

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Building construction must align with university student numbers

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to emphasize cleaning and beautifying the environment of the university with a better landscape.



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon inspected Western Yangon Technological University and Western Yangon University.

During his visit to Western Yangon Technological University, the Senior General also pointed out that it is necessary to focus on the construction of pedestrians, a sports court, and recreation centres on campus that conform with the number of students.

He also stressed the need to emphasize cleaning and beautifying the environment of the university with a better landscape.

The Senior General underlined that it is necessary to consider the long-term plan for the construction of the car park, student hostels, supporting halls, lecture halls, and other main halls.

At Western Yangon Technological University, the Senior General and party inspected the progress of the new lecture hall on the campus.

On arrival at Western Yangon University, the Senior General inspected the dredging of



a lake with 665 feet in length, 110 feet in width and five feet in depth in front of the four-storey main lecture building, greening landscaping around the lake, filling water into the lake and installation of water foundations with the use of solar power, paving the pedestrian along the bund, and beautification process in the university. The Yangon Region chief minister, the Yangon mayor and the rector of the university explained all work processes to the Senior General.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave guidance on systematic drainage measures to be taken on the university campus in monsoon season, cleaning and beautification of the university and better landscaping process. — MNA/TTA

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the progress of the new lecture hall on the campus during his inspection tour of Western Yangon Technological University yesterday.

SUNDAY EDITION

NATIONAL PAGE 2

Saungder Institute to offer gold and silver embroidery course

NATIONAL PAGE 6



Rising interest in off-plan and instalment purchases amid Yangon realty market surge

BUSINESS PAGE 7



MPA: 55 container vessels slated to arrive at Yangon Port in Sept

NATIONAL



Twenty-nine (29) days remain until the National Census.



Saungder Institute to offer gold and silver embroidery course



This photo depicts the previous gold and silver embroidery course.

THE gold and silver embroidery course, a traditional Myanmar art form, will be offered at the Saungder Weaving and Vocational Institute in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, according to Daw Khin Win Kyi, Vice-Principal of the institute. This free, three-month course will begin on 1 September, and applications are currently being invited.

"The gold and silver embroidery course will be offered for the third time as it becomes increasingly popular in formal wear. As a traditional handicraft arts centre, we offer this course three times a year to preserve this art form. The course covers basic art science and the terminology used in embroidery materials. Students will learn practical skills, such as outlin-

ing embroidery patterns. Upon completion, graduates will have the opportunity to pursue careers in the gold and silver embroidery industry," said Daw Khin Win Kyi.

Although gold and silver embroidery are not officially recognized as one of Myanmar's Traditional Arts or "Ten Arts and Crafts," they are still considered highly skilled crafts due to the drawing skills required.

Only five trainees will be accepted for the course. Applicants must be between 16 and 25 years old and have completed basic primary education. In addition to providing free dormitory accommodation, the training programme offers trainees a monthly stipend during the course. The age requirements for admission may be waived for those with a genuine passion for gold and silver embroidery. — ASH/TRKM

Myanmar joins Technoprom-2024 in Russian Federation

MYANMAR Consul-General U Pyae Phyo Wai attended the XI International Forum of Technological Development "Technoprom-2024", held from 27 to 29 August in Novosibirsk, the Russian Federation, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 27 August, the Myanmar Consul-General participated in a meeting with international delegations hosted by Mr Andrey Travnikov Alexandrovich, Governor of Novosibirsk Oblast. The event was attended by officials from the Novosibirsk regional government, diplomats, international delegates, representatives from various companies, and business leaders.

Additionally, on 28 August, the Myanmar Consul-Gener-



The XI International Forum of Technological Development "Technoprom-2024" is in progress on 27-29 August in the Russian Federation.

al joined the forum's plenary session, chaired by Mr Dmitry Nikolaevich Chernyshenko, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. He also participated in a panel discussion on "Potential for Interna-

tional Cooperation with ASEAN Countries." On 29 August, the Myanmar Consul-General visited Academpark and the Novosibirsk Metal Cutting Factory as part of the forum's agenda. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar chairs 74th IAI Task Force and 14th ASEAN Partners Consultation Meetings

PERMANENT Representative U Aung Myo Myint of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to ASEAN chaired the 74th IAI Task Force Meeting and the 14th Consultation Meeting of the IAI Task Force-ASEAN Partners on 28-29 August held at the ASEAN Secretariat, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 28 August, the implementation status of IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and the remaining projects under the work plan, as well as the continued formulation of the new work plan, were discussed at the 74th IAI Task Force Meeting. The IAI Task Force members from all ASEAN member countries and ASEC represent-

atives from the IAI and NDG division attended the meetings.

On 29 August, matters related to the updated implementation status of IAI Work Plan IV, ASEAN Partners to support the remaining projects and formulation of the new work plan were discussed at the 14th consultation meeting of the IAI Task Force-ASEAN Partners. The IAI Task Force members from all ASEAN member countries, representatives from Timor-Leste to ASEAN, representatives from ASEAN partner countries, as well as Mr Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN and representatives from IAI and NDG Division, attended the meeting. — ASH/TMT



Delegates to the 74th IAI Task Force Meeting and the 14th Consultation Meeting of the IAI Task Force-ASEAN Partners pose for the documentary photo.

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NATIONAL

As Tatmadaw members, born of the people, sacrifice life to serve the defence duties of the State, taking oaths, they are in the highest institution for the State.



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets Tatmadaw members yesterday in Hmawby.

Tatmadaw members must be loyal to institutions and State with firm concept

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that only when Tatmadaw members are qualified in training will they have high self-confidence and confidence over their arms to achieve accomplishments of missions.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning said so at the meetings with Tatmadaw members from Hmawby Airbase, female cadets and female officer trainees from the female officer platoon commander course of the Defence Services (Army) Officer Training School (Hmawby) at relevant halls separately.

Speaking on the occasions, the Senior General emphasized that Tatmadaw (Air) is a corps that contributes much to land forces by transporting land forces and conducting air support fires in important operations.

Hence, he continued that Tatmadaw (Air) is being upgraded with aircraft as well as neces-



The Senior General (centre table) is seen having lunch together with female trainees from the OTS (Hmawby) and female officer platoon commander course yesterday.

sary machinery and accessories.

He highlighted that pilots from Tatmadaw (Air) have to

conduct checks, rechecks, and counterchecks to serve their individual duties in order to improve their capacity.

As such, the Senior General continued that Tatmadaw members need to undergo systematic training to enhance individual capacity and morals in order to implement defence policies adopted for defending the State through air force capability.

He spotlighted that if all Tatmadaw members from Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) enhance their capacity to cooperate with each other in all measures, the defence capability of the State will improve.

He added that individual

Tatmadaw member has to be loyal to themselves, their institutions and the State with a firm concept.

The Senior General stressed that female cadets must try hard to be reliable for the State and Tatmadaw by accumulating knowledge to have a broader range of scope.

The Senior General gave guidance to administrative officials at different levels on how to manage welfare tasks for their units by fulfilling the family needs of individual Tatmadaw members and their families.

Also present at the meetings were SAC member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy

and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, Tatmadaw members from Hmawby Airbase, the commandant and officer instructors from OTS (Hmawby).

After the meetings, the Senior General cordially greeted Tatmadaw members from Hmawby Airbase, female cadets from Defence Services (Army) OTS and female officer trainees from the platoon commander course.

The Senior General and party had lunch together with female trainees from the OTS (Hmawby) and female officers from the platoon commander course.

On arrival at Defence Services (Army) OTS (Hmawby), the Senior General heard reports by the commandant on training given to female cadets, conducting the platoon commander courses for female officers, and serving training duty and gave guidance to give necessary military training to relevant trainees to have full skills.

