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(Cuckoo's Song)

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Yangon Region plants 1M+ acres of paddy varieties

THE Yangon Region Agriculture Department stated a total of 671,640 acres of high-yield varieties, 28,502 acres of high-quality paddy and 306,063 acres of native rice crops, totalling 1,006,205 acres of monsoon paddy have been planted in Yangon Region in 2024.

The monsoon paddy was grown in 18 townships of the region. As seven districts of the region were flooded due to heavy rainfalls in July, some planted paddy again.

Though it is estimated to plant 1,145,000 acres of monsoon paddy in 2023, it grew 1,148,222 acres. In 2024, farmers grew only 1,006,205 acres of paddy against the target of 1,148,222 acres due to the weather conditions.

The department also conducted discussions, talk shows, training, and demonstrations to promote the estimation rate and production rate per acre by adopting the GAP system.

Moreover, the department distributed urea fertilizer produced by the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise. The allocated portion for 2024-2025 monsoon paddy, summer paddy and edible oil



PHOTO: KANU

crops is 3,394 tonnes for Yangon Region, and 680 tonnes were already distributed to the farmers until July-end.

In the 2024-2025 monsoon paddy season, 30 companies and seven cooperative syndicates earmarked to plant 91,056 acres in 12 townships in five districts through the State Economic Promotion Fund. The agricultural inputs worth K200,000 per acre are being distributed using the State Economic Promotion Fund. Currently, 18 companies and eight cooperative syndicates made contracts for 60,331 acres of farmlands of 5,016 farmers in 191 villages. —Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



Members of Interfaith Dialogue Group (Bago) package the foodstuffs for members of Tatmadaw and security forces who are serving State's defence and security duties with sacrifices on the frontline.

Bago Region donates foods for frontline Tatmadaw members, security forces second time

A food donation event was held at the Bago Region Government Office on 10 August 2024 for members of Tatmadaw and security forces serving on the frontline, with sacrifice of their lives and limbs in defending the State. During the event, officials from the Bago Region Interfaith Dialogue Group handed over foodstuffs to the Bago Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win, along with regional government members, expressed their support for residents

People express best wishes for members of Tatmadaw and security forces on frontline to achieve victories in all fighting.

of Bago Region and members of the Interfaith Dialogue Group who packed the food items with goodwill and compassion for the frontline forces.

The donations included various foodstuffs such as fried dried fish, fried fish paste, pickled tea, fried beans, and other items worth over K10 million. The packages also contained messages of encourage-

ment for member of Tatmadaw and security forces who are sacrificing in the country's defence and security duties. These messages highlighted that may victory be with the righteous as quickly as possible, taking proud of Tatmadaw members and security forces for their sacrifice in discharging State defence and security duties, ensuring safe and sound situations

for members of Tatmadaw and security forces in fighting against dangers of the nation, believing capability and courage of Tatmadaw members, and achieving victories in all battles.

This marks the second donation event in Bago Region and the first took place on 1 August 2024, with foodstuffs worth more than K25 million donated. — Region IPRD/KZL

NATIONAL



အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာလူငယ်များနေ့
International Youth Day

“စဉ်ဆက်မပြတ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေး
လူငယ်များရဲ့ ဒစ်ဂျစ်တယ် ကျွမ်းကျင်မှုဖြင့် ဖော်ဆောင်ပေး”
“From Clicks To Progress: Youth Digital Pathways
For Sustainable Development”

၁၂-၈-၂၀၂၄ ရက်နေ့ (တနင်္လာနေ့) ဝတ္ထုသိဒ္ဓိအားကစားရုံ (C)

Two Myanmar nationals experiencing difficulties in UAE brought back to mother country

THE government deeply appreciates the citizens if they encounter any difficulties, and the Myanmar Consulates-General and the Myanmar Embassies are coordinating with the relevant embassies to arrange for the citizens to return to Myanmar as soon as possible with peace and safety.

Therefore, the Consulate-General of Myanmar is contacting the police, immigration department, and the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to return the Myanmar nationals Ma Thida Aung and Ma Khin Myat Noe Win to Myanmar as soon as possible while working in the city of UAE and issuance of certificates for lost passports. Ma Thida Aung, one of the two Myanmar nationals who were able to be brought back to Myanmar, arrived in Yangon on 9 August on a Dubai-Yangon flight. Ma Khin Myat Noe Win departed at 2:00 pm UAE standard time on 11 August on a Dubai-Yangon flight and arrived in Yangon at 10:10 pm on 12 August.

The Consulate-General of Myanmar is providing assistance to Myanmar nationals who are experiencing difficulties in the UAE to return to Myanmar. The government is repatriating Myanmar nationals who have encountered difficulties while working abroad, with the coordination and assistance of the Myanmar Consulate-General and the Myanmar Embassy. Those employees and their parents including relatives are especially grateful to the government, the Myanmar Consulate-General and the Myanmar Embassy for helping and rescuing the citizens of the motherland when they are facing such plights. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TKO

Myanmar national hospitalized after eating unknown mushroom in Malaysia

A Myanmar national, a live-stock farm worker in Malaysia, was hospitalized after eating an unidentified mushroom found somewhere in the forest this month, according to the Lovely Heart Philanthropic Myanmar Youth Blood Donor Group (Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia). He was unable to urinate and defecate after eating the mushroom and required hospitalization. Being an undocumented migrant worker,

he sought help from the group. After being hospitalized for four days at Kuala Lumpur Hospital, he was discharged. His parents want him back to Myanmar, so the group has given him shelter at their office before sending him back home. In Malaysia, there are alleged cases of food poisoning after eating unidentified mushrooms found in the forest, and some even died, the Lovely Heart warned. — MT/ZS

Appointment of Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Ms Ma Jia as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

Ms Ma Jia, was born in November 1967 in Yongji, Shanxi Province, a university graduate. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991 and had served in various capacities at both headquarters and abroad. She served as Attaché and Third Secretary at the Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1992 to 1995 and as Third Secretary and Second Secretary from 1998 to 2001 and as Deputy Director from 2005 to 2010. As overseas assignments, she had served as a Third Secretary at the Chi-

nese Embassy to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 1995 to 1998, as a Second Secretary at the Chinese Embassy to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 2001 and at the Chinese Embassy to Japan from 2001 to 2003, as a First Secretary at the Chinese Embassy to the Republic of Singapore from 2003 to 2005, as a Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 2010 to 2013, as a Counsellor and Minister Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy to Malaysia from 2013 to 2018.

She also served as Deputy Mayor of Sansha City, Hainan Province from 2018 to 2019. Since 2019, she has been serving as a Minister Counsellor and Minister at the Chinese Embassy to the Republic of India. — MNA

Shan State’s donors provide food and clothing to frontline Tatmadaw and security forces



Donation ceremony organized by the Shan State government is held in the Shan State government office for members of Tatmadaw and security forces who are serving State’s defence and security duties with sacrifices on the frontline.

ENTHUSIASTIC donors from various states and regions are offering food, clothing, and essential supplies to the security forces in recognition of their dedicated service to the defence and security duties of the State.

On 9 August, a donation ceremony organized by the Shan State government and donors was held in the meeting hall of the Shan State government office. The event was attended by the Shan State Chief Minister, the Deputy Commander of Eastern Com-

mand and officials, Shan State ministers, and donors.

The Shan State Chief Minister gave the opening remarks and presented the donated food and clothing for the security forces to the deputy commander. The deputy commander then expressed his gratitude in a closing speech.

These donations will be distributed to the security forces serving on the frontline in defence of the nation. — MNA/TMT

NATIONAL

DPM MoTC Union Minister inspects freight handling at Thilawa Port, work process of related departments

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo inspected jetties of Thilawa Port managed by the Myanmar Port Authority in Thanlyin-Kyauktan region of Yangon and various departmental units under the ministry yesterday morning.

On arrival at the Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT), the General heard reports by U Zaw Tun Lwin, Director-General of the Myanmar Port Authority, on development activities at the Thilawa Port and officials from MITT and other port bridge companies on their operational matters. The Union Minister emphasized that maritime trade is a crucial backbone of the nation's socioeconomic development. He stressed the need for simplifying procedures to facilitate smooth maritime trade and noted the importance of private port operators in this context. He instructed them to continuously monitor international and regional changes and



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo inspects the workplaces of the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems office in Pazundaung Township, Yangon yesterday.

emphasized fair and effective collaboration between government and private sectors.

The inspection included a review of container and general freight-handling measures at MITT, unloading of fertilizers, management of edible oils and crops at Wilmar Myanmar port, container and general cargo

handling at Thilawa MPA International Terminal (TMIT), and fuel distribution at the Padauk Shwe Wah Company's fuel jetty.

