

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the fifth coordination meeting of the Central Census Commission yesterday.

Salient points from the speech delivered by Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the fifth coordination meeting of the Central Census Commission

1. A directive has been given that reports must be submitted to Nay Pyi Taw, region and state census supervisory committees to extend the enumeration period of the census because of security and transport conditions.
2. It is necessary to make the utmost effort to set a milestone in enumerating the population and household census for 2024 without international aid.
3. It is essential to take special care to prevent this census equipment from falling into the hands of unscrupulous individuals.

Census enumeration requires resources, workforce, goodwill and morale

Despite setting a 15-day timeframe for the census, a directive has been given that reports must be submitted to Nay Pyi Taw, region and state census supervisory committees to extend the enumeration period of the census due to security and transport conditions.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win stressed the need to make the utmost efforts to set a milestone in enumerating population and household census for 2024 without international aid.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is also in the capacity of Patron of the Central Census Commission, said so at the fifth coordination meeting of the commission to collect population and household census 2024 at the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

First, the Vice-Senior General recounted that State Admin-

istration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing had urged all the people to thoroughly reply to the questions and actively take part in the national census enumeration process, which can shape the future of the State and fulfil aspirations and requirements of the people.

Moreover, he added that the Senior General gave guidance to enumerate the census in appropriate areas under the prescription from 1 to 15 October and to deploy security personnel in the places where the census cannot be collected to gather correct data on the ground as much as possible.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

PAGE 6



Over 10,000 prizes from 55th Aungbarlay Lottery unclaimed

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



MRF distributing rice at reference prices

Article

Vocational Education: Reliable Tools for Job Seekers at Workplaces Abroad

By Aung Kyaw Thant

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL



Twenty-three (23) days remain until the National Census.



Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Dr Lei Lei Wai, Pro-Rector of Mandalay University of Foreign Languages of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, as Rector of Bhamo University on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Unity and Development Party, with its headquarters located at No 26, Seinpann Street, ACE Housing, Thakayta Township, Yangon Region, applied on 5 September 2024 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In such an application, the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

Union Election Commission



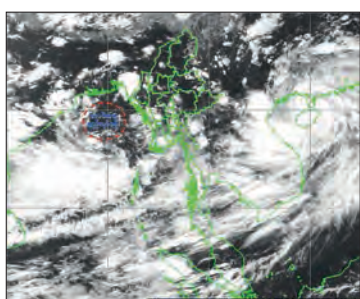
The flag of the Unity and Development Party



The emblem of the Unity and Development Party

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 6-9-2024



ACCORDING to the observations at (15:30) hrs MST today, the low-pressure area over the Central Bay of Bengal and ad-

joining North Bay of Bengal still persists.

It is likely to move gradually Northwards and may further intensify into a Well Marked Low-Pressure Area during next 24 hours and thereafter, into a Depression over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal-North Odisha Coasts, India and Bangladesh Coast on 9 September 2024. — DMH

International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies
အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သန့်ရှင်းသော လေထုနေ့

“Invest in #Clean Air Now”
“သန့်ရှင်းသောလေရရှိဖို့ ရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံမှုစတင်ဖို့”

7th September 2024

Beijing Buddhist delegation visits Chaukhtetkyee Pagoda, Theravada Missionary University



A commemorative group picture taken during the religious visit in Yangon.

MEMBERS of the Beijing Buddhist delegation, led by Lama Hu Xuefeng, Chairman of the Beijing Buddhist Association of the People's Republic of China, visited the Chaukhtetkyee Pagoda in Bahan Township and made a cash donation on the afternoon of 4 September.

Following this, the delegation visited the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, where Rector Dr Bhaddanta Hsekinda and other officials explained the subjects taught at the university and answered the delegation's questions.

On the morning of 5 Sep-

tember, the Chinese Buddhist delegation also visited the National Museum. They departed from Yangon International Airport on 6 September, with U Tin Oo, Chairman of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association, and other officials saw them off. — MNA/TRKM

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

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

FROM PAGE 1

As such, he continued that it is necessary to complete the enumeration of the census before December 2024.

The Vice-Senior General explained that the project of census enumeration be implemented in detailed plans in 36 months starting from 1 October 2021.

He noted that equipment to be used in the census process must be issued to auditors and enumerators in time without loss and damage, and it is essential to take special care to prevent this census equipment from falling into the hands of unscrupulous individuals.

The Ministry of Immigration and Population was urged

Census enumeration requires resources, workforce, goodwill and morale

to make preparations to solve technological and subjective-wise problems of auditors and enumerators in the census enumeration process.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that correct and accurate results of the census process will contribute to the successful holding of a general election, which is the ultimate mission of the State Administration Council.

He emphasized that the supervision and census-taken process courses are being con-

ducted at region/state and Nay Pyi Taw census supervisory committees and district and township levels. Upon completion of the training, the census will be enumerated on a set date across the nation.

He underscored that most of the preparatory tasks were carried out by the Ministry of Immigration and Population, but follow-up tasks must be undertaken by relevant ministries, state and regional officials and departmental personnel as well as social organizations and

people.

Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing reported on the implementation of the minutes of the previous meeting, the progress of preparations, distribution of necessary accessories to regions and states and Nay Pyi Taw, collection of test census, recruitment of auditors and enumerators, conducting of the trainer course and public awareness for the census process.

The Secretary-1 of the commission, deputy ministers,

and chairpersons of the state and region census supervisory committees presented reports on the process of successfully gathering the census data and the cooperation of ministries.

The Vice-Senior General coordinated all measures discussed by attendees.

The meeting was also attended by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, deputy ministers and officials together with region and state chief ministers through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar-India holds Electricity Sector Steering Committee meeting

ACCORDING to the Memorandum of Understanding on Electricity Sector Cooperation signed between Myanmar and India, the fifth Myanmar-India Electricity Sector Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting was held at the Ministry of Electric Power in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw of the Ministry of Electric Power, Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Deputy Minister of

Electricity, India and officials, members of the joint steering committee from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Science and Technology and relevant high-ranking officials were present at the meeting.

In the meeting, they coordinated and discussed issues of cooperation in the electricity sector. — MNA/TS



The fifth Myanmar-India Electricity Sector Steering Committee meeting is in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe shakes hands with Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur during the latter's courtesy call yesterday.

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the strengthening of the traditional friendly ties between the two countries and the furtherance of bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, including the ongoing connectivity projects and regional and international matters of common interest. — MNA

NATIONAL

MoRAC Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador



Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur calls on Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin received Mr Abhay Thakur, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They discussed enhancing cooperation in religious and cultural sectors based on the long-standing friendship between the two countries. They agreed to strengthen collaboration in areas such as the exchange of scholars, with plans to annually send two postgraduate students from Myanmar's Department of Archaeology and National Museum to study a diploma course at the Field School of Archaeology run by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Additionally, two

students will be accepted annually into a master's programme in museum studies. In the field of Information Technology (IT) and Computer Science, two students from the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) will be selected each year to pursue a master's degree in India.

They also discussed the ongoing restoration work on the Bagan pagodas by the ASI, with a goal to complete the project by 2028 as initially planned. Furthermore, both sides shared open views on promoting pilgrimage tours, including the famous Bodh Gaya pilgrimage, to enhance religious and cultural ties further. — MNA/KZL

CBM delegation attends APJG Meeting in Hong Kong

THE Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG) held a crucial face-to-face meeting in Hong Kong, focusing on the progress of member countries, including Myanmar, in anti-money laundering (AML) and the financing of terrorism (CTF) from 3 to 5 September 2024.

Myanmar's delegation, led by Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe, participated in these discussions to assess and enhance the country's AML/CTF strategies. The meeting included representatives from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG). Key agenda items included reviewing Myanmar's progress reports and evaluating the implementation of international AML/CTF standards.

