial sector has shown signs of continued recovery with profit growth accelerating in the first seven months of 2024, driven by improving market demand and strengthening new growth drivers.

The combined profit of major industrial enterprises rose 3.6 per cent year on year in the January-July period, an increase of 0.1 percentage points from the first half of the year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a statement on Tuesday.

In July alone, profits increased by 4.1 per cent compared to the same month in 2023, while also



A worker works at an intelligent digital workshop of a fastener manufacturing company in Yongnian District of Handan, north China's Hebei Province, 16 August 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

0.5 percentage points higher than June and marking an acceleration for two consecutive

months.

NBS statistician Yu Weining highlighted that the industrial sector had

maintained a steady recovery, with stable production and improvements in high-quality development.

Of the 41 major industrial sectors, 21 reported either accelerated profit growth or a narrowed decline in the first seven months of 2024, according to official data.

High-tech manufacturing served as a significant contributor to this positive trend, with profits growing 12.8 per cent year on year, substantially exceeding the overall industrial average by 9.2 percentage points. It contributed nearly 60 per cent of the total industrial profit growth. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TC SYMPHONY VOY.NO. (007E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TC SYMPHONY VOY.NO. (007E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-8-2024 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

UN chief calls for “surge in funds to deal with surging seas”



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (2nd R) visits the Ha'atafu Beach, an area affected by the volcanic eruption and tsunami in 2022, in Tongatapu on 27 August 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a “global SOS” in Tonga on Tuesday, urging governments to step up climate action to “save our seas”, as two new reports revealed how rising sea levels are threatening the vulnerable Pacific region and beyond.

Guterres called on world leaders to drastically slash global emissions, quickly phase out fossil fuels and massively boost climate adaptation investments to protect people from current and future risks.

He said global average sea levels are rising at rates unprecedented

ed in the past 3,000 years.

The study by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) “State of the Climate in the South West Pacific”, alongside a report by the UN Climate Action Team “Surging Seas in a Warming World”, showed that changes to the ocean are accelerating, with devastating impacts, the UN chief added.

The reports, released on the sidelines of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders meeting on Tuesday, confirm that relative sea levels in the Southwestern Pacific “have risen even more than the

global average, in some locations, by more than double the global increase in the past 30 years,” Guterres said.

He explained that “Pacific islands are uniquely exposed” as average elevation is just one to two metres above sea level, around 90 per cent of people live within five kilometres of the coast, and half of all infrastructure is within 500 metres of the sea. The secretary-general reiterated his long-standing appeal for G20 nations, “the biggest emitters”, to take a leading role in these efforts. — Xinhua

US colleges brace for possible return of war protests: USA Today

AS the fall term gets underway at many US colleges, administrators are preparing for another possible surge in campus activism, reported USA Today on Monday, noting that the last school year ended acrimoniously as anti-war protests persisted on many school grounds, disrupting graduation ceremonies and jeopardizing some students’ academic standing.

“Though on-campus demonstrations lulled this summer as

students dispersed, the conditions that motivated the recent wave of activism haven’t changed dramatically since the spring,” said the report.

While several high-profile college presidents have left their roles, many schools haven’t substantively changed their investing strategies — a demand made by the lion’s share of protesters but a complicated ask in practice.

International negotiations over

a potential ceasefire in Gaza are tenuous. And members of Congress continue to see political opportunity in inserting themselves into the debate over how campuses should go about quelling unrest.

As young activists prepare to ramp up the momentum again, harsher rules await them on some campuses. The punishments for anti-war protests have differed significantly across campuses, according to the report. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Powerful typhoon feared to land in west Japan, disrupt bullet trains

A powerful typhoon hitting the southwest Japan island region of Amami on Tuesday is expected to head for the country’s west in the next few days and could make landfall, the weather agency said, amid bullet train suspensions and prospects of further cancellations.

Typhoon Shanshan’s sluggish pace could cause extended disruption, with the Japan Meteorological Agency forecasting heavy rain in a wide area covering Amami and western and eastern Japan’s Pacific coast.

The agency urged residents to be on alert for landslides, flooding in low-lying areas and overflowing of swollen rivers. Amami and parts of western Japan are also expected to see strong winds, the agency said.

Heavy rains on Tuesday had already caused suspensions in the morning of some Tokaido Shinkansen bullet train services between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka stations.