Subsequently, the Union Minister visited the Myanmar Maritime University in Thanlyin. He met with the university's rector, administrative officials, and faculty members.

He advised aligning maritime education with international standards to ensure students are well-prepared. The Union Minister also reviewed the university's modern e-library system, document management, and maritime training simulators and providing instructions for further enhancements.

In the afternoon, the General visited the Myanmar Port Authority office in Kyauktada Township. He met with departmental heads, emphasizing the need for all civil servants to perform their duties with a strong sense of national spirit and adherence to civil service ethics. He highlighted the importance of maintaining cleanliness and order in office environments and encouraged young employees to engage in continuous learning to enhance their capacity.

At Marine Administration Department in Botahtaung Township, he reviewed the Integrated Vessel Monitoring and Tracking System presentation.

Next, the Union Minister visited the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems office in Pazundaung Township. He inspected office facilities and ongoing expansion projects, including the construction of an RC dockyard for repairing and maintaining government vessels and dredgers. — MNA/KZL

MoRAC Union Minister departs for Laos to attend ASCC Council Meeting

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin left for the Lao People's Democratic Republic yesterday by air to attend the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting and related meetings which will be held on 12 and 13 August 2024, in Vientiane, Laos. Upon departure from Yangon, the delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials from the ministry and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

During the trip, the Union minister is accompanied by Dr Daw Nanda Hmun, Vice Chair of the Myanmar National



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin is pictured before departure for Laos yesterday.

Human Rights Commission delegates from MoRAC. — (ASCC Eminent Person) and MNA/KZL

Authorities warn of action against businesses failing to repay COVID-19 loans

THE Committee for Remedying the Economic Impact of COVID-19 has announced that companies and businesses that have completely failed to repay the principal and interest on COVID-19 loans will face action.

In response to the economic challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the COVID-19 fund provided loans with a one-year term at an interest rate of one per cent, starting from April 2020. As the three-year loan period has now expired, companies and businesses were notified on 6 June 2024 to repay the principal and interest by 30 June 2024.

The announcement also emphasized that companies

and businesses in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, as well as other regions and states, which have been slow in repayment or remain in arrears, must promptly settle their dues.

Furthermore, those that have only repaid the interest are required to promptly repay both the principal and the interest. Failure to comply with this directive will result in the public disclosure of the names of the non-compliant companies and businesses through State-owned newspapers, with further action taken under management protocols, as stated by the Committee for Remedying the Economic Impact of COVID-19. — TWA/KZL

NATIONAL

Tri Pitakat treatises approved by Sixth Buddhist Synod donated to Lao monastery



The ceremony of offering Tri Pitakat treatises approved by Sixth Buddhist Synod donated by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in progress at Thatluang Sangha Nayaka Tipitaka Monastery in Vientiane of Laos, yesterday.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Aung Ko, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy

and Air) Brig-Gen Khin Maung Soe attended the ceremony of offering Tri Pitakat treatises approved by Sixth Buddhist Synod donated by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Thatluang Sangha Nayaka Tipitaka Monastery in Vientiane of Laos, yesterday morning.

Firstly, Sangha Nayaka Chair of Laos Most Ven Maha Bounma Simmaphom and Sangha Nayaka monks prayed for all, and the Union minister supplicated donation's purpose as both countries have the common culture and history.

The donations were made for monasteries and religious universities in Laos.

It aims to bolster the sus-

tainability and strength of Buddhism.

This act of generosity is also intended to endure cooperation and friendship between the two nations in all sectors.

After that, the Union minister offered the Tri Pitakat treatises and alms to the monks. Then, they also visited Sangha Nayaka Tipitaka Monastery and religious buildings in Vientiane, Laos.

Chairperson Mr Dr Chanpheng Sudthivong for Lao Front for National Development (LFND), Deputy Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism Mr Phosy Keomanivong and other invitees also attended the ceremony.

The Union minister and party arrived back in Yangon in the evening. — MNA/TRKM

Authorities meet with healthcare staff at Loikaw Hospital

A ceremony to meet healthcare workers of the Department of Public Health and Medical Services of Kayah State returning to the workplaces was held at the Kayah State General Hospital (500-bed) yesterday.

Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin delivered an opening remark, saying that the Kayah State General Hospital was temporarily closed due to sabotage committed by the insurgents and terrorists. Now, the hospital returns to providing healthcare services due to the cooperation of the Kayah State government and the healthcare workers. The Kayah State government acknowledged the active involvement of the healthcare workers in the development and rehabilitation projects of Kayah State.

The chief minister urged the healthcare workers and personnel to provide healthcare services at full capacity so as to be the reliable hospital by the public. He also encouraged the health workers to submit the difficulties to the Kayah State government since the authorities are fulfilling necessities for the development of the health sector.

Acting Head of State Public Health Department Medical Superintendent of Kayah State General Hospital Dr Sithu explained the performances and preparations of the hospital and the forward plans.

Then, the Kayah State chief minister and authorities provided the financial aid and foods to the health workers and the patients.



Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin supplies the financial aid and foods to a patient at the Kayah State General Hospital (500-bed) yesterday.

The chief minister and authorities also cordially conversed with patients at the out-

patient ward, visited relevant departments in the hospital and inspected the machine capacity

of the oxygen plant to re-operate it as quickly as possible. — Kayah State IPRD/TMT

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL

Mt Popa trekking tour attracts a lot of people, most are from Yangon

TREKKING in Mount Popa has caught a lot of attention and most of the visitors are from Yangon, said Ko Tin Ko Min from Mahagiri.

The service of trekking in Mount Popa has become well-known this year and Yangon residents accounted for 70 per cent of total visitors.

“Trekking in Mount Popa has caught more and more attentions. Rain level in here is low so it is fine for mountaineering, just showers some-

times. A free knitting training course was planned on 8 and 9 August. The trekking service becomes well-known now. About 70 per cent of the visitors are from Yangon Region,” he said.

Overnight trekking tour in Mount Popa National Geopark has been scheduled on 24 August and an unplugged concert will be featured, he said. Mount Popa National Geopark is Myanmar’s first-ever geopark.

Mahagiri is an organiza-



Some visitors from trekking tour in Mount Popa.

tion which currently works on trekking service in Mount Popa and Popa langur conservation

as well as geotourism has been planned to extend as a new project. It will also conserve

endangered species of the area — Popa Bent-toed gecko and Popa flying gecko. — MT/ZS

Press conference held for Channel 8 Myanmar’s new series ‘The Cloud’

ON 10 August, Channel 8 Myanmar Film Production held a press conference for its new series, “The Cloud”, at the Myanmar Plaza Promotion Area. The series, featuring actress Pann Yaung Chel as the main character, is a romance-drama set against the nostalgic backdrop of the 1970s.

Shwe Pyae crafted the story and script, while EMMA directed and Zee served as co-director. The series will consist

of 12 engaging episodes, each lasting 25 minutes.

Pann Yaung Chel, who plays the character Mya Lei, commented, “The entire cast and crew have worked tirelessly to bring this project to life. It will also be broadcast internationally.”

The cast includes Pann Yaung Chel, Oak Soe Khant, Ashley Bay Bay, Min Khant Thuriem, Gu Gue, Eaint Hsu, Gwan Pon Gyi, Ye Mon, and



A poster of “The Cloud” series.

Hsu Htet Kaday. — ASH/TRKM

3 Myanmar representatives as international pageants for Miss Universe Myanmar introduced



The ceremony of introducing three Myanmar representatives as international pageants for Miss Universe Myanmar in progress.

MISS Universe Myanmar Organization presented the three beauty pageants who will represent Myanmar in international pageants on 10 August at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Yangon, according to Yin May Hnin, who will represent Myanmar in the Face Of Beauty 2024 pageant.

Miss Supranational Myanmar 2024 Miss Cherry Moe, Miss Earth Myanmar 2024 Thawtar San and Face Of Beauty Myanmar 2024 Yin May Hnin have been select-

ed to represent Myanmar in the Miss Supranational 2025 pageant.

“I was selected to be sent to the Face Of Beauty 2024 competition to represent the country, so it is a big responsibility. I am trying everything. Actually, I didn’t expect to be chosen. I’m so glad and I want to go for competition. My first pageant experience will be in Chinese (Taipei) on 8 September, so I will try my best,” said Myanmar’s Miss Yin May Hnin. — ASH/TKO

Registered PWDs to get grants

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, people with disabilities (PWDs) who hold the PWD registration certificates will be allowed financial assistance.

The ministry has implemented collecting accurate data of the PWDs, determining the rate of disabilities, and registration processes of the PWDs in 18 townships and the implementation processes will be carried out in six more areas as the project

designated places. The PWDs who hold the registration certificates will be granted the financial aid.