The Senior General and party made an inspection tour of training depots, local regiments and units in Hmawby Station by car. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speeches delivered by the Senior General during his inspection tours of training depots, local regiments and units in Hmawby Station

1. As Tatmadaw members, born of the people, sacrifice life to serve the defence duties of the State, taking oaths, they are in the highest institution for the State.
2. Only when Tatmadaw members are qualified in training will they have high self-confidence and confidence over their arms to achieve the accomplishments of missions.
3. If all Tatmadaw members from Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) enhance their capacity to cooperate with each other in all measures, the defence capability of the State will improve.
4. Pilots from Tatmadaw (Air) have to conduct checks, rechecks, and counterchecks to serve their individual duties in order to improve their capacity.

NATIONAL

Minbu hosts libraries and reading campaign

THE ceremony to launch the “Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits” campaign and handover ceremony of K3 million cash assistance, copies of public science treatises, books and publications donated by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and family, took place at No 1 BEHS, in Minbu Township, Magway Region, yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, highlighted the keynote speech of Ex-UN Secretary-General U Thant regarding the reading habit, saying today’s world is full of peace, progresses and happiness. Therefore, all citizens should have the proper knowledge to be peaceful and prosperous and develop Myanmar’s social community.

He continued that the State Head instructed him to reprint



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn launches the Developing Libraries and Raising Reading Habits campaign in Minbu, Magway Region, yesterday.

the public science treatises and donate them to the libraries. He then mentioned the salient guidance of the State Head in holding raising reading habits campaigns across the nation and urged the students to respect their teachers.

Then, he handed over K3 million, 122 copies of public sci-

ence treatises Volume (VI) and (VII) and 233 copies of books and publications for libraries to the region’s social affairs minister.

He also gave five DTH receivers and 15 DVB-T2 set-top boxes for basic high and middle schools, and received K60 million for four new libraries. The Union minister and party

heard the talk show and enjoyed the performance of the students.

They presented cash awards to the dance troupes. At noon, they visited Minbu Sasana Beikman to pay homage to Sayadaws and donate offer-tories. They also met with town elders and discussed regional development programmes. They also headed to General Hospital (Magway). They inspected the upgraded three-storey maternal and newborn babies care building, a sign of friendship between Myanmar and Japan, and the newly constructed library in Saku. — MNA/KTZH



15 domestic and 7 foreign projects for 2024 granted in Shan State

SHAN State Investment Committee (SSIC) endorsed foreign investments for two enterprises and 15 domestic projects made by Myanmar citizens with an estimated capital of US\$16.163 million and K46.216 billion in 2024, creating more than 1,480 jobs for locals and hiring 68 expatriates, said to U Lay Naing, director of the SSIC.

Aramaw (NyaungShwe) Co Ltd requested a second extension for the construction period. SanYang Paper Mill Intonational Co Ltd asked for permission to suspend business temporarily during the recent meeting of

SSIC in August.

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 enterprises to be in line with rules and regulations. — ASH/KK

This photo shows officials inspecting the feedstuff processing factory in the Ayethaya Industrial zone in Shan State.



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NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

25 August

Winners awarded in 30th Pakokku Literary Award



The 30th Pakokku Literary Award, Scholarships and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards giving ceremony, and handover ceremony of K10 million to Pakokku Literary Fund and 3,000 copies of Public Science Treatises Volume VI and VII for libraries, military headquarters, regiments, and units across the nation donated by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and family, was held in Yangon.

26 August

Senior General inspects preservation of cultural heritage

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the preservation of ancient religious and cultural heritage, maintenance of the western wall of the royal city and preparations to rebuild the Sishay Bridge, Shwenandaw Monastery, and Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay.

Plans underway to initiate public security system

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing revealed the plans to exercise the public security system, which will help improve peace and stability as well as the rule of Law, contributing to the implementation of the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system, at the meeting with Mandalay Region cabinet and departmental officials.

27 August

UEC allows establishment of two more parties

The Union Election Commission allowed the Unity and Development Party and the Socioeconomic Promotion Party to prove that they conform with the Political Parties Registration Law and Rule, with the right to establish a party must apply for registration as a political party to the Commission under Rule 7 of the Registration of Political Parties Law within 30 days from the approval date.

Teachers urged to consider improvement of education standards

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance to trainees of Mandalay Education Degree College, saying that 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.

30 August

Athletes must be under age restriction

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe

Win emphasized that the Immigration and Population Ministry has to verify the accuracy of the age of athletes from ministries and regions and states bound for the National Sports Festival, applying E-ID software at the meeting of the Leading Committee on Organizing the Fifth National Sports Festival.

Union Taxation Law 2024 amended

The State Administration Council released the Amendment Law to the Union Taxation Law 2024 with the State Administration Council Law No 54/2024 on 28 August 2024. The Law shall come into force from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Electricity bill rates raised

The Ministry of Electric Power raised bill rates of electricity depending on domestic, household power meter, large sum consumption (domestic), religious buildings, industries, businesses, large sums, temporary lamp posts, governmental buildings, State-owned industries, river water pumping stations, municipal departments and workplaces, non-governmental organizations, foreign embassies, international organizations starting from 1 September 2024.

31 August

Plans underway for prestigious elections and Hluttaw meetings

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on his inspection tour of Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace in Bago, gave guidance that efforts must be made to convene prestigious Hluttaw meetings at different levels with the attendance of relevant representatives, pledging to hand over State responsibilities to the elected government after elections have been held systematically. — GNLM/TTA

Myanmar delegation heads to 19th Asia Media Summit in Malaysia

A Myanmar delegation departed for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday to attend the 19th Asia Media Summit and Associated Meetings, which will be held from 1 to 5 September 2024.

The summit is organized by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD). Themed "Media: The New Odyssey," the forum will focus on global changes in media and broadcasting, various AI perspectives, and collaborative efforts for growth and learning.

The Myanmar delegation, led by U Ye Naing, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television, will engage in



The Myanmar delegation to attend the 19th Asia Media Summit and Associated Meetings is seen at Yangon International airport yesterday before departing for Malaysia.

discussions and workshops on topics such as misinformation combat, media literacy enhancement, and the use of 5G in future 4K broadcasting.

The Asia Media Summit is a crucial event for media pro-

fession across the Asia-Pacific region to connect, share knowledge, and discuss the future of media. This year's summit is significant as it returns to Malaysia after a nine-year interval. — MNA/KZL

Shrimp and hot pot seafood sales rise

CONSUMPTION of shrimps become high at hot pot restaurants over recent years, leading the shrimp trade to soar, according to seafood distributors.

Hot pot restaurants mostly order black chicken, octopus, and shrimp, and it is seafood season in Myanmar.

"Hot pot restaurants mainly use shrimp, black chicken and octopus. Shrimp production is large now, and the price is also high. In Myanmar, monsoon is seafood season," said a seafood distributor from Hlaing Township.

It is quick to cook shrimp, and many people enjoy it, making the sales increase, said a hot pot restaurant owner.

"Consuming shrimp has become relatively high in Myanmar.



This photo showcases shrimps, which are mostly placed orders from hot pot restaurants.

The population of seafood lovers became high after the hot pot culture developed. Shrimp cook fast, and people enjoy its taste, so shrimp is the most consumed item at hot pot restaurants, and it is also sold well at wholesale seafood shops," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

NATIONAL

Outstanding youths, matric passer soldiers return from Beijing tour



Myanmar outstanding youths, matric passer soldiers pose for a group photo at Beijing Railway Station during their excursion in Beijing, China.

AS per the guidance of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, soldiers, children of servicemen and servicewomen, war veterans, and substituted civilian staff who passed the 2023-2024

matriculation exam with flying colours went on a foreign excursion to China on 26 August to study international culture and enrich their knowledge, returning yesterday.

The group was welcomed back by Brig-Gen Soe Nyunt,

Commandant of the Defence Services Medical Academy, U Aung Ye Win, Departmental Head of the Myanma Economic Holdings Public Company Limited, and students' parents.

