

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar to establish eight Polytechnic Universities in 2024-25 academic year

Myanmar possesses a massive workable force of youths, accounting for more than 33 per cent of total population according to the 2019 interim census.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing revealed that in marking the International Youth Day which falls on 12 August 2024, youth delegates from regions and states will be invited to join the youth forum and youth excursions as well as social welfare programmes.

A ceremony to mark the International Youth Day 2024 took place at Wunna Theikdhi Gymnasium C in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

He continued to say that in line with the theme for the 2024 International Youth Day: From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways For Sustainable Development, it is necessary to organize youths to play a crucial role in digital transformation and meeting the sustainable development goals.

The Senior General highlighted that plans are underway to establish eight Polytechnic Universities in 2024-25 academic year to produce qualified youth technologists, aiming at beefing up science, technology and innovation in the country, nurturing science and technological human resources and encouraging activities and research and innovation.

He emphasized the importance of nurturing young peo-



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks round the photo exhibition at yesterday's event marking the International Youth Day in Nay Pyi Taw.

ple to develop physical, mental, moral, social, and economic strengths.

At present, he noted that the government is implementing the youth affairs policy in order to come out well-versed intellectuals and intelligentsia and the able-bodied citizens who can benefit the State.

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Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the ceremony to mark the 2024 International Youth Day

- Myanmar will establish eight Polytechnic Universities in 2024-25 academic year.
- The 2019 interim census indicated more than 33 per cent of total population as a massive workable force of youths.
- It is necessary to organize youths to play a crucial role in digital transformation and meeting the sustainable development goals.
- The government is nurturing the youths to become well-versed intellectuals and intelligentsia and the able-bodied citizens.

Opinion

Reduce the use of cigarettes and tobacco in Myanmar society

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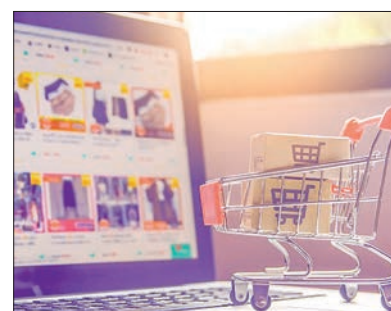
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Monks, novices, civilians killed or injured in KIA-KPDF attack in Bhamo

BUSINESS

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Failure to obtain e-commerce licence leads to legal action

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization appointed

THE State Administration Council has appointed Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Pro-Rector of Yangon University of Foreign Languages of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, as Director-General of the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation of the same ministry on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

1 special criminal appeal case, 5 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 1 special criminal appeal case, 4 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: U Kyi Thein, Daw Khin May Yi, U Thaug Naing, and Daw Thin Thin Nwet was convened yesterday morning at the Su-

preme Court of the Union and passed judgements for one special criminal appeal case — No 5/2024 (Mandalay), and five special civil appeal cases — Nos 6/2024 (Mandalay), 30/2024 (Kachin), 37/2024 (Yangon), 39/2024 (Bago) and 40/2024 (Mandalay).

In addition, a total of five special appeal cases; one special criminal appeal case No 13/2024 (Kayah), and four special civil appeal cases — Nos 5/2024 (Shan), 14/2024 (Mon), 23/2024 (Shan) and 42/2024 (Ayeyawady) — were heard. — MNA

142nd South Sea Pearl Emporium 2024 starts on 12 August



Photos show gem merchants looking round the pearl exhibits (L) and pearl lots at yesterday's emporium.

STARTING yesterday morning, the 142nd South Sea Pearl Emporium commenced at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw with 700 pearl lots in an open tender system.

Starting in the morning, both local and foreign traders began to inspect the collections of pearls at the hall based on their preferences.

Then, the merchants placed the proposed price lists of pearls, which will be on sale, on 13 August in the

tender boxes.

At 142nd Myanmar South Sea Pearl Emporium 2024, starting from 12 to 15 August, 175,000 pearls in 700 pearl lots will be sold with an open tender system at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Altogether, 230 pearl lots on 13 August, another 230 pearl lots on 14 August and 240 pearl lots on 15 August will be on sale for both local and foreign merchants with the US dollar. — MNA/TRKM

4.08MW Floating Solar Plant to be built at Myeik Kandaw Mingala Lake

THE Taninthayi Region government states that the 4.08MW Floating Solar Power Plant would be constructed by the Myanmar Solar Power Trading Co Ltd near Kandaw Mingala Lake, which is 21.64 acres, in Myitnge Ward of Myeik Township.

Surrounded by high school, elementary school, houses,

monasteries, and other places of worship, the lake is a superb spot of residence, and it was excavated again in 2018.

In the floating solar power plant construction project, 7,488 solar panels will be installed to generate 4.08 megawatts of solar energy, and 16 inverters will be mounted in the solar energy project. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows Kandaw Mingala Lake in Myeik Township, site of an upcoming floating solar power plant.

Top 30 matric students of 2024 embark on overseas excursion



Top 30 matric students are seen on their excursion in Singapore.

THE government arranged an excursion abroad for 30 top-marked students in relevant subject combinations in the 2024 matriculation examination and their supervisors.

The group left Thailand for Singapore by flight on 11 August. Charge d'Affaires U Zaw Zaw Soe of the Myanmar

Embassy to Singapore, Minister-Counsellor Daw San Yar Shwe Koe and embassy staff welcomed them at Changi Airport.

The tour group arrived at V Hotel Lavender at Jellicoe at 10:30 am Singapore Standard Time and enjoyed lunch at the food court. In the

evening, they proceeded to the Myanmar Embassy and were welcomed with Pho Leng Lion Dance. Then, Charge d'Affaires U Zaw Zaw Soe explained the excursion and hosted a dinner.

Then, the group visited Merlion Park by train from Tangling to Raffles Place MRT stations. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Myanmar to establish eight Polytechnic Universities ...

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The Senior General underscored that as the State Administration Council has constituted the Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee and Work Committee, Nay Pyi Taw Council and Region/State Youth Affairs Committees in order to effectively implement multiple youth development programmes.

The Senior General presented prizes of honour to the youths who have secured the gold medals in international competitions.

Chairman of the Central Committee Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan read the message to mark the 2024 International Youth Day sent by the UN Sec-

retary-General.

They all watched a video clip on documentaries on overall development measures for youths.

The Senior General enjoyed song and national race cultural dances and cordially greeted attendees.

The Senior General viewed round the documentary photo

exhibition to mark the 2024 International Youth Day.

Also present at the ceremony were Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of

Nay Pyi Taw Command, officials, youth delegates from regions and states, representatives of youths with disabilities, maritime and aviation youths, members of Red Cross and Scouts, students from universities, colleges and institutes from Nay Pyi Taw and officials from youth development organizations. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends opening ceremony of 142nd Myanmar's South Sea Pearl Emporium

ACEREMONY to open the 142nd Myanmar's South Sea Pearl Emporium took place at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with an attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Also present at the ceremony were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, departmental officials, officials of Myanmar Pearl Enterprise, guests and pearl entrepreneurs at home and abroad.

The Senior General and attendees watched a video clip on data on the production of South Sea pearls by relevant countries, the production and sale of pearls by Myanmar, and preparations to hold the 142nd Myanmar's South Sea Pearl Emporium in 2024.

The Senior General and party viewed round display of pearl lots at Maniyadana Jade Hall for the 142nd Myanmar's South Sea pearl emporium and private jewellery shops. Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi and officials conducted the Senior General and part round the jade hall.