Tokaido and Sanyo Shinkansen services that span the Pacific coast from Tokyo to the southwestern city of Fukuoka could also face suspensions on part or all of their routes from Thursday through Saturday. — Kyodo

Sudan dam collapse leaves at least 60 dead, hundreds missing

ARBAAT Dam in eastern Sudan collapsed on Sunday, causing severe flooding that has killed at least 60 people, with hundreds still missing, a Sudanese official reported on Monday.

Omer Issa Tahir, head of the Red Sea State’s Water Corporation, added that the dam burst has devastated villages near Port Sudan, the capital of the state.

He emphasized the urgent need for interventions in the dam area and surrounding villages, highlighting risks such as scorpion and snake bites for those who climbed mountains to escape the water.

“The priority is to evacuate those trapped by the flooding,” Tahir said, adding that rescue teams are currently working to reach them. Local media said the dam collapse, caused by heavy rains, led to intense flooding filled with silt, destroying nearby villages and making rescue efforts difficult. — Xinhua



Academic workers protest at the University of California (UC), Los Angeles, in Los Angeles, California, the United States, on 28 May 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SPORTS

Vlahovic fires Juventus to second straight win

DUSAN Vlahovic scored twice as Juventus made it two convincing wins to start the Serie A season with a 3-0 victory at Verona on Monday.

Thiago Motta's side, who started the campaign with a 3-0 win over Como, are the only team boasting a 100 per cent after two matches and sit top of the early table.

Juventus are hoping to challenge for a first Scudetto since 2019/20.

Motta has taken over as head coach following Massimiliano Allegri's sacking after his outburst in the aftermath of their Italian Cup final win in May.

Juve slipped away last season to come third in Serie A, although that was their highest finish in four years.

Vlahovic gave The Old Lady the lead at Verona just before the half-hour.

Nicolo Savona, a 21-year-old defender making his full debut for the club, headed home Juve's second goal before half-time from Samuel Mbangula's cross.

Belgian Mbangula now has a goal and two assists in his first two games for the senior team since being promoted from the youth ranks.

Vlahovic made the points safe with a penalty just eight minutes into the second period.

"He is certainly working hard on our aggression and our attitude," Vlahovic told DAZN of new boss Motta.

"We all agree that our attitude is the key to everything, if we have the right mentality, it all works better. — AFP



Juventus' Dusan Vlahovic (R) celebrates his goal during a Serie A football match between Hellas Verona and Juventus in Verona, Italy, 26 August 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Myanmar's Super Yay Chan joins ONE Friday Fights 77 lineup



SUPER Yay Chan, a prominent Myanmar fighter, is confirmed to compete at ONE Friday Fights 77, taking place in Thailand on 30 August.

In this matchup, Super Yay Chan will go head-to-head against Thai fighter Sutin. The

bout is scheduled as the third fight of the evening. Recent ONE Friday Fights events have seen an increasing presence of Myanmar fighters, with five competing at the ONE Friday Fights 76 event held on 23 August. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Excitement grows among Spain's Paralympians on eve of Paris Games

WITH the 17th Summer Paralympic Games due to kick off in Paris on 28 August, some of the 150 athletes representing Spain have expressed their excitement about the chance to test themselves.

The Spanish delegation, which is larger than ever with 259 members, including support, admin and training staff, is upbeat about the Games and about improving on the 36 medals won by Spain at Tokyo 2020, according to a statement from the Spanish Paralympic Committee.

"We are proof that the impossible often becomes possible. And so, for me, representing something so great, represent-

ing something so powerful, is a great pride and fills me with hope and joy," said Paralympic table tennis player Alvaro Valera, who won a bronze medal in Tokyo.

Valera will carry his country's flag at the head of the Spanish team in Wednesday's opening ceremony in the Place de la Concorde alongside judo competitor Marta Arce, who said the honour of bearing the flag "adds a little more emotion, excitement and motivation to these Games".

Taking part in her third Games, the visually impaired 61-year-old Paralympic runner Mari Carmen Paredes is the oldest member in the Spanish

delegation, although a third of the team this year is made up of debutants.

"I am the youngest member of the Spanish Paralympic team participating in the Paris Games and I am very happy to be there and enjoy the experience," said the 16-year-old, one-armed swimmer Anastasiya Dymytriv, who came to Spain from Ukraine when she was two.

Meanwhile, Paralympic runner Fiona Pinar, who lost a foot in a skiing accident in 2022, said she felt "excited" but as a relative newcomer she also described herself as "very nervous about what might happen and about how everything will turn out". — Xinhua

China's Zheng, Shang progress through first round

CHINA'S Olympic gold medallist Zheng Qinwen rallied from one set down to achieve a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 win over Amanda Anisimova of the United States in the women's singles first round at the US Open on Monday.

