

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This photo shows the flooding around the Nayaungpya Pagoda during the inspection tour by SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

HEAVY rains have been scattering across Myanmar due to impacts of Typhoon Yagi from the South China Sea and a depression from the western central and north-west of the Bay of Bengal since 10 September. Subsequently, water levels at creeks and rivers are rising, causing flash floods in some townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and some regions and states.

Tatmadaw members from relevant areas, together with departmental personnel and philanthropic social organizations, are carrying out the evacuation of flood victims to safer places, repairs of roads and bridges, removal of collapsed walls and buildings, as well as clearing up broken branches of trees. Flood victims are accommodated at the temporary relief camps opened in relevant townships with provisions for healthcare services

Urgent management of rescue, relief, and rehabilitation needed

Ministries' and Tatmadaw Engineering Corps' heavy machinery is required to clear drains for proper water flow.

and food supplies.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and officials inspected rescue and relief works, repairing roads and bridges caused by floods and flash floods yesterday afternoon.

The Senior General inspected the construction of a Bailey bridge so as not to interrupt the

road transport as flash flood and overflow of Hsinthay Creek destroyed the approach structure and approach road to the 360 feet long and 55 feet wide Thaichaung Bridge crossing Hsinthay Creek and its piers on Pobbathiri circular road linking Zeyathiri and Pobbathiri townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and officials reported

to the Senior General on the progress of the repair work.

In his guidance, the Senior General said that the Thaichaung Bridge crossing Hsinthay Creek and other bridges damaged by flash floods must be repaired as quickly as possible for public convenience and not interrupt transport. He stressed the need to systematically calculate the reconstruction of bridges

for damaged ones for their long-term existence, resilience to natural disasters and endurance of flash floods at a time when flash floods mitigate.

The Senior General asked the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials about the evacuation of victims from flooded wards and villages to temporary relief camps and instructed officials to arrange accommodation and food supplies as well as necessary aid for flood victims. Moreover, he emphasized arrangements for offering meals to monasteries and nunneries.

SEE PAGE 3

Article

Illuminating Our World with Hope and Positivity

By Yin Nwe Ko

PAGE 8-9

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



CBM to inject US\$17M into fuel oil, edible oil sectors

NATIONAL

PAGE 10



Flood relief efforts expand in Nay Pyi Taw and various regions/states

NATIONAL



Sixteen (16) days remain until the National Census.



Announcement for people at home and abroad to donate cash and kind to flood-affected victims

- As flash floods caused by Typhoon Yagi occur in Myanmar, well-wishers may donate cash and kind for flood-affected victims.
- If they wish to donate cash in mobile payment, they can send cash to KBZ Pay through QR Code 70157401001 of KBZ Pay or scanning QR Code, Wave Money through scanning QR Code or mobile phone numbers 09 255001542 and 09 255001543 directly.



- Moreover, arrangements are underway for well-wishers to apply other electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems, and further information will be released.
- If well-wishers wish to donate cash through banking services, they can donate cash in Myanmar kyat into account number OA-011834 of Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw, and they can make donations as follows: -
 - They can donate cash directly through MEB in Nay Pyi Taw or via other MEB branches or private bank branches.
 - People can donate cash in Myanmar kyat from their accounts opened at State-owned and private banks at home through account transfer.
- If well-wishers wish to donate foreign currency, they can make cash donations to accounting number 011128400000063 at Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank in Yangon through the following ways: -
 - They can donate US\$, euro and Singapore \$ in cash at MFTB directly.
 - Well-wishers at home and abroad can donate foreign currencies through the following accounts: -
 SWIFT CODE/BIC - MFTBMMMY
 Beneficiary Name - Natural Disaster Management Fund
 Beneficiary A/C No - 011128400000063
- Moreover, those wishing to donate foreign currencies can donate cash to foreign account number EDN-600018 opened at Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw through the following ways: -
 - They can donate US\$, euro and Singapore \$ in cash at MEB directly.
 - Those with foreign accounts at MEB can donate cash through account transfer.
 - Well-wishers at home and abroad can donate foreign currencies through the

following accounts: -

- SWIFT CODE/BIC - MYEBMMMY
- Beneficiary Name - Natural Disaster Management Fund
- Beneficiary A/C No - EDN-600018

- Well-wishers wishing to make cash and kind donations can contact the following persons: -

Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
Daw Lei Lei Aye Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067 3404050 09 2021491	U Than Soe Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09 250123885 09 420740160	U Aye Min Thu Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Mandalay Region Department 09 420708827
U Win Shwe Deputy Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067 3404048 09 25417001	Daw Than Than Win Deputy Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09 420740160	Daw Thet Thet Aye Deputy Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Mandalay Region Department 09 400502056
Daw Phyu Phyu Win Director Department of Disaster Management 067 3404316 09 43054844		

- Donated items can be sent as follows: -
 - to relevant region/state government offices
 - to Office 23, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Nay Pyi Taw
 - to Central Store Depot (Yangon), Department of Disaster Management, Ward 3, Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road, Yangon
 - to Central Store Depot (Mandalay), Department of Disaster Management, 65th Street between 34th and 35th Streets, Pyigyimyetshin Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay

Well-wishers can donate cash to Myanmar kyat accounting number OA-011834 and foreign accounting number 011128400000063 at MFTB in Yangon and foreign accounting number EDN 600018 at MEB in Nay Pyi Taw.

National Disaster Management Committee

Special Weather News

Issued at 17:30 hours MST on 13- 9-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at (16:30) hrs MST today, the Well Marked Low-Pressure Area over Northeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Southeast Bangladesh still persists. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may further intensify into a depression over Coastal West Bengal (India) and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal on 14 September 2024.

Due to the Well Marked Low-Pressure Area, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway Re-

gions and Chin and Rakhine States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls and fairly widespread to widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions with heavy rainfalls and strong wind during today evening upto 15 September 2024.

Advisory

People should be awared the heavy rainfall with strong wind, the natural disasters such as flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — DMH

Telecom firms provide CSR aid to Typhoon Yagi flood victims

DUE to the impact of Typhoon Yagi, which has caused flooding and flash floods, telecommunication service providers deliver assistance as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives for those affected.

In response to the severe rains and river flooding, mobile phone users in the affected areas will receive the following support. Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) offers free phone calls with a 700-minute allowance and 700 complimentary text messages. Meanwhile, ATOM Myanmar provides free phone calls with a 500-minute allowance and 500 complimentary text messages. Likewise, Ooredoo Myanmar extends unlimited free phone calls and unlimited complimentary text messages. MYTEL also grants 1,000 minutes of free phone calls and 1,000 complimentary text messages. These services will be available for seven days from 13 September 2024.

Ministry of Transport and Communications

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)



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing reviews rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday, while Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant and officials are reporting on the ongoing repair work.

FROM PAGE 1

The Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and officials viewed round damage in sown acreage of crops, the inflow of water at villages, inundation at the road section leading to Hlaykhwin Hill from Pinlaung junction and Yangon-Mandalay highway, waiting of cargo trucks and passenger buses on the roads by car from Thaikhaung Village to Yangon-Mandalay highway. The Senior General also viewed the flow of water in Hsinthay Creek from Kyaukchet Bridge crossing Hsinthay Creek. He inspected inundation at public residences in Wetkon Village

Urgent management of rescue, relief, and rehabilitation needed

and Pauktaw Village in Pobathiri Township. The Senior General gave guidance to officials on how to remove the broken branches of trees caused by floods soon. If so, water will ebb. So, heavy machinery and manpower must be deployed at full capacity. Heavy machinery from ministries and Tatmadaw engineering corps must be used to clear the drains for the proper flow of water. It is necessary to manage rescue, relief

and rehabilitation measures as quickly as possible, he added.

