

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar's Thanbayakan Petrochemical Plant will put 900,000 gallons of Coker Gas Oil (CGO), and over 260,000 gallons of crude oil up for sale, as confirmed by the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise.

The CGO and crude oil will be freely sold to business owners, and anyone can apply directly for Thanbayakan Petrochemical Plant to purchase them. The plant will sell 900,000 gallons of CGO on 3 and 24 September and 5 October. Additionally, 266,329 gallons of crude oil remaining in storage tank TK-2353 will also be sold on 5 September.

Tender submissions are accepted at the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise's Office No 44 in Nay Pyi Taw. The deadline for bids is noon on the respective sale dates, with tender openings scheduled for 2 pm the same day.

For further enquiries, interested persons can contact the Production Department of the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise during office hours. — TWA/KZL

MPE to sell 900,000 gallons of CGO, 260,000 gallons of crude oil



This photo shows a general view of Thanbayakan Petrochemical Plant.



Launching an eComReg system and delivering awareness of online sales for registration in progress on 2 October 2023.

MoC registers over 7,100 online sales and services

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, more than 7,100 online sales and services have been registered by the Ministry.

The Ministry of Commerce stated that a total of 7,169 businesses were registered and approved for goods and services sold online from 2 October 2023 to 8 August 2024.

On 21 July 2023, the Ministry of

Commerce announced that goods and services sold through the online system must apply for registration and conduct business. On 10 August 2023, the Ministry of Commerce issued another notification that those who sell goods online without a registration certificate will be prosecuted under the Important Goods and Services Law. If operating online sales

without a registration certificate were found, action would be taken under Section 5 of the Important Goods and Services Law.

Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce has informed those who are doing online sales business to apply for registration certificates at the eComReg system through www.ecomreg.gov.mm. — ASH/TKO

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NATIONAL

Kayin's thread-tying ceremony held in Maubin



Photos (above and top right) show the Kayin traditional white thread-tying festival opening ceremony in progress yesterday, graced by SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung and officials in Maubin Township.

THE Kayin traditional white thread-tying festival was celebrated in Maubin Township yesterday.

First, State Administration Council Member Mahn Nye-

in Maung, leader of the SAC Central Advisory Body U Saw Tun Aung Myint and Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win played the frog drum to commence the festival.

Speaking at the event, the SAC member said ethnic unity is crucial today, and it can overcome the challenges that affect sovereignty, peace and tranquillity. The white thread-tying

festival is a cultural heritage of the entire Kayin people, and they are responsible for preserving the tradition.

The leader of the SAC Central Advisory Body and the region chief minister then made remarks and enjoyed the Kayin traditional dance performance.

Maubin Township Kayin Literature and Culture Association Patron Sayadaw Bhadd-

anta Nandamala also made the speech, and Dr Nant Thidar Kyaw read out the history of the festival.

After the event, SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung and officials met members of Kayin Literature and Culture Associations from 26 townships and university students and made proper instructions. — Region IPRD/KTZH

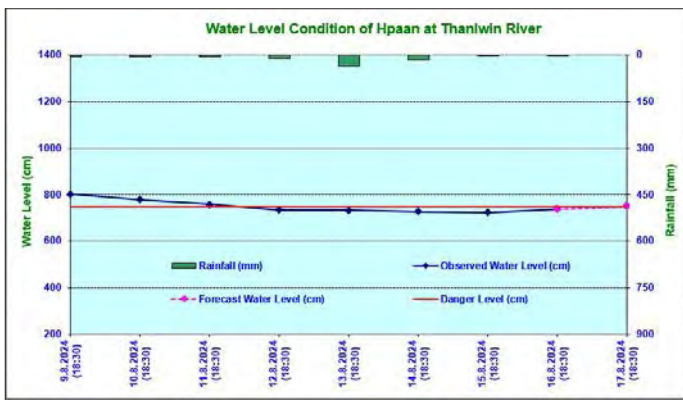
Flood Warning

(Issued at 19:00 hrs MST on 16-8-2024)

ACCORDING to the (18:30)hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is observed as about 1/2 foot (12 centimetres) below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next one day. It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas at Hpa-an Township, to take precaution measure.