The working committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was organized in 2018 and was re-organized on 18 March 2024. Five-year strategic project for the rights of PWDs (2022-27) was approved on 15 February 2024 with detailed action plans which were drafted by the respective chairpersons of the subcommittees. Evaluation process

on the effectiveness of the actions will be carried out by the respective subcommittees.

In addition, a task force for drafting the standard operating procedures for detailed scrutinizing of the PWDs registration process will be developed by the officials from the relevant ministries and departments. A total of 29 special needs private schools and centres for the disabled children were allowed to establish, according to the ministry. — TWA/TMT

NATIONAL

Illegal trade eradication efforts seize over K644M worth of illegal and smuggled commodities across multiple regions

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

On 7 August, a team managed by the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections at a temporary checkpoint in Yethar village-tract, seizing eight types of goods, including 13,200 kilogrammes of Yellow Dye Liquid, 2,300 kilogrammes of De-Inking Agent-labelled chemical solution, and various other items, all without legal documentation. The total value of the seized goods, including a 40-foot container and chemical products, was estimated at K296.588 million. Additionally, a Man Tractor Head and a trailer transporting these goods, valued at K135 million, were confiscated, with taking action under Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 8 August, a team under the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized an Isuzu Light Truck and a Mitsubishi Light Truck, valued at K45 million, near the Singaing tollgate. These vehicles were carrying 4,800 boxes of Indonesia-made Cho Cho Chocolate cream, valued at K22.624 million. The team also confiscated 15,000



Confiscated illegal timbers in Bago Region, foodstuffs and vehicle in Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region.

kilogrammes of Galvanized Iron Sheet, worth K22.05 million, and a Hino Profia Truck, valued at K30 million, with taking action under Customs procedures.

On the same day, a team under the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force

seized 500 pieces of TV spare parts, valued at K2.5 million, near the Naungphar gate in Kengtung Township, with taking action in accordance with Customs procedures.

In the Bago Region on 8 August, another team seized



five illegal products, including 150 18-litre buckets of palm oil produced by Malaysia, valued at K9.94 million, along with a Mahar New MPV vehicle, worth K20 million, in DaikU. Additionally, they confiscated three types of products, including 2,000 bottles of Lipovitan-D energy drink without legal documents, at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray checkpoint from a Scania bus, valued at K40 million, with taking action under Customs procedures. The

team also seized 0.461 tonne of illegal teak and 0.749 tonne of other timber, valued at K74.165 million, in Bago Region on 9 August, taking action under the Forest Law.

Moreover, on 9 August, a team under the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force confiscated nine types of illegal goods, including 324 bottles of Tiger Beer and 756 bottles of ABC Beer without official documents, valued at K16.424 million, at the Yadanabon checkpoint, with action taken under the Excise Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported that 22 arrests were made from 7 to 9 August, leading to the confiscation of illegal items worth approximately K644.352 million. — MNA/ TRKM

K2B+ worth of heroin, stimulant tablets seized in Kalay

THE Myanmar Police Force reported the seizure of 19.8 kilogrammes of heroin and 600,000 stimulant tablets, valued at K2.19 billion, in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising members of the Sagaing Region Police Force searched a six-wheel FUSO vehicle driven by Myint Zaw accompanied by Min Khant Kyaw (aka) Ko Ko on the Kalewa-Kalay road in Ward 1 of Kalewa, on 7 August.

And the combined team seized a total of 19.8 kilogrammes of heroin and 600,000 stimulant tablets, valued at

K2.19 billion.

The suspects confessed that the seized drugs were carried from Shan State to Kalay, Sagaing Region. Legal action has been initiated against offenders, and an ongoing investigation is underway to apprehend other individuals involved in the case. — MNA/ KZL

Offenders seen alongside confiscated heroin, stimulant tablets and vehicle.



Myanmar approves over US\$154M of foreign investment in first four months of financial year

IN the first four months of this financial year, Myanmar approved just over US\$154 million in foreign investment, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Despite the modest total, over 90 per cent of this investment has been directed towards two crucial sectors: transport and communications, and manufacturing.

Specifically, this month saw more than US\$67 million (over 43 per cent) allocated to the manufacturing sector; over US\$82 million (over 53 per

cent) to the transport sector; over US\$3 million (2.4 per cent) to the electric power sector; US\$125,000 to the agricultural sector; and over US\$1 million to the livestock breeding sector.

Foreign investment in Myanmar is concentrated in just five sectors: manufacturing, transport, electric power, agriculture, and livestock breeding. Investment figures show US\$4.880 billion in 2019-2020 FY, US\$3.791 billion in 2020-2021, US\$642.084 million in 2021-2022, and US\$1.640 billion in 2022-2023. — TWA/TKO



Office of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Hard-to-find medicines to be sold in Pyinmana Township at wholesale prices



Nearly 70 pharmaceutical companies are seen selling hard-to-find medicines at wholesale prices.

DRUGS that were previously difficult to obtain on the market will be sold by drug companies at wholesale prices in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, from 12 to 17 August, according to Dr Win Maw Phyto, a central executive member of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association.

“Pharmaceutical companies began selling hard-to-find medicines at the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization’s office on Merchant Street in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region, on 17 July. To make it easier for people to purchase these medicines, the companies also started selling them on 29 July at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Promotion building within the Nawade Cinema compound in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region. Additionally, sales began on 29 July at

the Producers’ Sales Centre hall upstairs of Thiri Oaktha Market in Bago Township, Bago Region. We will continue to offer these hard-to-find drugs in Pyinmana at Mingala Kantaw hall. People can bring their medical records and the packaging of the medicine they are currently using to purchase the drugs here,” said Dr Win Maw Phyto.

Nearly 70 pharmaceutical companies are selling hard-to-find medicines at wholesale prices, and arrangements are being made to extend the service to other regions and states.

In addition to basic household medicines, a range of other products is being sold, including medications for hypertension, heart conditions, diabetes, kidney issues, and cancer, as well as antibiotics and medical equipment for bone and nerve patients. — ASH/TH

Smooth property trade benefits both buyers and sellers in Thanlyin, on the other side of Yangon, due to price stability

THE property market in Thanlyin, on the other side of Yangon, is benefitting both buyers and sellers because real estate prices are stable, according to real estate agents in Thanlyin Township.

Last month, sales were good in the Thanlyin real estate market, and despite the usual slow transactions during the Lent period, there are still some sales.

“We don’t see property prices skyrocketing in Thanlyin. For example, when gold price was high, sellers didn’t raise the asking price very much. So, it

is okay for both the agents like us and buyers. Some people from other towns rather than Yangon also bought. Some people can’t decide where to buy after seeing around. Most of them bought to live. Sales are not as high as the previous months. The fact that it is the Lent period is one reason. After the Lent, sales will pick up again. Some people who moved from other cities are interested in condominiums,” said Ko Sai Lin, a real estate agent in Thanlyin Township. As Thanlyin Township was built on natural highland, flooding and water-accumulation are less common

than in other areas.

“Many people predicted that there would be 100 per cent interest in this area when the Thanlyin bridge was completed. But it’s not that much despite a small rise. Say, only 20 per cent is more interested. There are only few flooded places in Thanlyin. Only two or three wards were flooded. Because it is a natural highland, floods are uncommon,” he explained.

After the opening of the Thanlyin Bridge, real estate transactions as well as traffic flow have improved, according to locals. — Thit Taw/ZN



Welcome signboard of Thanlyin township.

OPINION

Create opportunities for youths to catch up with digital technology

COUNTRIES worldwide are actively working towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to improve their societies. A key focus has been on advancing digital technologies, including mobile devices, digital services, and artificial intelligence, as essential tools in driving progress towards these goals.

Young people aged 15 to 24 are at the forefront of digital adoption and innovation, widely using the Internet. This rate is notably higher than in other age groups. However, significant disparities remain, particularly in low-income countries and among young women, who often face limited access to the Internet and fewer opportunities to develop digital skills compared to their male peers.

Only when youths across the nation have enhanced their capacity for digital adoption and innovation will they be reliable enough for the nation to unveil a new era in Myanmar. As such, they have to catch up with digital technologies that are beneficial for the country and improve families individually. If they hand down their skills and expertise in digital technologies to a new generation of youths, the entire Myanmar will gradually upgrade itself with a higher socioeconomic life.

ted to supporting young people's ambitions and initiatives. The Ministry aims to encourage youth participation in cooperative activities, nurture leadership skills, and provide training to cultivate a dynamic patriotic spirit and strong ethical foundations.

It is essential to engage all youth in playing a crucial role in the development of a modern, democratic nation that can compete on the global stage. To achieve this, young people must enhance their capacities in health, fitness, education, social and moral ethics, and leadership qualifications.