The emporium, which will



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the pearl lots at the opening of the 142nd Myanmar's South Sea Pearl Emporium yesterday.

be held from 12 to 15 August, will sell 700 lots of 175,000 pieces of South Sea pearl through the open tender system.

At the pearl emporium on 13 August, a total of 115 pearl

lots from numbers 001 to 115 lots will be sold as Tender 1 and 115 more pearls from numbers 116 to 230 lots through an open tender system. A total of 115 pearl lots from numbers 231 to

345 lots set as Tender 3, and 115 more lots from numbers 346 to 460 lots as Tender 4 will be sold through the open tender system on 14 August. Moreover, a total of 120 pearl lots from number

461 to 580 lots set as Tender 5 and 120 more pearl lots from number 581 to 700 lots as Tender 6 will be sold through the open tender system on 15 August. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe receives Mr Mubarak M A Aladwani, Ambassador of Kuwait, yesterday.

Kuwaiti Ambassador calls on Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Than Swe received Mr Mubarak M A Aladwani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister expressed appreciation to Mr Mubarak M A Alad-

wani for his contribution to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Kuwait. They also cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the existing friendly relations, expansion of the mutually beneficial cooperation including trade and investment, implementation of cooperation agreements between the two countries, as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interests. — MNA

ME KL to crack down on scammers and fraudulent account holders exploiting Myanmar nationals in Malaysia

SCAMMERS and Facebook and TikTok account owners who have been cheating Myanmar citizens in Malaysia in passports and consular services will be identified and punished, according to the Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia.

Consular notifications, lists of permitted nationals for new passports or applicants who lost theirs and C of I issues are posted on the Embassy's Facebook Page "Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia" and Website: <https://myanmarembassykl.org>, the embassy said.

Statements on making fraudulent documents required for passport and consular services were found on Facebook/Tik Tok such as national scrutiny card, household certificate and endorsement.

Myanmar nationals are advised to present correct and true documents for consular serv-

ices and warned of wasted time, money and losses if they use fake documents which won't be accepted by the embassy. Applicants may seek advice at respective embassy counters regarding this issue.

Individuals and Facebook/TikTok account owners who are deceiving Myanmar citizens will be investigated and taken action in accordance with the law, it said. As the Malaysian government has beefed up Operasi measures to eliminate illegal migrants across the nation, the embassy has informed Myanmar citizens working in Malaysia to be careful about their movement during this period and if they have to travel, they should carry their passports and necessary documents with them so that they can be presented when there are Operasi checks. — Htet Oo Maung/ZN

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister accepts Exequatur of Chinese Consul-General in Mandalay

MS Gao Ping, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Mandalay, paid a courtesy call and presented her Exequatur to U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic

of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to the further enhancement of the existing "Pauk-Phaw" rela-

tions and the acceleration of Myanmar-China bilateral relations.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present at the meeting. — MNA



Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe receives Chinese Consul-General in Mandalay Ms Gao Ping yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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NATIONAL

Monks, novices, civilians killed or injured in KIA-KPDF attack in Bhamo

A rocket shell fired by KIA and KPDF terrorists fell and exploded in Dhamma Pala Lepaw monastery in Myoma ward of Bhamo of Kachin State yesterday. Two monks died, and three monks, three novices and three civilians were injured.

KIA and KPDF terrorists attacked such non-military targets as departmental buildings and houses using heavy

weapons and rockets in Bhamo township. A shell fell on the Myahninsi monastic building of Dhamma Pala Lepaw monastery yesterday afternoon, and two monks were hit and died, whereas three monks, three novices and three civilians were injured. They were taken to Bhamo People's Hospital for medical treatment.

KIA and KPDF terrorists



The bodies of monks are seen in the debris.



The damage is seen at the Myahninsi monastic facility hit by the shell blast.

brutally launched attacks in towns and villages using heavy weapons and rockets. They also destroyed religious buildings, departmental buildings, houses

and schools and caused heavy impacts on the lives of people. The locals strongly condemn their actions.

Security force members

accelerated security measures to restore the State's stability, as well as the lives and prosperities of the people. — MNA/KTZH

PDFs attack security forces, destroy factory and vehicles in Taungtha



Location map of the attack.



The vest factory in Taungtha is seen in the aftermath of the fire set by PDF terrorists.

TERRORISTS exploded the public roads and bridges in addition to disturbing government's projects, launching arson attacks on governmental buildings, schools and houses. They also engaged in fighting and dropped bombs on the villages aiming to deteriorate the state stability and rule of law, economic growth, trade flows and socioeconomic status of people.

They attempted to destroy the natural gas pipeline near Mingan village in Taungtha township of Mandalay Region by attacking security force members about 300 metres south of the natural gas pipeline using heavy and small

weapons. Therefore, security forces conducted a counterattack, and they retreated.

Moreover, PDF terrorists riding seven motorcycles arrived at the Ministry of Industry's Taungtha vest factory, which is 2,000 metres north of Taungtha, yesterday. They destroyed the fence, office and two vehicles. Moreover, they took three factory staff motorcycles. They set fire to the factory, resulting in injuries to the factory workers.

The security members conducted security measures in Taungtha township. — MNA/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

False Claims: Security forces arrest 3, extort K500,000, and release them

REPORTS said that malicious media circulated fake news claiming that on 24 and 25 July, security forces checked locals' mobile phones in Pyapon Township of Ayeyawady Region and arrested three people who were found with VPN applications in their phones. It also claimed that security forces let those three people after extorting K500,000 from each on 10 August.

Regarding the news, according to an official from the Township Administration Body, the actual situation was that security forces made surprise checks. At the same time, they carried out security operations around wards and villages of Pyapon Township for its safety. However, security forces did not arrest anyone who was found

with the mentioned applications, and there was no extortion by security forces.

The government has declared CRPH and NUG as terrorist groups. Authorities allege that those terrorist groups and their allies are spreading propaganda to disrupt peace and incite fear among the public. The government has already warned that those sharing false information on social media and whoever is supporting or assisting these groups, which could cause public alarm, will be arrested and detained under the Counter-Terrorism Law and Electronic Transactions Law. People who ignored official warnings and shared fake news online are being arrested and taken to the relevant police station. — MNA/TRKM

Fake news claims civilian casualties in Mindat, Monywa by Tatmadaw

THE malicious media is deliberately circulating false claims that the Tatmadaw local battalion located in Mindat, Chin State, launched a heavy weapon on 9 August, which killed a local woman and wounded a child. Likewise, security forces from the Monywa checkpoint, Sagaing Region, fired with heavy weapons, which landed and exploded in villages located beside Monywa-Amyint Road, killing two and injuring seven.

The truth was, according to the reports stated by local security forces and residents in Mindat and Monywa, security forces conducted security measures since locals reported that

PDF terrorists arrived and grouped to make terror plots within those towns. However, PDF terrorists retreated due to the security measures of Tatmadaw forces. Therefore, it is just spreading fabricated stories that civilians were killed and wounded.

There is no such incident that Tatmadaw security forces fired on villages where civilians live. Terrorists fired heavy weapons, hand-made rockets, and a variety of munitions, and they dropped bombs from drones on security forces and other soft targets. They also killed civilians. The malicious media are intentionally fabricating false reports to deceive the public. — MNA/TMT

NATIONAL

Myanmar Engineering Council sets for PE Part I exam end-Sept

THE Myanmar Engineering Council's PE Part I exam will be held at the end of September.

The PE Part I exam of the Registration Certificate Verification Work Committee will be held on 28 and 29 September 2024.