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 16-8-2024



ACCORDING to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low-pressure area over Northwest Bay and adjoining West Bengal, India and Bangladesh still persist. It is likely to move north-northwestwards during next two days and may further intensify into a Well-marked Low-pressure area over Bangladesh and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal, India. Thereafter, it is likely to move west-northwestwards and may cross Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, India. — DMH

2024 matric passers can now apply to medical and dental universities

1. THOSE who passed the 2024 matriculation examination and wanted to apply for admission to medical universities, dental medicine universities, and medical-related universities under the Department of Human Resources for Health are required to use a university admission application envelope issued by the University Entrance Selection Board of the Department of Higher Education.
2. Those who prioritize the pharmacy universities, medical technology universities, nursing universities, and community health universities are required to submit their application envelopes to 23 designated universities under the Ministry of Education.
3. Those who prioritize the Universities of Medicine and Universities of Dental Medicine have to directly submit their application envelopes to one out of the eight following destinations:
 - (a) Human Resources for Health Department (Nay Pyi Taw)
 - (b) University of Medicine 1 (Yangon)
 - (c) University of Medicine 2 (Yangon)
 - (d) University of Medicine (Mandalay)
 - (e) University of Medicine (Magway)
 - (f) University of Medicine (Taunggyi)
 - (g) University of Dental Medicine (Yangon)
 - (h) University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay)
4. Admissions to medical universities, dental medicine universities, and medical-related universities must be made in accordance with the stipulations in the educational guide, so it needs to be read carefully. The university admission application envelopes will be accepted from 26 August to 12 September, including weekends and public holidays.

Ministry of Health
16 August 2024

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DPM MoFA Union Minister attends 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Chiang Mai



Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe addressed the Ninth Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe participated in the 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which was held on 16 August 2024 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting was co-chaired by Mrs Eksiri Pintaruchi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The heads of delegations of the MLC member countries, Mr Sok Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic and Ms Nguyen Minh Hang, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam were also present at the meeting.

During the 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Ministers cordially discussed and exchanged views on the progress and future direction of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

Their discussions focused on promoting the agricultural sector and food security, preserving water resources and the environment, combatting

transboundary crimes and enhancing tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also updated Myanmar's cooperation efforts in the MLC to the Heads of Delegation of MLC member countries. In his discussion, he highlighted further enhancing cooperation in agriculture sector development and food security in the region to strengthen multi-modal connectivity and deepen cooperation in the areas of law enforcement and combatting transnational crimes, illicit drug trafficking

and arms smuggling, online fraud and online gambling. He also stressed the importance of addressing the problem of air pollution, environmental conservation and water resource management.

Permanent Secretary Mrs Eksiri Pintaruchi of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand hosted a welcome dinner on the evening of 15 August 2024 at the Intercontinental Chiang Mai Hotel in honour of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and delegations of MLC member countries to the 9th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) is the regional cooperation mechanism established in 2016, and it comprises six member countries, namely Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The main aim of the MLC is to promote socioeconomic development in the Mekong-Lancang region and to reduce development gaps among MLC member countries. Myanmar has been granted a total of 118 regional development projects through the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (MLC-SF) from 2017 to 2024. — MNA

Express EVs begin test run; more imports expected



This picture captures a new Mandalay Min EV vehicle testing highway trips.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Industry, express EVs have already started trial runs on highway trips, and more express EVs will be imported.

Mandalay Min Express Trading and Transportation Co Ltd and Yar Zar Min Industry Co Ltd submitted applications to the Ministry of Industry to import new express EVs. Yangon Aerodrome Co Ltd and Pioneer Aerodrome Co Ltd will build EV charging stations.

"Electric expresses are allowed to be imported. As for Mandalay, it has already started operating. Approved companies are importing now, and there are companies applying to import more. An official from the Ministry of Industry said that

the Ministry of Construction has also granted tax-free permission to import and pass through the road and bridge constructed by the Ministry of Construction.

During the initial project, charging stations were installed in four places in Nay Pyi Taw, five in Yangon, five in Mandalay, and five in the Yangon-Mandalay expressway, a total of 19 places.

Currently, EVs have been granted tax-free permission to pass through the main road networks such as the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, Yangon-Toungoo-Meiktila-Mandalay Union Highway, Yangon-Pyay Road and Yangon-Pathayin Road. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar participates in ASEAN-China Week 2024

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine attended the ASEAN-China Week 2024 themed “ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: Achieving Prosperity through Innovation”, held at Chengzhi Banhu Cultural and Tourism Services Centre, in China, on 11 and 12 August.

On 11 August, the Union minister met Secretary-General Shi Zhongjun of the ASEAN-China Centre and discussed the tourism promotion industry for Myanmar.

Then, she attended the meeting with ASEAN members and the Shanxi Province government leader and observed the ASEAN-China culture and tourism promotion booths.

