

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



A glimpse of workers inside one of the MSME workplaces.

Seashell art paintings catch attentions in Myanmar traditional art industry

AMONG types of paintings that are used for interior decoration, seashell art paintings have caught many attentions in Myanmar traditional painting and sculpture market.

“The market has been a little slow during the three-month Buddhist Lent but gemstone paintings and seashell art paintings are being sold well, at present. They can attract customers. Housewarming ceremonies and wedding receptions are few during the three-month Buddhist



Some seashell art paintings are being sold well in Myanmar traditional art and sculpture market.

Lent, but there are some shop-opening ceremonies and birthday parties. So we have buyers. Tapestries also attract buyers. But as I said earlier, gemstone paintings and seashell art paintings are more affordable than pieces of tapestries, so they are more marketable,” said an official from Burma Art Zone art and sculpture gallery in Thuwunna, Yangon. These years, many young people have been expressing interest in Myanmar art and sculpture artworks and there are foreign buyers too, she said.

“Unlike before, young people become interested in art and sculpture artworks these years so the sales at art galleries become better. Foreign expatriates are also interested in our Myanmar artworks, some are interested in painting and some are interested in works of tapestry,” she said. — Thit Taw/ZS

Yangon Region hosts largest number of private industries

Ministry of Industry is actively supporting the private industries for development and systematic operation throughout the country by providing necessary technical assistance.

As of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, a total of 47,984 private industries have been officially registered and being operated across Myanmar, with Yangon Region hosting the highest con-

centration of these businesses, according to the Ministry of Industry.

Yangon Region leads the private industrial sector in the country with 8,063 registered private industries, followed

by Mandalay Region as the second-largest hub with 6,775 industries, while Ayeyawady Region ranks third with 5,677 industries.

Comparatively, in the previous 2023-2024 financial year, there are 43,359 registered private industries nationwide. The noticeable increase in the number of these enterprises this year reflects a significant growth in the industrial sector.

The Ministry of Industry is actively supporting the private industries for development and systematic operation throughout the country by providing necessary technical assistance and other forms of support. — ASH/KZL

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Early-monsoon potato price gets high due to low supply

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Myanmar earns \$1.7B from agricultural exports in first four months of financial year

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AI technology assists Myanmar in various ways

NATIONAL



The Waso robe-offering ceremony in dedication to late royal families in progress.

Waso Robe-offering ceremony held in honour of late royals

IN dedication to King Mindon, Prince Kanaung, King Thibaw and late royal relatives, Waso robe offering ceremony was held at 9 am on 17 August at the Shwegyin Nikaya Sasana Lankara Maha Beikmandawgyi located at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Gyatawya Road in Yangon Region's Bahan Township.

It was organized by the next generations of the Konbaung dynasty. "There are many attendees from the next royal generation, including King Thibaw, Kyaukpadaung princess,

Nyaungyan prince, and other royal families. It was concluded successfully," said Hteiktin Sithu Hein (Pyinsi Suphaya House).

It is also a family donation, he said.

"From the beginning of the year, the Laikha Queen family and west Pyinsi Suphaya family collected funds for this ceremony. So, it is a ceremony held by two royal families and is dedicated to Magway Queen and Pyinsi Suphaya Princess. It was celebrated from 9 am to 1 pm," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS

300 to get PP extensions next week: ME



Myanmar Embassy to Singapore.

THE Myanmar Embassy to Singapore announced that there are 300 people who can renew their passports next week from 19 to 23 August.

Among those who submitted the application to WhatsApp numbers, the embassy will provide the passport renewal service to 60 persons a day from 19 to 23 August.

Those who seek the pass-

port extension service must come to the embassy by 10:00 am on the appointment date and bring their original passport and IC card, copies of the passport data page and IC card front/back, and completed renewal forms with a photo.

If a person fails to come on that date, a separate application is required, the embassy said. Fake documents or mak-

ing submissions through agents won't be allowed for extension, and the embassy warned that any private service companies or agents are not permitted to provide this service and make a waiting list for submitting documents to the embassy's WhatsApp.

Two submissions can be made per day for submitting to the embassy's WhatsApp, but the embassy reminds us not to make more submissions in the next few days. If they do, they can be moved behind the waiting list. Applicants should wait and see whether they are included in the list that will be announced on the embassy's website in a week.

Myanmar nationals in Singapore aged 65 years and above are not required to seek a reservation on the embassy's website or WhatsApp, but the embassy will provide them with a passport extension service as a privilege, and they can come in person in the mornings. — MT/ZN

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 18 August 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 17:30 hours MST today, the low pressure area over South Bangladesh still persists. It is likely to move north-northwestwards and may further intensify into a Well marked low pressure area over Bangladesh and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal, India during next 19 August 2024. Thereafter, it is likely to move west-northwestwards and may cross Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, India. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 19 August 2024:

Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay Region and Northern Shan and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing, Magway and Bago regions and Mon State. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 August 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 August 2024: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:30 hrs MST on 18-8-2024)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

ACCORDING to the 12:30 hours MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about 0.5 foot (11 centimetres) above its danger level 35.10 feet (1,070 centimetres). It may fall from the present water level by about one inch during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the riverbanks and low-lying areas in Madauk, to take precaution measure. — DMH

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NATIONAL

DPM MoFA Union Minister arrives back from 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe arrived back from Chiang Mai, Thailand in the evening of 18 August 2024 after attending the 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

During his stay in Chiang Mai, the Deputy Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Saleumxay Kommasith, on 15 August 2024.

At the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on further enhancing the existing traditional bonds of friendship and bilateral relations. Furthermore, they engaged in candid discussions on the strengthening of mutually beneficial cooperation, particularly in the areas of labour cooperation and employment of Myanmar migrant workers in Lao. They also explored opportunities to



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe participates in the China-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Thailand Informal Discussion in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 16 August 2024.

bolster trade and investment as well as closer collaboration in regional and multilateral arenas, including ASEAN.

Moreover, the Deputy Prime Minister participated in the Chi-

na-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Thailand Informal Discussion, which was held, on the sidelines of the 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Member of the Political Bu-

reau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mr Wang Yi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao Peo-

ple's Democratic Republic Mr Saleumxay Kommasith and Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Mrs Eksiri Pintaruchi also attended the said discussion.

During the discussion, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs appraised them of the recent developments in Myanmar. Four nations cordially exchanged views and committed to closer collaboration for the maintenance of security, prevalence of peace and stability along the border areas and combatting illegal activities related to cross-border illicit trade, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, online scams and transnational crimes. Moreover, they also discussed the possibilities of implementing the ASEAN five-point consensus in line with the five-point roadmap of Myanmar and facilitating constructive cooperation with Myanmar as a neighbouring country. — MNA

Myanmar joins the meeting between ASEAN permanent representative committee, National Coordinators of the Pacific Alliance



Permanent Representative of Myanmar to ASEAN U Aung Myo Myint attends the meeting.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar's Permanent Representative to ASEAN, U Aung Myo Myint, attended a meeting between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the National Coordinators of the Pacific Alliance in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 15 August.

The meeting was held in a hybrid format and co-chaired by Ambassador

Hjajceelyn M Quintana, the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to ASEAN and Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Relations, and Mrs Marcela Otero Fuentes, Director-General of Economic Multilateral Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile and National Coordinator for the Pacific Alliance Pro Tempore Presidency.

The meeting was at-

tended by members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), National Coordinators of the Pacific Alliance, the Ambassadors and Chargés d'affaires of the Embassies of Pacific Alliance member countries in Jakarta, as well as representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat. The Ambassador of Timor-Leste to ASEAN attended the meeting as an observer.

Participants exchanged views on developments in ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance, reviewed the implementation of the ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Work Plan (2021-2025), and discussed ways to further enhance cooperation between ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance. — ASH/TMT



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

MoRAC Union Minister departs for Sri Lanka to attend Centenary Ceremony of Makutarama Myanmar Buddhist Temple

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin left for Sri Lanka yesterday by air to attend the Centenary Ceremony of Makutarama Myanmar Buddhist Temple established by Myanmar's Bhaddanta Vinayalankara

and other religious ceremonies which will be held on 20 and 21 August, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Upon departure from Yangon, the delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials from the ministry. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister inspects assembling of e-bikes, tricycles in Nyaungdon

AYEYAWADY Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win and his team visited the MiMi Motors Company in Zeebyukyun Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, in the afternoon of 17 August to inspect their production of e-bikes and tricycles.

During the visit, they observed the installation of battery cables, main cables, handles, and other components for electric bicycles (e-bikes) and tricycles at MiMi Motors. The

company's officials and employees also demonstrated practical driving tests of the e-bikes and tricycles.