Moreover, it is crucial for Myanmar's youth to develop the necessary skills to address pressing youth-related issues. Simultaneously, the government should establish youth centres across the nation where young people can connect, learn, and enhance their abilities. These centres would provide vital opportunities for youth to develop their capacities and contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress.

Only when youths across the nation have enhanced their capacity for digital adoption and innovation will they be reliable enough for the nation to unveil a new era in Myanmar. As such, they have to catch up with digital technologies that are beneficial for the country and improve families individually. If they hand down their skills and expertise in digital technologies to a new generation of youths, the entire Myanmar will gradually upgrade itself with a higher socioeconomic life.

While enhancing digital inclusion is crucial, youth are increasingly recognized as "digital natives" who leverage technology to drive change and create innovative solutions. As the 2030 deadline for achieving the SDGs approaches, the role of young people in digital innovation is becoming increasingly vital for addressing global challenges. By celebrating and promoting the digital contributions of youth, further innovation and collaboration can be inspired, accelerating progress towards sustainable development.

In line with the 2024 theme of the International Youth Day, "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development", the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has committed

From Learning Readiness to Teaching Activity

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

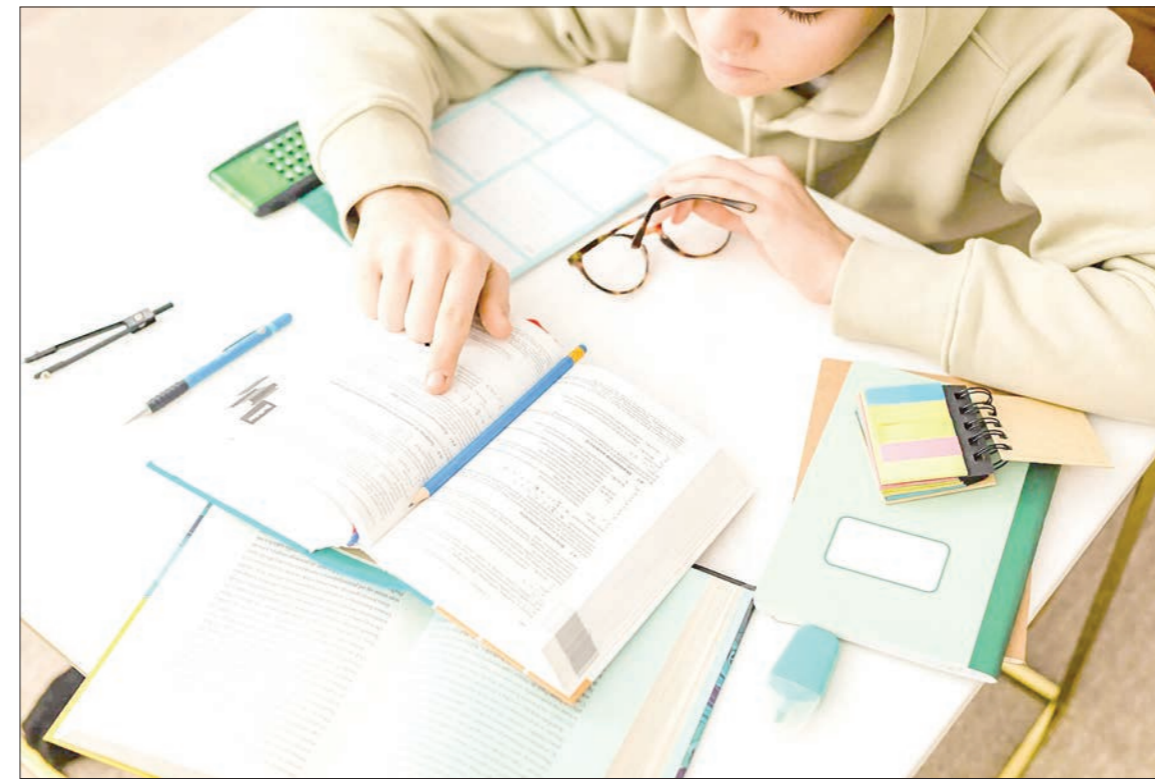
IT is little wonder that both teachers and students should conduct life-long learning. From the point of view of educational psychology, learning refers to a relatively durable change in the behaviour of all living organisms, including the lowest strata of animals, due to experience. According to Kimble, learning is defined as an experience that produces a comparatively permanent change in potential behaviour. However, this change excludes natural changes of behaviour owing to biological growth and development or temporary changes resulting from the effects of drugs or physical fatigue. A few important aspects can be ascertained from the phases of a learning process. Among them are learning readiness, motivation, perception, conceptualization, memorizing-forgetting, and learning transfer.

Learning readiness refers to the internal situations of an individual who is alert and capable of learning and acquiring a certain new experience. According to Thorndike, the laws on learning readiness are briefly summarized as follows: 1) When one is ready to carry out a certain action and then has done it successfully, one will be

satisfied with the action. 2) When one is ready to carry out a certain action but fails to do it successfully, one will be disappointed at the action. 3) When one is not ready to carry out a certain action or is forced to do it, one will be sad and unhappy about the action. Bruner stated that learning readiness is anything that can be forwarded effectively to students according to the stages of their development. Four learning stages Piaget are the sensorimotor stage (0-2 years), pre-operational stage (2-6 years), concrete operational stage (7-12 years), and formal operational stage (after 12 years).

On the other hand, Vygotsky asserted that readiness involves not only the state of students' existing knowledge but also their capacity to learn with the help of others. Research shows that there are three types of learning readiness: cognitive readiness, affective readiness, and psychomotor readiness.

Cognitive readiness is referred to as an individual's mental readiness to perform a certain learning activity. It is related to the stages of intellectual development in thinking, reasoning, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating. Usu-



Learning readiness, encompassing cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects, is crucial for effective education and influences how students engage with new information. **ILLUSTRATION PHOTO: IMAGE SHOWN FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES/ PEXELS**

ally, an individual's intellectual development is directly proportional to the increase in his age. For instance, a student has done enough listening before his speaking practice.

Affective readiness is referred to as an individual's attitude, desire, spirit, diligence, feeling, and

interest in expressing a certain learning activity. Standford said that effective learning is influenced by the student's attitude and not by how many times he repeats his learning materials. That is, if a student develops a positive attitude, high self-motivation, being active, getting aggressive, and has

the desire to achieve excellence as well as diligence and interest towards learning, then his affective readiness will be high enough to enable him to feel ready to involve in the learning process. However, if a student develops a negative attitude towards and has no interest in learning, then his affective readi-

ness will be low, and this can cause his learning to fail and make him unable to achieve success in his learning activities. For instance, a student will study English only if he is absolutely interested in the language. A student who shows no interest in maths will never be a success in the subject.

Psychomotor readiness is referred to as an individual's potential or physical maturity when he is ready to execute a certain physical action in a new learning process. An individual is said to possess psychomotor readiness if his body has reached the maturity stage in accordance with the required physical training. Unique and different though every individual's physical development is from others, a student with high psychomotor readiness will be able to perform efficient and effective training activities in the learning process. Psychomotor readiness is of great importance for learning subjects like art, physical education, games, music, and living skills. For instance, PT exercise is just a piece of cake for a student footballer.

Thus, learning readiness is an essential factor in guiding students to carry out smooth, pleasant,

and effective learning activities. Teachers ought to understand and make good use of their students' learning readiness to plan and implement suitable teaching-learning activities according to their stages of potential development. The implications of learning readiness towards these activities are explained shortly and to the point in the following:

- 1) The effectiveness of learning readiness depends, to a certain extent, on the learning readiness of students.
- 2) The planning of teaching-learning activities should follow students' abilities and experience they possess.
- 3) Teachers have to divide learning content into stages according to the student's level of learning readiness and carry out teaching-learning activities from simple to complex, from existing to new experience, from nearby to distant environment, and from general to specific.
- 4) Teachers have to make use of various stimuli to sustain students' interest in learning.
- 5) Teachers have to arouse students' natural instinct of desire to know by using tech-

niques such as questioning and inquiry-discovery methods.

- 6) Teachers have to use group strategy and individual teaching so as to suit individual differences among students.
 - 7) Teachers have to plan the learning activities that can make students enjoy satisfaction and success in order to instil and raise the level of learning readiness for the next learning activity.
 - 8) Teachers have to use appropriate techniques to instil positive self-concept values in students and raise their level of self-esteem so that they develop strong learning readiness.
 - 9) Teachers have to provide sufficient basic skill activities for consolidation.
 - 10) Teachers have to carry out conducive learning situations by suitable classroom organization in order to do effective teaching activities.
 - 11) Teachers have to prepare effective teaching aids so as to attract students' attention during classroom lessons.
- Get ready for learning. ■

Study finds how pesticide exposure linked with stillbirth risk

Specific pesticides, notably organophosphates like acephate and pyrethroids like cyfluthrin, were linked to heightened stillbirth rates.