At Ayemyint Thaya Bridge crossing Hsinthay Creek, the Senior General looked into damage to the retaining walls of the approach road to the bridge, blockage of fallen trees, and logs at the piers of the bridge in Hsinthay Creek. He stressed the need to repair bridges and all roads with proper flow of water and use heavy machinery to speed up repair works. The

Senior General also inspected the removal of silt on the road.

In his instruction, the Senior General urged officials to continue rescue and relief measures as quickly as possible with full strength, mentioning that relief aid must be distributed to flood victims rapidly. Officials from the government need to contact foreign countries to receive rescue and relief aid to be provided to the victims.

The Department of Me-

teorology and Hydrology has stated that as natural disasters such as heavy rains, strong winds, flash floods, and landslides may occur from yesterday morning to 15 September, those residing along highlands and rivers and creeks need to beware of landslides and flash floods. Moreover, inland water transport and aviation flights have to take precautions for their services. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

National Disaster Management Committee holds work coordination meeting

THE National Disaster Management Committee work coordination meeting was held at the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement yesterday afternoon.

On behalf of the chair of Management Committee, Vice-Chair 1 of the National Disaster Management Committee, Home Affairs Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Vice-Chair 2 of the National Disaster Management Committee Union Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, members of the National Disaster Management Committee and officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council and state and regional governments attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Vice-Chair 1 of the National Disaster Management Committee Union Minister for Home Affairs said that due to the force of Ty-

phoon Yagi in the South China Sea in September 2024 and due to the force of the low pressure associated with the Bay of Bengal and some regions and states, there have been damages because of flash floods. When flood victims occurred, search and rescue teams, Tatmadaw member, members of the Myanmar Police Force, and volunteers also tried to carry out rescue operations. Restoration of infrastructure damage to homes, roads, and bridges, as well as rehabilitation of livelihood activities, must also be carried out. To assist the requirements for flood victims, presenting sector-specific damage to higher levels in a timely manner, in order to effectively carry out guidance and implementation, he said that he would like the ministries and relevant work committees to discuss their plans.



The work coordination meeting of the National Disaster Management Committee is in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Afterwards, the Vice-Chair 2 of the National Disaster Management Committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement explained the issues related to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) on Disaster Management to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to flood victims.

Next, the National Disaster Management Committee members and representatives from organizations discussed the matters of damage and losses in regions and states, as well as

arrangements for emergency relief and action plans according to weather conditions that may continue to occur.

According to the discussions, the meeting focused on the areas where the damage is occurring, the ability to connect information easily and quickly regarding items donated by well-wishers at home and abroad, necessary imports, customs activities such as shipping, and the ability to carry out systematic activities according to the relevant work committee, ministries, organizations, re-

gions and states, being able to present statistical information on damage status to the higher levels in a timely manner and making information accessible to the public in relation to irrigation and dams, public hazard notices, in order to inform and announce areas that are prone to natural disasters, including river floods, they should be announced according to townships/wards/villages that are likely to be affected. They discussed management activities, if necessary, including the possibility of evacuation. — MNA/TS

U Myo Myint Maung presents Credentials to President of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal



U Myo Myint Maung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, presented his Credentials to the Right Honourable Mr Ramchandra Paudel, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, on 12 September 2024, at the President's Office in Kathmandu. — MNA

U Thit Linn Ohn concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to Republic of Belarus

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus. — MNA

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

Union Sports & Youth Affairs Minister attends China-Myanmar sports donation ceremony

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, attended a donation ceremony held at the National Indoor Stadium 1, Thuwunna, Yangon, yesterday. The event, organized to strengthen Myanmar-China relations, focused on the development of the sports sector. The Chinese Embassy provided the donations as part of their ongoing support for Myanmar's sports development.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, members of the government, Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia, and officials were also present on the occasion. Representatives from Myanmar Rowing Federation, Football Federation, Sepak Takraw Federation, and Wushu Federation also joined, including presidents, vice presidents, and secretaries of the respective federations, alongside guests.

During the ceremony, Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia delivered a speech regarding the donation, followed by Union Minister U Min Thein Zan,

who expressed gratitude for the Chinese government's ongoing support.

The Union minister also requested to upgrade Yangon's historic Aung San Stadium to international standards, as well as supporting the upcoming 5th National Sports Festival, scheduled for December this year.

Following the speeches, Ambassador Ms Ma Jia presented donations equivalent to 50,000 yuan (approximately \$7,030) to the Myanmar Rowing Federation, Football Federation, Sepak Takraw Federation, and Wushu Federation. Federation officials accepted the donations on behalf of their respective organizations. U Thitsa, president of the Wushu Federation, presented a certificate of appreciation in return.

The event concluded with skill demonstration by young Wushu athletes and a female Chinlone athlete.

Later in the day, Union Minister U Min Thein Zan, accompanied by Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U



The commemorative group photo of the handover ceremony for China's donation to develop Myanmar's sports sector yesterday in Yangon.

Htay Aung and other officials, visited the swimming pool complex in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, where a two-storey spectators' stand for 400 people is being constructed for the 2024-2025 financial year. The Union minister inspected the ongoing construction work and

instructed officials to ensure the project's timely completion, adhering to set standards and deadlines.

The Union minister and party also visited the new RC two-storey office building for the Department of Sports and Physical Education in South

Okkalapa Township, which is under construction with regional government funds. The Union minister inspected the football turf repair project and left necessary instructions to ensure that the work was completed according to schedule. — MNA/KZL

U Zaw Oo appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Republic of India

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Zaw Oo, Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India. — MNA

U Kyaw Tin Shein appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Arab Republic of Egypt

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Tin Shein, Director-General of the Planning and Administrative Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt. — MNA

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 aunghuya@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

Misinformation spreads water drained from large dams



This photo shows the Mezali Diversion Weir on 12 September 2024.

MISINFORMATION is circulating that large dams were drained during the flash flood period, but this is not true. An experienced engineer has stated that spreading such misinformation can cause public panic and should be avoided.

Large dams cannot be drained or broken down. Water flows into the dam, and any surplus is released through the spillway. If the water from these dams were drained, as some

claim, millions of acre-feet of land would be flooded, and those areas would be washed away, he explained.

Dams are designed to mitigate flooding. When large volumes of water flow into the dam

due to heavy rains, they hold back millions of gallons of water, preventing it from immediately reaching nearby residential areas and buildings along rivers and creeks.

Dams are built with spill-

ways to release surplus water into creeks or rivers after their capacity is calculated using engineering technology.

At a time when it rains heavily, the volume of water which exceeds the capacity of

storage at the dam flows out from the spillways. Moreover, the construction of dams aims to generate electricity, irrigate croplands, supply drinking water to the people, and mitigate flooding.

If dams do not control water, people may face unprecedented suffering more than the current incident, said the experienced engineer.

Officials control water in the dams systematically while repairing water control gears and draining out agricultural water for croplands.

On 12 September, the water level at the Mezali Diversion Weir reached 206.6 feet and continued to rise gradually. Because of the opening of its valve shutters, the measuring marks at the diversion weir did not change. An official from the facility stated on social media that real-time updates on the dam's measuring marks will be provided. — Htun Htun/TTA

S&R teams cooperate to evacuate flood victims in Nay Pyi Taw

DUE to the continuous heavy rains in recent days that have inundated some townships in

Nay Pyi Taw, the Myanmar Fire Brigade, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, and social

rescue teams are working tirelessly to ensure the safety of those affected.



The Nay Pyi Taw local Red Cross team provides first aid and flood evacuation to victims. PHOTO: WIN HTEIN - NAY PYI TAW RED CROSS

Since the morning of 12 September, the Myanmar Fire Brigade has responded to 30 flood-affected locations, evacuating a total of 3,602 people to safety areas in Nay Pyi Taw. Similarly, local Red Cross volunteers, in cooperation with relevant departments and rescue teams, are providing first aid to the injured and assisting in the rescue of flood victims.