On 12 August, she attended

the opening ceremony of ASEAN-China Week 2024 and made remarks saying the strength of regional cooperation can benefit the development, stability and prosperity of member countries. Moreover, the promotion of culture and communication exchange between ASEAN and China can promote regional cooperation, people-to-people ties and mutual understanding, in addition to regional tourism industry development.

She also participated in the official launch of the ASEAN-China Import and Export Service Platform, trade promotion video screening programmes, an awarding event at the ASEAN-China Centre, and a documentary photo session.

At noon, she attended the workshop on culture, tourism,



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine addresses the ASEAN-China Week 2024 in China on 11 and 12 August 2024.

and youth development between ASEAN and China. Officials of the embassies of ASEAN countries discussed exemption, relief, and land and infrastructure benefits regarding investment in

Myanmar.

She also met the representative of BiliBili, a website media platform in China, handed over tourism promotion video clips of Myanmar and discussed further

cooperation in the Myanmar's tourism industry.

The Myanmar delegates joined the entertainment show of ASEAN-China Week on the same evening. — MNA/KTZH

MIFER Deputy Minister attends 46th HLTF-EI Meeting

DEPUTY Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung, the Lead of Myanmar HLTF-EI, attended the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (46th HLTF-EI), which was held on 14 August 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

The meeting discussed the progress of Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship, the global and regional outlook, new and emerging issues in ASEAN Plus One FTAs, the implementation of the ASEAN strategy on carbon neutrality for sustainability in the region, the progress of the implementation of the piloting of Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) in the electric vehicle and batteries



The documentary group picture of the 46th Meeting of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration held on 14 August 2024 in Laos.

industry, the development of the AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030, AEC Post 2025 Study and the updates on the End-Term Review

(ETR) of the AEC Blueprint 2025, the preparations for Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025 and recommendations

for the consideration of the 56th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting which will be held in September 2024.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Manothong Vongsay, Vice-Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and attended by the leads and representatives of the High-level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration from the ASEAN Member States, the deputy secretary-general and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat. The High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) is formed by deputy ministers and permanent secretaries of ASEAN Member States, which discusses the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community and future programmes and provides recommendations to the ASEAN Economic Ministries for consideration. — MIFER

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

NATIONAL

State Economic Promotion Fund to loan for rain-fed paddy and peanuts

THE State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee has planned to offer loans for rain-fed paddy and peanut for 1.068 million acres this year, according to its meeting held on 15 August.

The mung bean and summer paddy project for the 2022-2023 financial year was implemented in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The project spent a total of K174.18 billion, and all loans had already been

paid off.

With loan repayment, the rain-fed project for the 2023-2024 financial year was implemented in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Kachin State, Mon State, Rakhine State and Shan State as well as Taninthayi Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region and spent K134.213 billion. The summer paddy project for the 2023-2024 financial year was carried out in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Bago Region, Mandalay Region, Mandalay



The State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee meeting is in progress on 15 August at the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Region, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region and spent K147.897 billion.

The rain-fed paddy project for the 2024-2025 financial year will continue in Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin State, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Re-

gion, Mon State, Rakhine State, Yangon Region, Shan State and Ayeyawady Region for a total of 0.96 million acres.

The edible oil crop project for the 2023-2024 financial year was undertaken in nine regions and states by spending K48.60

billion in the dry season. With the committee's fund, the rain-fed peanut project for 2024-2025 will be conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Shan State and Ayeyawady Region for 0.108 million acres. — TWA/ZS

Authorities' crackdown yields significant seizures of illegal goods

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, effective actions have been taken to combat illegal trade activities.

On 14 August, the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Myanmar Industrial Port. They seized various goods, including 2,784 square metres of antique floor tiles, valued at approximately K25.3 million, and ten packs of Aci Clovior tablets, with a value of around K32.35 million, among other items. The total value of the seized goods amounted to K57.65 million. Legal action is prosecuted in accordance with Customs procedures.

On the same day, the Kay-in State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized a range of items, including 36 bottles of Two Golden Cranes cooking oil, 630 kilogrammes of assorted car side mirrors, and 50 boxes of Knorr seasoning powder, among other goods on a vehicle near the Thanlwin Bridge checkpoint. The total value of these seizures was approximately K7.43 million. Legal proceedings are underway as



Confiscated illegal items.

per Customs procedures.

Additionally, on 14 August, the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 480 boxes of Thai-made cooking oil, valued at K10.14 million, and one Yutong bus valued at around K40 million, resulting in a total seizure value of K50.14 million near the Phayagyi Junction. The action was taken according to relevant regulations.