NEW research suggested that living less than 0.3 mile from a pesticide use area before getting pregnant and throughout the first trimester of pregnancy may increase the risk of stillbirths.

Research by Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Centre.

Certain pesticides, particularly the class of organophosphates, were linked to stillbirth throughout the first trimester of pregnancy and a 90-day preconception window, according to research findings.

The study "Pesticide Exposure During the First Trimester and Its Associations With Stillbirth" was released in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

"In this study, some specific ingredients stood out due to their significant associations with stillbirth risk," said first author Melissa Furlong, PhD, who studies the chronic health effects of environmental contaminants as an assistant professor and environmental epidemiologist at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center at the R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy.

"These findings underscore the importance of considering individual pesticides rather than just the overall pesticide class, as specific chemical compounds may pose unique risks. It also highlights the potential for pre-pregnancy exposures to affect reproductive outcomes."

To conduct the study, researchers linked Arizona pesticide use records for 27 different pesticides with state birth certificate data that included 1,237,750 births and 2,290 stillbirths from 2006 to 2020.

They found that living within .31 mile (500 metres) of specific

pyrethroid, organophosphate or carbamate pesticide applications during a 90-day preconception window or the first trimester was associated with an increased risk of stillbirth. Specifically, the pesticides cyfluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin, organophosphates as a class, malathion, carbaryl and propamocarb hydrochloride were linked to increased stillborn births preconception. During the first trimester, fenprothrin, permethrin, organophosphates as a class, acephate and formetanate hydrochloride were associated with stillbirths.

"Among organophosphates, acephate showed the strongest

effect estimates on stillbirth, so that exposure to acephate in the first trimester was associated with a doubling of risk," said co-author Paloma Beamer, PhD, a professor and interim associate dean at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Centre, U of A Health Sciences Asthma and Airway Disease Research Centre and BIO5 Institute.

"Within the pyrethroid class, cyfluthrin exposure during the 90 days prior to conception almost doubled the risk of stillbirth."

SOURCE: ANI



New research from the Zuckerman College of Public Health and Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Centre found that living within 0.3 mile of pesticide use during pre-conception and the first trimester may increase stillbirth risk. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

TECH/ENVIRON: WORLD

OpenAI worries its AI voice may charm users

OPENAI says it is concerned that a realistic voice feature for its artificial intelligence might cause people to bond with the bot at the cost of human interactions.

The San Francisco-based company cited literature which it said indicates that chatting with AI as one might with a person can result in misplaced trust and that the high quality of the GPT-4o voice may exacerbate that effect.

“Anthropomorphization involves attributing human-like behaviors and characteristics to nonhuman entities, such as AI models,” OpenAI said Thursday in a report on safety work it is doing on a ChatGPT-4o version of its AI.

“This risk may be heightened by the audio capabilities of GPT-4o, which facilitate more

human-like interactions with the model.” OpenAI said it noticed testers speaking to the AI in ways that hinted at shared bonds, such as lamenting aloud that it was their last day together.

It said these instances appear benign but must be studied to see how they might evolve over longer periods of time.

Socializing with AI could also make users less adept or inclined when it comes to relationships with humans, OpenAI speculated.

“Extended interaction with the model might influence social norms,” the report said.

“For example, our models are deferential, allowing users to interrupt and ‘take the mic’ at any time, which, while expected for an AI, would be anti-normative in human interactions.” — AFP

EU electric vehicle tariffs severely hinders climate goals

The China Chamber of Commerce to the EU warned that high tariffs on Chinese battery electric vehicles would undermine the EU's climate goals and industrial competitiveness while hindering China-EU automotive cooperation.



Visitors are seen at the exhibition area of Chinese NEV manufacturer BYD during the 2024 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition in Beijing, capital of China, 4 May 2024. **PHOTO: YIN DONGXUN/XINHUA**

THE China Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (CCCEU) reiterated on Friday that EU imposing high tariffs on imports of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) from China would severely hinder its climate goals, industrial competitiveness, and China-EU cooperation in the automotive industry.

Transition to vehicle electrification is crucial for the EU to achieve its climate goals, the

chamber said in a statement, noting that imposing high tariffs on Chinese BEVs will only raise their price, diminish consumer demand, and consequently slow down EU's pace of green transition and climate neutrality.

The history of the global auto industry has shown repeatedly that protectionism can only bring high cost of protection and make companies gradually losing competitiveness under the

umbrella of tariffs, the chamber said.

The CCCEU again called for a mutually acceptable solution at an early date, to “shore up confidence and stabilize expectations in trade and investment cooperation between Chinese and EU enterprises, and jointly drive the transition to vehicle electrification and achieve climate neutrality targets”. — Xinhua



OpenAI expressed concern that a realistic voice feature in its AI might lead to overattachment and misplaced trust, potentially diminishing human interactions. **PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

Sri Lanka to conduct countrywide wild elephant census



Wild elephants cross the elephant pass on Colombo-Trincomalee road of Sri Lanka, 4 April 2016. **PHOTO: GAYAN SAMEERA/XINHUA/FILE**

SRI Lanka's Department of Wildlife Conservation will conduct a countrywide census on wild elephants on 17, 18 and 19 August, state media reported on Saturday quoting an official.

Director General of the Wildlife Conservation Department Chandana Sooriyabandara said 3,130 survey centres have been established across the country for the census.

Staff of the Department of Wildlife Conservation and other government agencies, members of the security forces, employees of various institutions in the private sector, students of higher education institutions, and voluntary participants will take part in the census, he said.

The main objectives of the census are establishing new protected areas for elephants, improving the existing protected areas, preparing and updating strategic plans to curb the elephant-human conflict, establishing the balance between development activities and conservation needs, he said.

The countrywide census of the elephant population in 2011 estimated that the minimum number of elephants in Sri Lanka was 5,879, state media reported.

According to state media, 55.09 per cent of that population were adult elephants, 25.03 per cent were young elephants, 12.04 per cent were calves, and 6.04 per cent were infants. — Xinhua

When shared bikes wear “sun-proof coats”

Launched in summer 2023, these cushions use polymer materials for zero-energy cooling and feature waterproof and heat-repelling upgrades.

IN the scorching afternoon heat of Hangzhou, where temperatures exceeded 40 degrees Celsius, Mr Wang stepped out of Wulinmen Subway Station. He skillfully used his mobile phone to scan a code, unlocking a shared bike with a silver seat, and rode it to his destination.

“The original black saddle of the shared bike absorbed too much heat after being exposed to the sun, sitting on it often caused a jolt from the heat. I used to be afraid to ride a shared bike during the summer,” Wang said. “The introduction of the silver ‘cooling cushion’ solved the painful

points that troubled riders and greatly improved the summer riding experience.”

In Hangzhou, an increasing number of shared bikes are outfitted with “sun-proof coats”. These “sun-proof coats” have a silver surface with slight uneven protrusions. In addition, terms such as “anti-hot cushion” and “cool travel” are printed on the backs of the cushions, prompting passengers to pick one to their liking.

In Hangzhou, the introduction of “cool cushions” for shared bikes has significantly improved rider comfort by reducing seat temperatures by



This photo taken on 22 July 2024 shows some of the shared bikes outfitted with “sun-proof coats” among others along a road in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang province. **PHOTO: LIN GUANGYAO/XINHUA**

about 20°C, addressing the risk of low-temperature burns from sun-exposed seats.

Launched in summer 2023, these cushions use polymer materials for zero-energy cooling and now feature waterproof and heat-repelling upgrades. By July, nearly 80,000 shared bikes in Hangzhou were equipped with these cushions, contributing to increased summer riding orders and reduced carbon emissions. This initiative has expanded to other cities like Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, promoting comfortable, eco-friendly travel in urban areas. — Xinhua

Archaeologists reports more findings of ancient earthquake in Cyprus



The report was released to mark the completion of the 2024 final excavation season of the Kourion Urban Space Project. **PHOTO: ARCHAEOLOGY WIKI**

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have unearthed more evidence relating to a monster earthquake that obliterated Kourion (Curium), one of Cyprus’s most important city-kingdoms in antiquity, according to a recent report by the Department of Antiquities.

The report was released to mark the completion of the 2024 final excavation season of the Kourion Urban Space Project.

In the ruins of a housing complex, which seemed

to belong to a well-off family, archaeologists found the remains of four people who were clothed and wearing their personal jewellery, along with lamps, a possible purse and keys, said the report.