As for the requirements of the candidates, direct applicants for the PE certificate with a BE degree and 15 years of work experience or more will have to answer a total of eight hours for the first and second days of the two-day question in the PE Part

I exam. In addition, those who have graduated from BE and have received the RSE certificate will have to answer the PE Part I exam, the four-hour question on the second day, and those who have successfully completed the RSE Part I exam after obtaining the BE degree will have to answer the PE Part I exam and the four-hour question on the second day according to the Myanmar Engineering Council, Notification 7/2016.

The application for taking

the exam and the necessary documents must be submitted by 13 September to the Myanmar Engineering Council Headquarters via the website www.myanmarengc.org/Download and send the application to the head office or the menes assessment via email memail.com. — TWA/TKO

The office of the Myanmar Engineering Council.



Images showcase awareness-raising activities being implemented by the Disaster Management Department in Konsulay village and Yekyaw village in Ayeyawady Region on 11 August 2024.

Mani Mekhala magazine to mark 80th Anniversary of Disaster Management Department

THE Mani Mekhala magazine will be published to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Disaster Management Department, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The 80-year commemoration magazine will be published in early March 2025 with the magazine's features, colour photographs, historical records of the department, research and narrative about natural disaster reduction, domestic and foreign news, cartoons, stories and article manuscripts.

The publication of this magazine provides good information about natural disasters and preventive meas-

ures, preparation, emergency response and recovery issues. Manuscripts on topics such as climate change and adaptation are needed, and external authors must submit their manuscripts by 30 October to the Disaster Management Department (Nay Pyi Taw) under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

In addition, individuals can send emails to cr.research23@gmail.com, and they can contact for further details through the office phone and email. Additionally, individuals can learn about www.msrr.gov.mm, according to the Disaster Management Department. — TWA/MKKS

ECD reports acceptable air quality levels across country in July

THE Environmental Conservation Department announced in July that the Air Quality Index (AQI) in various townships across the country remains within acceptable levels.

AQI was measured by the Environmental Conservation Department at specified sampling points in different states and regions, including the Union Territory. Parameters tested included Environmental Perimeter Air Station (EPAS)-Haz-Scanner Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQM-65), Scentroid (SL-50 Scential)

Aeroqual (Series 500 Portable Air Quality Monitor) AQMesh (Dust Analyzer - 1941150) (Gas Analyzer-1940150), Portable Beta Attenuation Mass Monitor (BAM 1022) Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQMS) & Continuous Particulate Monitor (PM 2.5) Particulate Matter (PM 10) Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) Ozone (O₃) and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Parameter Particulate.

The AQI for Amarapura Township and Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region

were rated at the orange level for vulnerable individuals due to high levels of Particulate Monitor PM 2.5. At the same time, the index for other states and regions was observed at yellow and green levels.

The Environmental Conservation Department noted that test results were influenced by factors such as air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, rainfall, vehicle emissions, and industrial pollution, and therefore, air quality levels may fluctuate. — TWA/TMT



The Environmental Conservation Department is evaluating AQI with the Haz scanner machine.

Failure to obtain e-commerce licence leads to legal action

FAILURE to obtain a licence for e-commerce online shops will result in legal action, as stated in the Trade Department's Notification 11/2024 dated 9 August.

The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce released Notification 50/2023 dated 21 July 2023 regarding mandatory e-commerce registration through <https://www.ecomreg.gov.mm> starting from 2 October 2023.

The ministry allowed those online sales business operators who registered between 2 October and 31 December 2023 to be exempt from registration fees for six months. Those running online sales businesses who failed to obtain a licence six months after the notification date will face actions under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

Registration for owners of e-commerce online shops can be made through www.ecomreg.gov.mm from 17 June by paying the registration fee, according to the export/import bulletin

(17/2023) of the Trade Department released on 28 December 2023. The ministry allowed those online sales business operators who registered between 2 October and 31 December 2023 to be exempt from registration fees for six months.

The validity of registration granted starting from 1 January 2024 is two years. The registration fees are set at K70,000 for companies or commercial institutions, with a renewal fee of K70,000 and an amendment fee of K3,000. Those companies or commercial institutions holding the SME certificates have to pay K50,000 for registration, K50,000 for renewal and K3,000 for amendment fees. Individuals will be charged K30,000 for registration, K30,000 for renewal and K3,000 for amendment fees. — NN/KK



The image shows a variety of shopping sites on the computer screen.

YGN palm oil wholesale reference rate heads for sixth-week high



A vendor meticulously arranges the cooking oil for sale in the market.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market climbed to a sixth-week high of K5,945 per viss this week ending 18 August, which increased from K5,780 recorded last week ending 11 August 2024, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The rate started to rise from K5,390 per viss during the week ending 14 July.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Dis-

tribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers

of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Myanmar exports 1,800+ tonnes of shrimp in first 4 months of this FY

THE Fisheries Department stated that Myanmar conveyed 1,885.11 tonnes of shrimp to international trading partners in the first four months of the current financial year 2024-2025, beginning 1 April, with an estimated value of \$6.957 million.

Myanmar's seaborne shrimp export reached 1,579.655 tonnes worth \$5.229 million, and the border saw exports of 305.45 tonnes worth \$1.728 million between 1 April and 31 July.

Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 international countries, including Japan, Bangladesh, China and Thailand, through maritime and land borders. Myanmar delivered fisheries worth \$143.244 million to external markets in Q1 this FY. — NN/KK



Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 international countries, including Japan, Bangladesh, China and Thailand, through maritime and land borders. The photo shows Myanmar's shrimp.

OPINION

Reduce the use of cigarettes and tobacco in Myanmar society

MYANMAR and Thailand recently won a joint third prize in the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award, a competition organized by the ASEAN Secretariat and the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance. Myanmar was recognized for establishing smoke-free zones in the Bagan ancient cultural area, an effort that not only promotes public health but also enhances the nation's international standing.

Smoking is a costly habit that poses serious health risks, not only to smokers but also to those around them. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over eight million people die annually due to smoking-related illnesses, with about 1.2 million of these deaths attributed to second-hand smoke. The global tobacco crisis has been labelled a "tobacco pandemic"

For the time being, Myanmar is one of 46 countries with the highest capacity to raise public awareness so as to reduce the use of cigarettes and tobacco through various kinds of media and social network platforms. Amid difficulties, authorities are implementing the plan to shape the smoke-free zones in the public areas. As such, all Myanmar people need to maintain their achievements in the establishment of smoke-free regions in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone by securing the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award.

Myanmar has been committed to addressing this issue since it signed the Cigarette and Tobacco Use Control International Convention in 2003. Following this, the government enacted the Cigarette and Tobacco Control Law, which includes provisions that prohibit the sale of cigarettes to individuals under 18 and ban cigarette sales within 100 feet of school campuses. However, enforcement of these regulations remains a challenge, and stricter implementation is necessary to reduce tobacco use and protect public health.

Efforts to curb smoking in Myanmar are vital not only for improving health outcomes but also for reducing the economic burden associated with tobacco use.

By continuing to promote smoke-free zones and enforcing tobacco control laws, Myanmar can further achieve its progress in combating the tobacco epidemic and safeguarding the well-being of its citizens.

For the time being, Myanmar is one of 46 countries with the highest capacity to raise public awareness so as to reduce the use of cigarettes and tobacco through various kinds of media and social network platforms. Amid difficulties, authorities are implementing the plan to shape the smoke-free zones in the public areas. As such, all Myanmar people need to maintain their achievements in the establishment of smoke-free regions in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone by securing the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award.