In the Ayeyawady Region, inspections on 14 August led to the seizure of 0.552 tonnes of illegal teak and 5.721 tonnes of other timbers, valued at

K690,446. Officials also confiscated an unregistered Honda Fit Shuttle, valued at K9 million, totalling K9.6 million. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On the same day, the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized various goods, including 22,100 kilogrammes of China-made galvanized iron pipes, valued at approximately K61.59 million near the Myitnge checkpoint in Mandalay Region. A Nissan Diesel truck and other vehicles were also seized, with a total value of K96 million, bringing the total seizure value to K207.59 million.

On 15 August, the Magway Region Special Task Force seized 0.166 tonne of illegal teak and 12.16 tonnes of firewood, totalling an estimated value of K249,660. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Thus, the total value of goods seized on 14 and 15 August amounts to approximately K332.75 million, covering 23 cases, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZL

Counter-argument to false information

Misleading reports on security operations in Gwa Township

REPORTS circulated claiming that security forces arrested over 60 residents from three villages in Gwa Township, Rakhine State, on 15 August. These reports, propagated by certain malicious media outlets, are inaccurate.

According to a security official, operations carried out by security forces on 15 August were part of routine measures to prevent infiltration of insur-

gents and subversive acts in the area. There have been no reports of unlawful arrests or threats against locals.

Some subversive media outlets and extremists spread false claims, alleging that security personnel engaged in arson and wrongful detentions. These misleading reports aim to create panic and disrupt the peace in the region. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot validates misinformation.

NATIONAL

Yangon apartment rents rise despite Lent



Apartment buildings in Yangon Region.

GENERALLY, in Myanmar, the property buying and selling and rental market is always slow in Vassa (three-month Buddhist Lent). However, apartment rents have increased at present in downtown Yangon, according to Yangon-based real estate agents.

Under Myanmar culture, people avoid doing house removal during the three-month Buddhist Lent, but apartment rentals are doing well this year. "The apartment rental market is fine now compared to last

year. Prices are assumably good now. House owners get the price as they desire. And condo room and apartment room transactions are also happening," said a real estate agent, U Kyaw Swa.

Rather than areas in central Yangon, apartment rents have increased more in six downtown townships and nearest townships, he said.

"For example, there are many apartment buildings in Dawbon and Thakayta townships, and rents have

increased there, too. Rental prices vary. But rent rate can't be raised too much, so apartments that can offer reasonable prices have more of a possibility of getting tenants," he said.

Buyers enjoy apartment rooms that are already decorated more than average rooms.

"Furnished rooms are more marketable because they are ready to live, and the owner just needs to move," he said. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

MR launches cargo vehicle and terminal room leasing

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar Railways is set to lease out one vehicle line for 54 cargo vehicles and two terminal rooms for three years. The vehicle line is designated as nine lots, which will be available to businesses operating in the train transport sector.

Local private or company organizations can bid on a three-year rental licence, valid from 1 October 2024 to 30 December 2027, through a competitive bidding process.

The tender will be conducted at the office of the Economic Branch of Myanmar Railways (Ywataw) on 30 August. The organizations who are interested

in participating can compete for only up to 5 lots.

Tender rules and proposal forms for each lot can be purchased for K50,000 per set from the Deputy General Manager, Logistics Department, Myanmar Railways, which is located at the intersection of Merchant Road and 51st Road, Botahtaung Township of Yangon. They are available for purchase during office hours from 16 to 26 August.

Interested parties can visit the Economic Branch Office of the Myanmar Railways in person or contact the Tender Acceptance and Verification Subcommittee by telephone for further details. — TWA/TRKM



This photo shows the office of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

National-level rubber tapping training course to open

ACCORDING to the Department of Agriculture, the national-level rubber worker skill level 1 training course will be conducted for rubber tapping workers, who will receive an international certificate on 9 September.

The course is jointly conducted by the Department of Agriculture and the National Skills Standard Authority (NSSA) and will be open from 9 to 23 September.

In the course, the rubber tapping techniques will be taught in writing and

practice. The trainees will be given the international certifications.

Free accommodation, uniforms and teaching materials will be granted in the training facility for the trainees, and the trainees must cost proportionately for the 15-day training period.