The APJG provided detailed feedback on Myanmar's achievements and areas needing improvement. Myanmar is expected to revise its anti-terrorism laws by the end of September

2024, specifically Articles 6(d) and 53 of the anti-terrorism legislation, based on APJG recommendations. Discussions highlighted the need for improved measures to address high-risk areas and illegal money transfers. The APJG emphasized the importance of stricter enforcement of legal frameworks to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.

The meeting underscored the need for Myanmar to enhance its capacity to implement and monitor AML/CTF measures effectively. Recommendations included strengthening cooperation with international financial institutions and regulatory bodies better to address money laundering risks and illegal financial activities. Overall, the meeting reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to aligning its financial regulatory practices with international standards and improving its response to money laundering and terrorism financing threats. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar delegation joins Malaysia Real Estate Conference

A delegation from the Myanmar Real Estate Services Association (MRESA) yesterday departed from Yangon International Airport to attend the International Real Estate Conference 2024, scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 6 to 8 September. The delegation includes 23 executive representatives led by U Khin Maung Than, Chairman of MRESA.

MRESA Chair U Khin Maung Than noted that the conference is organized by MIEA in Malaysia, with primary responsibilities handled by the American National Association, which has 1,700 members. The event will feature contributions from ASEAN countries, including Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Cambodia, focusing on sharing technological advancements and professional skills.

MRESA's participation follows their recent engagement at the Asia-Pacific Real Estate Convention and FIA-

BCI-Thai networking event, held at the Amari Hotel in Bangkok from 30 to 31 August 2024. — Arkar Lin/KZL



Myanmar's realty delegates are seen before leaving for Malaysia.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

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

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

NATIONAL

SEVERAL bird species that are not found elsewhere in Asia have been identified as local species at Myanmar's Kyetmauktaung Dam, making them a symbol of biodiversity conservation. These nine bird species are proudly thriving in the region.

Kyaukpadaung Township in Mandalay Region is home to the Kyetmauktaung Dam, which was built to close Taungzin Creek and Kyaukpon Creek, flowing south to Popa Mountain. The Kyetmauktaung and Popa Mountain forest reserves were initially established to protect the dam. In 1993, the Mount Popa National Geopark was opened and later expanded.

The forest birds that visit the Mount Popa National Geopark and the waterfowl that frequent Kyetmauktaung Dam contribute to the region's biodiversity. Birdwatchers, including those from Inlay Lake, come to observe the nine local

Rare bird species thriving around Kyetmauktaung Dam



PHOTO:THE MOUNT POPA NATIONAL GEOPARK.



bird species. The Mount Popa National Geopark's Environment Wildlife Conservation Department has identified and recorded these nine species, which have not yet been found in other parts of Asia or ASEAN countries.

The Kyetmauktaung Dam and the Mount Popa National Geopark host 30 fully protected bird species, 49 commonly protected species, and 18 seasonally protected species.

In total, 2,568 individuals from 98 species — comprising 16 species of waterfowl and 82 species of forest birds — are conserved and protected. Each year, wintering birds and endangered waterfowl also visit the area.

Notably, the region is home to forest birds that are not yet found in Asia or ASEAN countries, such as the white-throated babbler, hooded Troepic, Burmese bushlark, Jodern's minivet, Burmese prinia, Burmese collared dove, white-browed bluebird, Burmese tit, and Irrawaddy bulbul. These species are a point of pride for the region and the conservation of biodiversity ecosystems.

Bird species living in the Kyetmauktaung Dam are listed and recorded annually. In the 2023-2024 financial year, 98 bird species were documented, including nine species unique to the region. Efforts are ongoing to preserve and protect these rare wintering birds. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/TKO

Myanmar Ambassador attends Global Saemaul Leadership Forum & Senior Officials' Meeting 2024



Senior officials pose for the group documentary photo at the Global Saemaul Leadership Forum and Global Saemaul Undong Senior Officials' Meeting 2024.

MYANMAR Ambassador U Thant Sin to the Republic of Korea gave a remark at the Global Saemaul Leadership Forum and Global Saemaul Undong Senior Officials' Meeting 2024 at Doubletree by Hilton Seoul Pangyo in Seoul on 4 September.

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) helped establish 110 model villages to implement new community or new village campaigns between 2014 and

January 2020. As we witnessed the enhancement of the community cohesion and livelihood of villagers, Myanmar extended the project to 224 villages in 15 regions and states as part of Myanmar Saemaul Undong's campaign under the State's fund, the ambassador stated.

He also expressed his appreciation to KOICA and Saemaul Undong Centre for introducing new village projects and for their commitment to

fostering community-driven growth and strengthening cooperation between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea.

The Ministry of Interior and Safety and Samaeul Undong Centre jointly organized the event. Under the support of KOICA, representatives from 29 countries implementing model village projects, ambassadors, KOICA officials, senior officials and professors attended the forum and meeting. — ASH/KK



Some paintings from the exhibition are seen in the catalogue of 'Five Points'.

Sar Ga Gallery hosts 'Five Points' group art exhibition

ACCORDING to artist Ni Po U, the 'Five Points' group art exhibition will be held at the Sar Ga Art Gallery in Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, from 7 to 11 September.

"We named this exhibition 'Five Points' because five artists are participating. We warmly welcome art lovers to enjoy the diverse and colourful paintings on display," said artist Ni Po U.

The exhibition will feature a variety of paintings by artists Ni Po U, Aung Kyaw, Aung Myat, Min Htet Naing, and Soe Aung. — ASH/TRKM

Advertise
with us/ Hotline:

09 251022355,
09 255597511

NATIONAL

Over 2,000 local, international visitors flock to Kyaiktiyo in Aug



This photo shows pilgrims visiting the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

ACCORDING to Chairman U Soe Hla of the pagoda board of trustees, over 2,000 pilgrims from both domestic and foreign locations visited the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, in August.

Pilgrims from across the country have been coming daily to pay homage to the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda since November, with approximately 20 buses providing transport up and down the hill. Additionally, lodges, guesthouses, public rest houses, and hotels are available to accommodate the pilgrims.

“We received 1,700 local pilgrims and 300 foreigners in August. Most of the overseas tourists are from Thailand. The Kyaiktiyo Pogo-

da Festival begins on the full moon of Thadingyut. Although the festival period ends on the full moon of Kason, pilgrims continue to visit and pay homage,” said U Soe Hla.

During the seven months from October 2023 to May 2024, over 720,000 pilgrims from across the country attended the Buddha Pujaniya Festival at Kyaiktiyo Pagoda. Visitors from Thailand and Vietnam make up the majority of the overseas travellers.

The Buddha Pujaniya Festival at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda is held annually from the full moon of Thadingyut to the full moon of Kason. At the same time, the pagoda remains open to the public throughout the year. — ASH/MKKS

MoL Union Minister directs 25% of workers’ remittances via official channels

UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Naung has directed that Myanmar workers going to Thailand must send at least 25 per cent of their remittances to their families through official channels.

This directive was given during a visit to VDM Co Ltd, a licensed agency in Hlinethaya (West) Township, Yangon, on 5 September. During the visit, the Union Minister also observed pre-departure training for workers, focusing on Thai laws, customs, and workplace regulations, as well as do’s and don’ts in the workplace.

The Ministry of Labour has

mandated that workers abroad must transfer at least 25 per cent of their monthly salary to their families in Myanmar through the official banking system, a Remittance Business License (RBL) holder, or international money transfer services linked to banks. This can be done either once a month or once every three months, with at least 25 per cent of the total earnings sent back each quarter.