On the night of 12 September and the morning of 13 September, 96 flood victims, including children, who were still in Thitsaintpin village in Pynmana Township, were rescued and evacuated by boat.

As per initial information, a total of 19 people, including six men and 13 women, have died. Search and rescue operations are ongoing. — ASH/Htun Htun/MKKS

Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation collaborates with donors to provide relief supplies to flooded areas

THE Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation, under the leadership of actress Khaing Hnin Wai and in collaboration with Felicity Solar Myanmar, will provide relief supplies and foodstuffs to areas affected by flash floods.

“Organized by G-Link Electro Trading, the authorized distributor of Felicity Solar Myanmar, our Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation, in cooperation with other well-wishers, will provide relief supplies and food worth K200 million to flood-affected areas,” said actress Khaing Hnin Wai. Actress Khaing Hnin Wai and the donors are jointly providing relief supplies to areas affected by natural disasters in Myanmar. During the COVID-19



This photo showcases a poster to donate relief supplies and food via the Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation.

pandemic, they also donated oxygen and medicine. Currently, the Khaing Hnin Wai Foundation has established a children's centre and is caring for more than 120 children, including ten orphaned twins. — ASH/TKO

Advertise with us / Hotline 09 454237515, 09 255597511

Myanmar Consul-General attends 2024 Sichuan-South Asia & Southeast Asia Business Summit

U Kyaw Zeyar Lin, Myanmar Consul-General in Chongqing, China, attended the 2024 China (Sichuan) South Asia and Southeast Asia Business Leaders' Summit held at Chengdu, Sichuan, on 11 September, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Sichuan Council hosted this Summit to deepen ties between China and South Asia. Officials from the Sichuan Provincial Government, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Chambers of Commerce and Industry and representatives from Chambers of Commerce from 18 Southeast Asian Nations, officials from the consulates-general and the ASEAN-China Centre and about 100 local and foreign economic delegates were present at the meeting. — ASH/KK

Areca palms thrive with soft fruits in Thayetchaung Township

GROWERS from Thayetchaung Township in Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, rely on perennial agriculture such as areca palm and rubber cultivation for their livelihood. It is the harvest season of areca nuts, and they are fetching a higher price than last year's.

High prices of soft areca nuts allowed growers to receive handsome profits, said Daw Tin Nu, a farm owner.

The farm owners use manual labour to harvest the nuts, creating jobs for locals. Some depot owners make outright purchases at the farms as well.

China prefers soft and moist areca nuts rather than dried ones. As it can save production costs, the farm owners are keen on selling soft, green and moist areca nuts rather than dried ones.

Myanmar's areca nut market has become widespread. There is competitive pricing in the market. Conical-shaped nuts, rather than round ones, are mostly traded. After baking the soft areca nuts with heat, they are exported to China. Areca palm thrives well in moist soil, yet overwatering and soaking it wet is bad for them. They are commonly found in the Ayeyawady, Bago, and Taninthayi regions, as well as the Mon, Kayin, Kachin, and Rakhine states. — Pyay Phyong Paing (IPRD)/KK



A group of farmers diligently planting paddy in a field.

Agri Dept urges growers to plant monsoon crops before season ends

THE Agriculture Department encouraged growers to grow monsoon paddy, wheat and other crops again in flood-stricken regions before the season ends.

Some monsoon paddy, wheat and other crops were damaged by extreme rainfall and strong winds. As the season of monsoon paddy and late monsoon long-staple wheat has not ended, staff are called for to entice growers to re-cultivate them.

Therefore, the department has reserved seeds. It is willing to cooperate with growers. It has issued guidelines to redevelop damaged farmland triggered by floods.

Myanmar's farmers are yearly affected by natural disasters, losing their assets and crops. A thousand

acres of paddy fields are damaged.

Growers are instructed to reserve paddy seeds (high-yielding Manawthuka, Sinthuka, Sinthwelat, Thehtetyin, Shwethweyin, IR 747, 90-day short matured variety, Pyi Myanmar Sein, Yadanatoo, Hnankauk, Thukayin) in flood-prone areas, nurse crops in high-land areas broadcast seeding or directly scattering pedigree seeds in 10-14 days flood-hit fields (one basket per acre), adopt Dapog, Raised Bed and SRI Tray methods in 14-30 days flood-hit areas, treat farmlands after clearing weeds or intercrop more crops with leaving six-foot space between plants, plant seeds right after harvesting 30-40 days crops to maximize grain and yields (only 120-45 days old fields) and restore damaged

paddy fields.

For land treatment and preparation, using tractors to help clear debris, plough and harrow land faster, applying natural fertilizer or husks to the soil in flood-stricken areas and preparing current and irrigation channels in fields must be undertaken.

Growers are prompted to protect broadcasted seeds from the dangers of rodents and birds, relocate farmlands and grow the crops in time with a large labour force, use tractors to grow seedlings and clear weeds and apply 50-kilogramme pearl fertilizer and three bags of natural fertilizer/soil per acre effectively before blossoming and putting 112 pounds of natural calcium sulphate per acre for soil amendment and improvement. — NN/KK

CBM to inject US\$17M into fuel oil, edible oil sectors

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will pump US\$10 million into fuel oil and \$7 million into the edible oil sector through the foreign exchange trading platform, totalling \$17 million, announced on 12 September 2024.

CBM sold US\$12.59 million and 80 million Thai baht in three days (4-6 September).

Following CBM's notification dated 14 August about the contribution of \$100 million towards the fuel oil sector, it sold over \$9.498 million at an 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.



A vendor refuel the car at the Yangon petrol station.

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 foreign exchange 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 sell-

ing 69 million baht and nine million yuan for those importing edible oil, 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

OPINION

Lend a merciful hand to each other among people

WORLD First Aid Day, observed every second Saturday in September, highlights the importance of first aid in saving lives. In 2024, it will be celebrated under the theme "First Aid and Sports: Ready, Set, Respond". The day serves to raise awareness, provide resources for learning basic first aid, and inspire people to become first aid champions in their communities. In emergencies, such as accidents or sudden illnesses, first aid can be the crucial difference between life and death, bridging the gap before professional medical help arrives.

The Red Cross plays a pivotal role globally in providing first aid during emergencies like floods, storms, earthquakes, and landslides. Red Cross volunteers, equipped with specialized training, are often on the frontlines of emergency response. Their extensive knowledge and skills in first aid make them highly effective in offering immediate care to those in need.

In Myanmar, the Myanmar Red Cross Society exemplifies the spirit of sacrifice and compassion, often risking their lives to provide first aid. They offer critical assistance during natural disasters, support for the wounded, and blood donations. Their involvement extends beyond first aid, as they played a vital role during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping with prevention, control, and treatment efforts. Additionally, the society was instrumental in responding to the severe impacts of Cyclone Mocha, ensuring aid reached those affected.

Recently, Red Cross volunteers have been actively involved in rescue and relief efforts across various regions of Myanmar. They transported patients to medical facilities, chlorinated water supplies, and distributed rehydration salts in areas impacted by diarrhoea outbreaks. Their collaboration with health staff from local public health departments ensured effective management of the situation.

Beyond the Red Cross, those who complete first aid courses are encouraged to share their knowledge with their communities. This grassroots effort ensures that more people are equipped to offer help during emergencies, particularly in disaster-prone areas or at sporting events. By promoting first aid skills, communities are better prepared to provide healthcare services when needed and to support athletes in achieving their best performance.