It is reported that these vehicles are designed to reduce fuel consumption and these user-friendly vehicles are purposed for the people of all ages, including students. The company is currently assembling the e-Bike (MI Bike 10 series), two-wheeled motorcycles (MI Bike 20 series), two-wheeled motorcycles (MI Bike 30 series), and



Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win views assembled e-bikes and tricycles of MiMi Motors Company in Nyaungdon Township on 17 August.

three-wheeled cycles (MI MET series) is in the test production phase and is being prepared for sale in the domestic market. — Region IPRD/TRKM

Officials urged to transfer research results, technologies to entrepreneurs



Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya inspects research process at Chemical Technology Research Centre on 18 August.

THE Chemical Technology Research Centre, a part of the Department of Research and Innovation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, is providing training to MSME food entrepreneurs, transferring technology, and supplying raw materials, as well as purchasing finished

products through the Lancang-Mekong Special Fund Project (2020). Yesterday morning, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya visited the centre to observe its operations.

The deputy minister met with officials and young researchers in a friendly man-

ner, addressing their needs to ensure a positive working environment.

The head of the centre then explained the benefits of the Lancang-Mekong project's technical cooperation, particularly in preserving value-added food products without losing their original colour, aroma, and taste.

The deputy minister urged the responsible personnel to focus on developing value-added food industries using local raw materials and ensuring that these products are suitable for both domestic consumption and export. He also emphasised the importance of transferring research results and technologies to entrepreneurs.

Additionally, he encouraged them to prioritize activities that directly benefit the socio-economic development of the people, in line with public service demands.

He also awarded officials and new generation researchers for their efforts in doing research works. — MNA/TKO

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (Central) offers day meals to members of the Sangha

ALL Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (Central) held the 20th meal offering ceremony at State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at Mogok refectory on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday morning.

Pro-Rector of the University Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Jotika administered the Five Precepts, followed by Parittas recited by members of the Sangha. Chairman of the foundation U Thein Lwin supplicated religious affairs.

The chairman and officials of the foundation donated offerings to members of the Sangha.

The Pro-Rector Sayadaw shared merits gained. Later, members of the Sangha were offered a day meal. — Aung Myint (IPRD)/TTA

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(+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
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NATIONAL

Illegal items confiscated including timbers, drugs, consumer commodities, foodstuffs and vehicles

SUPERVISED by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken against offenders in illicit trading across the nation.

On 15 August, during the inspection made by combined teams under the management of the Customs Department, 8,250 bottles of Lipovitan-D energy drink made in Thailand (estimated value of K4.95 million) and a Sunlong bus (estimated value of K35 million) carrying these items from Mawlamyine to Yangon were confiscated at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint and three types of goods (estimated value

of K16.7 million), including 299 thermos flasks without official documents, were seized from a passenger's luggage at Yangon International Airport and action is being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

In addition, on 15 August, a combined team under the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted an inspection near the intersection of Phayagyi and seized 5,000 bottles of Thailand-made Lipovitan-D energy drink, 360 cans of Ensure Gold Vanilla, and a vehicle that was driving from Mawlamyine to Mandalay including 10

20-kilogramme bags of Feline Pro cat feed (estimated value of K26.87 million) and two Yutong Buses and one Scania Bus carrying these products (estimated value of K220 million) were seized and action is underway according to customs procedures. Besides, 2,058 tonnes of illegal teak and 1.0726 tonnes of hardwood in Bago and Pyay districts, and another 0.579 tonne of other woods (estimated value of K2.619 million), and action is taken in accordance with Forest Law.

Also on 16 August, the inspection was carried out by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication



Photos show illegally imported Ensure Gold Vanilla cans and Lipovitan-D bottles.

Special Task Force, and two products including 21,840 packs of Smile Tissue made in China (estimated value of K26.808 million) and one Mitsubishi Fuso Truck (estimated value of K30 million) were seized at the Kywetetson checkpoint, and two types of drugs (estimat-

ed value of K72,547,300), including 19,380 bottles of Merosafe Powder for Injection, an insecticide made in India, which could not be presented with official documents at the Kywetetson checkpoint, and these illegal items estimated value of K129,355,300 were seized

and action is being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Therefore, on 15 and 16 August, a total of 12 cases (estimated value of K435,504,534) were seized, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/TKO

ADVERTORIAL

Co-painting Ecological Picture and Building Ecological Dreams – Chinese and Myanmar Youth of Datang Myanmar Dapein I Hydropower Station Celebrated the National Ecological Day

ON the occasion of the second National Ecological Day, the Myanmar Dapein I Hydropower Station organized a learning and exchange activity for Chinese and Myanmar workers with the theme - "Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains Are Invaluable Assets", responding to the national call with practical actions and jointly drawing a grand blueprint for the construction of a beautiful China.

In recent years, the Myanmar Dapein I Hydropower Station has been closely focused on environmental protection issues by conveying the concepts of green power station construction, exploring the use of clean energy, promoting zero-carbon office systems, and assisting youth environmental education to Chinese and Myanmar employees, so as to guard the lucid waters and lush mountains and draw a



beautiful ecological picture together.

Against the backdrop of "emission peak and carbon neutrality", the Myanmar Dapein I Hydropower Station actively carries out green power station construction, systematically promoting energy conservation, emission reduction and consumption reduction through measures such as improving equipment operation efficiency and

optimizing processes. As of now, the total installed capacity of the Myanmar Dapein I Hydropower Station is 240,400 kilowatts, producing an average of 960 million kilowatt-hours of green electricity per year and reducing carbon emissions by an average of 432,000 tonnes per year. In addition, the Myanmar Dapein I Hydropower Station actively promotes the theme of green office, calling on every-

one to start from simple things by saving water, electricity, and paper as much as possible, making low-carbon environmental protection a habit, and continuously cultivating employees' awareness of energy conservation and environmental protection.

The construction of ecological civilization is a systematic project that requires everyone to participate and work together. Deepening environmental education for young employees and planting green seeds in the hearts of the next generation is an essential part of promoting low-carbon development and building a beautiful China. The Myanmar Dapein I Hydropower Station will continue to promote the construction of a green power station, guiding young employees from

China and Myanmar to understand "carbon peak and carbon neutrality" on-site through in-depth science popularization and interactive activities on the front line and experiencing the vigorous power of green and sustainable development at close quarters.

In the future, under the guidance of the Opinions on Accelerating the Comprehensive Green Transformation of Economic and Social Development, the Myanmar Dapein I Hydropower Station will systematically promote green transformation and low-carbon development so as to have a positive impact on the promotion of the harmonious development of human beings and nature, and to contribute to the comprehensive promotion of the construction of a beautiful China.



NATIONAL

Talks begin for call centre, delivery to meet high demand for door-to-door palm oil sales

IT is under discussions for call centre and delivery to meet demand amidst plenty of interest in door to door palm oil sales in Yangon Region, according to an official from the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association.

In 44 townships in Yangon Region, under the supervision of the Committee for Importing, Storage and Distribution of Edible Oil, palm oil importing companies are distributing palm oil to people on a daily/monthly basis through retailers and wholesalers, but for those who cannot buy in this way, door to door sales were arranged two viss a month for a family.

They started collecting orders by phone on 31 July and already distribut-

ed to more than 12,000 households until 14 August.

"The door-to-door system reached more than expected. The consumers are delighted with home delivery. It is more convenient for workers' families. So, demand is much higher than expected. We distributed to more than 12,000 families from 31 July to 14 August. About 900 families per day in 14 days. We are preparing to deliver to 3,000-4,000 households a day," he said.

In addition to the call centre phone number 01 2399222 with seven extensions, another nine extensions were opened due to the high load of orders.

"We are facing system errors and

server downtime at the call centre as there were tens of thousands of calls daily. We didn't expect it. The system can't handle a hundred or thousand calls at a time, resulting in technical errors. We are discussing two or more call centres as well as delivery to meet demand. We are planning to resume accepting orders and meeting demand," he said.

For a two-viss per family per month schedule, home delivery fees are not more than K2,000 for 33 townships in Yangon City Development Committee's area and not more than K2,500 for 11 outskirts townships such as Taikkyi, Hmawby, Hlegu, Htaukkyant, Kayan, Thongwa, Thanlyin and Kyauktan. — MT/ZN



People happily receiving palm oil sales through door-to-door system.

Early-monsoon potato price gets high due to low supply



Early-monsoon potato supply has been low in the market.

DECLINE in early-monsoon potato production leads the price getting high, according to an official from Naungtayar potato association of Shan State.

Due to challenges and damages, the plantation acres decreased, making the production of early-monsoon potato, grown in April and May, de-

clined, he said.

"Potato is produced until now. But the yield is not large like before. Potatoes grown in April and May are now harvested. Due to the weather and more possibility of getting infected in monsoon, the plantation acres got shrunk. The price is getting high a little because the supply is low and

there is market demand at the same time. Normally, potato is rare during this season and will continue until July or September. The supply is the largest from February to June. It will return to normal in around November and December," he said.