This requirement is enforced under Section 31 (b) of the Overseas Employment Law, with Order No 108/2024 issued on 28 August. — TWA/KZL

Over 10,000 prizes from 55th Aungbarlay Lottery unclaimed



This photo shows the 55th Aungbarlay Lottery opening event. PHOTO: MRTV

THE Aungbarlay Lottery Directorate of the Internal Revenue Department has announced that over 10,000 lot-

tery prizes remain unclaimed from the 55th Aungbarlay Lottery.

At the lottery draw on 1 Oc-

tober 2023, more than 110,000 awards were distributed for the K1,000 Aungbarlay ticket. However, over 10,000 prizes are still awaiting collection. These include one K50 million prize, two K20 million prizes, one K10 million prize, six K5 million prizes, three K2 million prizes, and other awards totalling over 10,000 prizes.

Winning lottery tickets can be submitted to the Aungbarlay Lottery branches in Yangon and Mandalay before 30 September 2024 to claim cash awards. Any prizes not claimed by this date will be forfeited to State finances. — TWA/TKO

Banks offer high interest rates to attract fixed deposit accounts

SOME domestic banks have announced to customers that they should open fixed deposit saving accounts to enjoy the highest interest rate.

G Bank offers a 13 per cent interest rate per annum for a 15-month term fixed deposit saving account starting from 9 September 2024, with K100,000 starting deposit or transfer from clearing cheque, other bank transfer (CBM Net) and other G Bank accounts. When

the user wants to withdraw before the maturity date, they will receive an interest rate depending on the term and balance of the accumulated savings, it was announced on 6 September.

New interest rates were changed on 1 September 2024 for savings, high-speed savings and premium savings, in which users put deposits within the first five days of every month. The new interest rate is 10 per

cent per annum for savings with K10,000 minimum deposits. G Bank notified customers that the interest is calculated regularly on the balance once a month.

The Central Bank of Myanmar amended the CBM interest rate, interest on savings paid by the banks and interest rate on loans up to 8-12.5 per cent per annum in a bid to reduce inflation and let private banks offer more loans. — TWA/KK



Union Minister U Myint Naung (4R) is pictured visiting VDM Co Ltd and inspecting Myanmar workers set to work in Thailand.

MRF distributing rice at reference prices

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) announced on 5 September that it has been distributing rice at the set reference prices.

Rice mills, shops, depots, mini marts and supermarkets across the country, including Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, offer rice sales at reference prices.

Additionally, MRF distributes rice under the Good Rice and Good Price programme with five to ten-kilogramme bags to factory employees, government personnel and staff of institutions concerned through retail shops in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine. Consumers can buy rice at reference prices under that programme.

Furthermore, MRF provides door-to-door service to house-

holds in the designated townships in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay, with a cash-on-delivery payment system.

When consumers have difficulty buying them or want to complain about overpricing, they are asked to dial the contact numbers of MRF: 09 400067240, 09 400067250, 09 400067260 and 01 21826668.

The reference prices are set for non-premium rice such as Aemahta, Ngasein, Sinthukha, Yadanatone, Tunpu, Shweman, Hnankauk, Ziyar, Ngwetoe, Min Ayeya, Manawthukha, moderate quality rice such as 90-day short matured rice, Pakan, Anyatha, Magyantaw, Ayamin, Ayeya Padaytha, and premium rice varieties like Kyapyan, Pawkywe, Ayeyawady Pawsan and Shwebo



Consumers purchasing various rice varieties at reference prices in Yangon.

Pawsan.

The Ministry of Commerce stated that there is no right for retailers to set more than eight per cent higher than the set reference prices. The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors: fair

profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other commodities prices.

Consequently, MRF encouraged the affiliated associations, members of commodity depots,

traders and rice companies to follow the price and abide by rules and regulations. Those failing to do so will be subjected to legal proceedings, fines and tax imposition under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. — NN/KK

CBM sells US\$12.49M in two days

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$12.4 million on 4 September and \$90,000 on 5 September, totalling \$12.49 million in two days.

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 an exchange rate of K3,410 on 19 August, \$31 million at an exchange rate of K3,440 on 22 August, over \$35 million at an exchange rate of K3,460 on 26 August and \$16.9 million at an 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 Thai baht into the edible oil, fuel oil and pharmaceutical sectors through online foreign exchange trading platforms in the coming weeks.

CBM sold \$5 million and five million yuan for the fuel oil, edible oil and pharmaceutical sectors on 2 August, after selling 69 million baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil,



Facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

fertilizer, pharmaceuticals and medical devices on 1 August.

Therefore, CBM injected over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

This move is to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According 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

No 1 Mining Enterprise calls for bid to sell cathode copper

NO 1 Mining Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invited open tender to sell cathode copper with Kyat payment, according to the tender committee of the Enterprise.

The invitation for open tender is to sell 100 metric tonnes of cathode copper (6 Lots) to import-substituting domestic manufacturing businesses.

A company which can offer premium prices will be announced as the tender winner depending on the cost of the London Metal Exchange LME.

Cathode copper can be claimed in Yangon. Tender winners must bear transportation and loading and unloading costs from the mining site to Yangon.

The tender form will be sold between 5 and 18 September 2024. Submission of tenders will be closed at 1 pm on 19 September 2024, and tenders will be opened at 3 pm that day.

Individuals can enquire about tender forms at Office 19, Nay Pyi Taw, through the contact number of the procurement division of No 1 Mining Enterprise: 067 3409162. — NN/KK

Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Advertise with us / Hotline

09 454237515
09 255597511



OPINION

Invest in clean air activities for society

AIR pollution poses significant health risks by releasing invisible particles that penetrate deep into the lungs, bloodstream, and body tissues of living beings, including humans. These microscopic pollutants are linked to severe health conditions, including respiratory diseases, heart attacks, strokes, and lung cancer. In fact, air pollution is responsible for approximately one-third of deaths from strokes, chronic respiratory diseases, and lung cancer, as well as one-quarter of heart attack-related deaths.

The primary concern lies in delicate particulate matter, often referred to as PM2.5, which is made up of tiny particles with diameters of 2.5 micrometres or less. Due to their small size, these particles can bypass the body's natural protection and enter the respiratory system, eventually infiltrating the bloodstream. Long-term exposure to these particles significantly increases the risk of developing chronic illnesses and can even lead to premature death.

Hence, all human societies of human regardless of country and national, have to strive to reduce all movements to decline various kinds of environmental pollution while making efforts to improve air quality in order to contribute to the health of all humans breathing clean air with the content of oxygen and other essential gases for human lives. As such, all humans have to pour out their endeavours of man, material and monetary investments in the improvement of blue sky to produce clean air for all.

Ground-level ozone is another critical pollutant contributing to serious health issues. It is formed when various contaminants, such as nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, react with sunlight. This chemical reaction creates ozone at the earth's surface, which can cause irritation in the lungs and airways, leading to conditions like asthma and chronic respiratory illnesses.

Ground-level ozone is especially harmful during high-temperature periods when sunlight is more intense and pollution levels are elevated. People living in urban areas with heavy traffic and industrial activities are particularly vulnerable to ozone exposure. People living with asthma are among the most affected by air pollution, with pollutants often acting as triggers for asthma attacks.

On 26 November 2019, the Second Committee of the 74th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 7 September as the "International Day of Clean Air for blue skies". The resolution stresses the importance of raising public awareness at all levels and promoting and facilitating actions to improve air quality. From then onward, all global countries commemorate the day with emphasis placed on cleaning the blue sky as well as reducing all actions to affect the degradation of the blue sky.

Hence, all human societies of human regardless of country and national, have to strive to reduce all movements to decline various kinds of environmental pollution while making efforts to improve air quality in order to contribute to the health of all humans breathing clean air with the content of oxygen and other essential gases for human lives. As such, all humans have to pour out their endeavours of man, material and monetary investments in the improvement of blue sky to produce clean air for all.