Individuals who want to attend the course can contact the Skills Testing and Evaluation Department, Perennial Crops Research and Technical Development Farm (Mudon), Mon State, starting from 16 August. — TWA/MKKS



The image shows the National-Level Rubber Worker Skill Level 1 Training and the Inspection and Evaluation Course 13 being opened in Mudon Township on 24 June 2024.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



Yezin Agri University opens 2024-2025 undergraduate admissions

YEZIN Agricultural University under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation accepts first-year admission to four-year bachelor's degree BAgSc for the Academic Year 2024-2025.

Those who passed the 2024 matriculation exam with Myanmar, English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology subjects and who scored 360 and above can apply for the course. The applicants must be Myanmar citizens with no criminal record. Furthermore, they must be healthy enough to go on field trips to the farms. They must comply with the rules and regulations of the university. A total of 300 students with a 50-50 per cent male-to-female ratio will be accepted.

The entrance form can be downloaded from www.yau.edu.mm/event. Candidates must provide a matriculation pass recommendation from the head of the relevant school, exam results, a copy of citizenship scrutiny cards of students and parents (guardians), three passport-sized photos, a recommendation from the ward administrator or a police clearance certificate.

The form must be sent to the Student Affairs Department of Yezin Agricultural University in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, by 25 October 2024 through postal service (postal code 150501) or email: student-affairs@yau.edu.mm, along with the required documents. Individuals can enquire about details through contact numbers 067 3416512 and 09894415790 or the aforementioned email address.

Those who do not complete the form or meet the criteria will not be considered. Students are advised to process it early so that they can join another university unless they are selected. Those who are admitted to the university will be declared in a timely manner via the notice board or online web portal www.yau.edu.mm/event. — NN/KK



Recent arrival of electric vehicles (EVs) at Yangon Port warehouse.

Companies permitted to store up to 50 EVs in bonded warehouses

EACH company is entitled to keep 50 electric vehicles (EVs) in the bonded warehouse at the maximum, according to the notification of the National-level Leading Committee for the Development of Electric Vehicle and Associated Businesses issued on 8 August 2024.

The decision was made during the committee meeting held on 11 July 2024.

Under the guidance of the committee, the importation of EVs and related components, operation of city taxis and buses and construction of charging

stations are being scrutinized and permitted during the pilot project period. Earlier, companies were allowed to store EVs in the bonded warehouse as per showroom quota prior to having import licences.

The companies need to seek import approval for EVs from the committee that will forward its approval to the Ministry of Commerce and obtain permits to store EVs in bonded warehouses along with import permits prior to shipment hereafter. The committee will inform the compliance of the bonded ware-

houses' standard operating procedures working committee and submit bills of landing documents mentioning the bonded code to the Myanmar Customs Department before arrival at ports. At that time, the Customs Department will screen documents. The committee has notified those companies that pass the aforementioned steps that they are allowed to store 50 EVs at a maximum.

The companies need to send an acknowledgement letter of that notification unflinchingly to the secretary of the committee by 15 August 2024. — NN/KK

Bago's dried snakehead fish distributed locally

DRIED snakehead fish from the Bago Region is distributed to Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and other areas, according to the Consumer Affairs Department.

Bago Region heavily relies on agriculture. With an abundance of fisheries resources in Bago's rivers, ponds and lakes, fish paste, preserved fish and dried fish are produced in the region. The dried

snakehead fish from Bago Region is not salty, so it is suitable for those with diabetes and hypertension. Some purchase the dried fish for their friends.

The snakehead fish is sourced from freshwater ponds and lakes of Bago, Dalku, Waw and Thanetpin townships. They are processed systematically, including washing and degutting. Salting for 100

visses of fish uses three visses of salt. One day after, they are washed in freshwater by changing water four times before sun drying. They can be dried within two days in summer. They are smoked in winter and monsoon seasons. A viss of snakehead fish can produce 25-30 ticals of dried fish (a viss equals 100 ticals). — NN/KK

Abundant tomato production in Nyaungshwe drives prices down

THE supply of tomatoes has been plentiful in Shan State's Nyaungshwe Township, making locals buy them cheaply.

Tomato production has increased in the highland area and Inlay area in southern Shan State's Nyaungshwe Township, helping consumers get tomatoes at lower prices.

"It is tomato harvest season in the

highland area. The production is abundant because tomatoes are produced from both the highland area and the Inlay area. It is raining here now. So it is good for consumers because they can buy it at a cheaper price. The price has fallen by nearly a half," said an official from the Mibamyitta vegetable wholesale trading centre in Nyaungshwe Township.