World First Aid Day serves as a reminder of the vital role first aid plays in saving lives, and it encourages individuals everywhere to be ready to respond in times of need. Although the world sees the advancement of science and technology, humanity is essential for all communities. All global people have to lend a helping hand to overcome any challenges together so as to meet the set visions and missions without fail.

World First Aid Day serves as a reminder of the vital role first aid plays in saving lives, and it encourages individuals everywhere to be ready to respond in times of need. Although the world sees the advancement of science and technology, humanity is essential for all communities. All global people have to lend a helping hand to overcome any challenges together so as to meet the set visions and missions without fail.

World First Aid Day serves as a reminder of the vital role first aid plays in saving lives, and it encourages individuals everywhere to be ready to respond in times of need. Although the world sees the advancement of science and technology, humanity is essential for all communities. All global people have to lend a helping hand to overcome any challenges together so as to meet the set visions and missions without fail.

World First Aid Day serves as a reminder of the vital role first aid plays in saving lives, and it encourages individuals everywhere to be ready to respond in times of need. Although the world sees the advancement of science and technology, humanity is essential for all communities. All global people have to lend a helping hand to overcome any challenges together so as to meet the set visions and missions without fail.

WHEN I make phone contact with someone these days, the most common words we happen to say in return are 'How is your family?'; 'Are you all OK in everything?'; 'Take good care of your health'. Those tones of words are mingled with worries, loving-kindness, and anxieties. During the Stay-Home period like this, all of our family members can meet one another at the table in the dining room. Before this period, we could not meet one another as our respective scheduled timetables were different.

Now, our dining table is well-attended with all family members. Mom will be thankful for COVID-19, for she has never met her sons and daughters all at the dining table together for ages. My elder brother remembers doing physical exercises in the morning. My younger brother started doing the painting, which he abandoned for a decade as his career was too busy to perform his hobby. As for me, I read books and wrote some essays and articles. I do not want you to think that our family has a pleasant time in such a disastrous period in the world. In spite of thinking about my worries and anxieties and being frightened, I will do the work that will not affect others, as well as myself, and that should be done for me. That can be said to be the creation of an escape of mind by oneself.

In fact, think again before the period of COVID-19, the behaviours of most people have been changed. They do not have the eagerness to chat with each other face-to-face. Although their mouths are making a chat, their eyes are waiting for the chance of scrolling their phones. Smartphones are destroying softly the warm relationships between people. However, human beings forget to resist the influence of non-living things. Due to the knowledge COVID-19 gave, we happened to take notice of the value of the time we got. Due to the instruction to stay with anyone at least 3 feet away, we happen to remember the warmth of eating in a comradeship association before.

It is like a warning to us, human beings, by COVID-19. There are many people who forget to die chasing money.

illuminating Our World with Hope and Positivity

By Yin Nwe Ko

They also fail to take good care of themselves. While they were still trying to obtain a high impression on the others, only when COVID-19 silently asked them whether they were going to die tomorrow or the day after tomorrow what they would do, they got frightened suddenly. Can the money they earn save them? The answer is 'No'. Can famous people get more chances? Can people with a power attack fight back against COVID with their power? The virus will burst into laughter for these questions. All those things are useful for living people.

On the day when one dies, the value of him or her will depend upon whether he or she made benefits for his or her family or atmosphere and whether his or her existence makes disturbance to the world. Such records will acknowledge his or her value. If the lord of death comes to me without giving any information, I will surely happen to tell him that I have not finished preparing to die; I want to give more time to my family; I want to stay with my colleagues with love and with helping hands; I want to inhale the fragrance of flowers watching their blooming; I want to stay calm gazing the surface of the water of the lake; I want to learn seriously my religion in order to face with the death stably.

If this disaster is over, we all realize more that our lives are precious, even for an hour per day, etc. We all know more that we should not spend time. To obtain such good results, we must overcome the difficulty of the mountain. We must be tired, exhausted, and downhearted. We all will have to suffer from anxiety and sorrow. However, we must not retreat and face them steadfastly. After that, we are able to be happy with our loved ones and stay in a peaceful world for a long time. At that moment, do not forget to decorate the world with our colourful lights.

Firstly, let us adorn our communities with the warmth of human connection. Throughout the pandemic, social distancing measures and lockdowns forced us apart physically, leading to feelings of isolation and loneliness. Now, as we begin to reconnect with one another, it's crucial to prioritize building and nurturing meaningful relationships. Simple gestures such as smiling at strangers, engaging in small talk with neighbours, or reaching out to old friends can go a long way in fostering a sense of belonging and connection within our communities. By embracing human connection, we can create a supportive network that uplifts and sustains us through life's challenges.



PHOTO CREDIT: GOOGLE IMAGE

Secondly, let us embellish our surroundings with acts of kindness and compassion. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of supporting one another during times of adversity. Whether it's offering a helping hand to those in need, volunteering at local organizations, or simply practising empathy and understanding towards others, acts of kindness have the power to brighten someone's day and instil hope in their hearts. By cultivating a culture of compassion and generosity, we can create a ripple effect of positivity that transforms our communities and uplifts those who are struggling.

Thirdly, let us adorn our minds with gratitude and appreciation. In the midst of hardship and uncertainty, it's easy to dwell on the negative aspects of life. However, by consciously cultivating an attitude of gratitude, we can shift our focus towards the abundance of blessings that surround us each day. Whether it's expressing gratitude for

our health, loved ones, or the beauty of nature, practising gratitude enables us to find joy and contentment in the present moment. Moreover, by acknowledging and appreciating the efforts of frontline workers, healthcare professionals, and essential workers who have tirelessly served our communities throughout the pandemic, we can honour their sacrifices and express our heartfelt gratitude for their dedication and bravery.

Fourthly, let us decorate our future with resilience and determination. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested our collective resilience like never before. Despite facing unprecedented challenges, we have demonstrated our ability to adapt, innovate, and persevere in the face of adversity. As we look towards the future, it's essential to harness this resilience and determination to navigate the uncertain road ahead. By embracing change, learning from our experiences, and staying committed to our goals, we can emerge from the pandemic stronger and more resilient than ever before.

Finally, let us adorn our world with unity and solidarity. The pandemic has underscored the interconnectedness of our global community, reminding us that we are all in this together. Now, more than ever, it's imperative to set aside our differences and come together in solidarity to address the pressing challenges facing our world. Whether it's combating climate change, promoting social justice, or addressing global health crises, unity and solidarity are essential for effecting positive change on a worldwide scale. By standing together as a united front, we can build a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world for future generations.

In sum, as we emerge from the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic, let us commit to decorating our world with the light of hope, kindness, and positivity. By prioritizing human connection, practising acts of kindness, cultivating gratitude, embracing resilience, and fostering unity, we can create a future that is bright, hopeful, and filled with promise. Together, let us illuminate the world with the radiance of our collective humanity and build a better tomorrow for all.

Ageing events give opportunities to put old heads on young shoulders

Organized by Dialogue Japan Society, this event featured guides aged 70 and older who led tours through various rooms designed to simulate the challenges of ageing.

YOUNG people in Japan are gaining insight into their future in old age through interactive experiences and conversations held at events with elderly individuals about their personal journeys of ageing.

In a country with the world's largest proportion of elderly citizens, seniors are ever-present in everyday life.

Although extended families are now less likely to live under one roof, young people are finding more opportunities than ever to learn about the elderly through such specially designed social events.

At a time when reaching 100 years old is within the grasp of many, an event titled "A Dialogue with Time", held in Tokyo from April through July, gave visitors a taste of old age. For the young attendees, it seemed to offer a chance to experience a future that feels both near and distant.

Participants were encouraged to "Go Meet the Future" at the venue where guides aged 70 and older led a tour of a number of rooms with themes related to ageing.