NOWADAYS, many people in various countries are facing the negative impacts of financial crises, with businesses experiencing high inflation rates. Young people are especially eager to earn increased incomes for their families so that they can enjoy a better socioeconomic life. Most people at a young age are competitively seeking employment at home, but they face challenges of qualification and conformity with different types of businesses. In Myanmar, youths, most of whom have been conferred graduates in addition to certificates of language tests, are trying to have employment opportunities. People of working age are encountering a shortage of employment as businesses suspend operations and dissolve their operational functions. As such, those youths head to go abroad to seek employment opportunities.

Difficulties in seeking employment

As a result, the few available job vacancies have become a competitive field for job seekers. At present, an unprecedented ratio of job seekers to job

often face arrests by law enforcement and immigration squads in the relevant countries, and these youths experience legal action without securing employment. As a result, they spend their young age in detention centres in these countries for many years.

The legal process for job vacancies

When they wish to follow the legal processes of government departments and official employment agencies, they must present relevant certificates, such as those earned from vocational courses and designated degrees as occupational qualifications. Furthermore, these youths need to submit certificates demonstrating success in educational qualifications related to the languages of the target countries.

In addition, they need to sign agreements in line with the instructions and directives issued by the government. For example, these candidates must remit a percentage of their salaries to their families in Myanmar and submit remittance receipts to the relevant departments. Moreover, they must have

Currently, due to various reasons, including political changes and regional situations, businesses, both small and large, cannot operate at full capacity. As a consequence, employment opportunities are scarce across the nation. Therefore, youths seek ways to go to neighbouring countries.

Qualification in workplaces

In this context, those with higher educational qualifications and work experience can secure employment opportunities more easily. To do so, youths must acquire vocational skills. They should attend vocational courses in subjects such as operating small- and medium-scale enterprises. If not, they must earn degrees and diplomas in technological and engineering skills. Moreover, some candidates need degrees related to economics and other fields. If so, they will be able to secure jobs with high salaries.

However, most youths going abroad do not have higher educational qualifications and proper work experience, so they cannot earn the salaries they

Hardship for those with less vocational skills

If someone is weak in basic education as well as vocational experience, they will face underestimation by employers and discrimination by coworkers in foreign workplaces. In this case, somebody may abscond from their workplace due to a lack of capacity against unintentional or intentional pressures from coworkers and employers, in addition to depression based on their unsuccessful activities. Consequently, they seem to be suffering labour exploitation, lower salaries, and other unexpected difficulties in their workplaces. As a result, they will carry a heavy burden of hardships and depression during their stay abroad. Furthermore, they may become victims of human traffickers if they try to escape from the workplaces without considering the various conditions of the second countries due to the hardships they endure.

Generally, youths who have a clear vision of going abroad for jobs must join vocational courses. These vocational



A file photo of GNL from 18 April 2020 shows that youths are joining vocational training.

Vocational Education: Reliable Tools for Job Seekers at Workplaces Abroad

By Aung Kyaw Thant

vacancies can be seen in many businesses in Myanmar. Generally, unemployed individuals have to apply for any type of employment, as they do not have the option to refuse even lower salaries. In fact, job seekers need vocational skills and relevant certificates recognized as evidence of successfully completing vocational courses. If so, those job seekers holding the necessary certificates, degrees and diplomas will find it easier to secure jobs as expected.

Currently, a large number of youths are going abroad to seek jobs, aiming to earn income in foreign currencies, which can dramatically improve their families' status. They seek the best ways how to go abroad with the help of both legal and illegal employment agencies. If so, they need to follow departmental procedures to officially send them to foreign countries, depending on the job offers sent by relevant foreign companies. Moreover, job seekers need to apply for employment through government departments and relevant agencies.

However, they see these procedures as a waste of time and money. Therefore, they rely on illegal employment agencies to go abroad through illicit routes. Unfortunately, most of them



A digital art illustrates the nature of happy coworkers in teamwork at a workplace. PHOTO FREEPIK

clear immigration and customs records. They must pass other processes patiently. Upon completion, they will be sent to target countries legally. With recommendations and endorsements from the Myanmar government, these overseas workers do not need to worry about anything, and they will have self-confidence in their employment.

Some of them go abroad to work in any available job just to earn a small amount of money. Some youths may not have higher educational qualifications, but if they have completed vocational and language courses at home, they can expect to win job vacancies with deserved salaries.

courses provide the necessary skills, knowledge, and techniques to help them join relevant workplaces. Notably, this vocational education training equips job seekers with self-confidence in addition to skills and creativity at different levels so as to stand tall among other job seekers. These skills and knowledge are part of occupational education, which is a reliable tool for navigating labour market demands both at home and abroad.

For example, many skilled workers upgraded their abilities as masons, carpenters, and mechanics from the role of helpers. Even if they work on relevant projects operated by Myanmar businesspeople at home, their livelihoods may be smooth and convenient. However, due to missed opportunities to learn and study these fields, they may lack systematic knowledge and skills in the relevant subjects and topics. Consequently, they may face difficulties obtaining recognition from employers for their skills and expertise in the workplace. If this is the case, it will not be easy for them to earn deserved incomes and salaries abroad.

Opportunities to join technological and vocational education courses

at home

In Myanmar, relevant government departments and private businesses conduct vocational education courses on a variety of subjects. Some of these courses require payment, but most are free of charge. Additionally, training courses on technology and vocational techniques are categorized in the country for those who have passed primary school education, middle school education, and undergraduate diploma courses for basic education high school or matriculation examination passers.

Moreover, the government conducts training courses without restrictions based on education, gender, or age, aiming to enhance the capacity of trainees. On the other hand, private organizations and businesses offer a variety of technological and vocational education courses. Hence, those who are weak in school education should attend the aforesaid technological and vocational education courses first and then seek ways to join workplaces at home and abroad. If so, they will have occupational safety and earn deserved salaries.

Without prioritizing vocational ed-

ucation, job seekers who go abroad on illegal routes will never be qualified for technologies and knowledge related to workplaces. So, they will always evade inspection by relevant officials in other countries and work under challenging conditions. Subsequently, they will become illegal migrant workers abroad, and their future will become dim.

The important role of vocational education

As Myanmar is an underdeveloped country, it is striving to upgrade itself to a developing country status. Although the country has experienced the negative consequences of armed conflicts for many years, now is the time for Myanmar to initiate improvements in all sectors. Therefore, the whole country needs technicians and technologists to modernize the nation. At the same time, a large number of youths are eager to go abroad to seek better job opportunities. As a result, many young technicians and technologists are leaving the country for various reasons.

Like other countries, Myanmar needs technicians and technologists to operate businesses and industries for the manufacturing process. Therefore, private entrepreneurs need to offer incentives to young technicians by providing salaries that are competitive with those in other countries. If so, these businesses can deter the brain drain of youths from Myanmar to other countries. If they can create job opportunities, young people will not go abroad.

Contributions to families and

the State

By remitting a portion of their salaries to their families in accordance with the directives of relevant departments of the government, Myanmar citizen overseas workers contribute to their families as well as to the economic development of their motherland. Moreover, the receipts of these remittances will be useful for going abroad again for work. The relevant department stated that Myanmar migrant workers abroad have sent back salaries totalling more than US\$6 billion from 2014 to July 2022. This highlights the important role of Myanmar migrant workers in the country's nation-building efforts.

Workers can uplift their capacity by studying and learning relevant techniques and knowledge. They can build themselves up. They have a chance to improve their skills and knowledge by attending vocational education training as much as possible. If they have equipped themselves with the necessary tools, they will be happy in the workplace. Otherwise, they will face unexpected hardships and suffer from depression without fail.

Therefore, government organizations and departments need to emphasize conducting vocational education training for youths who wish to go abroad to become skilled workers in technology and vocational fields. These skills and knowledge can change the lives of job seekers one day. On the other hand, those wishing to seek jobs need first to join vocational courses to enhance their capacity for application in workplaces abroad.