There are nearly 200,000 acres of float-cultivation land in southern Shan State. Inlay and tomatoes produced from the areas are transported to Yangon, Mandalay, eastern Shan State and northern Shan State, plus other regions and states, according to tomato wholesale trading centres from Nyaungshwe.

Including Nyaungshwe and Inlay,

tomatoes produced from southern Shan State are also transported to other areas.

"Now the tomato price has declined. Plantations from the highland area produced a lot, and this is a factor. Tomatoes are also transported to other areas. The trading seems to be low. Other vegetables are also harvested now, but tomato production is distinctly large," he said. — MT/ZS

OPINION

Try to achieve greater success in Myanmar's cotton sector

THE dry regions of Myanmar, particularly the Anya region, are well-suited for cotton cultivation, a livelihood for many in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway. Cotton has long been integral to the country's textile industry, with its use dating back to the Pyu era. Currently, 80 per cent of Myanmar's cotton is used in textile production, 15 per cent in home decorations, and the remaining 5 per cent in various absorbent materials and utensils.

Traditionally, Myanmar's farmers focused on growing short-staple cotton, but since 1962, the cultivation of long-staple cotton has increased significantly. In the 2022-2023 financial year, 537,312 acres were dedicated to cotton cultivation, predominantly for lengthy staple varieties. The government has initiated a project spanning from 2022-23 to 2025-26, focusing on cotton cultivation in designated zones across the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago regions, and Shan State.

To bolster the cotton sector and improve the socio-economic status of farmers, the government is urging the cultivation of 700,000 acres of cotton. This move aims to revive the industry to the levels seen in the 2011-12 financial year, when over 800,000 acres were planted, compared to just 389,000 acres in 2020-21. Key to this revival is the shift towards producing long-staple cotton, which is essential for manufacturing quality wool. Upgrading textile and cotton ginning factories will play a crucial role in reducing the reliance on imported wool and thread, thereby enhancing the cotton value chain within the country. In addition to improving production processes, there is a need to modernize cotton gins and textile machinery to produce high-quality textiles and personal goods. Local authorities are encouraged to support farmers in establishing cotton-based industries that can capture a larger market share. Furthermore, attracting both local and international investments is vital for the sector's development.

By focusing on these areas — expanding cotton cultivation, improving the quality of cotton products, and fostering industry growth—Myanmar can achieve tremendous success in its cotton sector, thereby enhancing the livelihoods of its farmers and contributing to the nation's economic development.

That is why emphasis must be placed on leveraging up manufacturing of agriculture and livestock products. In so doing, efforts must be made to boost production of paddy, pulses and beans, cotton and edible oil crops in order to ensure food security. As such, local authorities and farmers need to strive to grow cotton in order to contribute to the production of cotton seed oil and animal feedstuffs.

The Global South and the Summit of the Future

By Ambassador (Retd) Asoke Mukerji

THE United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is scheduled to convene for a "Summit of the Future" in New York on 22-23 September 2024. The outcome of this meeting of world leaders will be the adoption of a "Pact for the Future". During the past year, the details of the Pact have been discussed among the 193 UN member-states under the co-facilitation of Germany (representing the developed countries of the North) and Namibia (representing the developing countries of the South). The objective of the Pact is "to safeguard the future for present and coming generations".

India's approach towards the UN's Summit of the Future was articulated by Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar in 2023. He emphasized the need to demonstrate "genuine solidarity" to generate "real trust" and integrate the "sentiment of the Global South" in preparing for the Summit. During the discussions in the UNGA in May 2024, India

cautioned that if these essential elements were missing from the process, the Summit of the Future would become a "Summit of the Past", condemning the United Nations "to a perilous vicious cycle of fading into irrelevance".

The Global South consists of developing country member-states of the UNGA, many of them former colonies of European powers in 1945 who did not negotiate the UN Charter. Their membership in the United Nations began with the historic process of decolonization that began after India's independence from British colonial rule in August 1947.