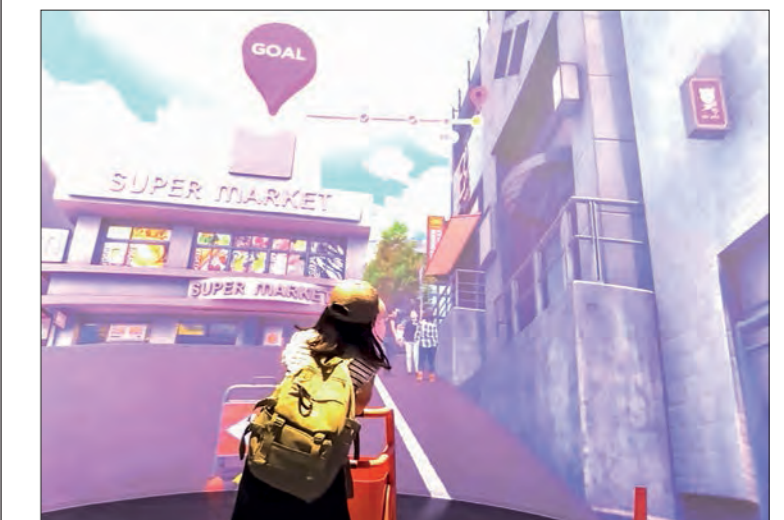
The point of the programme, said the organizer Dialogue Japan Society, was to get attendees thinking about growing old. To achieve that, they were first shown a sequence of images of children becoming adults, before wrinkles and gray hair appear.

They then moved into a room with questions written on the wall, such as, "How old would you like to be?" "At which age do you think old age occurs?" and "How old would you like to be seen as?" Participants were encouraged to think about their answers.

In a room tinged with yellow light, guide Fukiko Fuse, 88, explained to the visitors that "this is how the world looks to you when you get cataracts."

To further demonstrate the effects of ageing, participants were given headphones, yellow-tinted 'cataract' goggles, and ankle weights, and were instructed to walk around while wearing them.

Source: Kyodo



A visitor experiences a shopping simulation at the "Park of Aging" at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) in Tokyo in July 2024. PHOTO: KYODO

NATIONAL

Flood relief efforts expand in Nay Pyi Taw and various regions/states



Photos show ongoing rescue and relief efforts for the flood victims in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, states and regions.

FLOODING occurs due to continuous heavy rainfall in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and several states and regions, causing rivers and streams to overflow.

As a result, certain townships and villages experience flooding, which affects roads, railways, bridges, power lines, and buildings. Several homes were also damaged. In response, emergency relief efforts are ongoing to assist those in need.

Search and rescue operations have been carried out swiftly in affected areas, particularly in flooded villages and neighbourhoods within Zeyathiri township of Nay Pyi Taw, such as

Chaungkangyi, Ywathitgyi, Sipingyi, Nyaungpingyi, Hteinbin, Shanywa, Thaya Aye, Pauktaw, Aingzauk, Muntekwin, and Sipinthar. In Pynmana Township, affected villages like Hsinthay, Zaygon, MaU, and KanU were also provided with assistance, alongside affected villages in Lewe Township, including Aungkon, Pauksankhaw, Thitsaintpin, Zeephyupin, Gonminaing, Hayman, Bawdigon, and Kyakan.

Tatmadaw personnel, members of the Myanmar Police Force, firefighters, local authorities, and social welfare groups have been actively engaging in these rescue and relocation ef-

forts. Additionally, food and other essential supplies are being distributed to the flood-affected populations. Cleanup operations are also being conducted in areas where floodwaters have receded, clearing debris and fallen trees to restore access to roads and bridges.

Similar search and rescue efforts are underway in other places, such as Loikaw Township in Kayah State, Kalaw Township in southern Shan State, Einme Township in Ayeyawady Region TadaU in Mandalay Region, Panya Village and Saga-in roundabout on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, Meiktila, Yamethin,

Wundwin, Taungdwingyi, and Kyaukse townships. In Bago Region, assistance has been provided to flood-affected areas in Toungoo, Yedashe, and other townships. Furthermore, relief operations are continuing in flood-affected regions of Hpa-an Township, Kayin State. Temporary flood shelters have been established in coordination with local authorities, providing necessary healthcare services to those displaced. Volunteers and Tatmadaw members from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as government officials, have been distributing food, clean water, and other essential

supplies to ensure that those affected do not face further hardship.

Senior officials, including the Chairperson of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chief Ministers of the respective regions and states, Lt-Gen Phone Myat from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), and commanders from relevant military headquarters have visited the flood-affected areas. They have provided relief supplies, offered words of encouragement, and coordinated ongoing rescue and relief efforts to ensure that all necessary assistance is given to those in need. — MNA/KZL

ME in Bangkok halts certain PE renewal services

THE Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok notified on 12 September that it will no longer provide passport renewal services for Myanmar students attending short-term courses in Thailand's universities.

Earlier, the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and the Myanmar Consulate-General in Chiangmai renewed passports for Education (PE) for Myanmar students. At present, high numbers of Myanmar students who are virtually studying certificate programmes (Certificate Programme in the Thai Language or Teaching English for Teachers) with Non-ED visas in Thailand prompted the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and Consulate-General in Chiangmai to stop renewing passports (PE type) commencing on 16 September 2024.

However, undergraduate and postgraduate students are eligible for passport renewal as previously. — NN/KK

Victims can safely submit forced labour complaints to NCM

SINCE 4 March 1955, Myanmar has been complying with Article 29 of the Forced Labour Convention. In addition, the Myanmar government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002 to accept an ILO liaison officer in Myanmar, aimed at enhancing efforts to eradicate forced labour.

Myanmar government signed the Supplementary Understanding-SU in 2007 and established the complaints mechanism to solve complaints. The National Complaints Mechanism (NCM) was set up in 2020 to operate its functions. In so doing, the national committee formed with representatives from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the employer and employee organizations is

solving the complaints about forced labour.

Hence, victims can safely submit their complaint letters to the National Complaints Mechanism-NCM through the Office of the State Administration Council, region/state government cabinets, Nay Pyi Taw Council, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, ILO liaison officer office (Yangon) or other organizations or to the Ministry of Labour, Office 51, Nay Pyi Taw in person or letter; Tel: 067 3430184, 067 3430229 and 067 3430274 and email: directorgeneral.dol@gmail.com, moloffice51@gamil.com, and research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com, according to the staff office of the National Complaints Mechanism and the Ministry of Labour. — MNA/TTA

MoNREC designates Shwesandaw Protected Public Forest in Mandalay Region

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has issued Notification 81/2024, announcing that 410 acres of forest in Wundwin Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, have been designated as the “Shwesandaw Protected Public Forest” as of 6 September 2024, under Section 6 (e) of the Forest Law 2018.

The ministry has designated the area in the tropical city of Wundwin as a protected public forest to reduce the temperature and mitigate the effects of a hot and dry climate. This initiative aims to make the climate more balanced and greener, reduce environ-

mental damage, prevent soil erosion, and protect tropical woodlands.

The establishment of the Shwesandaw Protected Public Forest is expected to safeguard valuable tropical timber species in the area. Additionally, it will help protect the habitats of wildlife such as barking deer, Columbidae, wild cats, quail, and rabbits. Moreover, it will support efforts to combat land degradation, prevent soil erosion caused by water and wind, promote soil conservation, enhance groundwater recharge, expand forest cover, and improve the overall ecosystem balance. — MNA/TKO



A general view of the Shwesandaw Protected Public Forest.

Illegal goods, vehicles seized in various townships



Seized illegal items.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, operations are being conducted to effectively curb illegal trade in accordance with the law.