Demand has fallen slightly now compared to the period from May to July and the supply is inadequate just because of low production, he said.

"Consumption, production and demand are normal in Myanmar. The demand is still low compared to previous three months. Despite low demand, the crop is rare but that is because of low production," he said.

The price will stay high in August and September and likely to return to normal in November and December when potato will be harvested again, he said.

The potato price declined in last April and May when the supply was plentiful, however gradually increased back since June and reached high in this month. — MT/ZS

Popular freshwater Pomfret sold well

FRESHWATER pomfret, one of the most-consumed fish, has been sold well in the market.

It has only a middle bone, and it is tasty if eaten fried, so Myanmar people enjoy it. Being tender and with fewer scales and bones, it is one of the most consumed fish in the domestic market. At present, these fish are being sold at a discount due to unstable prices as a result of transport delays.

"Freshwater pomfret is a most-consumed fish, so we have to sell it at a discount. The price is not stable. We are a wholesaler, so the trading is doing well.

There are farmed pomfret called freshwater pomfret and saltwater pomfret. We now sell freshwater pomfret," said an official from Ko Nyi freshwater fish trading and highway delivery from Kyimyindine Central Sanpya Fish Market.

In the last month, the price of freshwater fish rohu slightly declined, but the trading was good. Rohu, river catfish, pomfret and catla are the most consumed fish in Myanmar. Freshwater pomfret can be bred mixed with rohu, river catfish, catla and mrigal carp, and its growth rate is twice that of rohu. — Thit Taw/ZS



Pomfrets are marketable in the domestic market.

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Myanmar earns \$1.7B from agricultural exports in first four months of financial year

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Myanmar has earned a total of US\$1,723 million from exporting agricultural produce within the first four months of this financial year.

From 1 April to 26 July, US\$1,425 million was earned from overseas trade and US\$298 million from border exports. Myanmar primarily grows rice, corn, peanuts, sesame, sunflower, beans and pulses, cotton, and sugarcane. Among these, beans and pulses are the second most significant crops in the country, accounting for 33 per cent of total agricultural production.



Agricultural produce that will be exported abroad.

Various beans and pulses, including black beans, green gram, pigeon peas, cowpeas, peanuts, butter beans, rice bean, chickpea, soya beans, green peas, and rice beans, are cultivated on 20 per cent of Myanmar's agricultural land.

In addition to agricultural products, Myanmar also exports forestry products, livestock products, aquaculture products, mining products, industrial finished products, and others, generating over US\$1.99 billion from exports.

According to MoC data, agricultural exports worth nearly US\$2 billion were shipped within ten months, from April to January of the 2023-24 financial year.

The Myanma Port Authority, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, has been ensuring that rice and crops are exported efficiently during the peak season, allowing large ships to dock and depart on schedule. Authorities also regularly meet with the Myanmar Rice Federation and traders involved in rice, bean, and maize exports to address their needs. Additionally, representatives from the Customs Department, Trade Department, UMFCCI, MIFFA, exporters, port and bridge authorities, and shipping lines coordinate regularly to streamline the export process. — TWA/TMT

Yangon Region approves \$0.6M foreign investment in garment industry



Yangon Region Directorate of Investment and Company Administration Office.

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Investment Committee, a foreign investment of US\$600,000 has been approved for the industrial sector in Yangon Region. The approved investment is purposed for a garment business being operated under the CMP (Cutting, Making and Packaging) system in Yangon Region.

As of the end of June 2024, Singapore, China, and Thailand are the top investors among 53 countries and regions that have invested in Myanmar.

Among the 12 economic sectors, the energy sector has attracted the most investment, accounting for 28.45 per cent, followed by the oil and natural gas sector at 24.41 per cent, and the manufacturing sector at 14.45 per cent.

During the Yangon Region Investment Committee's meeting 6/2024 held on 26 June, seven new Myanmar investment projects were approved, creating employment opportunities for 3,060 people. — TWA/TKO

MoCRD to implement five types of small business projects in Yangon Region

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development plans to implement five types of small businesses in eight townships in the Yangon Region during the 2024-2025 financial year, according to U Thet Naing Oo, a director at the Yangon Region's Small Scale Industries Department under the ministry.

Small businesses such as sewing, motorcycle repair, bakery, restaurant, and home electric appliance repair and maintenance will be supported by providing technology and equipment,

as well as necessary arrangements, to individuals until they are able to operate the businesses independently. The project will include the townships of Dagon Myothit (South), Thanlyin, Twantay, Hmawby, Hlegu, Taikkyi, North Okkalapa, and Htantabin in the Yangon Region.

"Yangon Region will see the implementation of 16 small manufacturing projects during this financial year. Sewing and baking industries will be introduced in Dagon Myothit (South), Than-



Photos show small scale manufacturing businesses in Yangon Region (Top, Above).



lyin, Twantay and Hmawby townships. Similarly, motorcycle repair businesses will be established in Hlegu, Taikkyi, and Hmawby townships. In addition, restaurants and tailoring businesses will be introduced in North Okkalapa, Hmawby, and Htantabin townships. Home electric appliance repair and maintenance services will be implemented in Dala, Hmawby, and Thanlyin townships," said U Thet Naing Oo.

The small businesses being introduced in the Yangon Region include projects aimed at increasing the income of women, creating jobs for young people, supporting micro and small businesses, implementing 'one region-one product' initiatives, and establishing model villages to further increase income. — ASH/TH

OPINION

Don't forget sacrifice and generosity in humanitarian

Humanitarians are united by a common mission: to save and protect lives. They remain unwavering in their commitment to humanitarian principles, serving those in need without expecting anything in return. Despite the inherent difficulties and dangers of their work, governments and philanthropic organizations worldwide continue to support these efforts, providing life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations.

Humanitarians work tirelessly to deliver basic necessities and protect lives, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the communities they serve. Their efforts bring hope to those in the most desperate situations. As World Humanitarian Day approaches on 19 August, it is important to come together to honour the selfless individuals who strive to meet the ever-growing global needs.

No matter the dangers or hardships, these humanitarians venture into disaster-stricken regions and conflict zones, putting themselves at risk to save and protect others.

Charity organizations emphasize the importance of upholding the core principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence in humanitarian work. In Myanmar, a country with rich traditions of community and sharing, humanitarianism is deeply rooted in the culture. Acts of joyous sharing are not just acts of kindness but are seen as a responsibility for those with abundance to aid those who are less fortunate.

This year's World Humanitarian Day theme highlights the importance of repurposing items that might otherwise go unused. When shared with those in need, these items are transformed from mere objects into tools of empowerment.

The day serves as a reminder that even the smallest act of sharing can make a significant impact on the lives of others.

World Humanitarian Day is a time to pay tribute to aid workers who have sacrificed their lives and well-being in the line of duty. With over 130 million people worldwide currently in crisis due to wars, natural disasters, social issues, and various conflicts, the need for humanitarian aid is greater than ever on a yearly basis. This day not only honours the brave men and women on the frontlines but also calls for continued support for humanitarian efforts worldwide.

As such, not only relevant governments but people have to honour those serving humanitarian measures for their sacrifices without considering possible dangers for them. On the other hand, relevant governments and local authorities need to support humanitarian aid to needy people facing different plights in society. Everybody should not forget the gratitude of volunteers in serving humanitarian activities and well-wishers and relevant organizations for their contributions of humanitarian supplies to the society in need.

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

EPISODE-41 Mergui Series

This article is a continuation of Episode 40, entitled 'The Geology of the Mergui District,' written by GSI geologist Sethu Rama Rau in 1930.

Laterite

The lateritic rocks of the district are classed according to their origin.