The Global South became a majority in the UNGA, propelled by the Decolonization Resolution of December 1960. The first visible expression of solidarity of the Global South in multilateralism was the successful adoption by a two-thirds majority vote of UNGA resolutions in December 1963 to amend the UN Charter. These amendments resulted in

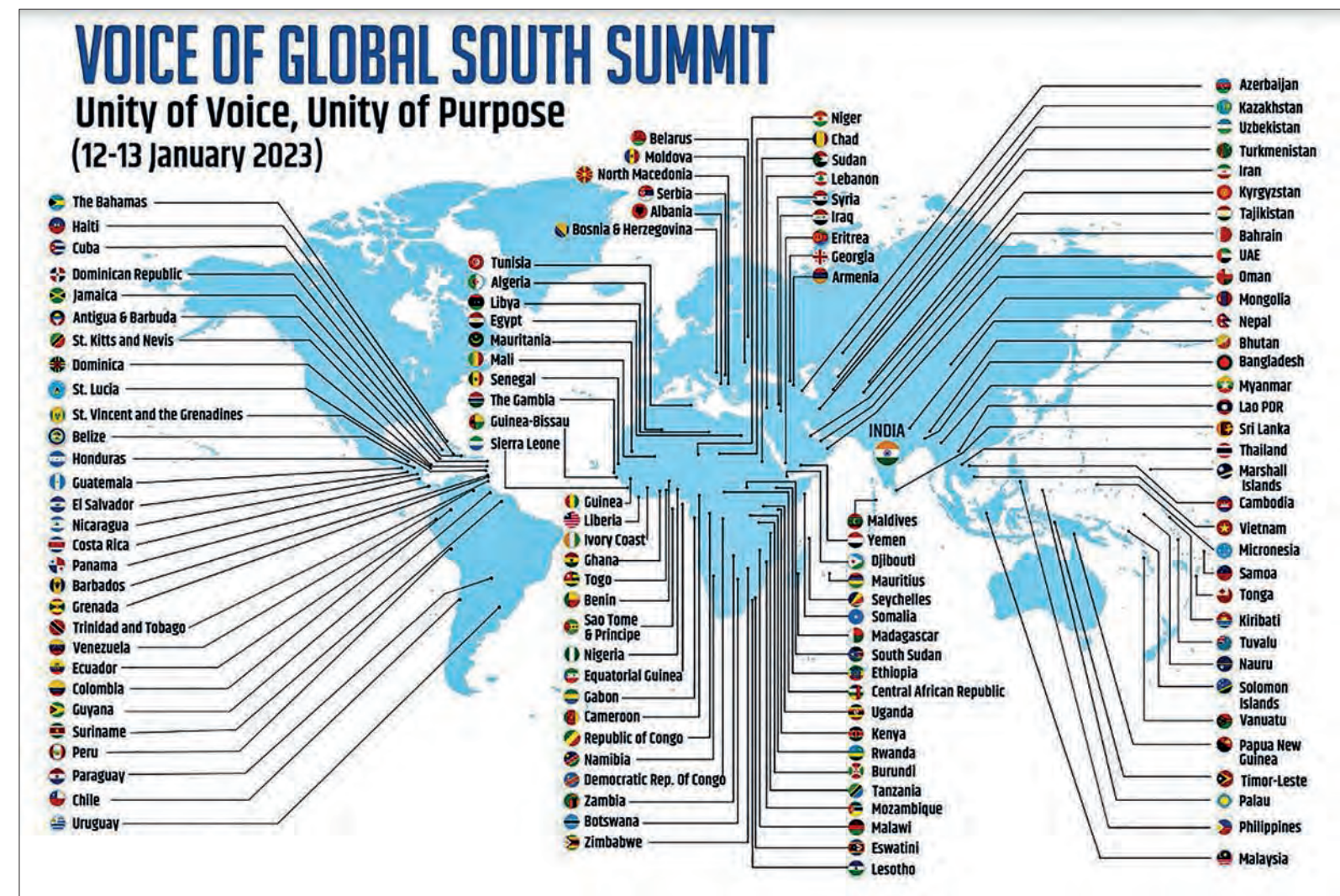
expanding the representation of the Global South in the UN Security Council (UNSC), which controls decisions on peace and security, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which controls UNGA decision-making on socioeconomic issues.

Since 1960, the process of consolidation and prioritization of Global South priorities has been marked by several negotiating landmarks in multilateral institutions. This was due to the solidarity and sentiment of the Global South, based on trust in the effective and equitable functioning of the interlinked post-war multilateral system.