IN today's interconnected world, social media has revolutionized how we communicate, share information, and even find love. This digital landscape offers immense possibilities but also harbours unseen dangers. Nyein, a young girl full of dreams, fell victim to these hidden perils when she met her future husband online, only to have her hopes shattered by deceit and abuse. Her story serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of caution and awareness in the age of digital relationships. Through Nyein's tragic experience, we explore the harsh realities faced by many young women, underscoring the need for societal vigilance and support to prevent such tragedies from recurring.

However, the reality was far from what she had imagined. The man she met online turned out to be deceitful. Instead of the promised love and respect, Nyein found herself trapped in a nightmare. Her dreams of a happy married life were shattered as soon as she arrived at his house. There was no wedding, no celebration, only a life of hardship and abuse. Her husband, who initially appeared kind and loving, revealed his true nature. He was not the caring partner he had pretended to be. Instead, he was controlling, abusive, and manipulative.

Living in her husband's house was nothing short of a prison for Nyein. His family did not accept her. They treated her with disdain and cruelty. Every day was a struggle for survival. She was verbally and physically abused by her husband and his family. The little confidence she had was crushed under the weight of their constant mistreatment. She was not allowed to work, which made her entirely dependent on her

husband. This dependency gave him more power to control her. Despite her pleas, she was not allowed to return to her hometown. She was isolated from her family and friends, left to fend for herself in a hostile environment. Mi Aye's situation is a stark reminder of how vulnerable young women can be when false promises lure them. Her story highlights the importance of being cautious and aware of the dangers that lurk behind seemingly innocent online interactions.

One day, Nyein discovered she was pregnant. For a moment, she felt a glimmer of hope. Perhaps the arrival of a child would change her husband's behaviour. Maybe he would become more caring and responsible. But this hope was short-lived. During a routine check-up at the hospital, she received devastating news. She was diagnosed with HIV. The shock was overwhelming. She had never engaged in risky behaviour, so she couldn't understand how she contracted the virus.

After some investigation, the truth came to light. Her husband was a drug addict who had contracted HIV through needle sharing. His addiction and reckless behaviour had not only endangered his life but also Nyein's and their unborn children. The realization was heart-wrenching. She had trusted this man with her life, and in return, he had given her a death sentence. Her dreams of a happy family were utterly destroyed. Nyein's diagnosis changed everything. The already strained relationship with her husband's family became worse. They blamed her for bringing misfortune upon them. The neighbourhood, too, distanced themselves from her. People whispered behind her back, and she became

husband. This dependency gave him more power to control her. Despite her pleas, she was not allowed to return to her hometown. She was isolated from her family and friends, left to fend for herself in a hostile environment. Mi Aye's situation is a stark reminder of how vulnerable young women can be when false promises lure them. Her story highlights the importance of being cautious and aware of the dangers that lurk behind seemingly innocent online interactions.

One day, Nyein discovered she was pregnant. For a moment, she felt a glimmer of hope. Perhaps the arrival of a child would change her husband's behaviour. Maybe he would become more caring and responsible. But this hope was short-lived. During a routine check-up at the hospital, she received devastating news. She was diagnosed with HIV. The shock was overwhelming. She had never engaged in risky behaviour, so she couldn't understand how she contracted the virus.

After some investigation, the truth came to light. Her husband was a drug addict who had contracted HIV through needle sharing. His addiction and reckless behaviour had not only endangered his life but also Nyein's and their unborn children. The realization was heart-wrenching. She had trusted this man with her life, and in return, he had given her a death sentence. Her dreams of a happy family were utterly destroyed. Nyein's diagnosis changed everything. The already strained relationship with her husband's family became worse. They blamed her for bringing misfortune upon them. The neighbourhood, too, distanced themselves from her. People whispered behind her back, and she became

Misfortune seemed to follow Nyein relentlessly. The saying "Misfortune never comes alone" was a harsh reality for her. She faced continuous abuse and neglect from her husband and his family. Her health was declining, and she had no support system to rely on. Despite her attempts

to find some semblance of happiness, she was trapped in a cycle of despair. Her life was a series of unfortunate events that she had no control over. Each day was a battle, and she was losing the strength to fight. Eventually, Nyein's body could not withstand the relentless abuse and the ravages of the illness. She passed away at a very young age. Her death was a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities faced by young women who fall prey to deceptive promises. Her life was cut short by a series of unfortunate events, all stemming from a single act of misplaced



trust. Nyein's story is a tragic tale of how a young girl's dreams were destroyed by deceit, abuse, and neglect. Her death was not just a loss for her family but a loss for society. It was a reminder of the dangers lurking in the shadows and the need for vigilance and support for vulnerable individuals. Nyein's tragic story is a stark reminder of the dangers of trusting too easily. Her life was a testament to the importance of being cautious and aware. If she had not believed the man she met online so easily, her life might have taken a different path. She could have pursued her dreams, enjoyed her

youth, and found true happiness. Her husband's descent into drug addiction not only ruined his life but also destroyed hers. His family's lack of compassion and support turned a bad situation into a living nightmare. Nyein's experience underscores the importance of educating young people about the potential dangers of online interactions. It's a call to be vigilant and discerning, to look beyond the facade and understand that not everyone who promises love and happiness online has good intentions. Her story also emphasizes the need for strong support systems and community awareness to protect vulnerable individuals from falling into similar traps.

The impact of social media on our lives is a double-edged sword. On the positive side, it has revolutionized communication, making

ARTICLE

of online interactions and the importance of making informed decisions. Communities should come together to support victims of abuse and addiction. Only through collective effort can we hope to eliminate such dangerous situations and create a safer environment for everyone.

That story should serve as a call to action for all of us. We must not turn a blind eye to the suffering of others. Each of us has a role to play in creating a safer, more compassionate society. Whether it is through education, support, or advocacy, we must do our part to prevent such tragedies from happening. Let Nyein's story be a reminder of the consequences of neglect and the importance of taking action.

Nyein's story is a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities that come with trusting too easily in a world where appearances can be deceiving. Her life, filled with dreams and aspirations, was tragically cut short by the very medium that promised her happiness. It highlights the dark side of social media, where predators can easily manipulate and exploit the naivety of young, hopeful individuals. Nyein's experience underscores the importance of educating young people about the potential dangers of online interactions. It's a call to be vigilant and discerning, to look beyond the facade and understand that not everyone who promises love and happiness online has good intentions. Her story also emphasizes the need for strong support systems and community awareness to protect vulnerable individuals from falling into similar traps.

The impact of social media on our lives is a double-edged sword. On the positive side, it has revolutionized communication, making

it easier to connect with loved ones, share information, and even find support communities. Social media has democratized the spread of information and given a voice to the voiceless. However, as Nyein's story illustrates, there are significant downsides. The anonymity and reach of social media can be exploited by unscrupulous individuals, leading to cases of fraud, abuse, and manipulation. Additionally, the curated reality presented on these platforms can create unrealistic expectations and lead to disappointment and disillusionment. While social media can be a powerful tool for good, it is crucial to approach it with caution and awareness of its potential pitfalls. Balancing its use by fostering critical thinking and maintaining real-world connections can help mitigate its negative effects and enhance its positive potential.

In brief, Nyein's life was a tragic tale of misplaced trust, abuse, and neglect. Her story is a powerful reminder of the dangers that young women face in today's world. It is a call to action for all of us to be more vigilant, compassionate, and supportive. By working together, we can hope to create a world where such tragedies are a thing of the past.