NATIONAL



A social media post selling a car worth less than K 100 mln on Thakayta brokers' page on 6 September.

K100M worth of car sales surge with normal market operations

IN the car market, there are more sales of K100 million worth of vehicles, and they operate as usual, according to market sources.

Cars worth between K50 million and K100 million sell better, and business operations are normal in Yangon and Mandalay markets.

"The current situation in the car market is normal in big cities like Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. Neither high nor low sales. It's normal. It became normal starting one and a half months ago. Since July, the car market has not been included in very hot sectors, and it hasn't gone up too high or down too low. Some cars' prices fell, and some increased," said U Kyaw Swa Tun Myint, secretary general of the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturing and Distribution Association.

Since mid-May, sales have been a little more active every year, with fluctuating prices rising by 10 per cent. But, in July and August, there are no fluctuations, and sales are average, he said.

"The main reason why the prices of cars go up is that if new cars are bought directly with foreign exchange, there is a small percentage rise due to changes in the rate. For SKB, which is sold in foreign currency, the price goes up a little. There are some cars whose prices don't go up. The percentage of cars that went up was about 10 per cent. After that, it showed a slight increase in June and became normal in recent two months," he said.

There is no possibility of an extraordinary price change if trading is at the current usually fair price, he said. — MT/ZN

Counter-argument to false information

Khit Thit spreads false news on power abuse by Thayawady Prison staff

ON 30 August, Khit Thit, a subversive media outlet, fabricated false news on Facebook to mislead the public. The false claims alleged that employees, including the prison superintendent, were abusing their power by collecting money and engaging in business activities at Thayawady Central Prison.

According to an investigation into the incident, the officer in charge of Thayawady Central Prison manages the prison's security, administration, discipline, food, health, religion, and welfare issues in accordance with existing laws. Violations of prison rules are addressed according to administrative procedures outlined in the Prison Act, Prison Manual Law, and relevant orders and directives.

The officer responsible for gate inspections at Thayawady Central Prison ensures that no prohibited items are allowed to enter or exit the prison. Additionally, there is no betel shop operating for prisoners within the prison. When inmates or their family members make cash deposits for them, the deputy officer in charge verifies and accepts these deposits, records them in the deposit register, and deposits the funds into the Myanma Commercial Bank. In purchasing items for prisoners, the purchasing team must conduct a price check first before buying them at shops that offer affordable prices. The deputy supervisor attended a training in Nay Pyi Taw from 22 April to 12 July 2024 and was only assigned to the sub-camp on 13 July. Therefore, it is incorrect to claim, as Khit Thit has, that he collected money from prisoners in May 2024.

The keys used for security in the dormitories and apartments at Thayawady Central Prison have been damaged due to frequent use. When such damage occurs, the relevant dormitories report it to the officer in charge, who then informs the supply section to replace the keys. Locks are purchased with departmental funds, and inmates are not asked to buy or collect money for them. Therefore, Khit Thit's subversive media is circulating false information, creating misunderstandings between the public and the prison authorities. — Moe Moe/TKO

Variety of illegal goods seized in multiple raids



Confiscated illegal item.

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

On 4 and 5 September, the combined on-duty teams nabbed two unregistered motorbikes (approximately K600,000) in Thayet township, a consumer goods worth K93,481,500 without official documents from four containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, three kinds of industrial materials valued at K256,991,089 that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) from six containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port and an industrial materials worth K140,815,080 without official documents from luggage at

the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and Customs procedures.

Additionally, on 5 September, the combined teams captured an unregistered motorbike (approximately K1.5 million) in Pynmana township and a Chenlong tractor head with a trailer (approximately K70 million), heading to Yangon from Mandalay, carrying four kinds of industrial materials valued at K7,197,500 without official documents on the outskirts checkpoint in Phayagyi. The action was conducted in line with Customs procedures.

On the same day, the combined on-duty teams impounded a Toyota Hilux (approximately K17 million) carrying two kinds of consumer goods and two kinds of industrial materials worth K6 million without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint, three Nissan Condor trucks (approximately K105 million) carrying a foodstuff valued at K62.45 million without official documents on the Yan-

gon-Mandalay expressway and a Toyota ToyoAce truck (estimated value of K35 million) carrying a foodstuff worth K18.9 million without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay). The action was carried out according to Customs procedure and the Export and Import Law.

Moreover, the combined teams conducted inspections resulting in the seizure of illegal teak weighing 2.149 tonnes worth K1,891,648 in Hlegu township and a Toyota Probox (estimated value of K30 million), heading to Mongton from Tachilek, carrying a foodstuff valued at K2.88 million without official documents in Mongton township. The action was conducted in line with Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

On 4 and 5 September, a total of 27 cases were recorded, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods valued at approximately K849.706 million, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Sculpting the future: Youth-led revival of gourd carving

Gourd carving in Lanzhou, a tradition with origins tracing back to the Wei and Jin dynasties.

UNDER the soft glow of a lamp, 37-year-old Ruan Xiyue meticulously wields her carving knife, etching a child's face onto an egg gourd with masterful precision.

With each stroke, the artisan clears away the shavings, ensuring that every detail is a faithful rendition of her initial sketch.

Carving is a particularly esteemed art in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, where the technique has flourished for over a millennium.

Favouring the tender, thin-skinned egg gourds native to the region, the art form demands such finesse that the slightest misstep can mar the entire piece. Born in 1987, Ruan has spent over a decade perfecting her craft, a legacy passed down through four generations of her family, spanning more than 80



Ruan Xiyue, an artisan of Lanzhou gourd carving, carves a gourd at a studio in Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu Province, 11 May 2024. PHOTO: MA SHA/XINHUA

years. The years of dedicated carving have toughened her right hand, making it larger and rougher than her left — a testament to her commitment to the art.

The roots of Lanzhou's gourd carving stretch back to the Wei and Jin dynasties (220-420), with gourds serving as vessels for wine along the ancient Silk Road. Over time, the simple act of painting evolved into the intricate craft of engraving and painting, becoming a livelihood for artisans during the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911).

Micro-carving on small, egg-sized gourds exemplifies Lanzhou's gourd carving expertise. Ruan Lin, favoring simpler designs over ancestral complexity, integrates traditional techniques into daily life to make art accessible. — Xinhua

Elton John reveals partial blindness due to severe eye infection

ELTON John has disclosed that he is grappling with partial blindness as a result of a severe eye infection, describing the recovery as “an extremely slow process”.

In a heartfelt update shared via Instagram, the Grammy award-winning musician detailed his ongoing health battle.

John, who has been largely out of the public eye during the summer, explained that the infection, which began earlier this year, has significantly impacted his vision. “Over the summer, I've been dealing with a severe eye infection that has unfortunately left me with only limited vision in one eye,” he stated. He

further expressed that although he is in the process of healing, “it will take some time before sight returns to the impacted eye.”

In his message, John conveyed deep gratitude to the healthcare professionals and his family for their unwavering support during his recovery. “I am so grateful for the excellent team of doctors and nurses and my family, who have taken such good care of me over the last several weeks,” he wrote.

John has been recuperating quietly at home and remains optimistic about his recovery.

“I'm feeling positive about the progress I have made in my healing and recovery thus far,” he added.

The news prompted a wave of supportive messages from fellow celebrities and friends.