The excursion included visits to Tian Tan Park and Ling Guang Temple, where the Buddha tooth relic is enshrined, on 27 August. On 28 August, they explored the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, and the venues of the Olympics and enjoyed sight-seeing in Beijing.

On 29 August, the group travelled to Guangzhou City on the No G77 Beijing-Guangzhou bullet train from Beijing Bullet Train Station.

On 30 August, they visited Ji Nan University in Guangzhou, where they learned about the university's history, library, and faculties. In the evening, they visited the Guangzhou Tower and enjoyed a river cruise on the Zhu Jiang River. — MNA/TMT



Depression No-02/2024

Issued at 19:00 hours MST on 31-8-2024

Depression Condition

According to the observations at 17:30 hours MST today, the Depression over Westcentral Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal (off North Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha, India) moved North-Northwestwards. It is centred at about 585 Nautical miles West-Northwest of Hainggygyun, 575 Nautical miles West of Thandwe (Myanmar), 65 Nautical miles East of Vishakhapatnam, 85 Nautical miles South-Southwest of Gopalpur and 25 Nautical miles South-Southeast of Kalingapatnam (India).

Since it is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the Depression is coded as yellow stage.

Position of Depression, center pressure and wind

The Depression is located at Latitude 18.0 degree North and Longitude 84.3 degree East, centre pressure of Depression is 998 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 35-40 miles per hour at (17:30) hours MST today.

During next 12 hours forecast

The Depression is likely to move Northwestwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts between Vishakhapatnam and Gopalpur close to Kalingapatnam (India) during next 12 hours.

General caution

Under the influence of depression, squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30-35 mph and wave height will be about 8-10 feet.

Advisory

Under the influence of depression, strong wind may occur off and along Myanmar Coasts and therefore trawlers, vessels and ships should be aware in advance.

Pharma import licences tied to repatriated export earnings

ONLY when companies repatriated export earnings could they seek a pharmaceutical import licence commencing from 1 September, Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee.

Applications for pharmaceutical import licence until August 2024 on the Trade Net 2.0 platform of the Trade Department will be deleted. According to the decision of the committee meeting (66/2024), repatriating export earnings is requisite in seeking a

pharmaceutical import licence.

Additionally, 116 pharmaceutical importing companies submitted 716 applications worth \$103.822 million in October 2023 to the Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association. They are required to submit new ones after the association scrutinizes them. After the Foreign Exchange Scrutiny Committee gives them a green light, import licences will be granted. — TWA/KK

Rising interest in off-plan and instalment purchases amid Yangon realty market surge

THERE is more development of transaction and rental, and also more interest in purchasing apartments through off-plan and instalment systems in Yangon's real estate market, according to interviews with agents and residents.

Prices have also increased while rent and sales have reached a more active position.

"At the six-storey building in front of us, there is no apartment left as all are sold out under off-plan. When we buy in this off-plan system, we can pay in instalments, so some business people buy them. We are even asking to buy a unit in advance. Currently, since there are more migrant people, there are more sales and rentals in the Yangon real estate market. People who can afford to buy units to live in among the migrants," said a Yangon resident.

Transactions in the real estate market during the early Buddhist Lent have cooled down a bit. Still, since many people have moved to Yangon, property transactions are active despite the lent, a real estate agent said.

An apartment owner in Pazundaung Town-



Some apartments in Sangyoung township, Yangon region.

ship, Yangon, stated he started selling his unit last year through real estate brokers, but he didn't find a buyer for an extended period. There are many potential buyers now, and he is in a wait-and-see mode.

In addition, the price of rental units has increased, and monthly rents with deposits and 6-month or 12-month contracts have started to grow. However, the tenants said it is becoming more difficult to rent on a monthly basis. — MT/ZN



MPA: 55 container vessels slated to arrive at Yangon Port in Sept

A total of 55 container vessels are scheduled to call in the Yangon Port in September, the Myanmar Port Authority (MPA) announced.

Eight container vessels run each by Samudera Shipping Line and SITC Shipping Line, six by CMA CGM Line, five by Cosco Shipping Line, four each by Maersk A/S Line, MSC Line and RCL Line, three each by ONE Line and BLPL Shipping Line, two each by Land and Sea, Evergreen Line, PIL Line and Ti2 Container Line, and one by BAY Line are slated to enter the Yangon Port in September.

Myanmar Port Authority has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, bolster exports, and improve port capacity for significant arrivals in ships. Myanmar Port Authority's notification stated that it would inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules in a timely manner.

MPA has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, bolster exports, and improve port capacity for significant arrivals in ships. Myanmar Port Authority notified that it would inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules in a timely manner.

MPA stated that 49 vessels in January, 53 in February, 55 in March, 50 in April, 52 in May, and 50 each in June, July and August arrived at the Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled 629 container vessels in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanmar Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River had been found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now



Aerial panoramic view: vessels are seen at Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99 metres LOA, 35.25 metres Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU) of Hong-Kong based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which

is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

Since May 2021, the arrival of ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. Three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (Sea Land Maersk) started to run

to fulfil the seaborne trade requirements in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 metres, the larger ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US\$190M, 19M yuan, 79M Thai baht in August

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million Thai baht in August.

Following CBM's notification dated 14 August about contribution of \$100 million towards the fuel oil sector, it sold over \$9.498 million at exchange rate of K3,400 on 15 August, over \$89.975 million at exchange rate of K3,410 on 19 August, \$31 million at exchange rate of K3,440 on 22 August, over \$35 million at exchange rate of K3,460 on 26 August and \$16.9 million at exchange rate of K3,472 on 28 August respectively.

CBM announced on 9 August that it would sell \$6 million, five million yuan, and 10 million baht in edible oil, fuel oil, and pharmaceutical sectors through online forex trading platforms in the coming weeks.

CBM sold \$5 million and five million yuan for fuel oil,

edible oil and pharmaceutical sectors on 2 August, after selling 69 million baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medical devices on 1 August.

CBM injected \$15.4 million and five million yuan into the foreign exchange market in July with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and stopping the currency devaluation. Ac-

cording to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



The office building of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon.

Pesticide board approves 4,237 permits

THE Pesticide Registration Board has issued permits for 4,237 pesticides so far, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The Pesticide Registration Board held its 43rd meeting on 28 August at the meeting hall of the Union Minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw. Deputy Minister Dr Tin Htut, who is also chair of the Pesticide Registration Board, instructed the board members to coordinate matters to systematically use the best quality pesticides for crop solutions and high yield and comply with international food safety standards for exports, along with the related departments. He also urged them to raise suggestions in relevant fields.

Afterwards, Director-General Dr Ye Tint Tun,

secretary of the Board, discussed matters related to analytical tests for active ingredients under trade name and granting temporary permits for those qualified pesticides, evaluations of Pesticide Technical Committee, upgrading to complete registration from temporary registration along with the Pesticide Technical Committee and processing for renewal of complete registration for qualified pesticide and expired registration in line with rules and regulations of the Pesticide Law.

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

OPINION

BOOKRACK POEM

Beef up efforts required to combat Mpox

THE Ministry of Health has recently issued a press release in response to the re-emergence of Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) in several African countries and neighbouring regions. The World Health Organization has classified Mpox as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to its resurgence. Recently, an Mpox case was reported in Thailand, highlighting the virus's spread beyond Africa.

Although Myanmar has not reported any Mpox cases so far, the country is closely monitoring the situation. Myanmar's Ministry of Health is actively collaborating with other relevant ministries amid neighbouring and regional countries facing the impact of Mpox. They are working together to strengthen disease surveillance at international airports, seaports, and border entry points. Preparedness measures, including quarantine facilities and medications, are in place to ensure rapid healthcare response to suspected cases.

It is crucial for countries to unite and strengthen their efforts to combat Mpox on a global scale. Collaborative actions, preventive measures, and public health awareness will be vital in curbing the spread of this virus. All countries need to try hard to overcome the challenges of Mpox successfully through the united strength. Myanmar people need to follow health protocols for prevention, control, and treatment of Mpox, as issued by the Ministry of Health, without fail.