On 11 September, under the coordination of the illegal trade eradication task force in Kayin State, combined inspection teams conducted operations at the Htilon-Hpa-an road checkpoint. Four vehicles carrying three types of industrial goods and one type of consumer product without proper documentation were intercepted. The estimated value of the seized goods was K84.73 million, along with four dump trucks, valued at K72 million, bringing the total to K156.73 million. The case was handled in line with Customs procedures.

In a separate operation on the same day, under the manage-

ment of the Ayeyawady Region illegal trade eradication task force, authorities confiscated 19.56 tonnes of illegal timber worth an estimated K1.09 million in Kyonpyaw District. The timber was seized under the Forest Law, and legal action is underway.

Additionally, on 11 and 12 September, combined inspection teams led by the Customs Department conducted operations at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. Six vehicles carrying four types of industrial goods, two types of consumer goods, and two types of food products without valid documentation were seized. The total estimated value of the seized goods was K43.65 million, while the vehicles, including Foton trucks and buses, were valued at K260 million. Another operation at the Asia World container checkpoint led to the discovery of goods worth K456.62 million, bringing the total value of seizures to K760.28 million. Legal action was pursued according to Customs procedures.

On 12 September, combined inspection teams under the Mon State illegal trade eradication task force seized three unregistered vehicles,

three unregistered motorcycles, and three barrels of petrol and diesel worth K38.22 million. Vehicles and fuel were confiscated under the Petroleum and Motor Vehicle Laws, and legal action is ongoing.

Another operation on the same day in Bago Region resulted in the seizure of two types of consumer goods worth K3.84 million, along with a Yutong bus valued at K40 million, totalling K43.84 million in seizures. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures, and investigations are underway.

Likewise, four unregistered motorcycles worth K1.5 million were also seized on 12 September in Magway Region under the Export and Import Law.

Finally, on 13 September, a combined inspection in Nay Pyi Taw's Ottarathiri Township resulted in the confiscation of 1.346 tonnes of illegal timber, valued at K1.18 million. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Overall, between 11 and 13 September, 46 cases involving illegal goods valued at K1 billion were reported, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZL

Counter-argument to false information

False news claims youths recruited at Pantaing checkpoint in Nyaungdon Township

MALICIOUS media have intentionally continued to spread false news, claiming that security forces inspected an express bus travelling from Kyonpyaw in Ayeyawady Region to Yangon and recruited youths who were travelling without a Citizenship Scrutiny Card and an approval letter for travel at the Pantaing checkpoint in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 10 September.

In reality, security forces are conducting systematic searches to prevent terrorists from entering villages, carrying illegal weapons, and carrying out terrorist activities in the town. However, subversive media intentionally spread false news to facilitate terrorists' entry into the town and to create misunderstandings between the public and security forces, according to a security official from the relevant area. — MNA/TRKM

Officials dismiss fake news on forced underage recruitment in Pauktaw village-tract

SUBVERSIVE media outlets are spreading false news claiming that underage youths were forcibly recruited for the fifth intake of the People's Military Service by using fake Citizenship Scrutiny Cards in Pauktaw village-tract, Okpo Township in Bago Region.

This recent news is entirely false. These unfounded claims are being propagated by subversive media outlets with the malicious intent of intimidating the public and misleading the youth. It is important to note that the fifth intake of the People's Military Service is ongoing successfully, and the dedicated soldiers who have completed each intake are now diligently serving defence and security duties the country in various battalions. The People's Military Service Law is a clearly established legal framework, and necessary summoning teams have been set up at regional, state, district, and township levels to ensure strict adherence to its provisions. — MNA/TRKM

ECONOMY WORLD

South Korea boosts Russian LNG imports to 1.2 mln tonnes in January-July 2024



The liquefied natural gas tanker Grand Aniva at the mooring of the first LNG plant in Russia (the Sakhalin-2 project), built by Sakhalin Energy Investment Ltd in the village of Prigorodnoye in southern Sakhalin. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

South Korea purchased 1.2 million tonnes of Russian LNG worth \$711 million in the first seven months of 2024, up from 953,000 tonnes worth \$657 million in the same period of 2023.

SOUTH Korea increased imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia between January and July of 2024 by a quarter on the same period last year, a Sputnik analysis of official figures showed on Wednesday.

South Korea purchased 1.2 million tonnes of Russian LNG worth \$711 million in the first seven months of the year following a decrease in imports seen at the end of 2023, according to Korean Statistical Information Service data. It imported 953,000 tonnes of

Russian LNG worth \$657 million in January-July 2023.

The boost in sales saw Russia become South Korea's sixth largest LNG supplier, with a 4.6 per cent share in the Asian country's total LNG imports. The top three suppliers were Australia, Qatar and the United States.

In total, South Korea imported 26.5 million tonnes of LNG during the first seven months of the year, marking an increase of 3.2 per cent compared to the same period last year. — SPUTNIK

Vietnam's agricultural, forestry and fishery exports surge to US\$40 bln

VIETNAM'S agricultural, forestry and fishery exports reached US\$40.08 billion in the first eight months of this year, an increase of 18.6 per cent year on year, Vietnam News reported on Thursday, citing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Agricultural exports brought home \$21.32 billion, up 24 per cent, while forestry

exports earned \$10.97 billion, up 19.7 per cent, fishery exports \$6.23 billion, up 7.6 per cent, and livestock exports \$324 million, up 0.3 per cent.

Exports to Asia reached \$19 billion during the cited period, up 15.7 per cent year on year, to the Americas hit \$9.3 billion, up 22.3 per cent, and to Europe reached \$4.8 billion, up 30.5 per cent.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Phung Duc Tien said agricultural, forestry and fishery exports were expected to meet the prime minister's target of \$54 billion for the year, laying a solid foundation for relatively stable growth of the agriculture sector in 2024. — Xinhua

Shanxi confirms record coalbed methane reserves in 2023

NEWLY proven coalbed methane reserves in north China's Shanxi Province reached 163.808 billion cubic metres in 2023, a record high, according to a report published by the Shanxi provincial department of natural resources at the 2024 Taiyuan Energy Low Carbon Development Forum on Wednesday.

The report shows that Shanxi's proven geological reserves have been increasing

annually, with a total of 271.671 billion cubic metres of newly proven coalbed methane reserves recorded from 2019 to 2023.

Shanxi is known for its abundant coalbed methane resources. The utilization of coalbed methane, which is a byproduct of coal, can help reduce risks in mining, cut greenhouse gas emissions and ease gas shortages. — Xinhua

TOP NEWS

Sensex crossed 83,000 for the first time, Nifty above 25400

THE stock market hit a record-breaking milestone on Thursday, with both Sensex and Nifty closing at record highs. This surge was driven by broad-based buying across sectors, reflecting strong investor confidence and robust market sentiment.

The Sensex skyrocketed by 1,439.55 points to close at 82,962.71, while the Nifty surged by 395.40 points, closing at 25,313.85.

Out of the Nifty50 companies listed, 49 saw gains, with only one stock ending the session in the red. Leading the rally were top performers such as Hindalco Industries, Bharti Airtel, NTPC,

Shriram Finance, and Grasim, all of which posted strong gains.

Hindalco led the charge with a rise of up to 4.15 per cent, while Bharti Airtel and NTPC also delivered stellar performances, contributing significantly to the indices' gains. On the flip side, Nestle India was the only notable decliner, underperforming amid the broader market rally.

In the currency markets, the Indian rupee traded with a slight negative bias, primarily due to the strength of the US dollar and a rebound in global crude oil prices. — ANI



This photo taken on 25 June 2022 shows workers checking equipment at the workshop of a coalbed methane mining base in Qinshui County, north China's Shanxi Province. **PHOTO: WANG FEIHANG/XINHUA/FILE**

Peaches from Japan's Fukushima region sold at Harrods

Despite radiation concerns, farms outside the evacuated areas were unaffected, and all products from Fukushima are now rigorously tested for radiation before distribution.