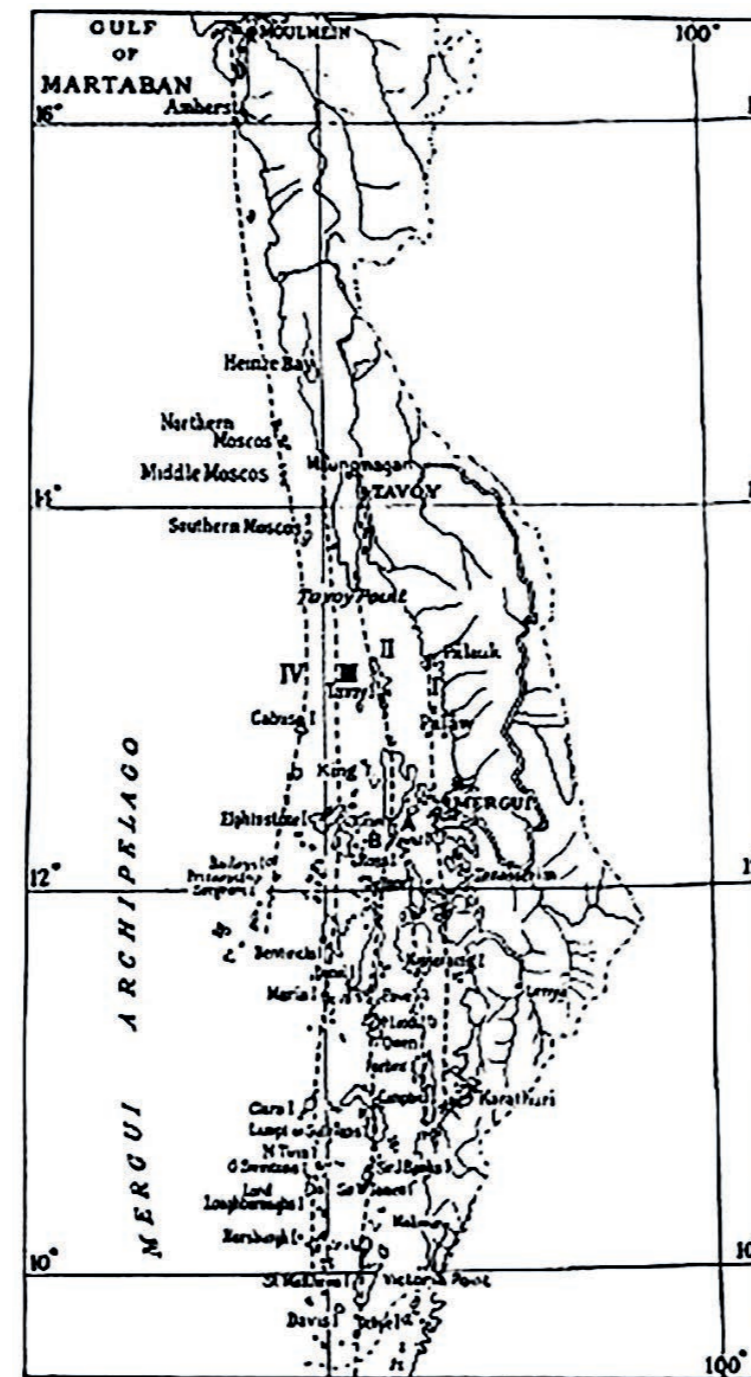
- I. Those derived from rocks in situ.
- II. Those derived from the lateralization of recent argillaceous alluvium and of detrital origin.

The olivine basalt of Medaw Island is covered with a thin mantle of laterite, which is formed by the alteration of the mineral constituents of basalt. The coastline fringing the mainland from Mathe to Salangin, east of the Turret Islands, exposes large blocks of lateritic boulders. These boulders are formed from the weathering and disintegration of sedimentary rocks of the Mergui Series, and the laterite is of vesicular variety. The quartzites and slates of the Mergui Series have pyrites as one of their constituents, and the alteration and subsequent hydration of this produced limonite for the lateralization of the argillaceous remnants left during the process of weathering. Laterite formed by the weathering of granite occurs on many of the islands such as Pulo Baleigh, etc.

On the northern coast of Kalagyun Island and on the east coast of the islands situated east of King Island, there are laterites derived from the weathering and alteration of rocks in situ. Many instances of laterite-covered islands might be cited in the southern part of the Archipelago, where the process of lateralization is still in progress.

Alluvium

The older alluvium is restricted to the larger valleys, such as those of the Tenasserim, the Lena, and the Pakchan Rivers. It consists of beds of ferruginous sandstones and conglomerates, gravel, and pale white clays. Some of the beds bordering the Tenasserim River consist of impure kaolin transported by streams flowing from the slopes of granite ridges. The thickness of the older alluvium ranges up to sixty feet, and the beds are sometimes gently inclined, in contrast to the newer alluvium, which is always horizontal. Areas suitable for dredging tin are usually situated on the older alluvium.



The Tectonic Lines of the Mergui Archipelago: Chhiber 1934.

The recent or newer alluvium occurs in all the river's valleys and on the present sea coast and includes the coastal marine sediments and estuary deposits transported by the tides. This alluvium consists of alternate layers of sand and beds of fine silt. In the upper courses of the rivers, such as the

Bokpyin, the Palaw, the Pakchan, and the Palauk are found alternate beds of gravel and sand, while in the lower parts near the mouths, which are subject to tidal action, the deposits consist primarily of fine silt with thin layers of sand. The flat plains on the banks of rivers are generally cultivated with paddy. On the sea coast, the disintegration products of both the sedimentary and granite rocks are washed to and fro by tides, and the soluble matter is removed in solution, leaving sand banks and layers of mud in the lagoons and littoral flats. A figure of the report gives an idea of marine denudation and the deposition of beds of

sand on the banks of a tidal creek.

Tectonics

The geological formations of Lower Burma, especially of the South Tenasserim division, consisting of the districts of Tavoy and Mergui, appear to have been disturbed by crustal movements during several periods. The base on which the sediments of the Mergui series were deposited is nowhere exposed. It has been observed, in the section on the Mergui formation, that these strata are folded into narrow, closely compressed corrugations. This folding took place at the close of the deposition of the Mergui series. The folding of the Mergui series is sharper and more intense than that of the Moulmein limestone, in which it is of a comparatively gentle type. It is quite possible that the first folding preceded the deposition of the Moulmein series and that after this folding, the whole country was submerged under the ocean during the deposition of the sediments forming the limestones, as the latter contains marine fossils (ascribed to the Carboniferous period). There followed an upheaval by crustal movements, which folded the rocks of the Moulmein and Mergui series. These movements caused folds where axes are parallel to the strike of the sedimentary rocks and produced lines of weakness through which the acid igneous rocks have intruded. The granite range of the Mergui district, extending from the Myinmoletkat Taung to Victoria Point, is representative of the acid igneous intrusive. As the sediments formed from the disintegration and denudation of these granites are deposited in beds of the Red Sandstone series, which are probably of Jurassic age, the second series of crustal movements may have taken place during the interval between the Carboniferous and the Jurassic periods.

Igneous Intrusive

The granites are intrusive into sedimentary strata of unfossiliferous argillites and slates and are exposed in a series of bosses,

which can be grouped into three distinct ranges.

Granite

1. The easterly range forming the political boundary between British territory and Siam, named the 'Frontier Range' of the district of Tavoy, with which it is continuous, divides the drainage of the Tenasserim valley on the west from that of the rivers flowing into the Gulf of Siam in Siamese territory on the east. This range is contiguous with the easterly spur of the Myinmoletkat Taung, which rises to a height of 6,800 feet above sea level. On the east of the Tenasserim River, the easterly range takes a south-south-easterly trend. It is accessible at the source of the Theinkun Chaung, one of the tributaries of the little Tenasserim River. The hills from which the Klong Thampra rises are a continuation of this range. Further south, the easterly range can be traced to the Siamese territory east of Pakchan Village and Ra-Nohng.
- II. The central chain, which is almost parallel to the coast, comprises disconnected bosses of granite surrounded by argillites and forms the southerly continuation of the Myintha intrusion exposed along the Pe Chaung of the Tavoy district. The northernmost spur of this range is the Myinmoletkat Taung near the source of the Palauk Chaung. The following are some of the granite peaks which, though appearing disconnected at the surface, may be taken to represent summits on a continuous subterranean range: Wazwinok, Gyini, Mino, Tamok, Sandawut, Wabyauk, Cheyadaw, Yanngwa, Karathuri, and Maliwun. Almost all successful tin and wolfram mines of the district are situated on the slopes of these hills and adjoining country, through which run quartz and pegmatite veins.
- III. The westerly range, which is a continuation of the 'Coastal

Range' of the Tavoy district, passes southwards through Great and Little Canister Islands and then bifurcates. Elphinstone, Grant, and Ross Islands represent the western, while King, Mergui, Sellore, Parkers, Money, Domel, Sai Kum, and High Islands are from the southerly continuation of the eastern branch. The granite of this range is not of much economic importance.

Further west, there is another line of islands consisting of granite, whilst the islands of the southern Moscos off the coast of Tavoy and visible from Maungmakan are also of the same rock. This chain may be continued south through Cabusa, Prinseps, and Sergeant islands to the group of the Great Western Torres Islands. Mr J J A Page examined some of these islands during his traverses.

Granite containing muscovite mica and tourmaline is the most probable source of tin and wolfram ores. The hornblende variety of granite is in great disfavour with the prospector, whilst the biotite variety is still less favoured than the hornblende variety. Tourmaline granite with muscovite, either in the form of isolated bosses or as pegmatites, is the most promising rock for tin ore in the Mergui district.