It is also a reminder that we must not take the safety and well-being of our loved ones for granted. We must educate ourselves and others about the dangers that lurk in the shadows and work together to create a safer, more compassionate society. Let us honour Nyein's memory by taking action to prevent such tragedies from happening.

(Based on a true story)
Credited to Khin Moh Moh Aung

Chinese researchers develop unmanned system for tunnel emergency rescue

THE China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC) on Friday said it has developed an unmanned emergency rescue system for tunnels, with independent intellectual property rights.

Compared to highway res-

cues, tunnel rescues face a multitude of difficulties, including terrain intricacies, diminished perceptual capabilities, the absence of satellite signal coverage, restricted access to the incident site, and a lack of effective navigational tools, according to the

CASIC.

The researchers overcame key technical challenges in their development of the system, such as those related to autonomous tunnel navigation, radar obstacle detection and avoidance, autonomous route planning, tunnel

communication transmission, and ultra-low-altitude firefighting.

The system has successfully implemented autonomous navigation in tunnels devoid of satellite signal, enabling the intelligent recognition and precise location of fire sources and individuals.

It is designed to deliver rescue equipment and fire-extinguishing materials accurately, facilitating a swift response at the onset of a fire. The innovative system effectively tackles such difficulties as the absence of satellite signal and traffic jams during expressway tunnel fires.

The system has undergone

successful trials related to autonomous navigation in tunnels, autonomous obstacle avoidance and the deployment of fire-extinguishing grenades. It is poised for broader application across a range of emergency rescue scenarios, including firefighting on expressways.

SOURCE: Xinhua

This photo taken on 15 March 2024 shows an undersea tunnel, part of a project of Guangzhou-Zhanjiang high-speed railway, in south China's Guangdong Province. PHOTO: LIU DAWEI/XINHUA



NATIONAL



This photo taken on 11 August shows Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee offering birthday donations at Aung Zabutawya Monastery.

Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee celebrates birthday with generosity

ACADEMY Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee made a birthday donation at Aung Zabutawya Monastery in Hmawby Township of Yangon on 11 August.

“I spent my birthday with my beloved ones by offering meals to monks and providing cash donations to patients at the Obstetrics and Gynaecology ward of Waibargi Hospital in North Okkalapa Township. With support from Realme, I also provided dinner for 550

people at Yangon General Hospital alongside my Kit Fan Club. Besides, I made a donation to patients at Yangon Mental Health Hospital,” Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee said.

It is known that Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yee offered Waso robes and meals at the Aung Zabutawya Monastery and also made food donations for the pilgrims there. — ASH/TRKM

Pyinmana Sangha Hospital donates over K14.6M to 38 kidney patients in July

PYINMANA Sangha Hospital donated more than K14.6 million to 38 patients for having kidney dialysis in July, with the help of public contribution, said medical superintendent Dr Than Min Htut.

The hospital’s renal ward could provide dialysis for 90 patients 561 times in the last month and sought funding to give free dialysis for 38 poor patients out of 90, he wrote on his Facebook page.

The public donation for free dialysis is worth up to K14.6 million. For the maintenance of dialysis machines, Daw San San Swe from Kabarkyaw sack bag manufacturing in Yangon donated K1.2 million as a New Year’s donation.

Depending on the levels of the disease, times of kidney dialysis are different; some need eight times a month, and some need six times a month, he wrote on his Facebook page.

Each dialysis costs K55,000, so six times the cost is K330,000, and eight times the price is K440,000.

In June, the hospital donated more than K15 million to 37 kidney patients for having dialysis.

Over the last three months, from April to June, Pyinmana Sangha Hospital provided free medical treatments for a total of 2,084 monks and nuns who had financial difficulties – 584 in April, 713 in May and 787 in June. — MT/ZS



Patients are receiving medical treatment at the renal ward of the Pyinmana Sangha Hospital. PHOTO: THAN MIN HTUT

Japan launches elderly caregiver scholarship programme

MAJA Education Centre reported that Japan has launched the new Caregiver Scholarship Programme, which will allow candidates to work in elderly care centres.

Scholarship winners will have the opportunity to attend a language school for one year with a student visa, and then with a Tokutei Visa, they will have the chance to work in an elderly care centre in Japan for five years.

Those who are interested in the healthcare profession will have the opportunity to go to Japan to study and work at a lower cost and obtain a Tokutei visa.

In terms of qualifications, applicants must have

passed the Japanese N3 level or above (JLPT, NAT-Test, Top J, J Test), must be a Myanmar national holding a degree, or have passed the Grade 12 or the first year of university, and must be between 20 and 27 years of age. Applicants must be interested in caring for the elderly and sick and be able to live and work in Japan for many years. Priority will be given to those with experience in elderly care and nursing, and they must be in good health and have passed the primary medical examination before going abroad.

Interested persons who meet these qualifications can fill out the specified Google Form and register by 20 August, according to MAJA Education Centre. — MT/ZN

Illegal trade crackdown yields some K418M in seizures

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

On 9 August, a combined team managed by the Customs Department conducted inspections. It seized 11,700 kilogrammes worth approximately K46.683 million of China-made Neoprene Adhesives industrial use glue at the Myanma Industrial Port; 731.34 square metres of ceramic wall and floor tiles and 49,500 kilogrammes worth approximately K109 million of plastic resin-polyethylene at the Asia World checkpoint; three commodities including 13 boxes of machinery spare parts worth approximately K3 million at the Yangon International Airport; one fingerprint scanner made by China valued at K1.15 million at the Yangon International Airport (Warehouse); and 18,000 bottles of Thai-made Carabao energy drink worth approximately K15 million and one Chenglong tractor head worth K100 million at the Ywathagyi Dry Port. The action was carried out according to Customs procedures.

On 10 August, a combined team managed by the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task

Force conducted inspections. It seized 4,200 packs of Thai-made Yum Yum instant noodles, 68 Japan-made Recond TVs and three other commodities worth approximately K12 million and one Yutong bus and one Zhong Tong bus valued at K80 million at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray machine checkpoint. The action was taken in line with Customs procedures. The team also seized 1.122 tonnes of illegal wood valued at K152,701 in Bago District.

The combined team managed by the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections. It seized an unregistered Honda Insight and one unregistered Daihatsu Hijet worth approximately K16 million at the Kantalu checkpoint in Sagaing Township on 10 August; an unregistered Toyota Crown worth K15 million and a total of 1,740 baskets, each carrying 80 pieces of apples worth approximately K19 million at the Yadanabon checkpoint on 11 August. The action was taken under the Import-Export Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 20 arrests on 9, 10 and 11 August, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K418 million. — MNA/TMT

Foreign students spotlight Utoro history, ethnic Koreans in Japan

AN internship was launched at a museum in Uji, Kyoto Prefecture, dedicated to telling the story of the Utoro district, where ethnic Koreans have historically faced discrimination, to promote the history of the community internationally through foreign students living in Japan.

Foreign students at Ritsumeikan University have been enlisted for support at the Utoro Peace Memorial Museum to relay the stories of the district, where Korean labourers and their descendants were recruited to build an airfield during World War II. Many survived despite discrimination and faced prejudice after the war.

The museum staff welcomed the students, saying, "This is a great opportunity for Utoro residents to interact with people of many different nationalities."

On 23 June, a day when the Utoro Cafe inside the museum was open, residents mixed with foreign and Japanese students while they tucked into Korean food and other dishes.