PEACHES from Fukushima can now be bought at London's luxury department store Harrods in a Japanese push to ease fears about produce grown in the region hit by nuclear disaster.

A box of three large, juicy white peaches costs 80 pounds (\$100) — the first time the fruit is available at a shop in Europe, after sales at temporary events.

Before the 2011 atomic meltdown, Fukushima

prided itself as a "fruit kingdom", famous in Japan for its delicious offerings, including peaches, grapes, pears and cherries.

But after an earthquake-triggered tsunami unleashed the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl, consumers feared eating them could harm their health and sales plunged.

Although the areas surrounding the stricken Fukushima Daiichi power station were evacuated

over radiation fears, farms in the rest of the region were not contaminated.

And before being sent to stores, all farm and fishery products from the northeastern Japanese prefecture now undergoes strict radiation inspection. Harrods began selling the peaches on Saturday, part of a reputation-building initiative by Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), the operator of the Fukushima plant. — AFP



A customer (R) trying peaches from Japan's Fukushima prefecture, which went on sale at luxury department store Harrods in central London. PHOTO: AFP

Business groups ask Ottawa to prevent Air Canada strike



Air Canada said it was preparing to suspend most of its flights starting next Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

GROUPS representing more than 200,000 businesses across Canada on Thursday urged the government to intervene to block a looming pilot's strike at flagship carrier Air Canada that they say risks devastating the economy. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of Canada and nearly 100 other associations in a letter to the fed-

eral labour minister asked him to order arbitration to settle the labour dispute. This comes after Air Canada said it was preparing to suspend most of its flights starting next Sunday, as it faces an impasse in talks with its pilots over wage demands.

A total shutdown of its operations has been scheduled for 18 September if talks break down. — AFP

Vodafone-Three merger concerns

A planned merger of Vodafone's British mobile phone arm and that of Three "is likely to lead to a substantial lessening of competition in the UK", antitrust regulators said Friday.

Britain's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) gave its conclusion in provisional findings of a probe into the tie-up involving Three UK, which is owned by Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison.

The proposed merger, announced in June last year, aims to create Britain's biggest mobile operator with 27 million customers and to accelerate rollout of faster 5G connectivity.

British mobile phone giant Vodafone and Three UK have a target value of £16.5 billion (\$22 billion) for the new group. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (186N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (186N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-9-2024** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (236N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (236N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-9-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BBC MAINE VOY.NO. (1011078)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC MAINE VOY.NO. (1011078)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-9-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-3** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Starmer says UK's national health service needs 'major surgery'



Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivers a speech in central London on 12 September 2024 following a report into the condition of the state-run National Health Service (NHS). **PHOTO: AFP**

The 142-page report, authored by Lord Ara Darzi, highlighted the NHS's deterioration over 15 years due to insufficient investment, reorganization issues, and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

PRIME Minister Keir Starmer warned Thursday that Britain's state-run National Health Service must "reform or die", after an independent report said the venerated institution was in a "critical condition".

Starmer, whose Labour party was elected by a landslide in July, promised "the biggest re-imagining" of the NHS since it was founded 76 years ago.

His speech in central London followed the publication of a 142-page investigation which found that the health of Britons had deteriorated over the past 15 years.

The report's author, Ara Darzi, an unaffiliated Lord in parliament's upper chamber, said the NHS had fallen into "disrepair" due to a lack of investment compared to peer coun-

tries, top-down reorganization and the coronavirus pandemic.

Keir Starmer emphasized the need for substantial, long-term reform of the NHS rather than temporary fixes.

He proposed a 10-year plan focusing on digitizing services, shifting care to community settings, and prioritizing prevention over treatment. — AFP

TOP STORIES: BRIEF

Trump rules out holding another TV debate with Harris

DONALD Trump on Thursday, 12 September announced he will not participate in another televised debate with his Democratic rival Vice-President Kamala Harris ahead of November's presidential election.

The Republican candidate declared on Truth Social that there will be no third debate, citing previous encounters with President Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris.

After a high-profile debate with Harris, watched by 67 million, her campaign requested a second debate in October.

Despite initially being open to more debates, Trump has now dismissed the idea, accusing Harris of desperation.

He claimed victory in the debate, though CNN's snap poll showed Harris performing better by 63 per cent to 37 per cent, and YouGov found Harris had a clearer plan by 43 per cent to 32 per cent. — AFP

Spain to host meeting on Israel-Palestinian two-state solution

SPAIN hosts a meeting Friday of ministers from Muslim and European countries aimed at advancing a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The meeting will bring together members of the Arab-Islamic Contact Group for Gaza, which includes countries such as Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, the Spanish foreign ministry said in a statement, without giving details of who would take part.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will welcome participants at his official residence before the meeting takes place at the foreign ministry in central Madrid, hosted by his top diplomat Jose Manuel Albares. The European Union's foreign affairs chief, Josep Borrell, will also take part in the talks, his office said in a separate statement. "The ministerial gathering will advance the discussion on the need to reinforce the engagement of the international community on peace and security in the Middle East, and the challenge to create an international consensus on a way forward based on the two-state solution," the statement said. — AFP

Sweden says to pay immigrants up to \$34,000 to leave

SWEDEN plans to boost payments to up to \$34,000 to immigrants who leave the nation that has been a haven for the war-weary and persecuted, the right-wing government said Thursday.

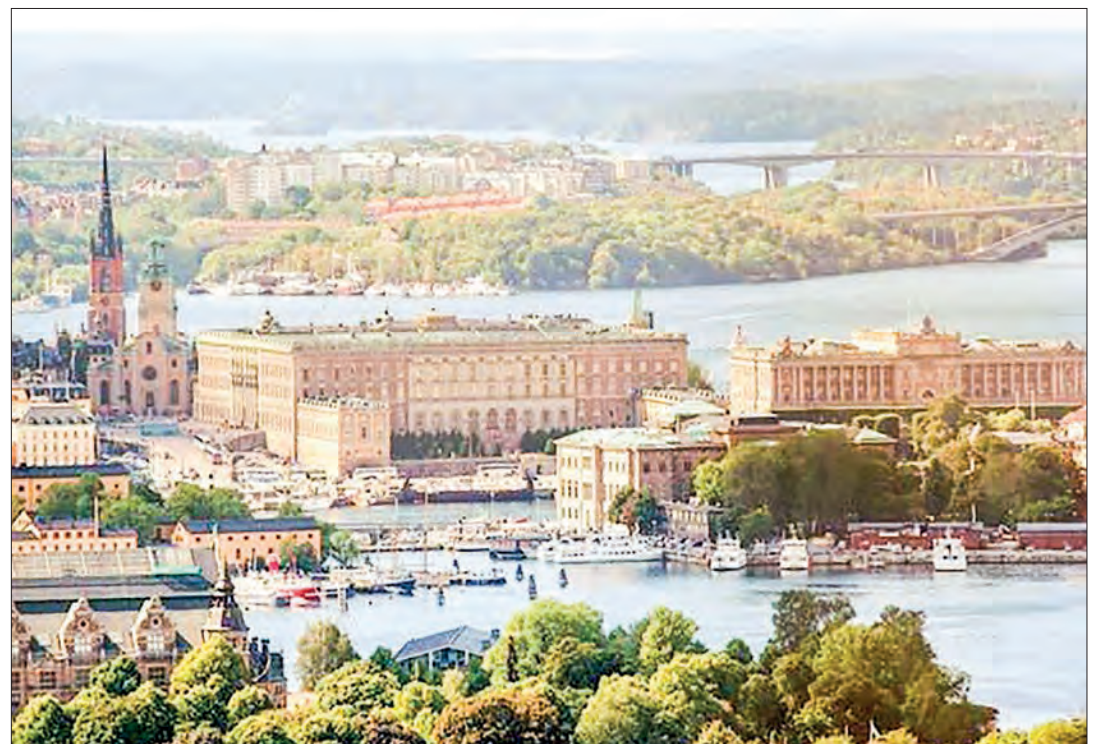
The Scandinavian country was for decades seen as a "humanitarian superpower", but over the years has struggled to integrate many of its

newcomers.