Over the past two decades, a significant number of global disease outbreaks have been caused by zoonotic diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. As human lifestyles change and the boundaries between human and animal habitats blur, the prevalence of these zoonotic diseases has been increasing. The rise in pet ownership, where animals are often kept in close proximity to humans, is also contributing to the growing incidence of animal-to-human disease transmission.

It is crucial for countries to unite and strengthen their efforts to combat Mpox on a global scale. Collaborative actions, preventive measures, and public health awareness will be vital in curbing the spread of this virus. All countries need to try hard to overcome the challenges of Mpox successfully through the united strength. Myanmar people need to follow health protocols for prevention, control, and treatment of Mpox, as issued by the Ministry of Health, without fail.



Book Title - Buddha Dhamma Let Yway Zin (Bilingual - Myanmar & English)
Translation from Pali to Myanmar Pali to English - Reverend Nanamoli and Bikkhu Bodhi
Publishing House - Hnit Karlamyar
Publication Date - August 2024 (2nd Edition)
Price - K15,000

Buddha Dhamma Let Yway Zin (Bilingual - Myanmar & English)

THIS book is a collection of booklets written in Myanmar and English; the original text is written in Pali. Pali to Myanmar translation is done by Saya Maung Tha Noe, while Pali to English is done by Reverend Nanamoli and Bikkhu Bodhi. This book will definitely be of high value to those who cannot understand Pali. As this is a bilingual translation, both Myanmar and English speakers can study the Teachings of Lord Buddha.

Concerning this book, Saya Maung Tha Noe said in his foreword, "There are 30 Suttas in this book inclusive of Dhammacakka Pavattanasutta, Kalama Sutta, Malukya Sutta and Sihanada Sutta etc. My translation is based on the Pitaka texts edited by the Sixth Buddhist Synod. But when it comes to the translation of Dhammacakka Pavattanasutta, I have also consulted with the versions of Sayadaw U Voke and Ledi Sayadaw.

Additionally, I have also consulted with the English versions by Reverend Nanamoli, Bikkhu Bodhi and K R Norman, a Pali specialist. I would like to emphasize the fact that I have translated the Pali version, but when there is some variation from the English versions, I have had to consult with the English versions.

"For translation, I chiefly consult with the Pali-Myanmar Dictionary called Padatha Manjusa, compiled by Sayagyi U Hoke Sein. Sometimes, I consult with the Tipitaka Pali-Myanmar Dictionary."

For my review, I would like to present some extracts from Tathagata's last words. Lord Buddha said to Ananda, "The Sasana will continue to exist without me. Please don't think that you will have any more teachers. Yes, I will not be on this earth any longer, but I will leave Dhamma, my Teacher. My Teaching

and the Vinaya – the Disciplinary Rules for the monks will remain upon my entry into Maha Parinibbanahood. When I leave this world, the minor disciplinary rules can be nullified and deleted. I want you all to raise any questions about matters which you are doubtful of.

"Should you have any doubts about Buddha, Dhamma, and Samgha, ask me right now before I go. I don't want you to regret the thought that you did not ask me such things when I was alive.

"As you are all silent and make no response although I have invited you three times, it is crystal clear that you do not have any scepticism about Buddha, Dhamma, His Teachings, and Samgha, His Disciples.

"Then, I am going to leave my last message to you all. Oh, monks, nothing is permanent; everything is transitory. Always be mindful of this."



Book Title - Buddha Khit Jain Abhidhamma
Translator - Reverend Jagarabhivamsa
Publishing House - Hsu Yaung Zin
Publication Date - April 2024 (2nd Edition)
Price - K12,000

Buddha Khit Jain Abhidhamma (Jain Philosophy of the Buddhist Age By Dr Moriz Winternitz)

THIS book is the translation of a part of the History of Indian Literature Volume Two, which is a school textbook in India. The original writer is Dr Moriz Winternitz, and the translator is Reverend Jagarabhivamsa.

Jainism teaches that the path to enlightenment is through nonviolence and reducing harm to living beings as much as possible. Like Hindus and Buddhists, Jains believe in reincarnation. The book review writer's note: Hindus indeed believe in reincarnation, but Buddhists do not. According to Buddhism, once a living being dies, there take place both the physical death and spiritual

death at the same time. The new being is a totally different being. According to Hinduism, when a living being dies, there takes place only physical death while the soul leaves the dead body only to find another body to possess. To the Hindus, death only means physical death, and the soul will take one body after another until it emerges with the Maha Brahma, the Eternal God, upon doomsday. One's karma determines this cycle of birth, death and rebirth.

While often employing concepts shared with Hinduism and Buddhism, the result of a common cultural and linguistic background, the Jain tradition

must be regarded as an independent phenomenon rather than as a Hindu sect or a Buddhist heresy, as some earlier Western scholars believed.

The founder of Jainism is Rishabhdeva. Rishabhdeva is considered to be the first real founder of Jainism. He is the first Tirthankara in Jainism and is also said to have lived a million years ago. In fact, Jainism was born in India in about the same period as Buddhism. It was established by Mahavira (599-527 BC) in about 500 BC. He was born near Patna in what is now Bihar State.

Jains do not believe in Gods, and Jainism is a nonthe-

istic religion. They do, however, believe in a higher power (Devas) that is mortal. Jains also worship the images of their divine teachers (Tirthankaras).

Jainism is one of the world's oldest religions, originating in India at least 2,500 years ago. The spiritual goal of Jainism is to become liberated from the endless cycle of rebirth and to achieve an all-knowing state called moksha. This can be attained by living a nonviolent life, or ahimsa, with as little negative impact on other life forms as possible.

The traditions of Jainism were largely carried forward by a succession of 24 tirthankaras, or teachers, most notably Vardhamana Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankaras and likely a contemporary of Gotama Buddha. Both Mahavira and Gotama Buddha emphasized the importance of self-discipline, meditation, and ascetic life as the keys to salvation. Their Teachings often stood in contrast to those of Vedic priests of the time, who emphasized ritual practices and their own roles as intermediaries between humanity and Gods.

ကြက်ဖုတ်ငယ် *A Sad*
 By Chit Ko Pe
Created gracefully are those pastures for the herbivores, lawns for the greener show, playgrounds for all and more.
Though trodden all times, through rain or shine, it keeps stout and fine to make the world be beautified.

My Sweetheart
 By Mya Thae (Research)
Pho Wa doll is my sweetheart, corpulent and smart so much.
I devote my lovely doll, One day, a cat was a bit too long.
Pho Wa doll was torn and ugly, I repaired it with very sorry.
However, my sweetheart is ugly, I treat ever with lovely.

(Based on the advertisement of Aung Bar Lay State Lottery)

ပန်းသီးနီနီ ဖြစ်ချင်တယ်
 ပန်းသီးနီနီ ဟာ ငါ ဖြစ်ချင်တယ်။
 ဟာဝေယံကျွန်းကို မသိဘူး။ ဘာဒိုးကို မသိဘူး။ မာတနီ ကို မသိဘူး။ အင်ဒိုချိုင်းနား ကို မသိဘူး။ ဟောင်ကောင် ကို မသိဘူး။ ဆိန်းမြစ် ကို မသိဘူး။ အစိမ်းရောင် 'ကောင်မလေး' ကို မသိဘူး။
 ပန်းသီးပင်အောက်မှာ ဝေဒနာတွေကို ထားခဲ့မယ်။
 သုခမိန်လှိုင် ('ဇွန်လ၏ မိုးရေများ' ကဗျာစာအုပ် မှ) ၁၉၇၀ ဇွန်။

WANT TO BE A RED APPLE
 By Thukhamain Hlaing, Translated by Myint Zan
 i wanna be a red apple
 don't know about Hawaiian island
 don't know about Bardot*
 don't know about Martini
 don't know about Indochina
 don't know about Hong Kong
 don't know about the Seine River
 don't know about green 'little girl'
 will leave the afflictions underneath the apple tree

*Brigitte Bardot, French actress (born 28 September 1934)
 From the book of collection of poems 'Raindrops in the month of June'. (composed in the vernacular in) June 1970

NATIONAL Entertainment



"Thabin The (theatrical performer) Mya Hninzi' movie to be screened in Sept

THE premiere show of the "Thabin The (theatrical performer) Mya Hninzi' movie took place at Saint John City Mall JCGV in Yangon on 28 August.