This photo taken on 23 June 2024 shows Han Sea On (back, 3rd from L), Carlos Marquez (back, 4th from L) and others reporting on their activities in the Utoro Cafe at the Utoro Peace Memorial Museum in Uji, Kyoto Prefecture, where residents and foreign students interact. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"I had a tough life. Now I am happy to see so many people coming to the museum," Han Gum Bong, an 85-year-old woman who immigrated to the district with her family, said with a smile.

The museum opened in

April 2022 to commemorate the history of Japan and the Korean Peninsula, and pays homage to the so-called zainichi Koreans who have long resided in Japan's Utoro district.

Nearly a dozen foreign

students from Vietnam, South Korea, the United States and other countries are participating in the internship program. Their activities include acting as museum tour guides, translating exhibition panels from Japanese

into English and interviewing residents of the district.

They also visited Osaka's Tsuruhashi district, known as one of the largest Koreatowns in the country, to learn the history of zainichi Koreans in Japan and post comments about their activities in English on social media.

Carlos Marquez, 21, the leader of the intern group, immigrated to the United States from Mexico City with his family when he was a high school student.

Reflecting on those days, he said, "I couldn't get a part-time job even though I was legally living in the US (With my visa at the time) it was like being in a gray zone."

He focused volunteering efforts on trying to combat prejudice against Latin Americans and the disparities they face in the United States. Carlos learned about the history of Utoro, where those who moved there built their own community, and noted it overlapped with the experiences he and many Latin Americans faced. — Kyodo

How a magic berry transformed China's vast wilderness in its northwest



Zhu Xiaobing, deputy director of the production centre of the Xizan ecological goji berry plantation, checks the growth of goji berries in Zhongning County of Zhongwei City, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, 22 June 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

OVER a decade ago, Hu Yuzhu could never have imagined that her hometown in the arid desert of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region would one day transform into an oasis.

Today, Mingsha Town in

Ningxia's Zhongwei City has been turned into a lush oasis adorned with trees bearing branches laden with red fruits. It has become a vital resource for Hu, her fellow villagers and migrant workers, improving their livelihoods.

The transformations are largely due to the goji berries, also known as wolfberries, a Ningxia specialty famous for their nutritional value. Dubbed as "magic berries", the goji berries have been used in traditional Chinese medicine for thousands of years.

As one of China's major goji berry-producing regions, Ningxia currently boasts 325,000 mu (about 21,667 hectares) of goji berry cultivation area. With the expansion of cultivation areas, goji berries from Ningxia have not only brought greenery to barren land but also become a significant source of wealth for the locals in the region.

Also, thanks to advancements in sci-tech innovation in the industry, goji berry products from the region have diversified and reached a wider consumer base over the years. — Xinhua

Shanghai Disneyland to welcome first major Marvel attraction

SHANGHAI Disneyland will introduce a new Spider-Man-themed thrill coaster, its first major attraction that will tell a Marvel story, the Shanghai Disney Resort said Sunday.

The high-speed, immersive roller coaster incorporates elements of Spider-Man, one of the most popular Marvel super heroes, according to Josh D'Amaro, chairman of Disney Experienc-

es, who made the announcement during Disney's global fan expo.

It marks the latest expansion of Shanghai Disney Resort. In December 2023, Shanghai Disney Resort unveiled the world's first Zootopia land, to which the new roller coaster is adjacent.

The resort's current expansion projects also include a third Disney-themed hotel, according to the company. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 19 December 2023 shows the opening ceremony of the world's first Zootopia land in Shanghai Disney Resort of east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ECONOMY WORLD

CAMBODIA will launch in September an e-arrival card scheme for air passengers arriving in the Southeast Asian country, Prime Minister Hun Manet said on Monday.

The e-arrival digital card will replace paper forms for immigration, health and customs declarations.

It will be available either at www.arrival.gov.kh or via the Cambodia e-arrival app available in the App Store and Play Store on mobile phones or other electronic devices.

The Cambodia e-arrival system will be officially launched at Cambodia's three airports from 1 September 2024 to facilitate the arrivals of national and international travellers, Hun Manet said on his official Telegram channel.

According to the General Department of Immigration, the e-arrival app will make passengers easier to complete immigration formalities and health procedures in one form.

The General Department of Immigration said foreign passengers will still be required to show or obtain a visa

Cambodia to launch e-arrival card for air passengers next month: PM



This photo taken on 1 March 2024 shows tourists taking pictures of the Elysee Commercial Centre building in the Paris-style development along the Bassac river in the satellite city of Koh Pich in Phnom Penh. **PHOTO: AFP**

upon arrival, and within seven days before their arrivals, passengers are required to fill in their immigration, health and customs declarations in one form at the Cambodia e-arrival app.

Thourn Sinan, chairman of the Pacific Asia Travel Association Cambodia chapter, said the e-arrival card scheme will help attract more international tourists to the kingdom.

"The e-arrival card app could streamline the entry process for tourists, potentially attracting more visitors to Cambodia," he told Xinhua. "By offering convenience and efficiency, the app may enhance the country's appeal."

Tourism is one of four pillars supporting Cambodia's economy, in addition to garment, footwear and travel goods export, agriculture, and construction and real estate.

The kingdom received 3.16 million international tourists in the first half of 2024, up from 2.57 million in the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Tourism. — Xinhua

Stocks mostly rise as focus turns to US inflation data



A woman walks in front of an electronic quotation board displaying the numbers of share price on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 7 August 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

ASIAN markets mostly rose Monday as investors tried to move on from last week's upheaval fuelled by US recession worries, with focus shifting to the release of key inflation and retail data.

After a painful collapse fuelled by a big miss on US jobs creation, equities managed to bounce back over the

following days and ended Friday on a healthy note.

The gains were helped by a report showing fewer people than expected claimed unemployment benefits, soothing fears that the world's top economy was contracting.

However, analysts warned that while some calm has returned to trading floors,

traders remained on edge and were nervously awaiting the release of the next round of indicators.

The consumer price index and retail sales reports this week could provide the Federal Reserve more room to cut interest rates.

Expectations are that the bank will lower borrowing costs 25 basis points next month, and at least once more before January, thanks to a string of data suggesting prices have been brought under control.

Still, Fed officials offered differing views on the outlook for rates.

Governor Michelle Bowman said she still thought inflation could bounce back and remained cautious about making any reductions too early.

But Boston Fed chief Susan Collins said officials could start cutting soon if data continued to show prices were being tamed. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korea's export logs double-digit growth in first 10 days of August

SOUTH Korea's export logged a double-digit growth in the first 10 days of August owing to strong demand for locally-made semiconductors and automobiles, customs office data showed Monday.

Export stood at US\$15.47 billion in the 1 August - 10 August period, up 16.7 per cent compared with the same period of last year, according to Korea Customs Service.

The daily average export increased 24.0 per cent in the 10-day period. The monthly outbound shipment kept growing for the 10th straight month through July.

Semiconductor export spiked 42.1 per cent to \$3.48 billion, and automotive shipment surged 63.9 per cent to \$876 million. — Xinhua

Sri Lankan workers' remittances surge 10.3% in first 7 months of 2024

SRI Lankan workers remitted US\$3.71 billion in the first seven months of 2024, a 10.3 per cent increase over the same period last year, according to the central bank.

In July, remittances stood at 566.8 million dollars, up from 541.0 million dollars a year earlier.