Age of granite

It is difficult to fix the age of the granite. The conglomerates of Patit Island, forming a part of the 'Red Sandstone Series' consist of grains of felspar, quartz, and granite pebbles derived from the granite. Hence, the granites should have been intruded before the deposition of the sediments of the Red Sandstone Series, which have been ascribed to the Jurassic age by lithological comparison with similar rocks elsewhere. The author is, therefore, inclined to think that the granitic intrusions may have taken place before the Jurassic period.

Quartz veins

Quartz veins have been formed in both granite and sedimentary rocks by the filling of

fissures caused by the cooling of the plutonic magma. Most of the quartz veins formed in this manner are intrusive into the granite at the margins and traverse the sedimentaries adjoining it, indicating a late phase of igneous action. In some of the tin mining areas, they are not associated with a visible boss of granite but are found with aplite and pegmatite joint and cleavage planes and are not connected with any outcrop of granite or pegmatite.

Greisen

Greisen occurs chiefly at the junction of the granite with the sedimentary rocks on the walls of ore-bearing quartz veins or as narrow segregated bands in the granite. It is composed of mica, chiefly muscovite and quartz, with minimal quantities of felspar. In many cases, feldspar is absent. The mines of the Maliwan, Tagu and Ban Sadein near the mouth of the Talobusa chaung and Sunge Palauk areas expose many such bands at the junction of the granite with the sedimentary series. This rock, being usually rich in tin and wolfram ores, is carefully looked for by the prospector as it gives rich concentrates on sluicing. Tourmaline is generally associated with the ores of tin in greisen.

Pegmatite

Pegmatites generally occur as veins and as lenticular patches of a small extent but do not form continuous bosses like granite. They may be either of the same age as the granite or of later origin but intruded into the surrounding sedimentary rocks during the cooling of the granite. Their outcrops are disconnected and appear as lenticular masses. However, they keep regularity in their direction, which coincides with the strike of the sedimentary rocks - about 10° W of N - and they must have emanated from the same magma as the granite.

The chief mineral constituents of the pegmatites are quartz, orthoclase felspar, and muscovite, with the accessory minerals of tourmaline, garnet, cassiterite,

and oxides of iron. Tin ores are either poor or absent in pegmatites containing tourmaline without muscovite, while the rock in which muscovite is abundant is generally rich in cassiterite. Weathered pegmatite veins and the residual and detrital deposits derived from them are the chief sources of the district's tin ores. The tin mines of Klong Banhuni, Klong Nam Noi Pre-sai, and many others are situated close to pegmatite outcrops. Quartz veins traverse the pegmatites and the granite and may represent the last phase of the magma.

Quartz porphyry

Quartz porphyry, which occurs mostly on the sea coast, is situated at the margins of granite and is exposed by the removal of the overlying soil. The chief exposures are on the islands of the Hin Pota, Pase Mira (Hakadin), and Ban Sadein near the mouth of the Talobusa chaung and Sunge Palauk areas. The outcrop of Ban Sadein is 150 yards wide, extends for some distance, and is surrounded by rocks of the Mergui series. Narrow bands of sedimentary rocks separate the granites at the northern end of the Maliwun range. The line of these exposures shows that they form the offshoots of the main granite range and are close to it. The porphyry has a massive texture and is cream or purplish grey in colour. Phenocrysts of quartz and felspar are embedded in a compact pink or grey groundmass. The quartz phenocryst varies in size from minute grains to that of a pea and has a grey colour and greasy lustre; the orthoclase is flesh-pink, and its cleavage surfaces are well seen on a fresh fracture.

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NATIONAL

AI technology assists Myanmar in various ways

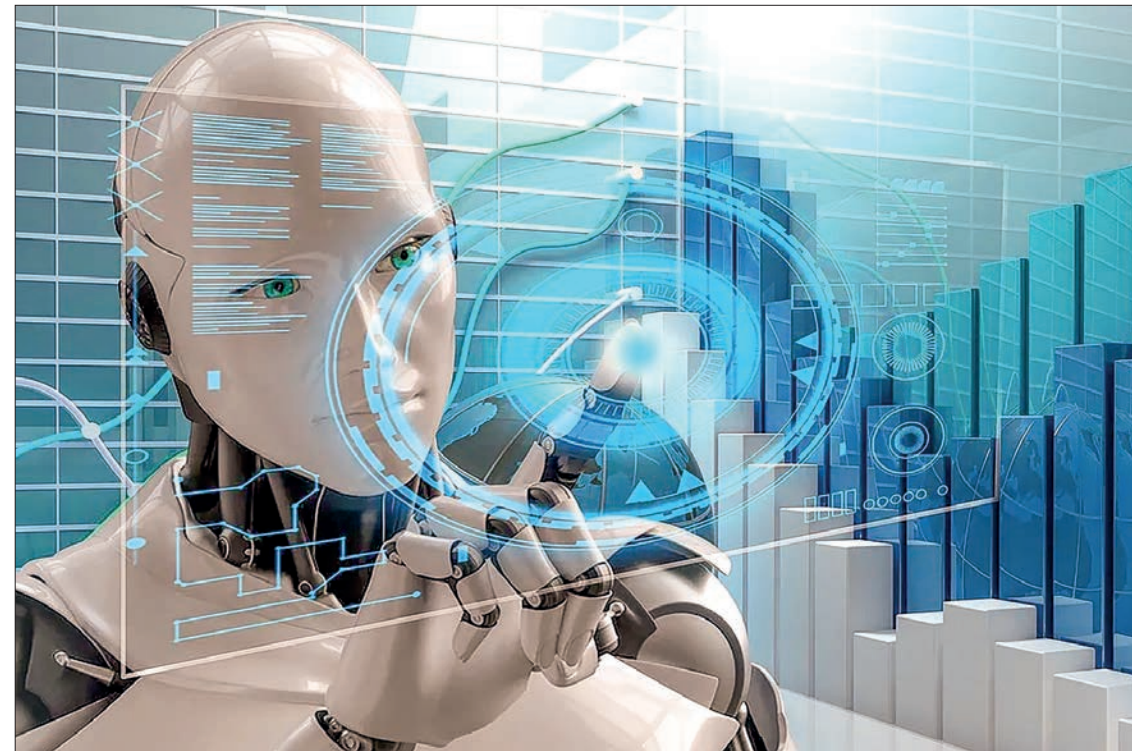
ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. The AI holds huge potential to help developing countries including Myanmar.

This technology can enhance healthcare services by AI systems to analyze and identify patterns and trends, aiding in disease diagnosis, and optimizing treatment plans.

In agriculture sector, AI supports farmers by improving crop management, weather forecasting, pest detection, and soil analysis, which increases yields and optimizes resource use.

The AI-powered educational tools can offer learning experiences for students, provide access to quality education in remote areas through online platforms, and assist teachers in creating customized learning materials.

For natural disaster management, AI algorithms can analyze data from various



sources to predict natural disasters like floods, cyclones, and earthquakes, and devise

strategies for evacuation and disaster response.

Moreover, AI can support

economic growth by optimizing supply chains and logistics, and by fostering the develop-

ment of innovative products and services. This contributes to overall economic growth.

In Myanmar, due to the language diversity, AI-powered translation tools can facilitate better communication and understanding between communities by translating text and speech across different languages.

The AI can also enhance government services by automating administrative tasks, improving public services, and elevating citizen interactions through chatbots and virtual assistants and aiding in policy decision-making processes.

The Infrastructure Development AI-based solutions help use of effective resource and enhance the qualification of citizens by improving transportation system, urban planning and energy management.

The effective use of AI technologies in Myanmar can resolve various social issues and accelerate the growth in socioeconomic status. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Prohibited chemicals worth K4.2B+ seized in Kalay Township



Photo shows offenders alongside confiscated prohibited chemical caffeine and vehicles at Yadanabon Bridge in Sagaing Township.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, 13.975 tonnes of prohibited caffeine, over 2.3

tonnes of ammonium chloride, and 1,020 litres of propiophenone, with a combined value

exceeding K4.2 billion, were seized in Sagaing and Kalay townships, Sagaing Region.

At 2 pm on 13 August, a combined team including security forces inspected two Nissan Canters at Yadanabon

Bridge in Sagaing. One vehicle was driven by Min Min Oo, accompanied by Aung Zaw Htway, while the other was driven by Thet Khaing Htway, accompanied by Aung Zay. After the inspection, the team seized

at a warehouse in Taungphila Ward, Kalay, with 5.5 tonnes of prohibited chemical caffeine found in a 6-wheeled Hino vehicle. Similarly, on 16 August, Hlwan Moe and Ko Myo were apprehended with a total of 4.5



Photo shows offenders alongside confiscated banned chemicals and vehicles at Yadanabon Bridge in Sagaing Township.



Photo shows offenders alongside confiscated banned chemicals and vehicles in Kalay Township.