These items “may indicate that the earthquake struck in the evening before Kourion had gone to sleep for the night or in the early morning just as they were preparing for their day,” the report said.

The house complex ex-

cavated was next to the so-called Earthquake House, in which the remains of a mother, a father and their infant child were found in a previous excavation, huddled together as they sought protection in the frame of a door.

Kourion, founded by Mycenaeans in the 12th century BC, was built on the slopes of a hill overlooking the Mediterranean in the southern part of Cyprus. It was destroyed by a series of quakes between 365 AD and 370 AD. — Xinhua

Over 1 bln birds die after striking buildings in US each year: study

THE majority of birds that are injured or stunned hitting buildings don’t recover, a new study has found, which could push estimates for the number of birds killed flying into buildings far above 1 billion a year in the United States.

Hitting buildings is a significant threat to wild birds. Estimates of US mortality rates from building crashes are based only on the number of birds found dead or mortally injured, not those that die later of their injuries, The Washington Post reported, citing the study.

In the study, published in the journal PLOS One earlier this week, the researchers looked at birds that were taken to wildlife rehabilitation centres to assess their long-term survival rates.

The researchers, who studied cases from the northeastern United States between 2016 and 2021, examined the records of over 3,100 building crashes with 152 bird species and found that about 60 per cent of the birds taken to rehabilitation centers died, either by succumbing to their injuries or euthanasia. — Xinhua



Amid a growing recognition that birds are an important part of the ecosystem from controlling insects to helping disperse seeds, a number of US cities and states have passed regulations requiring new buildings to be more “bird-friendly”. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

ECONOMY WORLD



The bank will allow both individuals and legal entities to deposit their gold and use other financial services offered by the bank, enhancing its role as a central institution in the gold market. **PHOTO: IMAGE USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSE/INVESTOPEDIA**

Laos to establish bullion bank

Laos is set to launch the Lao Bullion Bank to bolster gold reserves, enhance financial stability, and support the Lao Kip.

LAOS plans to establish the Lao Bullion Bank to build gold reserves, enhance financial stability, and strengthen the Lao Kip.

The establishment of the bullion bank will contribute to the implementation of the vision of the Party and government in terms of maintaining and creating financial and economic stability that will unlock

the potential of the national finance system and the treasury, strengthen the value of the Lao kip, and boost fundraising and national liquidity.

This will help to address economic and financial disruption so that the current economic challenges can be overcome, Lao national TV reported on Saturday.

The bank will allow both individuals and legal entities to deposit their gold and use other financial services offered by the bank, enhancing its role as a central institution in the gold market. The bank will also standardize gold trading and investment, attracting both domestic and international stakeholders. — Xinhua

Industry insiders remain optimistic about Türkiye's tourism despite inflation headwind

IN resort towns like Bodrum, Dataca and Cesme along the Turkish Aegean Coast, the once bustling and busy streets with crowded diners and fully-booked hotels have turned rather quiet this season. Some local businesses, heavily dependent on tourism, are offering discounts to attract travelers home and abroad.

The hit comes mostly from a still-elevated inflation rate in the country that has shot up the operational costs of Turkish businesses, such as rent, employee wages, insurance and taxes, amid exorbitant prices.

Türkiye has long been grappling with a severe cost-of-living crisis, prompting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to reverse course on interest rate cuts in June 2023. Since then, the central bank has aggressively raised its benchmark

rate to 50 per cent to cool the economy.

Official data on Monday showed that the country's annual inflation rate cooled to 61.78 per cent in July, marking the second consecutive month of deceleration, but the price pressure is still there. The rise in costs in the hotel and restaurant segment has reached 76 per cent, driving up prices for local holidaymakers especially.

"Bookings for this season are low in some places compared to last year because of rising prices across the board," Hamit Kuk of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies told Xinhua.

With Greece's introduction of fast-track visa for Turkish tourists, local holidaymakers intend to go to nearby Greek islands, which offer more affordable prices. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 8 August 2024 shows tourists at Pirate beach in Antalya, Türkiye. **PHOTO: MUSTAFA KAYA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**



French economy to get Olympics boost: central bank

THE French central bank said Friday that the nation's economy should get a considerable bump from the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

After having expanded by 0.3 per cent in the second quarter, the Banque de France said it expects the French economy to grow by nearly 0.5 per cent in July-September quarter.

The Olympic Games officially opened in late July and the Paralympic Games finish in September.

The central bank put up to 0.25 percentage points of that growth down to the impact of the Games.

Its forecast is broadly in line with that of France's statistics agency INSEE, which expects a 0.3 per cent point increase in third quarter growth due to the Games, taking overall growth in the quarter to 0.5 per cent. There was considerable concern ahead of the world's largest sporting event that it may in fact be a drag on the

French economy as many tourists who would normally visit Paris were staying away.

Hotels and airlines like Air France said they had seen a drop in bookings. The Banque de France said there was still considerable uncertainty about its forecast, with the positive effect from the Games confronting a negative effect from the uncertain political situation after no clear winner emerged from parliamentary elections in June and July. — AFP

India forex reserves touch record high of US\$ 674.91 bln

INDIA'S foreign exchange (forex) reserves rose by US\$7.53 billion to US\$ 674.91 billion during the week ended August 2, revealed the official data released by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its weekly supplement. This was the new high for India's forex reserves. The record jump was preceded by a decline of \$3.471 billion during

the previous week ended 26 July.

The foreign currency assets (FCAs), the biggest component of forex reserves, rose by \$5.162 billion to \$592.039 billion. Likewise, the gold reserves too jumped by \$2.404 billion to \$60.099 billion. India's forex reserves had risen by \$45-50 billion on a cumulative basis so far this year, said a media report by "Mint". — Xinhua

Cambodia records over 3 mln air passengers in H1, up 22%

The newly opened Siem Reap Angkor International Airport (SAI), with its 3,600-metre runway, is expected to boost international tourism and attract more airlines to Cambodia, enhancing access to the Angkor Archaeological Park.

CAMBODIA registered 3.03 million air travellers during the first half of 2024, up 22 per cent from 2.48 million over the same period last year, said a State Secretariat of Civil Aviation's report on Saturday.

The report said international and domestic airlines had operated a total of 28,725 flights to the kingdom's three international airports during the January-June period this year, up 16 per cent from 24,725 flights over the same peri-

od last year.

State Secretariat of Civil Aviation's Undersecretary of State and spokesperson Sinn Chanserey Vutha is confident that the Chinese-invested Siem Reap Angkor International Airport (SAI), which was put into commercial operation in November 2023, will help attract more international airlines and travelers to Cambodia.

"With a 3,600-metre runway, the SAI is a 4E-level international airport

that can handle long-distance flights from across the world," he told Xinhua.

"We hope the airport will attract new international airlines to operate direct flights to Siem Reap province, the home of the UNESCO-listed Angkor Archaeological Park," he said.

The SAI is currently the kingdom's biggest airport and is the main international gateway to the Angkor Archaeological Park. — Xinhua



Passengers wait for their flights at the Siem Reap Angkor International Airport (SAI) in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, 16 Nov 2023. PHOTO: LIAO HONGQING/XINHUA

Helan Mountain's east foothill int'l wine fair held in Ningxia

PEOPLE visit the exhibition area of Ningxia Helan Mountain's east foothill (Yingchuan) sub-region at the Helan Mountain's east foothill international wine fair in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, 10 August 2024. The fair is held at the Fourth China (Ningxia) International Wine Culture and Tourism Expo from 9 to 11 August.

Ningxia, renowned for its unique grape-growing conditions, produced its first bottle of wine in 1984.

Situated near the 38th parallel north, similar to



Merchants negotiate at the Helan Mountain's east foothill international wine fair in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, 10 August 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

renowned wine regions like Bordeaux, Ningxia's wine-producing areas en-

joy an ideal terroir with a dry climate and abundant sunshine, making

the region a golden zone for wine grape cultivation. — Xinhua

Australian government urged to ban gambling ads

AN alliance of leading Australians has demanded the government impose a total ban on gambling ads in a country that racks up some of the biggest losses per person in the world.

Gambling losses in Australia, with a popula-

tion of just 27 million, are estimated at Aus\$25 billion a year (US\$16 billion).

Adverts enticing people to risk their cash are widespread on television, radio and billboards. Slot machines known as "pokies" are installed in many

pubs, too, drawing more to part with their money.

"Gambling advertising in Australia is out of control with one million gambling ads being aired on free-to-air television and radio in just one year," said a letter signed by

more than 60 prominent Australians to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the opposition leader.