Sri Lanka's external sector performance in the first half of 2024 remained positive due to higher inflows in the form of workers' remittances and earnings from tourism, the central bank said last week. Workers' remittances are among Sri Lanka's top foreign revenue earners. — Xinhua

Small and medium enterprises contribute to economic growth in N China's Hebei

THERE are more than 170 remanufacturing enterprises in Hejian City, north China's Hebei Province, focusing on areas of automotive parts, oil drilling equipment, and computer servers. They were recognized by the Ministry of

Industry and Information Technology as a distinctive industrial cluster of small and medium enterprises in 2022, and generated a combined revenue of more than 14 billion yuan (about US\$1.96 billion) in 2023. — Xinhua



A technician works at a laboratory of the Institute of Remanufacturing Industry & Technology, Jing-Jin-Ji, in Hejian City, north China's Hebei Province, 10 August 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

OPEC keeps forecast for 2024 oil output growth outside organization at 1.23M bpd – report

OPEC has kept its forecast for the oil production growth in 2024 outside the organization at 1.23 million barrels per day and expects an increase to 53 million barrels per day, the organization said in its fresh report on Monday.

“Non-Declaration of Cooperation (Non-DoC) liquids supply (ie liquids supply from countries not participating in the DoC) is expected to grow by 1.2 mb/d in 2024, unchanged from the previous month's assessment,” the report read.

The table in the report clarifies that the indicator is expected to reach 53 million barrels per day, and the growth will be 1.23 million barrels per day. A month earlier, OPEC had forecast

production growth at the same level.

OPEC+ oil production in July increased by 117,000 barrels per day by June to 40.91 million barrels per day, while the countries participating in the oil deal produced output by 84,000 barrels per day more than agreed, taking into account voluntary cuts and an over-production compensation plan, the organization said.

OPEC has slightly downgraded its forecast for the US's oil and condensate production in 2024 to 13.2 million barrels per day, according to the organization's fresh report.

In July, the organization expected the 2024 US production to amount to 13.23 million barrels per day, and in May and June



The logo of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is seen at its headquarters in Vienna on 3 June 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

— 13.22 million barrels per day.

The commercial oil stocks in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) decreased by 14.1 million barrels in June and were below the five-year average

by 66.8 million barrels, according to OPEC's report.

The oil production in OPEC countries has increased by 185,000 barrels per day in July and averaged at 26.75 million barrels per day, the organization said. — Sputnik

Cambodia earns US\$269 mln from rubber exports in first 7 months of 2024

CAMBODIA exported 173,915 tonnes of natural rubber latex in the first seven months of 2024, slightly up 1.72 per cent from 170,968 tonnes over the same period last year, said a General Directorate of

Rubber's report on Sunday. The country earned US\$269 million in revenue from exports of the commodity during the January-July period this year, up 12.4 per cent from \$239.3 million over the same peri-

od last year, the report said. “A tonne of rubber latex averagely cost \$1,547 during the first seven months of 2024, about 147 dollars higher than that of the same period last year,” Khun Kakada, acting direc-

tor-general of the General Directorate of Rubber, said in the report.

The Southeast Asian nation exports the commodity mainly to Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore and China. — Xinhua

MYANMA Port Authority “NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.44 feet to 21.65 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 19th to August 25th, 2024. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CORETALENT OL VOY.NO. (09)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CORETALENT OL VOY.NO. (09)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S RAFFLES SHIPPING INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (430W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA BITBURG VOY.NO. (430W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KANG YAO VOY.NO. (105081)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KANG YAO VOY.NO. (105081)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Russia's Army-2024 Forum to host military delegations from 83 countries

MILITARY delegations from 83 countries will take part in the Army-2024 international military-technical forum in Russia, the Defence Ministry said on Monday.

"Official military delegations from 83 countries will participate in the forum, with 39 delegations led by heads of defence ministries and chiefs of general staffs. National exhibitions and individual stands from defence

industry enterprises of friendly countries have been formed by four nations: Belarus, Iran, India and China. Representatives of more than 120 foreign companies are participating in the work of the forum," the ministry said in a statement.

Bilateral meetings are planned with the heads of foreign delegations to discuss defence industry cooperation involving the Russian Defence

Ministry, the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, state arms exporter Rosobornexport and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, according to the statement.

The forum will once again bring together representatives from Russian and foreign armed forces, allowing defence and national security experts to strengthen cooperative ties, the statement said. — Sputnik



Military officials from foreign states and visitors gather for the 10th International Military-Technical Forum Army-2024 at Patriot Congress and Exhibition Centre in Moscow region, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

BRIEFS: WORLD

Diathpheria epidemic announced in central Vietnam

THE central Thanh Hoa province has become Vietnam's first locality this year to announce the diathpheria epidemic after three positive cases were detected in Muong Lat town, local media reported Monday.

Thirty-four people having close contact with the infection cases have been identified. All of them are living in the same residential area in Muong Lat town. According to local authorities, the infection risk remains high.

The authorities are taking emergency preventive measures such as medical quarantine, spraying disinfectant at infection areas. — Xinhua

Engine smoke seen from Singapore Airlines jet at Narita airport

WHITE smoke was seen coming from the left engine of a Singapore Airlines plane as it arrived at Narita airport near Tokyo on Monday but no one was injured, according to a report received by firefighters.

The problem on Flight 638 with 276 passengers and crew aboard led to the closure of Runway B at the airport for about 50 minutes from around 7:40 am as the aircraft was towed away, Narita International Airport Corp said.

The Boeing 787 aircraft may have experienced a problem as it was landing, the airport operator said. Tire debris was found on the runway, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism's airport office. — Kyodo

Residents flee as Greece wildfires rage despite 'superhuman' efforts

GREECE ordered fresh evacuations near Athens on Monday as wildfires spread despite "superhuman" efforts to contain the flames, firefighters said.

At least five more communities were told to flee by civil protection authorities on Monday, after hundreds of people evacuated Sunday from at least

eight villages.

"Civil protection forces battled hard throughout the night, but despite superhuman efforts, the fire evolved rapidly," fire brigade spokesman Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said.

"At this moment it has reached Mount Pentelicus and is headed in the direction of Penteli," he added.

The Mediterranean country is exceptionally vulnerable to summer blazes. After the warmest winter on record, Greece also experienced its hottest June and July since reliable data collection began in 1960, and the summer season has seen fires burn daily.

Temperatures are forecast to peak at 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) in Greece on Monday, with wind gusts of up to 50 kilometres (31 miles) per hour.

Two hospitals in Penteli — one for children and a military facility — were evacuated at dawn, Vathrakogiannis said. — AFP



Women embrace after being rescued during a wildfire in Varnavas, north of Athens, on 11 August 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iran, European Council discuss resumption of nuclear talks

IRAN'S President Masoud Pezeshkian and Charles Michel, president of the European Council, on Sunday exchanged views on the resumption of the talks on the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal.

In a phone call, the two sides discussed bilateral ties as well as the regional and international issues of common interest, including the promotion of multilateralism in the world and developments in Gaza, according to a statement published on the website of the Iranian president's office.

On the resumption of the nuclear talks between Iran and the other parties to the deal, Pezeshkian said the existence of trust and safeguarding bilateral interests were the basis for an agreement.

He added that should both sides fulfill their commitments and help build mutual trust, in addition to reviving the nuclear deal, other bilateral issues could be discussed.

Pezeshkian highlighted the necessity to establish a multilateral world or-

der, saying the US policies towards and pressures on countries such as Iran and its bids to deprive them of their rights and interests were aimed at preventing the establishment of a new world order as well as the restoration of stability and calm to the world.