Fashion icon Donatella Versace expressed her sentiments, saying, “Sending you so much love Elton! Feel better soon. Love you.” — ANI



Elton John has shared that he is dealing with partial blindness due to a severe eye infection, describing the recovery as slow and ongoing. PHOTO: ANI

Sydney Sweeney excited for Cassie's return

SYDNEY Sweeney has shared her excitement about returning to HBO's hit series 'Euphoria', where she will once again portray the tumultuous character Cassie Howard. In a recent interview with People magazine, Sweeney conveyed her eagerness to delve back into the complex role, noting, “I'm very excited to jump back into Cassie. She is definitely one of the most special characters for me and I love my Euphoria family, so I look forward to it.” Despite her enthusiasm, Sweeney admitted she is in the dark about the specifics of the highly anticipated third season.

“Honestly, I don't know anything about it,” she said.

However, she expressed her fondness for exploring the more intense aspects of her character, adding, “I love crazy Cassie, so the crazier, the better for me,” according to People magazine.

Sweeney also reflected on the time elapsed since filming wrapped on the second season, emphasizing the new challenges



Reflecting on the challenges of the time gap since Season 2, Sweeney is thrilled to dive back into the character's intense and complex aspects, and she looks forward to reuniting with her co-stars. PHOTO: ANI

of returning after a substantial hiatus.

“We did have a long time between season one and season two, but especially now with the time jump, it's a new process for me,” she noted during the interview with People magazine, adding, “I'm kind of just learning as I go and being open for whatever's to come. But I'm also really excited. I love Cassie.” — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD



This aerial photo taken on 5 June 2023 shows the Chinese-funded third ring road in Kandal province, Cambodia. **PHOTO: LY LAY/XINHUA/FILE**

Cambodia plans over US\$200 mln to complete border ring road in 10 years

Prime Minister Hun Manet launched the Border Infrastructure Development Fund (BIDF) on 26 August to raise additional funds for the project.

CAMBODIA has planned a budget of more than US\$200 million to complete the construction of a border ring road within 10 years, the country's Prime Minister Hun Manet said here on Thursday.

The Southeast Asian country shares borders with Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

"So far, we have constructed a border ring road in the length of around 1,300 kilometres, or about 50 per cent

of the total length," he said in a speech during the graduation ceremony of lawyers at the Bar Association of Cambodia.

"We have planned to complete the construction of the remaining section within 10 years at the cost of more than \$200 million," he added.

Hun Manet launched on 26 August the Border Infrastructure Development Fund (BIDF), aimed at raising additional funds to enhance infra-

structure along the country's borders, with a prioritized focus on the construction of the border ring road.

He said to date, almost 400,000 people have donated money to the BIDF, and that the fundraising is still going on.

"I would like to express my profound gratitude to our compatriots inside and outside the country for giving strong support to this foundation," he said. — Xinhua

Greek economy on rebound but many still struggling

GREEK barista Kyriakos Giannichronis, despite being part of a nation with a recovering economy, struggles financially. Athens residents like him face rising costs of living, which overshadow the benefits of Greece's economic growth, currently at two per cent. This growth comes after a prolonged recession and pandemic-related downturn, but

is insufficient to significantly improve living standards due to a low starting point.

Economist Nikos Vettas explains that while Greece's economy is improving, the rise in wages is often negated by inflation, particularly in housing and food costs. This discrepancy means real incomes for many Greeks remain strained. Prime Minister

Kyriakos Mitsotakis is anticipated to announce new benefits to address these issues in his upcoming keynote speech, as his New Democracy party's popularity wanes amid rising living costs and a current polling drop.

Despite some progress, Greece remains economically challenged compared to other EU countries. — AFP

Japan's real wages rise 0.4% in July, up for 2nd month on bonuses

JAPAN'S real wages in July edged up 0.4 per cent from a year earlier, rising for the second consecutive month, boosted by pay hikes and summer bonuses, government data showed Thursday.

Nominal wages, the average total monthly cash earnings per worker including base and overtime pay, increased 3.6 per cent to 403,490 yen (\$2,800), up for the 31st straight month, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said.

The rise in real, inflation-adjusted, wages followed a 1.1 per cent increase in June, the first gain in 27 months, also boosted by summer bonuses.

Special cash earnings, largely reflecting bonuses, climbed 6.2 per cent to 118,807 yen in July, while overtime and other allowances were down 0.1 per cent at 19,590 yen, according to the data.

The ministry attributed the continued rise in real wages to

more companies paying bonuses compared with a year earlier. But the margin of increase was smaller as more companies paid bonuses in June than July, a ministry official said.

The official said real wage growth could start to decline again in August or later, outpaced by inflation.

Excluding bonuses and non-scheduled payments, average wages increased 2.7 per cent to 265,093 yen, the biggest rise in more than 31 years.

The upward trend in regular pay continued after Japanese companies agreed to hefty hikes at this year's spring wage negotiations. The average monthly wage increase reached 5.1 per cent, rising over five per cent for the first time in 33 years, according to the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, the country's largest labour federation. — Kyodo



Japan's wages have shown notable improvements recently. In July, real wages edged up by 0.4% year-on-year, marking the second consecutive month of increase. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia's annual GDP growth falls to 1.5%

AUSTRALIA has reported its slowest annual economic growth excluding the COVID-19 pandemic period in over 30 years. Official figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Wednesday revealed that Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 1.5 per cent in the 2023-24 financial year spanning from 1 July 2023, through 30 June 2024 - down from 3.1 per cent in 2022-23.

According to the ABS, it marks Australia's slowest rate of economic growth in a financial year excluding the COVID-19 pandemic period since 1991-92 when growth was 0.4 per cent following the 1991 recession.

On a quarterly basis, the economy grew by 0.2 per cent in the three months between the start of April and the end of June - matching the growth in the final three months of 2023 and the first three months of 2024. — Xinhua

7-Eleven owner rejects initial takeover bid from Canadian rival

THE Japanese owner of 7-Eleven said Friday it had rejected a takeover bid from Canadian retail giant Alimentation Couche-Tard, saying the proposal “grossly undervalues” the company.

The proposed purchase of Seven & i Holdings would be the biggest ever foreign takeover of a Japanese firm, merging 7-Eleven, Circle K and other brands across Asia, America and Europe.

As the world’s biggest convenience store chain, 7-Eleven operates more than 85,000 outlets globally. While the brand began in the United States, it has been wholly owned by Seven & i since 2005. A letter from the Seven & i board to Al-

imentation Couche-Tard (ACT) said it was open to “engaging in sincere discussions should you put forth a proposal that fully recognizes our standalone intrinsic value”.

“We do not believe, for several critical reasons, that the proposal you have put forward provides a basis for us to engage in substantive discussions regarding a potential transaction,” it said. ACT operates more than 16,700 outlets in 31 countries and territories.

The takeover bid was announced in August, and on Friday Seven & i said ACT had offered \$14.86 per share in cash, roughly matching its market value of \$39 billion. — AFP

Vietnam to cancel over 300 flights in response to super typhoon Yagi

Four airports—Noi Bai in Hanoi, Van Don in Quang Ninh, Cat Bi in Hai Phong, and Tho Xuan in Thanh Hoa—will suspend services at various times on Saturday.

VIETNAM will cancel more than 330 flights on Saturday, including 240 domestic and 70 international flights, as super typhoon Yagi nears, local media reported.

The country will suspend services at four airports, Noi Bai in capital Hanoi, Van Don in Quang Ninh, Cat Bi in Hai Phong and Tho Xuan in Thanh Hoa, during certain hours on Saturday.

Ten localities forecast to be directly hit by the typhoon in the north, including Hanoi, Hai Phong, Thai Binh, Ha Nam, will shut schools on Saturday for 5.6 million



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

students.

Vietnam has deployed 457,460 military personnel along with more than

10,100 vehicles to combat the super typhoon. Yagi is expected to make landfall on Vietnam’s north-

ern coastline on Saturday, bringing heavy rain of up to 400 millimetres in volume. — Xinhua



The purchase of Seven & i Holdings would be the biggest ever foreign takeover of a Japanese firm. PHOTO: RICHARD A. BROOKS / AFP

Fire breaks out in Tesla service-showroom in Nepal

FIRE broke out at a Tesla service-showroom in Nepali capital Kathmandu, damaging properties and documents, police said on Friday.