The story was created by Ko Sat, scripted by Ingyin Han, and directed by director Min Sat Thit

for Sein Htay Film Production.

"Some of Thabin artistes appreciated as we prepared even the fire pole for 'Myaywine' dance. I want fans to judge the acting skills of May Mi Ko Ko and other artistes," said director Min Sat Thit.

Director Maung Thi also appreciated the new movie and actresses such as May

Mi Ko Ko and Cindy Myat, saying "Thabin The Mya Hninzi' will hit new historical records if the new cast is given a chance to show their abilities.

The cast included May Mi Ko Ki, Cindy Myat, Hsu Yadana Htike, Min Arkar, Htoo Myat and other artistes. — ASH/KTZH



Khine Hnin Wai

ACTRESS KHINE HNIN WAI provided a mother of five children with K2 million on 30 August. The actress herself offered cash assistance to Daw Yi Yi Myint, who lives in Shwepyitha township and has five kids; among them, the youngest ones are six-month-old twins.



Saya Nan Aung Hlaing

AUTHOR NAN AUNG HLAING donated his 'Weikza Natlan Hmaw Bon Kyan' books at the Myanmar Libraries Foundation together with Sayama Thiri San on 29 August. Foundation Chairman U Nyunt Swe (author Maung Swe Thet) and members accepted the donation.

Ko Ko Lin Maung
ACTOR KO KO LIN MAUNG organized a food donation event with his wife, Khine Zin Wint Shein, to mark his 54th birthday. He donated to the Mohinga donation event for 500 people near Bayintnaung Road between Ward 43 and Ward 48 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 30 August.



Aung Min Khant
ACTOR AUNG MIN KHANT, currently residing in New York with his wife, announced that they are expecting their first child on his Facebook page with Ultrasound results on 27 August. The actor thanked the ones who made likes, shares and comments.



Aye Thida
SUPPORTING ACTRESS AYE THIDA (aka) Targyi donated alms food to monks, marking her 53rd birthday on 29 August. Moreover, she donated alms food, cash and robes to monks at Ward 9 in Thakayta Township and provided foodstuffs to 100 people.



CELEBRITY BRIEF

May Mi Ko Ko

Actress May Mi Ko Ko takes the Daw Mya San Kyi character, mother of Mya Hninzi Lay, in the "Thabin The (theatrical performer) Mya Hninzi' movie, which will be screened nationwide in early September. Director Min Sat Thit said, "I am delighted with the acting talent of May Mi Ko Ko as no one else can be seen for Mya San Kyi's character". Moreover, director Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Phyt) also appreciated the actress. — Htun Htun/KTZH

*Make Up - Omega Mee Mee
Dress - Pho Thar
Photo - Rae Thu Aung
Arrangement by Si Thu Oht Soe, Min Sat Thit
Location - Park Royal Hotel
Special Thanks Nyii N Aung*

WORLD

Malaysia marks 67th anniversary of independence

Highlights of the event included a spectacular aerial display by the air force, featuring fighter jets and helicopters performing coordinated manoeuvres.

MALAYSIA marked the 67th anniversary of independence on Saturday, with a huge public turnout at the administration center of Putrajaya to mark the National Day.

Over 17,000 people were forming 59 contingents representing various segments of the Malaysian society including civil society organizations, state-owned enterprises, the civil service and armed forces, according to the Malaysian national news agency Bernama.

Watching the parade of var-

ious groups were the Southeast Asian country's King Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and cabinet members.

The air force put on a show with fighter aircraft and various helicopters flying in formation and performing maneuvers.

In a speech on the eve of the anniversary, Anwar emphasized that independence enjoyed today by the nation was achieved through the strength of its people who were united.

— Xinhua



Over 17,000 people participated in the parade, representing diverse sectors such as civil society, state-owned enterprises, the civil service, and the armed forces. PHOTO: BERNAMA/BERNAMA

Vietnam's major airports to see over 800,000 passengers in National Day holidays

TWO airports in Vietnam's biggest cities Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City are expected to serve more than 800,000 passengers during the four-day National Day holiday from Saturday to Tuesday, local media reported.

Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi will welcome about 338,000 passengers with 2,100 domestic and international flights in the four days, up 11 per cent compared to normal days.

On 3 September the peak day, the airport is forecast to cater to more than 96,000 passengers, including nearly 35,000



Check-in area at Noi Bai International Airport, Hanoi, Vietnam. PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/FILE

foreign and more than 61,000 238 international flights and domestic holidaymakers, with 331 domestic ones. — Xinhua

Poland's PiS orders lawmakers to pay after funding cut

POLAND'S right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party on Friday ordered its lawmakers to pay monthly dues, after the party's subsidies were slashed over misuse of public funds.

The conservatives from the PiS governed in Poland for eight years and remain the biggest party in the Polish parliament, but lost power to Prime Minister Donald Tusk's



The PiS governed for eight years before losing power after the last election in October 2023. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

pro-EU alliance in October.

On Thursday, Poland's electoral commission (PKW) ruled the PiS had violated spending rules by using public funds to finance its campaigning and cut its subsidies by 10 million zloty (\$2.5 million).

The party also risks losing more funding, around 57 million zloty, unless it successfully appeals the ruling. — AFP

BRIEFS: WORLD

Syrian artist destroys statue outside UN

SYRIAN sculptor Khaled Dawwa on Friday destroyed his giant artwork outside the United Nations office in Geneva to denounce tens of thousands of enforced disappearances in Syria.

Using saws and hammers, relatives of disappeared Syrians helped the artist break apart the wood, plaster and foam statue on the International Day of the Disappeared.

"We are here to protest against the system, to say, 'enough'. We have a right to know the truth," the 39-year-old sculptor, who lives in exile in France, told AFP.

Dawwa's 3.5 metre (11 feet and six inches) - high colossus, "The King of Holes", depicted a potentate with a massive body, reflecting the artist's condemnation of oppressive power, before it was thrashed to pieces. — AFP

WWII bomb destroyed at Czech factory

CZECH authorities on Friday detonated an unexploded World War II bomb dug up at a major Czech petrochemical factory last week, the fire brigade said.

Police established a six-day security perimeter around the Zaluži plant about 100 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of Prague after workers had found the ordnance at a remote part of the factory's site on 21 August.

They ordered hundreds of people to leave their homes, while the factory run by Polish petrol giant Orlen was shut down.

The firefighters isolated the bomb with sandbags before the blast.

The 250-kilogramme (550-pound) British aerial bomb was equipped with a unique chemical trigger to delay its explosion, which police said made it particularly dangerous. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Egyptian president approves AIIB loan for rail upgrade in Alexandria

The loan, which was finalized between Egypt's Ministry of International Cooperation and the AIIB in July 2023, will be repaid over 18.5 years with a five-year grace period.

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi has approved a loan from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to finance an electric metro line in the northern

coastal province of Alexandria, according to a presidential decree published in the country's official gazette on Thursday.

Signed between Egypt's Ministry of International Co-

operation and the AIIB in July last year, the loan deal worth 250 million euros (about US\$277 million) was approved by the Egyptian government in August 2023 and by the House of Representatives in June 2024.

The loan is agreed to be repaid over 18.5 years with a five-year grace period.

According to the agreement, the multilateral development bank will finance a project to upgrade and electrify the existing Abu Qir railway in Alexandria into a highly efficient metro line.