Iran had always supported ensuring peace and stability in the world and for all peoples and maintained that any trend or movement in any part of the world that jeopardized those values should be stopped, he added. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Shan United ready to tackle ASEAN Club Championship

SHAN United FC is gearing up to start their 2024-2025 ASEAN Club Championship group stage on 21 August.

The tournament's final stage will see six teams divided into two groups. Shan United has been placed in Group A with BG Pathum United (Thailand), Terengganu (Malaysia), Thanh Hoa (Vietnam), Makassar (Indonesia), and Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng (Cambodia). Meanwhile, Group B features Buriram United (Thailand), Kuala Lumpur City (Malaysia), Hanoi (Vietnam), Borneo (Indonesia), Kaya (the Philippines), and Lion City Sailors (Singapore).

Shan will play away against

Thanh Hoa (Vietnam) on 21 August, Makassar (Indonesia) on 25 September and Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng (Cambodia) on 5 February whereas the team will take on home game against Terengganu (Malaysia) on 8 January and BG Pathum United (Thailand) on 22 January.

The Myanmar club advanced to this stage after securing a 4-2 aggregate win over Brunei's Kasuka FC in the preliminary rounds. Shan United will be looking to build on their strong start and make a mark in the ASEAN Club Championship, which makes a return after nearly two decades, with its last editions held in 2003 and 2005. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Shan United players celebrate their victory in their previous match. PHOTO: THAW GYI

Victorious Myanmar medallists return home



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein poses for a documentary photo together with victorious athletes at Yangon International Airport.

THE 56th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship took place in Batam Island of Indonesia from 6 to 12 August.

The victorious Myanmar sports team comprising seven athletes, one referee and one coach led by the vice-president of the Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation arrived back at the Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon.

Those medallists were welcomed back at the airport by Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Committee Patron Chief Minister of Yangon

Region U Soe Thein, regional ministers, Federation President Vice-Mayor U Nyi Nyi, officials, the principal of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education, students, relatives and friends.

The regional chief minister cordially greeted victorious athletes.

In the championship, Ye Tun Naung secured one gold medal in the 75-kilogramme bodybuilding event, Ni Ni Aung one gold medal in the Women's Model Physique up to the 160-centimetre event, Thae Wah one silver medal in the Women's Athletic Physique up to the

165-centimetre event, and Htet Linn Ko Ko one silver medal in the Men's Athletic Physique up to the 182-centimetre event.

Ko Ko Kyaw Phyo stood fourth in the Men's Athletic Physique up to the 175-centimetre event, whereas Hein Htet Kyaw and Than Htaik Oo secured the fifth prizes in the 85-kilogramme bodybuilding event and Men's Sports Physique up to the 170-centimetre event respectively.

More than 200 athletes from 22 countries participated in the championship. — Ko Htet/TTA



Seine-sational! Paris bids triumphant 'au revoir' to Olympics

HOLLYWOOD star Tom Cruise abseiled from the roof of the Stade de France as Paris said farewell on Sunday to an Olympics hailed as one of the most successful in history.

Cruise descended on a wire in front of 71,500 spectators, grabbed the Olympic flag and jumped on a motorbike, to the delight of athletes and fans.

In a preview of what the world can expect when the Games head to Los Angeles in 2028, the "Mission Impossible" star was then shown boarding



Athletes enter the stadium during the closing ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Stade de France, in Saint-Denis, in the outskirts of Paris, on 11 August 2024. PHOTO: AFP

a plane and skydiving into the Californian city before adorning the iconic Hollywood sign with the Olympic rings.

Los Angeles band Red Hot Chili Peppers, singer Billie Eilish and rappers Snoop Dogg and Dr Dre then performed a mini-concert on a beach framed by the azure waters of the Pacific Ocean.

The closing spectacle marked the beginning of the four-year countdown to the LA Games, and American gymnastics icon Simone Biles joined

Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass as the Olympic flag was formally handed over.

Earlier, International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said the Paris Games had been "sport at its best".

"These were sensational Olympic Games from start to finish," Bach said. "Or dare I say: Seine-sational Games," the IOC chief quipped in a pun about the river flowing through Paris which was the scene of the opening ceremony. — AFP



This photo taken on 11 August 2024 shows destroyed buildings in the Gaza Strip, as seen from Israel's southern border with the Gaza Strip. Hamas on Sunday called on mediators of the Gaza ceasefire to put forward a plan to implement what they had approved before instead of going to more rounds of negotiations or introducing new proposals. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Chinese FM holds phone talks with Iranian counterpart on bilateral ties, Mideast situation

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday held phone talks with Acting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani at request, focusing on bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East.

Noting that Iran is a country with important influence in the region and a comprehensive strategic partner of China, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that China has always promoted its relations with Iran from a strategic and long-term perspective.

China stands ready to work with the new Iranian government to continue to firmly support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests, steadily advance practical cooperation in various fields, unswervingly promote the sound development of bilateral relations, and constantly add new content to the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership, said Wang.

Iran is welcome to actively participate in the events hosted by China as the rotating chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and strengthen this new type of international organization, he said.

China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Iran within the framework of the BRICS mechanism, further increase the voice and influence of the "Global South", and promote more just and reasonable development of international governance, said the Chinese minister. — Xinhua

Calls for Gaza truce grow, Hamas urges Biden plan implementation

INTERNATIONAL pressure mounted Monday for a ceasefire in Gaza, with Britain, France and Germany issuing a joint plea for an end to fighting between Israel and Hamas with "no further delay".

The call came a day after Palestinian militant group Hamas — whose 7 October attack on Israel triggered the war — urged mediators to implement a truce plan presented by US President Joe Biden instead of holding more talks.

"The fighting must end now, and all hostages still detained by Hamas must be released," French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer

said in a joint statement.

"The people of Gaza need urgent and unfettered delivery and distribution of aid," it said.

"There can be no further delay."

International mediators have invited Israel and Hamas to resume talks towards a long-sought truce and hostage-release deal, after fighting in Gaza and the killings of Iran-aligned militant leaders sparked fears of a wider conflict.

Israel has accepted the invitation from the United States, Qatar and Egypt for a round of talks planned for Thursday.

Hamas said Sunday it wanted the implementation of a truce plan laid out

by Biden on 31 May and later endorsed by the UN Security Council, "rather than going through more negotiation rounds or new proposals".

Hamas "demands that the mediators present a plan to implement what they proposed to the movement... based on Biden's vision and the UN Security Council resolution, and compel the (Israeli) occupation to comply", it said.

Unveiling the plan, Biden had called it a three-phase "roadmap to an enduring ceasefire and the release of all hostages", describing it was an Israeli proposal. Mediation efforts since then have failed to produce an agreement. — AFP

Enemy will receive proper response in Russia's border regions — Putin

THE enemy will receive a proper response in the border regions of Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

"The enemy will certainly receive a proper response, and all the goals we face will undoubtedly be achieved," Putin said at an operational meeting with representatives of the law enforcement on the situation in the Kursk region.

The relative calm situation in the Bryansk Region today does not guarantee that this will continue, we need to prepare for different scenarios, Putin said.

"If it is relatively calm in the Bryansk Region today, this does not mean that the same situation will remain there tomorrow. I ask you to take this very carefully together with the law enforcement agencies, together with the headquarters, which is being created through the FSB of Russia with the support of Rosgvardiya. All the issues that need to be discussed, in order to prepare for any development of the situation, together with the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russia, must be prepared and resolved in advance," the president said. — Sputnik



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting with members of the Security Council at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence, outside Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**