Immigrants who voluntarily return to their countries of origin from 2026 would be eligible to receive up to 350,000 Swedish kronor (\$34,000), the government, which is propped up by the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, told a press conference.

Migration Minister Johan Forssell announced a shift in

Sweden's migration policy, focusing on tightening regulations. Currently, immigrants can receive grants up to 10,000 kronor per adult and 5,000 kronor per child, capped at 40,000 kronor per family. However, this grant, introduced in 1984 and rarely utilized, is set to be reviewed due to its minimal impact — only one person accepted it last year. — AFP



From 2026, immigrants who voluntarily return to their home countries could receive up to 350,000 Swedish kronor (\$34,000). **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

SPORTS

Divine secures 3rd consecutive win at MFF Women's Futsal Invitation Cup

IN the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Women's Futsal Invitation Cup 2024, taking place at the MFF Futsal Arena in Yangon on 13 September, Divine extended their unbeaten run to three matches, remaining at the top of the table.

On the third day of group stage matches, Divine beat Pacific Sun Far with a resounding 6-0 victory. Generations also secured a win, defeating Phoenix 2-1. As a result, the standings after the third round are

as follows: Divine leads with 9 points from three matches, Generations holds 4 points from three games, YRG has 3 points from two matches, Pacific Sun Far has 1 point from two games, and Phoenix remains scoreless after two losses.

The tournament, organized in a round-robin format, will see the top two teams advance to the finals, while the third and fourth-placed teams will compete in the third-place



Divine FC is in action against Pacific Sun Far. PHOTO: MFF

play-off.

With Divine already assured of their place in the final, they are set to play one more

group match.

The fourth day of group matches will continue today, featuring matches between

Phoenix and Divine, as well as YRG versus the Pacific Sun Far team. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Mbappe, Vinicius unaffected by criticism: Madrid coach

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said strikers Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Junior were not letting critics weigh them down after an underwhelming start to the season.

New arrival Mbappe netted a brace in his last outing for the club following three La Liga games without a goal, while Vinicius has one strike in the opening four matches.

"They don't seem affected to me, they are training well, happy. Kylian is progressing each day," Ancelotti told a news conference Friday.

"Many forget they started pre-season in the



Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said strikers Kylian Mbappe (L) and Vinicius Junior (R) are "training well, happy" after an underwhelming start to the season. PHOTO: AFP

middle of August... they didn't have a pre-season, they have improved their fitness with games. They seem very well to me, and happy".

French superstar Mbappe joined Madrid at the end of his Paris Saint-Germain contract this summer and Ancelotti is still working out how to get the best from the forward, who like Vinicius, prefers to drift in from the left. Thus far Mbappe has started in the middle with Vinicius in his preferred posi-

tion, but the Brazilian has lacked spark.

"(Vinicius is) not at his best but he's still very important for us," continued Ancelotti. — AFP

Myanmar ends training tour with draw against Cambodia

IN preparation for the AFC U-20 Championship qualifiers, the Myanmar U-20 team played out a 2-2 draw against Cambodia U-20 in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13 September.

This friendly game marked Myanmar's final match of their training tour in Thailand. Goals for Myanmar came from Min Maw Oo in the 48th minute and Win Pyae Maung in the 83rd

minute. Over their training period from 1 to 14 September, Myanmar U-20 played three matches, securing one win, one draw, and one loss.

They recorded an impressive 5-0 victory over Kasem Bundit University FC, a Thai League III side, followed by a 2-2 draw against Cambodia and a 3-1 defeat to Bahrain U-20. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar U-20 and Cambodian U-20 in action during their friendly match. PHOTO: MFF

Yamal wants to become a Barcelona 'legend'

SPAIN'S teenage prodigy Lamine Yamal said Thursday in a televised interview that he hopes "never" to leave Barcelona because he wants to be "a legend" at the club.

Yamal made his Barcelona debut aged 15 in April 2023 and burst into the limelight last season, becoming a key player for the Catalan giants.

"I hope I never leave (Barcelo-

na), I want to be a legend at Barca," the 17-year-old replied on the hit show 'El Hormiguero' on Spanish private television Antena 3. The winger, who turned 17 in July, played a key role

for his country as Spain triumphed at Euro 2024 for a record fourth time, becoming the youngest ever footballer to play and score in the competition's history. — AFP

Starmer says UK's national health service needs 'major surgery'
PAGE 14



WORLD

THE second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation concluded on Thursday with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration.

The two-day conference hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) at Bharat Mandapam ended with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing the unanimous passing of the Delhi Declaration.

The conference saw the participation of delegates from 29 Countries Ministers and policymakers, and 8 International organizations, including ICAO as part of the conference.

A significant milestone of the conference has been the formal adoption of the Delhi Declaration, a comprehensive framework aimed at enhancing regional cooperation, addressing emerging challenges, and fostering sustainable growth within the civil aviation sector.

The Prime Minister highlighted India's advancements in civil aviation during a conference with Asia-Pacific leaders, emphasizing the sector's inclusivity and growth.

He noted that 15 per cent of Indian pilots are women, surpassing the global average, and outlined a goal to further increase this percentage.

Over the past decade, India's aviation sector has evolved from being exclusive to inclusive, focusing on connecting people and cultures. He proposed creating an 'International Buddhist Circuit' to enhance regional connectivity and economic benefits. — ANI

PM Modi announces passing of Delhi Declaration on Civil Aviation

Proposal to create a circuit connecting holy sites related to Lord Buddha to boost regional connectivity and economic benefits.



Discussion on the Draft Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation, the establishment of the Pacific Small Island Developing States Liaison Office, and ICAO's 80th anniversary. PHOTO: DD NEWS

Japan plans driverless bullet trains

Starting in 2028, trains with automated functions but with drivers still present will be introduced on parts of one route.

SHINKANSEN bullet trains could be whizzing around Japan without drivers from the mid 2030s, one of its main rail operators said, motivated in part by the country's demograph-

ic crisis. East Japan Railway (JR East) will first introduce trains where many of the driver's tasks are automated — but they will remain in the cab — on parts of one route from 2028, the firm said.

The following year, the company hopes to trial driverless trains on a short stretch of out-of-service track before rolling them out between Tokyo and Niigata on the Joetsu Shinkansen line in the mid 2030s.

"Through realizing driverless driving and transforming railway management to an efficient and sustainable system, we will adapt to changes in the social environment such as declining population and reforms in ways of how workers work," a company statement said. — AFP



Bullet trains in Japan. PHOTO: AFP

DIGITAL TALENTS

Indonesia launches cybersecurity training programme to empower 1 mln people

INDONESIA has launched a cybersecurity skills enhancement programme for individuals, business owners, and small enterprises, targeting to reach one million people.

"This programme is our effort to produce one million digital talents over the next five years, which means 200,000 digital talents each year," said Communication and Information Minister Budi Arie Setiadi on Thursday.

The programme includes various courses, such as inventory management, software updates and online security, phishing and malware risk mitigation, and data backup for businesses, with participants receiving certificates upon course completion.

Indonesia is estimated to need an average of 458,043 digital talents each year from 2023 to 2030, underscoring the importance of investing in human resources in the field of cybersecurity.

The ministry hopes this initiative will help new talents and professionals sharpen their skills and prepare to become cybersecurity specialists, while emphasizing the importance of continuous skill development in this field. — Xinhua