The project, estimated to cost 1.5 billion euros, will be co-financed by the AIIB, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, and the French Development Agency. — Xinhua



The project aims to upgrade the existing Abu Qir railway into an efficient metro line and is estimated to cost €1.5 billion. PHOTO: ESTATE BOOK



The buyer will need to address PKR 200 billion in liabilities and invest PKR 400 million in repairs and other issues. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Pakistan: PIA to be privatized by 1 October

THE privatization process of the debt-ridden Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will be completed by 1 October Privatization Commission Secretary Usman Akhtar Bajwa told Senate Standing Committee on Privatization, Dawn reported.

Bajwa said that the PIA's deficit had reached PKR (Pakistani Rupees) 500 billion, Dawn reported.

"Whoever buys the PIA will also have to clear liabilities of PKR 200 billion and spend PKR 400 million on ship repairs and other issues," Dawn quoted Ba-

jwa as saying.

He said that six companies were finalized for PIA bid- Fly Jinnah, Air Blue, Arif Habib Corporation, YB Holdings, Pak Ethanol and Blue World City, Dawn stated.

Bajwa stated that Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif did not want to postpone the process further. "We are trying not to let the date exceed," Dawn reported, quoting Bajwa.

Bajwa added that the buyer would have to cough up PKR 80 billion and the airline was close to "not functioning at all". — ANI

New Zealand's annual number of homes down 22% in year ending in July

NEW Zealand saw 33,921 new homes consented in the year ending in July 2024, down 22 per cent year on year, according to the statistics department Stats NZ on Friday.

"The number of homes consented was down 22 per cent on an annual basis, despite an increase in the July 2024 month," Stats NZ construction and property statistics manager Michael Heslop said.

Among the new homes consented in the cited period, there were 18,503 multi-unit homes such as townhouses, apartments, retirement village units, and flats, down 28 per cent, and 15,418 stand-alone houses, down 14 per cent, Heslop said.

In July, there were 3,352 new homes, up 9.6 per cent, he said, adding a higher number

of working days contributed to the increase, which means more time for building consent authorities to issue consents for new homes.

The number of homes consented each month can vary significantly due to the timing of large projects, Hes-

lop said.

The decreased number of homes consented is bad news for New Zealand's construction industry, with many companies having to close and around 8,000 fewer people employed in the sector since last November. — Xinhua



July 2024 saw a 9.6% increase in new home consents compared to the previous month, largely due to more working days available for processing consents. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

BRIEFS: ECON

Japan jobless rate up in July

JAPAN'S unemployment rate rose to 2.7 per cent in July, up from 2.5 per cent in the previous month in the first deterioration in five months, as more workers left their jobs in search of improved working conditions, government data showed Friday.

The total number of people with jobs fell 0.3 per cent to a seasonally adjusted 67.66 million, while those without jobs rose 6.3 per cent to 1.87 million, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said. The number of people who quit their jobs increased by 70,000, or 9.5 per cent, while those who were let go fell by 10,000, or 2.2 per cent.

"More people have left their jobs to find better employment opportunities such as higher pay and more vacation time. We might be able to call it positive unemployment," a ministry official said. "The labor market remains tight, so we don't think these people will remain unemployed for long." — Kyodo

Ramaphosa: Sovereign wealth fund delayed

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Thursday said that while the government remains committed to building a sovereign wealth fund, now is not the most favorable time for its immediate establishment.

He made the remarks during an oral reply session at the National Assembly of Parliament in Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa. This was his first such session under the Government of National Unity. — Xinhua

Border port witnesses booming China-Vietnam trade

UPON arrival at Youyiguan, or Friendship Pass, on the China-Vietnam border, visitors are greeted by the pungent odor of durian.

Though the peak season for selling durian is over, customs officials at the pass are still busy handling these thorny fruits from Vietnam upon their entrance into China's sprawling market.

Fruit-loaded trucks and self-organized tourists are now common sights at Youyiguan Port, China's main gateway to Vietnam located in the city of Pingxiang, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

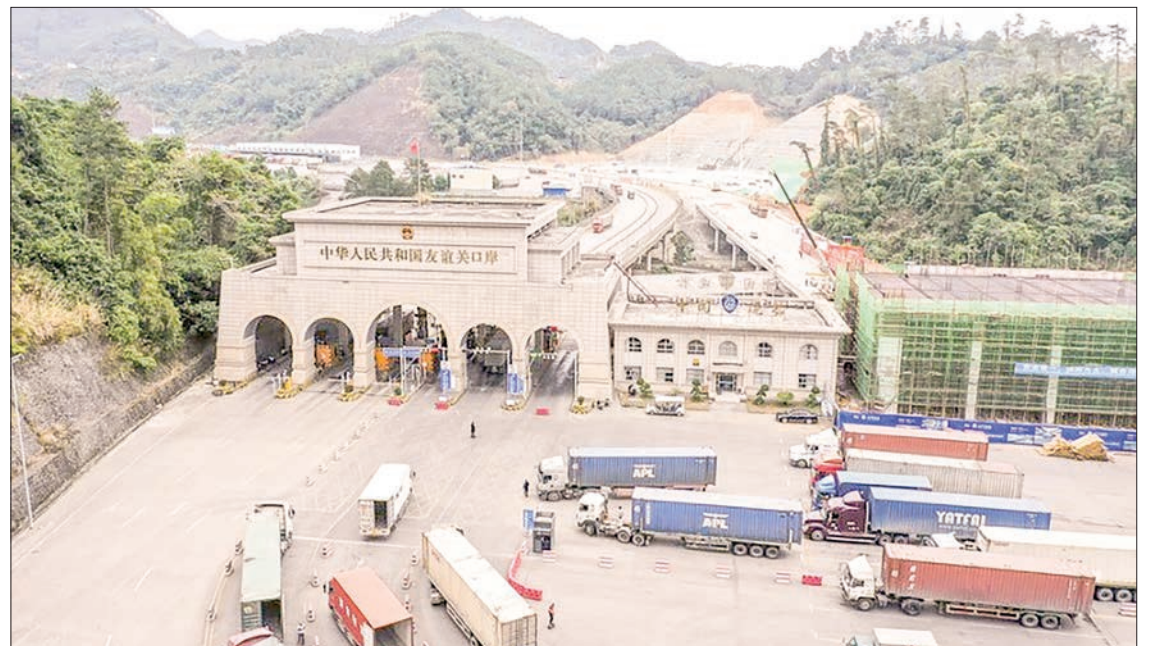
Established in the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD), the pass boasts a history of more than 2,000 years. Barbettes that once defended the port are now scenic spots, while officials there welcome goods and tourists with speed and streamlined procedures. "Our inspections are strict, but we also have services such as bookings for 24/7 clearance and

quick lab tests to greatly shorten the passage time for fruits imported from ASEAN members," said Huang Feifei, a customs official at the port.

Notably, a clearance can be completed within as little as 15 seconds at this port. "All we need to do is a scan of our faces and fingerprints," a truck driver told Xinhua.

Officials said the port had handled 310,000 vehicles passing through it as of 22 August — marking yearly growth of around 20 per cent. Apart from streams of trucks, cross-border tourists are also showing up in larger numbers. The port's hustle and bustle testifies to the booming economic links between China and Vietnam, with the two countries having ramped up cooperation in terms of trade and infrastructure to dock the Belt and Road Initiative with Vietnam's Two Corridors and One Economic Circle strategy. — Xinhua

Established over 2,000 years ago during the Han Dynasty, Youyiguan has transitioned from a historical defensive site to a modern port with efficient customs procedures and scenic spots for visitors.



Aerial photo taken on 3 January 2020 shows vehicles waiting to pass the port of the Friendship Pass on the China-Vietnam border in Pingxiang, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

S Korean banks' lending rate falls

SOUTH Korean banks' lending rate fell for the second straight month in July on expectations for a policy rate cut later this year, central bank data showed Friday.