"It's a very difficult match for a first round. She's a tough opponent to face, but I'm glad at the end I found a way to be through the match and win this match," Zheng said.

"I had this experience already, so this time when I had success in the Olympic Games, to come to the next tournament,

I say, everything starts at zero. You are not anymore the Olympic champion. Just be humble and try to work, fight every single match, because if you don't fight, you have a big chance to lose," she added.

China's Wang Yafan advanced to the second round after her opponent Maria Sakkari exited early due to an injury after the first set. However, the other two Chinese women's singles players on Monday faced first-round exits: Wang Xiyu lost to Diane Parry of France 7-6(2), 7-6(5), and Yuan Yue was defeat-



Zheng Qinwen of China hits a return during the women's singles first round match against Amanda Anisimova of the United States at the 2024 US Open tennis championships in New York, the United States, on 26 August 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

ed by Russia's Erika Andreeva 6-3, 7-6(7).

Defending women's champion Coco Gauff powered into the second round with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Varvara Gracheva from France.

"It is definitely a lot of pressure this tournament but I'm just enjoying it," said Gauff.

In the men's singles, China's 19-year-old Shang Juncheng earned his first US Open win over Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan, 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, in a match that lasted three hours and 34 minutes. — Xinhua

UN chief calls for “surge in funds to deal with surging seas”
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WORLD

WHO launches global strategic plan to contain Mpox outbreaks

THE World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday launched a global drive to tackle human-to-human transmission of Mpox.

The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan will run from September 2024 to February 2025, requiring US\$135 million in funding. By coordinating global, regional, and national efforts, it aims to enhance surveillance and response strategies, ensure equitable access to diagnostics and vaccines, reduce animal-to-human transmission, and empower communities in outbreak control.

The vaccination plan targets those most at risk, such as close contacts of cases and healthcare workers, to break transmission chains. It will focus on providing strategic leadership and guidance, and ensuring access to medical treatment for vulnerable groups in affected regions.

“The mpox outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries can be controlled, and can be stopped,” said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

According to a WHO statement, a funding appeal will be launched shortly. — Xinhua



(File) Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomes Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi before their meeting at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence, outside Moscow, Russia. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Putin, Modi hold phone conversation – Kremlin

RUSSIAN president Vladimir Putin has held a phone conversation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

“Putin is working in the Kremlin today. Earlier, just an hour ago, Putin held an international telephone conversation, he spoke with his colleague from India, Modi. We will soon give a detailed report, where we will tell you what was discussed during this conversation,” Peskov told reporters.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that he had discussed with Russian President Vladimir Putin bilateral relations and the conflict in Ukraine. Narendra Modi has briefed Vladimir Putin on his visit to Ukraine during a phone conversation, noting India’s interest in contributing to a possible settlement of the situation, the Kremlin said.

Putin, in turn, gave a fundamental assessment of “the destructive line of the Kyiv authorities and their Western patrons, outlining the key Russian ap-

proaches to ways of resolving the conflict,” the statement read.

Additionally, the sides discussed the issues of the practical implementation of agreements in trade and economic areas, the Kremlin said.

“The sides expressed satisfaction with the level of interaction between the two countries in BRICS. Narendra Modi confirmed his readiness to take part in the summit of the association held under the Russian chairmanship in Kazan in October,” the statement said. — SPUTNIK



Displaced Palestinians leave the perimeter of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip following renewed Israeli evacuation orders for the area on 26 August 2024 amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas movement. PHOTO: AFP

UN humanitarian work in Gaza impacted by evacuation order

THE United Nations on Monday said humanitarian work in the Gaza Strip has taken a serious blow after Israel ordered a new evacuation in the centre of the besieged territory.

It came as the United States announced “progress” in Gaza truce talks underway in Cairo, even after a major but brief cross-border escalation between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah group in Lebanon.

On Sunday the Israeli mili-

tary ordered people to “evacuate immediately” a part of Deir el-Balah in central Gaza, sparking a rapid exodus of civilians and displacing UN and NGO workers.

“Our humanitarian colleagues are particularly worried about the order” which “effectively upends a whole lifesaving humanitarian hub that was set up in Deir el-Balah following its evacuation from Rafah back in May”, the UN’s humanitarian

office OCHA said in a statement.

The order affected 15 premises hosting UN and NGO aid workers, UN warehouses, a water desalination plant and medical facilities, including the key Al-Aqsa hospital, one of a few still operating in Gaza, it said.

“It severely impacts our ability to deliver essential support and services,” the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in the statement. — AFP