Fire erupted out at the building of ARETE International, Nepal’s first Tesla service-showroom in Tangal in Kathmandu, past noon on Friday.

“Fire has been doused. It started from the ground floor of the Tesla

Service Centre in Naxal. The investigation and assessment of damage is underway,” DSP of Maligaun Police Circle, Indra Subedi confirmed to ANI over phone.

Parts of the Tesla electric vehicles and documents were seen strewn on the ground with glass pieces scattered all across the floor as the fire spread to the first floor of the one-

and-a-half-storied house, which also hosted three charging ports for the world’s largest electric vehicle brand. “No vehicles were harmed due to the fire. We suspect it to be caused by short-circuit of the electrical wire. Two Tesla cars that were in the showroom were quickly driven out from the site to a secure location,” DSP Subedi stated. —ANI

Senegal’s national airline suspends several routes

SENEGAL’S national airline on Wednesday announced it will suspend flights to seven destinations from mid-September as part of a “restructured network”, as the flag carrier faces criticism over passenger delays.

Air Senegal will halt flights from Dakar to New York from 19 September, to Milan, Libreville, Douala in Cameroon and Barcelona from 20 September, and to Marseille and Lyon from 22 September.

The airline said the move was aimed at “optimizing” its network, in a post on its Facebook page.

Senegalese newspaper L’Observateur reported on Monday that a reduction in Air Senegal’s routes came down to a “rationalization of resources, the inadequacy of the fleet and the lack of profitability of certain services”. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (882N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (882N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-9-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (433W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (433W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-9-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

India needs to stand ahead to find solution for water crisis for world: PM Modi

Modi highlighted the importance of water for all life forms, citing a quote about water donation being the highest form of charity.



Wetlands outside Kolkata process the city's sewage and are agriculturally important, but experts say they are under threat. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative'. Speaking at the inauguration the PM said that the country, with an always visionary and comprehensive approach, needs to stand ahead to find solutions to battle with the water crisis for the whole world.

Stating a Sanskrit quote, PM Modi said, "It is said that all the living beings have originated from

water and their lives depends on it. That's why water donation and saving water for other is the biggest form of donation and the same thing was told by Rahim Das also. The country whose thinking and approach was visionary and comprehensive since past times; it needs to stand ahead in the world to find solutions for water crisis."

Highlighting the Gujarat floods and several other natural calamities

that most part of the countries faced during this monsoon season, PM Modi said that almost all parts of the nation faced havoc of the rains.

PM Modi, addressing a new initiative by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in Gujarat, highlighted the severe rains and resulting destruction across the nation. He acknowledged Gujarat's significant challenges and praised the unity of its people in facing these issues. — ANI

Donald Trump pledges to create US Govt efficiency commission task with Elon Musk at helm

FORMER US President Donald Trump has pledged that, if elected, he will set up a new task force aimed at conducting a complete financial and performance audit of the entire federal government and making recommendations for drastic reforms.

He said that Tesla CEO Elon Musk has agreed to head that task force, a video posted by CSpan news network on its X platform said.

Elon Musk has welcomed Trump's decision stating "This is badly needed". Donald Trump an-

nounced plans to establish a Government Efficiency Commission, following Elon Musk's endorsement and agreement to lead the task force. The commission will conduct a comprehensive audit of the federal government to propose significant reforms. Trump highlighted the problem of improper and fraudulent payments, costing taxpayers hundreds of billions in 2022, and promised the commission will develop a plan to eliminate these payments, potentially saving trillions. — ANI



Elon Musk, known for his pioneering work in technology and space exploration, has agreed to lead the new Government Efficiency Commission to address financial inefficiencies in the federal government. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan PM, S Korea president meet in Seoul

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol met in Seoul on Friday to review the progress made in improving bilateral relations and maintain momentum, weeks before Kishida's planned resignation following his party's leadership election later this month.

Kishida's trip to South Korea through Saturday is part of the two nations' top-level "shuttle diplomacy," according to Tokyo and Seoul. In March last year, Kishida and Yoon agreed to resume reciprocal visits, with Yoon being the first South Korean leader to visit Japan in four years.

Ahead of the 60th anniversary next year of the normalization of diplomatic ties, the leaders are expected to discuss ways to strengthen their bilateral relations, as well as trilateral efforts with the United States, in addressing regional issues, including North Korea's nuclear and missile development and its growing military cooperation with Russia. — Kyodo

Hunter Biden pleads guilty to all nine charges

US President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden pleaded guilty to all nine charges in his federal tax case Thursday, and District Judge Mark Scarsi in Los Angeles has accepted his plea, CNN reported.

Sentencing is scheduled for 16 December, notably after November's presidential election.

The president's son has now officially pleaded guilty to one count of felony tax evasion, two counts of felony filing fraudulent tax returns, four misdemeanor counts of failing to pay taxes, and two misdemeanor counts of failing to file tax returns, as per CNN.

The guilty plea came in a convoluted all-day hearing on the same day that his trial was supposed to begin with jury selection in Los Angeles.

About 120 prospective jurors waited in a sequestered assembly room throughout the day, while prosecutors and Hunter Biden's lawyers haggled in court over how to move forward. — ANI

Panama predicts 200,000 fewer Darien Gap crossings

An estimated 320,000 people are expected to traverse Panama's Darien jungle by the end of 2024, Public Security Minister Frank Abrego said Thursday — a significant reduction in migrants compared to last year.

The estimate is vastly lower than the 520,000 crossings along the notoriously inhospitable route in 2023.

Speaking at a Central American banking conference in Washington, Abrego said that there have been "242,000 people as of this morning" and "an average of 320,000 are expected by the end of the year". The decrease has been apparent for the past couple months, mirrored by data from US border crossings — and a boon for Vice-President Kamala Harris, who is running as the Democratic candidate for the US presidential election in November. US President Joe Biden, also a Democrat, restricted the entry of asylum seekers at the border with Mexico in June as Republicans attacked him on migration ahead of the election. — AFP

SPORTS

Thant Zin joins ONE Friday Fights 81 to face Takeru

MYANMAR fighter Thant Zin is set to participate in the upcoming ONE Friday Fights 81, scheduled to take place on 27 September in Bangkok, Thailand.

Thant Zin will face Japan's Takeru in a flyweight kickboxing bout, rather than a traditional Muay Thai fight. The match was a last-minute change, as Takeru's original opponent had to withdraw due to injury, with Thant Zin stepping in as the replacement.

Thant Zin has had two fights under the ONE Championship banner, winning both via knockout. Additionally, another Myanmar fighter, Soe Lin Oo, will also compete at ONE Friday Fights 81. Soe Lin Oo is slated to fight against Algerian Thai fighter Nabil in what promises to be an exciting bout. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Myanmar wins gold at 37th King's Cup Sepak Takraw Championship



The winning Myanmar Sepak Takraw team.

IN the 37th King's Cup Sepak Takraw Championship, now being held from 1 to 8 September, the Myanmar team secured another gold medal.