The weighted average rate for new bank loans shrank 0.16 percentage points over the month to an annualized 4.55 per cent in July, after slipping 0.07 percentage points in the previous month, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

The continued fall came amid growing expectations for

the central banks' interest rate cut later this year.

The BOK has left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 3.50 per cent since January last year. Rate for banks' new corporate loans dipped 0.10 percentage points to 4.78 per cent in July compared to the previous month. Lending rate for big corporations shed 0.11 percentage points to 4.89 per cent, and rate for small companies declined 0.10 percentage points to 4.69 per cent. — Xinhua



Nong Hyup Bank (also known as NH Bank) is significant financial institution in South Korea. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/BANK TRACK**

Japan's industrial output up 2.8% in July

JAPAN'S industrial output gained 2.8 per cent in July from a month earlier, government data showed on Friday.

The seasonally adjusted production index at factories and mines in the reporting month stood at 102.8 against the 2020 base of 100, reversing a revised 4.2 per cent drop in June, according to preliminary data from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The ministry attributed the increase to industrial production growth in semiconductor equipment and electrical devices.

The index of industrial shipments gained 2.4 per cent on month to 101.4, while inventories edged up 0.4 per cent to 103.

Overall, 14 of the 15 surveyed sectors reported a month-on-month increase in

output in the reporting period, with electronics and telecommunications leading the expansion.

The ministry upgraded its basic assessment by noting that industrial production was "fluctuating indecisively."

Based on a poll of manufacturers, the ministry expected output to grow in August and decrease in September. — Xinhua

Eurozone inflation falls to three-year low

THE Eurozone's annual inflation rate fell to 2.2 per cent in August, down from 2.6 per cent in July, marking its lowest point since July 2021, according to a flash estimate published by Eurostat on Friday.

The main driver of inflation remains the price of services, which saw a year-on-year growth of 4.2 per cent in August, up from 4 per cent in

July, according to the European Union's (EU) statistical office.

Food, alcohol, and tobacco prices registered an annual inflation rate of 2.4 per cent, slightly higher than July's 2.3 per cent.

Non-energy industrial goods saw a decrease in inflation, from 0.7 per cent in July to 0.4 per cent in August. Meanwhile, energy prices re-

corded a negative growth in August, falling by three per cent, compared to a 1.2 per cent increase in July.

Among EU member states, Belgium had the highest year-on-year inflation rate at 4.5 per cent, down from 5.4 per cent the previous month. Estonia and the Netherlands also registered high inflation rates at 3.4 per cent and 3.3 per cent, in respective. — AFP

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



A drone photo taken on 26 August 2024 shows rising water in Mekong River in Vientiane, capital of Laos. **PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA**

Rising Mekong levels prompt flood alert

31 AUGUST

LAOS has been keeping a close eye on the Mekong River and its main tributaries as water levels have risen after continuous heavy rainfalls, while people living near rivers have stayed alert and prepared for flooding. On Friday, the Mekong River in Vientiane, Laos, reached 11.80 metres, surpassing the warning level and approaching the danger level. The river has risen quickly since

23 August, with local authorities deploying sandbags to prevent flooding.

Kannika Phathanou, a student, noted that the rising water makes sunsets both beautiful and alarming, especially for those in low-lying areas.

The weather bureau has warned of possible floods due to ongoing rains and wind. Recent storms have already impacted over 36,200 people in Laos. – Xinhua

30 AUGUST

Kenya: Third Mpox case, intensifies surveillance

KENYA'S Ministry of Health on Friday announced the third Mpox case, reiterating intensified surveillance at ports of entry to avert mass transmission of the highly infectious viral disease.

Patrick Amoth, director-general for health in the Ministry of Health, said the third case was detected from a 30-year-old woman in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, who has a history of travelling to neighbouring Uganda.

"She is in stable condition undergoing management in an isolation unit in Nairobi," Amoth said in a statement issued in Nairobi, adding that the patient travelled to Uganda last week.

Health personnel earlier this month detected two Mpox cases in the coastal county of Taita Taveta which shares the border with Tanzania, and Busia County in western Kenya which shares the border with Uganda. – Xinhua

29 AUGUST

Spanish actor's son jailed for life

A THAI COURT on Thursday jailed a famous Spanish actor's son for life for the grisly murder of a Colombian plastic surgeon on a tropical holiday island, in a lurid case that has gripped Spain.

Daniel Sancho Bronchalo, a 30-year-old chef, was convicted of premeditated murder for killing Edwin Arrieta Arteaga on Koh Phangan.

Sancho, whose father Rodolfo is a notable Spanish actor, received a life sen-

tence and was ordered to pay 4.4 million baht (around \$130,000) in restitution. The case has drawn significant media attention from Spain.

The victim's lawyer expressed satisfaction with the verdict, while Sancho's legal team plans to appeal. Sancho, visibly saddened, faces the legal consequences of his crime. The trial also revealed gruesome details about the murder and its aftermath. – AFP

28 AUGUST

Two German boys die in dune collapse

TWO GERMAN BOYS have died after being buried at the weekend by a dune landslide at a beach in Denmark, police said Wednesday.

The children, aged nine and 12, were digging a hole on a beach in North Jutland on Sunday when the dune collapsed, burying them.

Police said health authorities reported the boys died Tuesday evening, adding that they considered the incident a "tragic accident".

Media reports said the boys, who were

on holiday with their families from the Munich area, were trapped under the sand for up to 40 minutes during efforts to dig them out.

In a separate incident on Sunday, another young boy got caught in a dune landslide in southwestern Jutland, but he was pulled out quickly and unharmed.

Following the incidents, Danish authorities urged people to exercise caution around dune areas on the west coast as recent heavy rains had made the dunes unstable. – AFP

27 AUGUST

Experts discuss RCEP's impact on Asia

SOME 40 experts and representatives from China and Southeast Asian countries have gathered here to share insights on leveraging the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to build a high-level regional market.

Organized by the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), the Hainan-based China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD), along with the Hainan Institute for Free Trade Port Studies, the symposium held Tuesday went under the theme "RCEP: New Future for Asia's Economy." In his opening address,

Secretary General of the BFA Zhang Jun noted that RCEP bears significance for regional economic integration, staying in line with the common interests of Asian countries.

He also called for a favorable policy environment, sound basic support, improved connectivity and better mechanism construction to push RCEP forward into a higher level of free trade agreement. Chi Fulin, head of CIRD, highlighted RCEP's emerging role in promoting regional cooperation and enhancing the region's economic resilience and risk resistance. – Xinhua

26 AUGUST

Kono urges clear strategies in leadership race

DIGITAL Minister Taro Kono said Monday he will run in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's leadership election, touting his track record of pushing for reforms in his third bid to become Japan's prime minister.

Outspoken Kono, 61, who nearly became Japan's leader in 2021, emphasized that the 27 September leadership race should highlight clear global strategies for Japan. He revised his earlier stance on nuclear power, now considering replacing

outdated plants with new ones.

Kono vowed to implement crucial reforms for Japan's future and stressed the importance of gaining public trust.

The race is occurring because current Prime Minister Kishida is stepping down, with the next LDP leader likely becoming the new premier. Kono is known as a reform-minded ninth-term member of the House of Representatives and is often labeled a political maverick. – Kyodo

25 AUGUST

Premier Li urges global cooperation to advance robot industry

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang has emphasized the need to foster an open environment for technical innovation and support foreign firms and research institutions to invest in China, when talking about advancing the robot industry through closer global collaboration.

Li made the remarks while on a field survey visit on Sunday to the 2024 World Robot Expo in Beijing.

Li emphasized the importance of creating effective cooperation platforms for industrial exchanges to ensure stable and smooth supply chains and to promote global technical innovation in the robot industry. During his visit to the World Robot Conference expo, he explored various robots, focusing on their performance, technological advantages, and applications. – Xinhua

SPORTS



This photo shows Seven FC in action against Bushido FC. PHOTO: MFF

MFF Futsal Championship group stage concludes

THE group stage of the 2024 MFF Futsal Championship wrapped up on 31 August at the MFF Futsal Arena, with teams now confirmed for the next round.