Signatories to the letter released at the weekend included former political, union, sports and faith leaders. — AFP

Brazil resumes import of Russian wheat in July after 5-month break

BRAZIL resumed purchasing Russian-produced wheat in June after a five-month break, Sputnik's estimates, based on the data from the Brazilian customs office, showed.

In December 2023, Brazil suspended regular procurement of Russian wheat.

In June, the country imported 187,200 tonnes of Russian wheat worth \$41.3 million, meanwhile, in July,

the Brazilian imports grew by 29 per cent, amounting to 241,000 tonnes of wheat worth \$56.2 million.

In annual terms, the Brazilian relevant supply level increased by approximately 40 per cent.

Overall, Brazil imported 646,000 tonnes of wheat from abroad in July, while since January the import has increased by 60 per cent to 4 million tonnes. — SPUTNIK

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (2429N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (2429N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

BRIEFS: WORLD

Venezuela eyes BRICS membership, claims oil reserves

VENEZUELA would make a great addition to the BRICS alliance because it possesses the largest oil reserves in the world, Venezuela's Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Joaquin Perez Ayestaran said in an interview.

"We believe Venezuela will be a great addition to BRICS, we have the largest certified reserves of oil in the world that will also add to the basket of products that BRICS as a whole can offer," Perez Ayestaran told Sputnik.

Venezuela hopes the decision on its joining BRICS will be announced at the group's next summit in the Russian city of Kazan in October, Joaquin Perez Ayestaran said.

"I would hope that in Kazan during the next summit, the decision can be officially announced in a positive manner. It will very much be a welcome development in Venezuela," Perez Ayestaran said. "But if not, we are still there with our offer and our commitment to be an active player in this new world."

The BRICS alliance is leading the new composition of the multipolar world and Venezuela wishes to contribute to it, Joaquin Perez Ayestaran added. — SPUTNIK

Serbian police end Belgrade rail blockade

SERBIAN police lifted blockade from two rail stations in the capital of Belgrade on Sunday after protesters disrupted rail traffic during a rally against lithium mining, Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said on Sunday.

Up to 27,000 people rallied in Belgrade late on Saturday. Protesters marched through the blocked central streets, barricaded the bridge on the Budapest-Thessaloniki international highway and disrupted operations of the central railway station and the New Belgrade station in the city's business district.

"The Interior Ministry acted within the laws of the Republic of Serbia and its duties to ensure unrestricted railway communications," Dacic was quoted as saying by the interior ministry.

The minister vowed to hold those who had committed criminal acts during the overnight protests accountable. — SPUTNIK

South Korea increases Russian coal supplies by 60% in June to 1.5mln tonnes

In June, South Korea's imports of Russian coal surged by 60 per cent to 1.5 million tonnes, marking the highest level since March. This increase led to an additional \$182 million in revenue from Russian coal.



The Cheremshansky coal mine of the Kaskad processing plant, operated by Kuzbass Fuel Company, the Kemerovo Region. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

RUSSIAN coal supplies to South Korea in June increased by 60 per cent to 1.5 million tonnes in June in annual and volume terms, which is the largest result since March, Sputnik's estimates, based on the South Korean statistics service, showed.

In revenues, Russia's coal supplies to South Korea have increased by \$182 million in June.

Meanwhile, in the period from January-June Seoul imported 1.7 times less Russian coal than in the same period last year, or 8.4 million tonnes for \$1.1 billion, which was Rus-

sia's lowest figure for the first half of the year since 2014.

In June, South Korea mainly imported Russian bituminous coal, purchasing 1.48 million tonnes for \$176.2 million. Seoul also imported almost 37,000 tonnes of Russian anthracite for \$5.8 million. — SPUTNIK

Asia's "water tower" draws extensive ecological "red lines"



A researcher collects water samples at the Dongkemadi glacier in northwest China's Qinghai Province, 25 July 2024. **PHOTO: WU ZHIZUN/XINHUA**

This initiative is part of China's broader strategy to maintain a national ecological protection zone of over 3.15 million square kilometres, limiting industrial and urban development in critical areas.

CHINA'S Qinghai Province has drawn ecological "red lines" for over 40 per cent of its territory, putting the areas under stringent environmental protection.

Located on the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, the northwestern province is known for its fragile ecosystem and for being home to the Sanjiangyuan area, where the Yangtze, Yellow, and Lancang rivers originate. Lancang is known as the Mekong River as it flows through five Southeast Asian nations.

The "water tower" province has now designated 296,400 square kilometres as areas within

ecological protection "red lines," said a recently issued document on Qinghai's spatial planning toward 2035. Natural reserves have been established in more than 90 per cent of the "red line" areas, according to the document.

China has innovatively applied an ecological protection red-line system, which protects certain areas from industrial and urban development. The country aims to keep the national ecological protection red-line area above 3.15 million square kilometres. —Xinhua

SPORTS

MNL: Yangon claims victory over Yadanabon

Yangon United secured a 5-2 win over Yadanabon FC in the Myanmar National League's fixture-six match played at the Thuwanna Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon United, who previously faced the current champions Shan United away, bounced back with a decisive win over Yadanabon FC, with their performance highlighting a strong return. Despite Yadanabon's best efforts and two early goals from their side, they were unable to maintain their lead and succumbed to defeat.

Yangon United made several changes to their lineup, with David Htan, Zaw Win Thein, Okka Naing, and Yan Kyaw Htwe all featuring. Yadanabon also introduced Soe Min Oo, Yan Kyaw Soe, Kyi Soe, and Ti Nyein Min. The match kicked off with a goal from Ti Nyein Min for Yadanabon in the 13th minute, but Yangon United responded with a goal from Yan Kyaw Htwe in the 25th minute, levelling the score at

halftime.

After the break, Arkar scored another leading goal for Yadanabon in the 55th minute, but Yangon United quickly equalized again with a goal from Hline Bo Bo in the 58th minute. Yangon United capitalized on their opportunities, with goals from Kaung Sithu in the 76th minute, Zaw Win Thein in the 86th minute, and Aung Myo Khant in stoppage time (90+4) minutes sealing their victory.

Zaw Win Thein was awarded the Man of the Match for his outstanding performance. With this win, Yangon United now has 14 points from six matches, while Yadanabon has accumulated 10 points from the same number of games.

The final match of Fixture Six will be played today at the Yangon United Sports Complex, where Maha United will face Dagon Star United. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Yangon United player (light green) and Yadanabon FC player (blue) in action. PHOTO:MNL



Chinese weightlifter Li Wenwen wins women's +81kg

Chinese weightlifter Li Wenwen secured the women's +81kg title at the Paris Olympics, lifting a total of 309kg to help China achieve its best-ever overseas Olympic result with 40 gold medals.

CHINESE weightlifter Li Wenwen claimed the women's +81kg title on the last day of the Paris Olympics on Sunday in the South Paris Arena. It marks China's 40th gold medal in Paris, the country's best result at an overseas Olympic Games. The Tokyo Olympic champion lifted 136kg in the snatch and 173kg in the clean and jerk, both ranking first, achieving a total of 309kg. South Korea's Park Hye-jeong won the silver medal with 299kg, followed by bronze medalist Emily Campbell of Britain with 288kg. — Xinhua



Li Wenwen of China competes during the weightlifting women's +81kg competition at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, on 11 August 2024. PHOTO: YANG LEI/XINHUA

Sweden wins men's beach volleyball gold at Paris Olympics

SWEDEN'S David Ahman and Jonatan Hellvig claimed the gold medal in the men's beach volleyball final at the Paris Olympics on Saturday, defeating Germany's Nils Ehlers and Clemens Wickler in straight sets.

In the final match held under the iconic Eiffel Tower, the Swedish pair dominated with a 2-0 victory, winning 21-10, 21-13.

The German duo, facing a much younger Swedish pair, who were both born after 2000, struggled to keep up in this night-time showdown. The match saw little resistance from Germany, allowing Sweden to easily secure the gold. Earlier in the day, defending champions Anders Berntsen Mol and Christian Sandlie Soerum of Norway captured the bronze medal by defeating Qatar's Cherif Younousse and Ahmed Tijan 21-13, 21-16.