1,020 litres of propiophenone. Further investigations conducted at 8 am on 14 August led to the seizure of 3.975 tonnes of prohibited chemical caffeine and 2.35 tonnes of ammonium chloride from a 12-wheeled vehicle driven by Aung Kyaw Khant at the same location.

Additionally, Ma Tin Tin Su (aka) Su Mya (aka) Ma Su was arrested in the evening

tonnes of caffeine in Myohla Ward and Taungzalat Ward, Kalay, respectively.

Investigations revealed that the seized prohibited chemicals and other substances were being transported from the Myanmar-India border to Kalay Township and then to Shan State via Mandalay Region for use in drug production. — MNA/ TRKM

Teen flick wins top prize at Locarno Film Festival

The festival, known for its large open-air screenings in Locarno's Piazza Grande, celebrated these achievements with a grand showcase.

TWO Lithuanian films picked up three of the top awards on the final day of the Locarno Film Festival Saturday.

The film "Toxic," directed by Lithuania's Saule Bliuvaite, won the top Golden Leopard prize at Switzerland's largest film event, marking Bliuvaite as the youngest director in the competition.

The film explores the universal experience of transitioning between childhood and adulthood. The Special Jury Prize went to the Austrian film "Mond" by Kurdwin Ayub, while another Lithuanian film, "Drowning Dry," received two major awards: Best Director for

Laurynas Bareisa and a Collective Best Performance award for its cast. This is a historic achievement for Lithuania, securing three prizes in one competition.

South Korean actress Kim Min-hee also won a Best Performance award for her role in "By The Stream." Additionally, Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan was honoured with the Pardo alla Carriera award, and directors Jane Campion and Alfonso Cuarón received special accolades.

The festival, held in Locarno's Piazza Grande, is renowned for its large-scale open-air screenings. — AFP



Locarno's Piazza Grande holds 8,000 moviegoers. PHOTO: AFP

Fire contained at historic London arts centre

PRICELESS artworks housed in London's Somerset House, including paintings by Van Gogh and Monet, were unaffected by a fire that erupted at the historic building on Saturday, according to the gallery.

Around 125 firefighters and 20 engines worked to tamp out the flames that ripped through the roof of the western wing, bringing the blaze at the more than 450-year-old site under control before 7:00 pm (1800 GMT).

"The fire at #SomersetHouse is now under control and investigations into the cause

will begin," the London Fire Brigade posted on social media site X. The neoclassical cultural complex stretching along the Thames River was meant to be hosting a breakdancing competition on Saturday when a column of smoke began wafting above the centre, prompting dozens of calls to the fire department.

"The fire was located in part of the building's roof space," London Fire Brigade's Assistant Commissioner Keeley Foster told reporters from outside the landmark, according to a statement. — AFP

Wagner's "Das Rheingold" set to take stage in Beijing this August

This two-and-a-half-hour opera, based on Scandinavian and Nordic myths, is the shortest of the four works in the cycle but features the largest cast.



This photo taken from Jingshan Park on 12 August 2024 shows the National Centre for the Performing Arts on a sunny day in Beijing, capital of China. PHOTO: LIXIN/XINHUA

"DAS Rheingold," the first part of Richard Wagner's tetralogy "Der Ring des Nibelungen," will grace the stage at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing from 28 August to 3 September.

Based on Scandinavian and Nordic myths, this two-

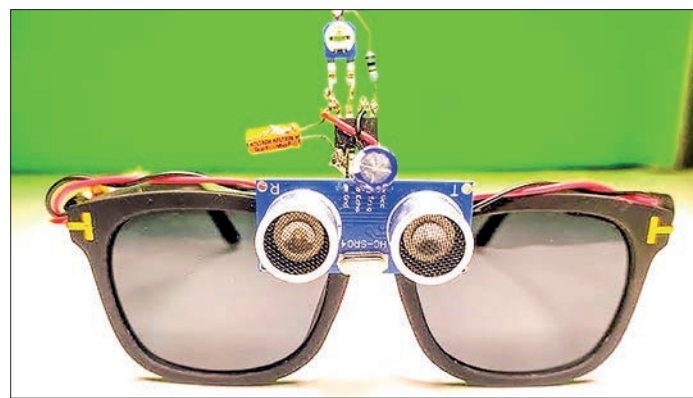
and-a-half-hour opera is the shortest of the four works in "Der Ring des Nibelungen", but it features the largest cast of characters.

As an important work in Wagner's later oeuvre, "Der Ring des Nibelungen" represents the pinnacle of his ar-

tistic career. The composition began in 1848 and was completed in 1874, taking 26 years to create.

This round of performances will be conducted by music director Lyu Jia, with director Stefano Poda leading the creative team. — Xinhua

Students innovate smart glasses for visually impaired



Smart glasses for the visually impaired use cameras and sensors to capture and analyze the environment, then provide audio or tactile feedback to help users navigate and recognize objects. PHOTO: YOUTUBE

SIMPLIFYING lives of visually impaired people, two Chandigarh University students, Amit Ranjan and Simran Thakur, have developed first-of-its-kind smart glasses which will help visually impaired people in avoiding accidents by ensuring hassle-free obstacle detection for easy movement at public places.

Bringing laurels to Chan-

digarh University, Amit Ranjan and Simran Thakur have won 1st prize for "Building smart glasses for the Blind" project from Indian Institute of Technology Ropar. These smart glasses were also displayed at Chandigarh University's Projects Expo and Engineers Day. As over 88 per cent of visually impaired people (blind) experience accidents during their

lifetime according to a research paper published in a renowned international journal, the smart glasses would help visually impaired people in safe navigation in their daily life. While sharing details, Amit Ranjan and Simran Thakur said: "After we observed that visually impaired people face difficulty while moving around in public places, we decided to develop a device which can aid them in easy and safe movement in public places. Usually, the blind people use stick for obstacle detection to move around but if they forget to take it along then they face a lot of difficulty in public places. We wanted to develop a device for the blind people which they won't have to carry with them separately so we developed these smart glasses which they can wear that ensures hassle-free obstacle detection thereby assisting them in easy movement. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Thailand's industrial confidence improves in July

THAILAND'S industrial confidence improved for the first time in four months in July, thanks to an expansion in domestic demand and government spending, data showed on Friday.

The Thai Industries Sentiment Index jumped to 89.3 last month from 87.2 in June as most components of the index increased, except production costs, according to the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI).

The reading was based on a survey of 1,323 entrepreneurs from 46 industry groups under the FTI.

The uptick in confidence was attributed to the government's efforts to promote tourism, including a visa exemption policy and initiatives to boost domestic tourism during the low season, the FTI said in a statement.

Despite that, elevated household debt and non-performing



In July, US industrial production dropped by 0.6 per cent, a larger decline than expected, mainly due to Hurricane Beryl's impact on petrochemical industries.

loans continued to strain domestic consumption, while the real estate and export sectors both experienced a slowdown.

The index forecast for the next three months notably increased to 95.2 in July from 93.4 a month earlier, underpinned by an upsurge in government spending and investment along with the implementation of the digital wallet cash handout scheme.

However, entrepreneurs remained concerned about global economic uncertainties that threaten export growth and a national minimum wage hike that could raise manufacturing costs, said FTI Chairman Kriengkrai Thiennukul. The group called on the government to enhance regulations on e-commerce platforms to curb the influx of inexpensive and substandard products from overseas, Kriengkrai told a news conference. — Xinhua

US industrial production contracts sharply in July

US industrial production fell sharply in July, the Federal Reserve said Thursday, pointing to a larger-than-expected impact from Hurricane Beryl.

The news is likely to add to calls for the Fed to cut its key lending rate from a two-decade high next month, as its long-running campaign against inflation continues to percolate through to the broader economy.

Total industrial output contracted by 0.6 per cent

in July from a month earlier, when it rose by a revised figure of 0.3 per cent, the US central bank said in a statement.

This was sharply below market expectations of a 0.1 per cent increase, according to Briefing.com.

The Fed said industrial production had been held down by the early "July shut-downs concentrated in the petrochemical and related industries due to Hurricane Beryl", which came ashore

in Texas.

The manufacturing sector experienced a 0.3 per cent decline due to a plunge of almost eight per cent in the index for motor vehicles and parts.

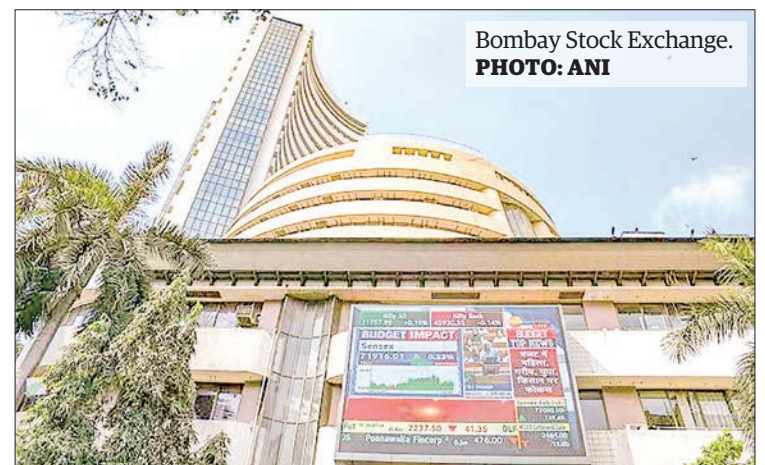
Excluding this component, the manufacturing index actually increased by 0.3 per cent, the Fed said.