During the men's Mixed Regu category, Myanmar added a gold medal to their collection, while Laos finished second, and Korea and China

shared third place. In other events, Myanmar's women's team achieved a silver medal in the Hoop Takraw event, and the mixed team (four players) earned a bronze medal. During the women's Hoop final, Myanmar faced the host Thailand team, ultimately finishing with a silver

medal after a close match, scoring 860-700. Thailand won gold, while Myanmar received silver, and Vietnam and Cambodia claimed a joint bronze medal. Similarly, in the mixed four-player event, Thailand won gold, Laos took silver, and Myanmar and Malaysia shared the bronze medals. At the tournament, Myanmar's team, consisting of six coaches, 12 males and 11 female players, competed in various events, including Team, Quadrant, Mix Regu, and Mix Quadrant for men, and Team, Quadrant, and Hoop for women. As of the morning of 6 September, Myanmar has already won one medal each for gold, silver and bronze. — MNA/KZL

Ali Truwit claims Paralympic swim silver just 16 months after near fatal shark attack

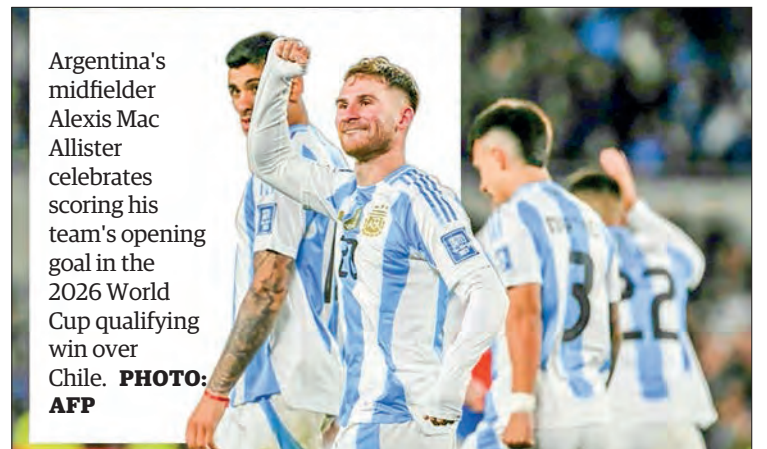
THE Paralympic Games in Paris has given us human stories in nearly every event and we can now add Ali Truwit's to a long list of stories of overcoming extreme adversity.

The 24-year-old American claimed the silver medal in the S10 400 metres freestyle on Thursday, less a year and a half after losing half of her left leg in a shark attack. In May

2023, Truwit was attacked by a shark while snorkelling in waters off the Turks and Caicos Islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. She had to swim 70 metres to the dive boat, where a friend tied a tourniquet around her leg to stop the loss of blood.

Doctors saved her life, but had to amputate her leg below the knee, but after over-

coming an initial fear of water, she returned to training just four months after the attack and competed in her first Paralympic event in October. "There will be days when it's great and there are going to be days when I have to fight to get that love back, but I say I'm at a 90-10 right now at really feeling comfortable and happy in the water," she told the press after winning her medal, admitting that events of last May are still very close at hand. — Xinhua



Argentina's midfielder Alexis Mac Allister celebrates scoring his team's opening goal in the 2026 World Cup qualifying win over Chile. PHOTO: AFP

Argentina cruise past Chile, Bolivia thrash Venezuela in World Cup qualifiers

ALEXIS Mac Allister, Julian Alvarez and Paulo Dybala were on target as Argentina tightened their grip on South America's 2026 World Cup qualifying tournament with a 3-0 win over Chile on Thursday.

Liverpool midfielder Mac Allister swept in a low finish three minutes after half-time to break the deadlock at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires against a defensive Chile side.

Former Manchester City striker Alvarez doubled the lead in the 84th minute with a thumping shot from outside the area before substitute Dybala put the seal on the victory with a late strike in stoppage time. It was another clinical victory for the reigning world champions, who are now cruising towards confirming their place at the 2026 finals being staged in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Lionel Scaloni's team lead South America's 10-team round-robin qualifying table by five points after seven games.

The top six teams in the final standings qualify automatically for the 2026 finals in North America with the seventh-placed team advancing to a playoff.

Argentina, who also beat Chile 1-0 on their way to clinching back-to-back Copa America titles earlier this year, went into Thursday's game missing injured captain Lionel Messi and veteran winger Angel Di Maria, who retired from international football after the Copa America triumph in July.

Di Maria was feted by his former teammates at a pre-game ceremony before taking his place in the stands to watch the world champions secure their sixth win from seven qualifying games. — AFP

India needs to stand ahead to find solution for water crisis for world: PM Modi
PAGE 14



WORLD

FORMING A UNIFIED GOVERNMENT

Macron nominates Michel Barnier as new PM

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has nominated former Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier as the new prime minister, the Elysee announced on Thursday.

Macron has tasked Barnier with forming a unified government to serve the country and the French people, the Elysee said in a press release.

Born in 1951, Barnier is currently the oldest prime minister in the history of the Fifth Republic. The handover from the youngest Prime Minister Gabriel Attal took place at around 6:30 pm local time (1630 GMT).

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Barnier said that as the new prime minister, he intends to address "the challenges, the anger, the suffering, and the sense of abandonment and injustice" that the country is currently experiencing.

He noted that there would be "changes and ruptures" during his time serving as head of government.

Stating that the French people expect a prime minister who speaks honestly about financial debt, ecological debt, and France's influence in Europe, Barnier stressed that he would "act more than talk". — Xinhua

Japan's Prince Hisahito, 2nd in line to throne, reaches adulthood

As Crown Prince Fumihito's only son, he joins a shrinking imperial family due to the restrictive 1947 Imperial House Law.

PRINCE Hisahito, the nephew of Emperor Naruhito who is second-in-line to the Chrysanthemum Throne, turned 18 on Friday, becoming the first male member of Japan's imperial family to reach adulthood in around 39 years following his father.

The only son of Crown Prince Fumihito, 58, and Crown Princess Kiko, 57, Prince Hisahito joins a dwindling number of adult members of the imperial family, with the 1947 Imperial House Law limiting imperial heirs to males who have an emperor on their father's side and requiring female members to leave upon marriage to a commoner.

"I hope to learn more through each and every experience, absorbing various aspects and growing through them," the prince said through the Imperial Household Agency on the occasion.

In a statement, Prince Hisahito expressed gratitude to his supporters, including his family, and emphasized his desire to enjoy his remaining time in high school.

His Coming-of-Age Ceremony, typically marked by a press conference, will be postponed until spring 2025 or later to avoid disrupting his studies. Hisahito will be the first member of the Japanese imperial family to come of age under the



Prince Hisahito (C) is pictured with his parents, Prince Fumihito and Princess Kiko, in this file photo in April 2019 upon his enrolment at a junior high school affiliated with Ochanomizu University in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

revised Civil Code, which lowered the age of adulthood from 20 to 18 in April 2022.

Princess Aiko, the only child of Em-

peror Naruhito and Empress Masako, celebrated her coming of age at 20 in 2021. — Kyodo

UK and India launch major Infrastructure Financing Bridge

Initiative aims to channel sustainable infrastructure investments.



Committee will oversee national highways, transport systems, and renewable energy projects. NH 44 is India's longest north-south highway. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

THE United Kingdom and India have officially launched the United Kingdom-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB), a new initiative designed to strengthen their financial and professional services collaboration, an official press release by the City of London stated.

This agreement, signed between the City of London Corporation and NITI Aayog, aims to channel sustainable infrastructure investments into India, leveraging the UK's expertise in managing and structuring large-scale projects.

A key component of the UKIIFB is the newly announced steering committee, which includes representatives from various prestigious organizations such as HM Treasury, Aon, Arup, Mott MacDonald, Clifford Chance, and Sequoia Investment Management Company.

This committee will oversee the implementation of the initiative, focusing on projects such as national highways, regional rapid transport systems, and renewable energy ventures. The steering committee will work on several objectives, including accelerating the mobilization of international private-sector investment into Indian infrastructure, providing policy recommendations to address investment barriers, and developing best practices for sustainable infrastructure projects.

Chris Hayward, Policy Chairman of the City of London Corporation, expressed his enthusiasm about the partnership, stating, "I am delighted to sign the UK India Infrastructure Financing Bridge welcoming a new chapter in the extensive business relationship between our two nations. — ANI