On the final day of the group stage, M2K defeated Letwel Thondara 7-3, YCDC Marga overcame Jullniss 5-0, M-Millon edged Futsal Lovers 4-3, Seven triumphed over Bushido 5-2, YRG won over MH Dream Team with a decisive 7-0, and Sar Bel Gyi

Doh claimed victory over FCT Youth 9-4.

Following these matches, the standings were finalized as follows: In Group F, M2K secured first place with seven points, and YCDC Marga finished second with seven points. In Group G, Seven FC topped the group with seven points, while M-Millon came second with six points. In Group H, YRG finished first with nine points, and MH Dream Team was second with

six points, advancing to the next stage.

The knockout stage will commence on 1 and 2 September, featuring matchups: Pyae Sone and Power HBI, TG United versus YCDC Marga, Winner Soccer against M-Millon, UPK versus MH Dream Team, defending champions VUC against Generations, M2K facing Futsal-19, Seven FC versus 7 Brother Team, and YRG against MIU. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

MNL to resume with 1st round matches on 6 September

THE Myanmar National League (MNL) is set to continue with the first round of its 2024-2025 season on 6 September, following a break in the schedule.

Initially, the league was planned to pause after fixture eight for the Myanmar national team's international fixtures, with matches scheduled from 13 to 30 September. However, since the national team will not be participating in those matches, the league schedule has been adjusted accordingly.

The revised fixtures for the upcoming rounds are as follows: fixture nine will commence on 6 September at Yangon United Sport Complex (YUSC) with a match between Rakhine United and ISPE. On 7 September, Thuwunna Youth Training Centre-YTC will host Maha United against Hanthawady United, and on 8 September, Patheingyi Stadium will see Ayeyawady United face Shan United. The matches will continue with Dagon Port versus Yangon United on 9 September at Thuwunna YTC and Thitsa Arman versus Myawady at YUSC. Round 10 will begin on 13 September at YUSC with Dagon Port versus Yadanabon, followed by Maha United against Shan United at Thuwunna YTC.

14 September will feature Thitsa Arman versus ISPE at Thuwunna YTC, and Yangon United versus Dagon Stars at YUSC. On 15 September, Thuwunna YTC will host Rakhine United against Ayeyawady, and 16 September will see Myawady face Hanthawady at YUSC. Round 11 will start on 20 September, with Maha United playing against Ayeyawady at YUSC and Yadanabon facing Shan United at Thuwunna YTC.

The matches will continue on 21 September with Myawady versus Dagon Stars at Thuwunna YTC and Dagon Port against ISPE on 22 September. The matches on 23 September will feature Thitsa Arman versus Yangon United at Thuwunna Stadium and Rakhine United versus Hanthawady at YUSC.

After the eighth fixture, Shan United leads with 22 points, followed by Yangon United with 20 points, Hanthawady United with 19 points, Dagon Stars with 16 points, Yadanabon with 14 points, Maha United with 13 points, Dagon Port with 11 points, and ISPE with nine points. Ayeyawady United, Thitsa Arman, and Myawady each have four points, while Rakhine United has one point. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Rice sent off as Arsenal held by Brighton

DECLAN Rice was controversially sent off for the first time in the Premier League as Arsenal were held to a contentious 1-1 draw against Brighton on Saturday.

Mikel Arteta's side were leading through Kai Havertz's

first-half strike when Rice saw red after the interval at the Emirates Stadium. In a bizarre incident, the Arsenal midfielder earned a second booking for gently kicking the ball away and failing to retreat after fouling Brighton's

Joel Veltman. Rice looked bewildered by the decision, while Arteta sought an explanation from the fourth official as Arsenal fans chanted "you're not fit to referee" at Chris Kavanagh. — AFP



Big names move on Premier League's deadline day

RAHEEM Sterling's loan move from Chelsea to Arsenal was one of the standout deals completed late on the final day of the Premier League transfer window.

The 29-year-old sought a transfer after new Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca made it clear that Sterling would not be part of the first-team plans under his management. Sterling now provides Arsenal with an additional attacking option, while Chelsea offloads his substantial wages.

On a busy day for Chelsea, the club also secured Manchester United winger Jadon Sancho during the closing hours of the transfer window. Sancho joins Stamford Bridge on loan, with a clause obligating Chelsea to make the transfer permanent at the end of the season. — Xinhua



Raheem Sterling is set to join Arsenal on loan from Chelsea. PHOTO: AFP



Jiangsu University, home to over 4,000 African students, exemplifies the strengthening of China-Africa ties through its educational partnerships and the Belt and Road Initiative. **PHOTO: JIANGSU UNIVERSITY**

China becomes popular destination for African students

Jiangsu University, hosting over 4,000 African students, reflects the deepening ties through the Belt and Road Initiative.

When Tanzanian student Fathiya Mohamed Said was a child, she learned that China sent medical teams to aid her home country, inspiring her dream of becoming a doctor.

On 6 April 1963, China despatched its first medical team from Beijing to Algeria. Many groups of Chinese doctors have since worked in Africa, offering much-needed medical aid and services to residents of various countries.

Driven by her dream, Fathiya travelled to east China's Jiangsu Province in 2019 to major in medicine and surgery at Jiangsu University.

"The Chinese medical teams' selflessness and service to humanity inspire me a lot, and I aspire to become a pedi-

atric oncologist when I graduate and go back to Tanzania," the 25-year-old said.

During her internship at a Jiangsu hospital, Fathiya appreciated the warmth and friendliness of Chinese patients, highlighting the deep cultural connections she

experienced.

She noted that China offers African students valuable learning opportunities and a unique blend of ancient culture and modern innovation. Fathiya intends to actively promote China-Africa relations.

Jiangsu University hosts 4,061 African students, about 44.34 per cent of its international student body, and has signed high-level agreements with over 40 African universities under the Belt and Road Initiative.—Xinhua

Japan's births fall to record low of 350,000 in Jan-June

THE number of babies born in Japan, as well as to Japanese citizens residing overseas, fell 5.7 per cent in the January to June period from a year earlier to a record low of 350,074, government data showed Friday, as the number of marriages continues to decline amid shifting values.

The pace of decrease in births for the first half of 2024 accelerated from 3.6 per cent in the same period last year, preliminary data by the Ministry

If this trend persists, annual births (excluding foreigners) could fall below 700,000 for the first time.

of Health, Labour and Welfare showed. The total of 350,000 marked the lowest level for the January-June period since comparable data became available in 1969. The data include figures for foreigners residing in Japan.

If the declining trend continues, the number of births for the full year, excluding foreigners, could fall below 700,000 for the first time. — Kyodo



A mother and her child walk to nursery school in Osaka, Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**



A recent study published in Nature Cities reveals that coastal cities worldwide are falling short in adapting to climate change. **PHOTO: ISAAC LAWRENCE / AFP/FILE**

Coastal cities alarmingly slow to adapt to climate change: study

The research on 199 cities revealed flood measures often neglect broader climate issues like heatwaves.

ing 199 cities globally, the research reveals that many cities are only addressing immediate risks like sea level rise and flooding, neglecting broader climate change impacts such as heatwaves.

The study criticizes these short-term solutions for potentially locking cities into maladaptive paths and stresses the need for transformative changes in both infrastructure and institutional approaches. Positive examples include cities like Singapore and Hong Kong, but many coastal areas, especially lower-income ones in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, lack the technological and institutional resources needed for effective adaptation.—AFP

COASTAL cities are not doing enough to adapt to climate change, taking too long and implementing insufficient measures, according to a major study published this week.

A study published in "Nature Cities" highlights that adaptation efforts in coastal cities are inadequate, despite the implementation of flood barriers and pumping systems. Exam-