Meanwhile, the mining index was unchanged, and the utilities index slumped by 3.7 per cent. — AFP



This downturn is likely to strengthen calls for the Federal Reserve to cut its key lending rate next month.
PHOTO: PIXABAY

Indian stock market will be looking at global cues in upcoming week, say analysts



AFTER witnessing a strong rally on Friday, market analysts have expressed a positive outlook in the stock market for the upcoming week starting from Monday.

The Indian stock markets witnessed a strong rally on Friday, with both the NSE Nifty 50 and the BSE Sensex posting significant gains.

On Friday, 16 August, the Nifty 50 at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) surged by 397.40 points, or 1.65 per cent, to close at 24,541.15, while the Sensex jumped 1,330.96 points, or 1.68 per cent, ending the day at 80,436.85.

As per market analysts, the equity markets are buoyed by favourable global cues and are expected to remain positive in the upcoming weeks.

"We remain positive on the Indian markets and expect a move up," said Ajay Bagga, Market and Banking expert.

The market analysts say that in the coming week, investors will be looking at the American Fed comments which is expected to cut policy rates in its next monetary announcement, after the end of the domestic earning season. — ANI

New air cargo route links Chinese cities with Seoul

Tianjin Air Cargo's freighter, carrying daily necessities and e-commerce goods, made its inaugural flight from Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport to Seoul via Wuhu.

A new cargo air service linking Zhengzhou, capital city of central China's Henan Province, Wuhu in east China's Anhui Province, and Seoul, capital of the Republic of Korea (ROK) was launched on Friday.

A freighter operated by Tianjin Air Cargo, loaded with daily necessities and e-commerce goods, left Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport for

Seoul via Wuhu on Friday, according to the cargo airlines company.

The flight marks the official launch of a new international air-cargo route.

The domestic cargo service between Zhengzhou and Wuhu was launched on 5 August, according to Tianjin Air Cargo, adding that the service was extended to Seoul, which helps broaden the

air corridor for the import and export logistics between China's central and eastern regions and the ROK, significantly boosting the efficiency of cargo transportation. — Xinhua

A new international cargo route was launched, connecting Zhengzhou, Wuhu, and Seoul.
PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE



GSK wins latest US litigation over Zantac drug saga

BRITISH pharmaceutical group GSK on Friday welcomed victory in drawn out US litigation regarding its Zantac drug for heartburn that allegedly caused cancer.

The over-the-counter treatment, known also by its non-commercial name ranitidine, was manufactured by several rivals including the French group Sanofi and US drugmaker Pfizer before it was withdrawn in 2019.

GSK said in a statement Friday that Florida State Court had made a ruling "consistent with scientific consensus that there is no consistent or reliable evidence that ranitidine increases the risk of

any cancer".

Responding to Thursday's decision, GSK said it "welcomes" the outcome and "continues to defend

itself vigorously, including against all remaining claims in other jurisdictions".

Delaware State Court



GSK expressed its satisfaction with the ruling and reaffirmed its commitment to defending against remaining claims in other jurisdictions. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

in June paved the way for legal action by tens of thousands of patients — a decision GSK is appealing.

GSK shares were flat in morning deals Friday on London's top-tier FTSE 100 index, which was down 0.3 per cent overall. Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell, said "the ongoing legal battle over links between Zantac and cancer remains an issue for the business thanks to the sheer volume of cases out there". "GSK saw a pretty similar dismissal in late 2022 which it might have hoped would mark the beginning of the end to the saga, yet here we are more than a year and a half later." — AFP

Kenya airport workers' union delays strike by two weeks

A planned strike by aviation staff at Kenya's international airport has been delayed by two weeks to "give dialogue a chance", a spokesman said Saturday.

About 10,000 members of the Kenya Aviation Workers Union had planned to walk out from 19 August over plans by the Kenyan government to strike an investment deal with India's Adani Group to expand and operate Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta In-

ternational Airport (JKIA).

"After deliberations, we have resolved to postpone our strike for two weeks to give dialogue a chance", the union's secretary-general Moss Ndieema told AFP, adding that a meeting with the transport ministry will be held Tuesday.

The union has previously opposed the deal, saying it was an attempt to privatise the airport by stealth. — AFP

Epic launches own app store, Fortnite back for iPhones in Europe

FORTNITE-CREATOR Epic Games launched its own app store Friday that allows users to bypass the stores run by Apple and Google after waging a years-long battle to directly offer its games to smartphone users.

The Epic Games Store is available to users of Android phones worldwide and for iPhone and iPad users in Europe. The launch of the store comes after Epic waged legal battles and lobbied regulators to loosen the grip of Apple

and Google on the sale of apps for phones running their operating systems. "We're very happy to be on the verge of launching our games on iOS and Android, enabled by Europe's new DMA law," Epic's chief executive Tim Sweeney told

journalists from the company's office in Sweden. The EU's new law, known as the Digital Markets Act (DMA), has forced Apple to make the opening to app developers in Europe but the US firm is not doing so elsewhere. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3418S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3418S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-8-2024** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Ukraine's Kursk actions attempt to push Russia to asymmetric response, even nuclear: Lukashenko

BELARUSIAN President Alexander Lukashenko said that the escalation from Ukraine is pushing Russia to take asymmetric measures, including the use of nuclear weapons.

"Ukraine's escalation in the Kursk region is an attempt to push Russia into asymmetric actions, let's say the use of nuclear weapons," Lukashenko said.

Iskander tactical ballistic missile systems in Belarus are ready to fire missiles equipped with nuclear warheads, Alexander Lukashenko said.

"These are the machines currently ready for strikes with tactical nuclear weapons ... These are the machines ready to fire missiles with nuclear warheads," Lukashenko said in an interview.

The Belarusian leader said Ukraine had deployed

The Belarusian leader said Ukraine had deployed over 120,000 troops on the Belarusian-Ukrainian border, a move that Minsk retaliated with boosting forces along the entire border.



In this handout video grab released by the Russian Defence Ministry, a Russian serviceman loads armoured vehicles in Kursk region, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

over 120,000 troops on the Belarusian-Ukrainian border, a move that Minsk retaliated with boosting forces along the entire border.

The Belarusian-Ukrainian border is mined like never before, the Ukrainian armed forces will be able to cross it only with huge losses, Lukashenko added.

Moreover, Ukrainian drones are constantly violating the southeastern border of Belarus, Lukashenko added.

According to Lukashenko, the defence of the western border of Belarus has been worked out by Minsk and Moscow, and if necessary, this plan could be changed into an offensive one.

Lukashenko has said that negotiations on Ukraine should start where they ended in Istanbul. — SPUTNIK

Japan to survey Alaskan island in hopes of recovering WWII dead

JAPANESE government workers will survey an uninhabited southwest Alaskan island from Monday to pave the way for the first recovery in over 70 years of remains of World War II soldiers who died fighting US forces there.

Some 2,600 Japanese soldiers died on Attu Island in May 1943, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, in a doomed attempt to hold the northern Pacific island, captured in June 1942, from over 10,000 US personnel.

Remains of around 320 soldiers were recovered in 1953, but later inspections in 2007 and 2008 did not culminate in the collection of any remains.

The United States will provide a boat for the upcoming five-day survey that will include the inspection of roads and runways and confirmation of the location of remains of the Japanese war dead. Three relatives of the deceased will also attend.



File photo shows the remains of soldiers who died in the 1943 Battle of Attu being brought back to Japan in July 1953, on an aircraft that travelled via Alaska to Tokyo's Haneda airport. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

Attu Island's harsh conditions limit expeditions to the summer months, and it has been uninhabited since the US Coast Guard left in 2010. Its designation as a nature reserve also restricts what areas can be entered and where excavations can take place.

Amid requests from bereaved families, the health ministry has been arranging for the collection of remains with the US government via Japan's Foreign Ministry, and the United States put forward a draft cooperation memorandum in December 2023. — Kyodo

BRIEFS: WORLD

Kyiv under ballistic, cruise missile attacks

RUSSIA fired ballistic and cruise missiles at the Ukrainian capital early on Sunday with neither casualties nor damage reported, the Kyiv City Military Administration said in a statement.