"It's huge, this was the goal



Nils Ehlers (R) of Germany spikes the ball as Jonatan Hellvig of Sweden attempts a block during the beach volleyball men's gold medal match between Nils Ehlers/Clemens Wickler of Germany and David Ahman/Jonatan Hellvig of Sweden at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, 10 August 2024. PHOTO: HUANG ZONGZHI/XINHUA

to be able to come back here and compete for the medals. We knew it was going to be tough, but I think we managed it really

well. I'm really proud. It keeps us motivated for Los Angeles 2028," said Mol, reflecting on his team's performance. — Xinhua

South Korea increases Russian coal supplies by 60% in June to 1.5mln tonnes

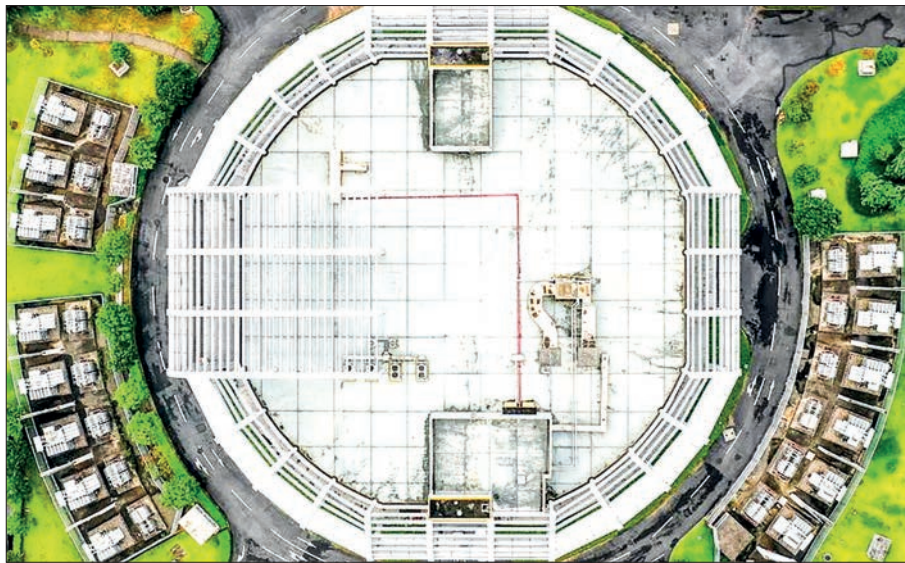
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WORLD

Chinese experts explore integrated use of “super microscopes”

Combining these facilities—one using X-rays and the other using neutrons—can provide comprehensive structural information on materials.



This aerial photo taken on 18 July 2023 shows China Spallation Neutron Source (CSNS) in Dongguan, south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: LIU DAWEI/XINHUA**

OVER 500 Chinese experts gathered at a conference in Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu Province, from Wednesday to Friday, to explore the integrated use of the Hefei Light Source (HLS) and the China Spallation Neutron Source (CSNS), two large scientific facilities dubbed as “super microscopes” to

probe the structure of the microscopic world.

The HLS is the first synchrotron light source in China, while the CSNS is the country's first and the world's fourth pulsed spallation neutron source.

Speaking at the conference, Wang Sheng, deputy director of the Institute

of High Energy Physics (IHEP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said the HLS and the CSNS use X-rays and neutrons, respectively, to study the microstructures and properties of matter. The integrated utilization of the two large scientific facilities can obtain complete structural information on materials, said Wang.

The scientist explained that the spallation neutron source and synchrotron radiation source share numerous common user groups, as well as many similarities in key technologies and experimental methods. More than 95 per cent of the users of spallation neutron source are also users of light sources, and many research projects require the use of both facilities, he added.

Wang said the conference built a platform for experts and users to exchange ideas, adding that the participants looked forward to using the two large scientific devices to carry out high-level scientific research and promote the further application of synchrotron light sources and neutron sources in multidisciplinary fields such as material science, life and environment, energy catalysis and engineering technology. — Xinhua

MISSILE FRAGMENTS FOUND

Russia notifies IAEA on situation at Kursk Nuclear Power Plant

RUSSIA has notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) about the situation at the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant amid Kyiv's attempted attack on the region, Russia's permanent mission in Vienna said on Friday.

“Russia informed the IAEA about the situation at the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant in light of Ukraine's attack of the Kursk Region,” the mission said in a statement on its Telegram channel.

“On 8 August, fragments and remnants - presumably fragments of downed [Ukrainian] missiles - were found at the station, including in the area of the radioactive waste processing complex,” the statement read, adding that Ukraine's reckless actions threaten not only the Kursk power plant but put the entire global nuclear industry at risk.

The Kursk region, which borders Ukraine in Russia's western part, was attacked by about 1,000 Ukrainian troops and scores of armed vehicles on 6 August. Russian troops retaliated by stopping the Ukrainian military from penetrating deep into Russian territory. — SPUTNIK

Protecting Afghanistan's UNESCO heritage Minaret of Jam following floods threat

The minaret, located in Afghanistan, was built during the medieval period and is notable for its intricate brickwork and decorative inscriptions.

CONCERNS are mounting over the fate of Afghanistan's other UNESCO-listed heritage, the Minaret of Jam. It is now facing severe threats from natural disasters, particularly the torrential floods this year.

The Minaret of Jam, along with its archaeological remains, was inscribed on the World Heritage List by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2002. According to the organization, at 1,900 metres above sea level and far from any town, the 65m-tall minaret dates back to the 12th century.

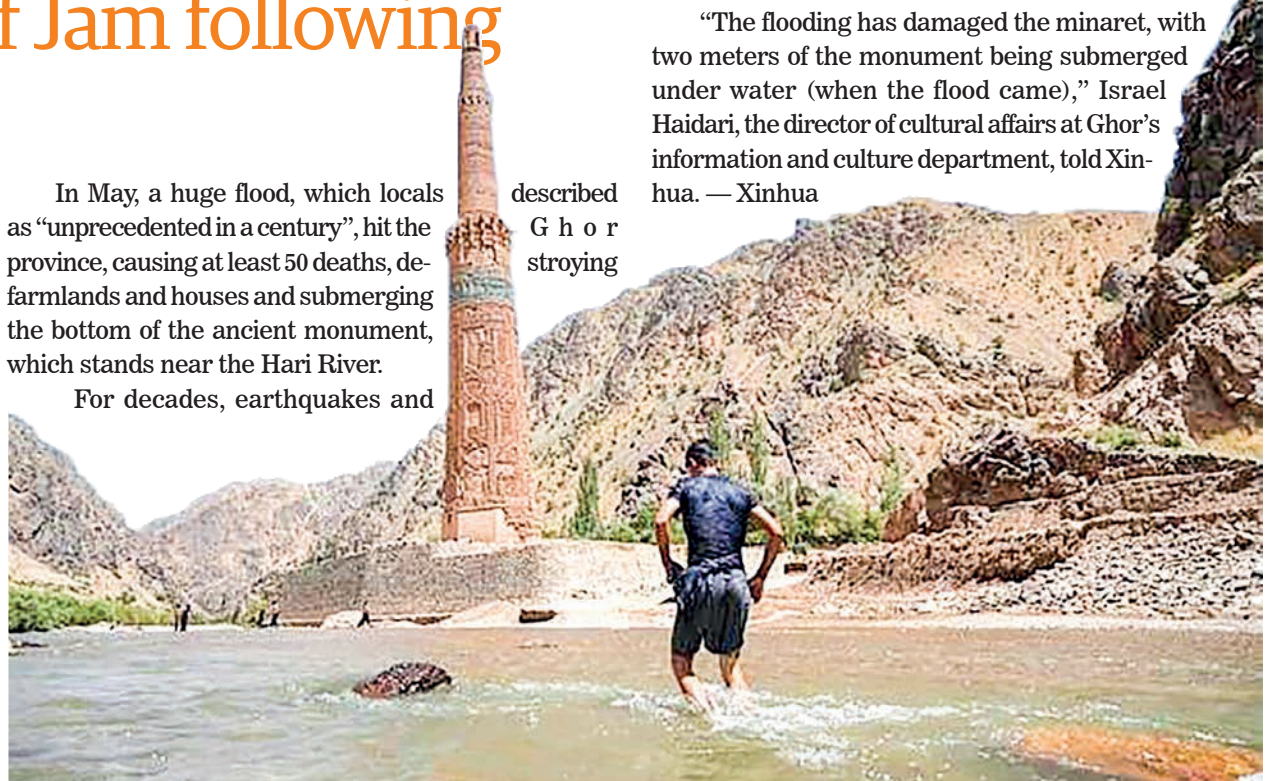
In May, a huge flood, which locals as “unprecedented in a century”, hit the province, causing at least 50 deaths, defarmlands and houses and submerging the bottom of the ancient monument, which stands near the Hari River.

For decades, earthquakes and

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floods have been heightening the risk of erosion and potential collapse of the minaret if preventive measures are not taken.

“The flooding has damaged the minaret, with two meters of the monument being submerged under water (when the flood came),” Israel Haidari, the director of cultural affairs at Ghor's information and culture department, told Xinhua. — Xinhua



A man cools himself off in the Hari River in the Shahrak District, central Afghanistan's Ghor Province, 28 July 2024. **PHOTO: ZHAO JIASONG/XINHUA**