At about 5 am local time (0200 GMT), ballistic missiles were launched at Kyiv, but they were intercepted on the city's outskirts, the statement said.

"This is already the third ballistic strike on the capital in August, with an exact interval of six days between each attack," it said. Two hours later, the Russian forces fired cruise missiles against Kyiv from the southern direction, but the missiles were destroyed by the air defence, the city military administration said. — Xinhua

Hamas dismisses Biden's truce

A senior Hamas official on Saturday dismissed optimistic talk by US President Joe Biden that a Gaza truce is nearer after negotiations in the Gulf emirate of Qatar.

"To say that we are getting close to a deal is an illusion," Hamas political bureau member Sami Abu Zuhri told AFP. "We are not facing a deal or real negotiations, but rather the imposing of American diktats." He was responding to Biden's comment Friday that "We are closer than we have ever been."

Biden spoke after two days of talks in Qatar where Washington tried to bridge differences between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas which have been at war for more than 10 months in the Gaza Strip. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar's five fighters gear up for ONE Friday Fight 76

FIVE Myanmar fighters will be stepping into the ring at the ONE Friday Fight 76 event, scheduled to take place in Thailand on 23 August.

Min Naing (aka) Sulai Man, and Sa Soe Thiha.

Thant Zin will face Thai fighter Tai, while Thway Lin

Htet takes on Thailand's Gamchai. Eh Mwi is set to compete against Japanese fighter Takazono, Sa Soe Thiha will go up against Japan's Masatoshi, and Htun Min Naing (aka) Sulai Man will battle Thailand's Kopai.

The event will kick off at 7 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 23 August, and fans in Myanmar are eagerly awaiting for the action.— Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Previously, only one or two Myanmar athletes were granted the opportunity to compete. However, this time, five will take part, including Thant Zin, Thway Lin Htet, Eh Mwi, Htun



Action from a recent Myanmar boxing trial held in July.

Myanmar professional boxing event offers free admission to public on 20 August

THE Myanmar Boxing Commission (MBC) has officially announced that the upcoming professional boxing event in Myanmar will be open to the public with free admission.

The event is scheduled for 2:00 pm on 20 August at the Myanmar Boxing Federation Training Ground, located within Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon.

Participants have undergone rigorous training in preparation for this event, which acts as a stepping stone to international competitions, including Japan's prestigious JBC

tournaments.

MBC, an officially registered and independent organization in Myanmar, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Japanese Boxing Commission-JBC. The Myanmar's commission is dedicated to providing opportunities for Myanmar boxers to compete on the global professional boxing stage.

The event will showcase national pride, featuring state and regional titleholders, traditional Lethwei champions, and talented young fighters, all competing for glory.— TWA/KZL

Dagon Star, Yadanabon earn wins in MNL

IN the ongoing 2024-2025 Myanmar National League-MNL season, Dagon Star United and Yadanabon FC emerged victorious in their respective matches on 18 August.

At the Patheon Stadium, Dagon Star FC clinched a 1-0 win over Ayeyawady United. Ayeyawady United, which were unable to capitalize on their home advantage, suffered another defeat.

From the start of the match, both teams focused on aggressive play. In the 43rd minute, Dagon Star's defender Nyein Chan was sent off with a direct red card, resulting in his dismissal from the game. Despite playing with one-less players, Dagon Star managed to secure the win with a goal scored in the 74th minute by Zin Min Htun. The standout player for the match was Aung Thiha from Dagon Star FC.

In the match held at the Thuwunna Youth Training Cen-



Dagon Star and Ayeyawady United players compete fiercely on the field. PHOTO: MNL

tre, Yadanabon FC defeated Myawady FC with a dominant 3-0 score line. The goals for Yadanabon came from Ti Nyein Min in the 16th and 42nd minutes and Pyi Moe in the 90th minute. Ti Nyin Min was named as the best player for this match.

Following these matches, Dagon Star United has accumulated 15 points from seven

games, while Ayeyawady United has four points. Yadanabon FC, after their victory, has 13 points from seven games, with Myawady FC remaining on four points.

The final match of MNL fixture-7 will be held today at Yangon United Sports Complex, featuring Maha United against Thitsar Arman.— Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

No 1s Sinner, Swiatek stage Cincy fightbacks as Zverev escapes

WORLD number ones Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek both turned around losing situations on Saturday to move into the semi-finals of the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Open.

Sinner prevented rival Andrey Rublev from repeating a triumph from last Saturday in Montreal as he defeated

the sixth seed in a 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 fightback.

Swiatek did the same in the women's draw as she worked to overcome teen Mirra Andreeva 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Sinner will square off in the semis against third-ranked 2021 champion Alexander Zverev, who got past rain interruptions in the final set to defeat Ben Shelton 3-6, 7-6 (7/3), 7-5.

The third set was start-stop but the German advanced to his third consecutive Cincinnati final-four spot.

"Conditions and the interruptions were tough, but Ben was the toughest part of the match," Zverev said.

"He has played amazing tennis all week. It was tough to find my comfort zone today, but it's great to get the win."

In the bottom of the draw Fances Tiafoe will play Holger Rune.— AFP



Top-ranked Jannik Sinner of Italy staged a fightback to beat Andrey Rublev and reach the semi-finals of the ATP Cincinnati Open. PHOTO: AFP



WORLD

THAILAND'S King Maha Vajiralongkorn has appointed Paetongtarn Shinawatra as the country's prime minister, Secretary-General of the House of Representatives Arpath Sukhanunth announced on Sunday.

In a ceremony held on Sunday morning at the Pheu Thai Party headquarters, Arpath delivered the royal command stating that Paetongtarn has been appointed premier as she received majority support in the parliamentary vote on 16 August.

The royal endorsement paves the way for a cabinet formation as the 37-year-old officially assumes office as the youngest and second female prime minister in the South-east Asian nation.

In her first official speech as prime minister, Paetongtarn said she will collaborate with the legislative branch during the remaining three years of the parliamentary term and create space to listen to every opinion with the goal of pro-

Thai King appoints Paetongtarn Shinawatra as new PM

In her inaugural address, Paetongtarn emphasized collaboration with all sectors of society and a commitment to uniting the nation for future progress.



Thailand's newly appointed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra (C) attends a press conference in Bangkok, Thailand, 18 August 2024. Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn has appointed Paetongtarn Shinawatra as the country's prime minister, Secretary-General of the House of Representatives Arpath Sukhanunth announced on Sunday. **PHOTO: RACHEN SAGEAMSAK/XINHUA**

pellung Thailand forward with unwavering determination.

"My hope is to harmonize the strengths of all generations, uniting individuals from all corners of Thailand, whether they serve in the government, belong to political parties, work in the private sector, or are fellow citizens," Paetongtarn said in the nationally televised ceremony.

"I accept this responsibility with the utmost dedication and will make Thailand a land of opportunity and happiness, where every citizen stands on equal ground."

Paetongtarn, the youngest daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, entered politics in 2021 as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Participation and Innovation of the Pheu Thai Party.

She was a leading prime ministerial candidate of the Pheu Thai Party in last year's general election and later became the party's leader. — Xinhua

Korea records COVID-19 surge in wastewater amid summer wave



THE Republic of Korea's disease control agency said Sunday the level of the COVID-19 virus in wastewater has nearly doubled in just a week, following a surge in infections during the summer vacation season.

In a statement carried by Yonhap News Agency, the Korea Wastewater Surveillance Programme, run by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), said the average concentration of the virus at local sewage treatment plants reached 47,640 copies per millilitre during the second week of August.

It marked a sharp rise from the 24,602 copies per millilitre recorded the previous week.

The data is based on the levels of the COVID-19 virus in water treated by 84 wastewater plants across the country.

The KDCA has been using the method since April last year to assess the number of COVID-19 patients within communities.

"The project aims to track the trend in the level of COVID-19 virus in wastewater, which has been rising recently," a KDCA official said.

Meanwhile, the number of newly hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Korea reached 1,359 during the second week of August, increasing sharply from 878 a week earlier. — ANI

People wearing face masks are seen at a shopping mall in Seoul, South Korea, on 3 August 2022. **PHOTO: WANG YILIANG/XINHUA/FILE**

GONDOLAS DESTROYED

23 injured in fire at music festival in Germany

AT least 23 people were injured after a fire broke out at a music festival near the German city of Leipzig on Saturday night, DPA reported.

A gondola of a Ferris wheel at the "Highfield" Rock and Pop festival caught fire at 9 pm local time (1900 GMT), and the fire then spread to another gondola. Both gondolas were destroyed, the report said.

Among the 23 injured, four were burned and one was injured from falling, while the other wounded, including emergency workers and four police officers, were receiving medical examinations in a hospital, said the local police.

The festival, attended by about 30,000 people, was interrupted for about two hours due to the fire, the police said, adding that the investigators are still looking into the cause. — Xinhua