Among the Global South's achievements have been the creation of the non-aligned movement in September 1961 which today brings together 120 member-states in the UNGA; the establishment of the Group of 77 (or G-77) in 1964 which today represents 134 out of 193 member-states in the UNGA; the creation of the UN Development Programme

(UNDP) by the UNGA in 1965; the adoption of the G-77 Charter of Algiers in 1967 calling for a New International Economic Order; the Decision on Differential and More Preferable Treatment (also known as the Enabling Clause) for developing countries in the GATT (precursor of the World Trade Organization) in 1979; the UNGA Declaration on the Right to Development (DRTD) as an inalienable human right in 1986; and the Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) provision of international law, codified by the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

Through patient and forward-looking negotiations in the UNGA between 1960-2015, the Global South/G-77 has succeeded in bringing "development" into the mainstream of multilateralism. The unanimous adoption of Agenda 2030 by the UNGA in September 2015, with its 17 Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs), is an acknowledgement of this fact. Agenda 2030 converg-



es the common interests of the Global North and Global South into an integrated human-centric framework in which peace, security, and development are interlinked. This is the sentiment that the Global South seeks to integrate into the vision of the Summit of the Future.

The UN's SDG Summit in 2023, held to assess the im-

plementation of Agenda 2030, warned that numerous crises since 2015 have been derailing this vision. Unless checked, these can have a deleterious impact on the Global South, particularly on the application of new digital technologies in a human-centric manner to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030. The Summit of the Future's consider-

ation of a Global Digital Compact requires special attention to the sentiments of the Global South in order to bridge existing digital divides enumerated during the UNGA review of the UN's Tunis Agenda on an Information Society in December 2015.

The Global South's focus during the Summit of the Future must be to seek effective multilat-

eralism on the ground. A decision to convene a UN General Conference, as provided for in Article 109 of the UN Charter, to review the UN Charter in September 2025 would be an appropriate way to mark the 80th anniversary of multilateralism by integrating the aspirations of the Global South.

(Views expressed in the article belong solely to the author).

Diet can be risk factor for colon cancer in younger adults, finds study

Their findings indicate that a simple test to measure colorectal cancer risk biomarkers might be a more feasible approach than annual colonoscopies for younger individuals, due to practical limitations in healthcare systems.



Consuming red and processed meat has been linked to an increased risk of colorectal cancer. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

A NEW Cleveland Clinic study has identified diet-derived chemicals termed metabolites as the primary drivers of young-onset colorectal cancer risk, particularly those associated with red and processed meat. The NPJ Precision Oncology paper studied metabolite and microbiome datasets and found that discussing food with a doctor is an effective method for younger adults to prevent colorectal cancer.

Increased monitoring and

screening for colorectal cancer is a very useful tool. Senior author and gastrointestinal oncologist Suneel Kamath, MD, suggests that despite the efficacy of these approaches, physicians should approach younger patients differently.

"At the end of the day, it's impractical to apply our care models for those over 60 to younger adults simply because we cannot give everyone in the system yearly colonoscopies," he explains. "What is much more feasible is to give

everyone in the system a simple test to measure a biomarker that determines their colorectal cancer risk. Then we can give the most at-risk individuals appropriate screening."

Former clinical fellow Thejus Jayakrishnan, MD, and Naseer Sangwan, PhD, director of the Microbial Sequencing & Analytics Resource Core co-led the work. Researchers in Cleveland Clinic's Center for Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer provided large-scale analyses of patient data from individuals who received care for either young- or average-onset colorectal cancer at Cleveland Clinic.

This team's earlier work found disparities in the metabolites (diet-derived compounds) of

young- and average-onset colorectal cancer, as well as differences in the gut microbiome between younger and older persons with colorectal cancer. These research suggested numerous new possibilities for exploring young-onset CRC. However, when more elements are involved in cancer risk, it becomes more difficult to grasp what's going on and plan future study, according to Dr Sangwan. Interactions between elements, such as gut bacteria consuming and producing metabolites, add to the complexity.

Dr Sangwan and his team then developed an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm to combine and analyze the existing studies' datasets and clarify what factors

are most relevant for future studies. Surprisingly, Dr Sangwan's analysis revealed that differences in diet (identified through analyzing metabolites) accounted for a significant proportion of the differences observed between the young-onset and older-onset patients.

"Researchers - ourselves included - have begun to focus on the gut microbiome as a primary contributor to colon cancer risk. But our data clearly shows that the main driver is diet," Dr Sangwan says. "We already know the main metabolites associated with young-onset risk, so we can now move our research forward in the correct direction."

The team was excited to see

diet play such a large role in cancer risk, because it is much easier to identify at-risk patients by counting the metabolites in their blood than it is to sequence the bacterial DNA in their stool for different microbes.

"It can actually be very complicated and difficult to change your microbiome," explains Dr. Kamath. "While it's not always easy, it is much simpler to change your diet to prevent colon cancer."

Younger colon cancer patients had higher levels of metabolites associated with the production and metabolism of an amino acid called arginine, and with the urea cycle compared to their older peers.

SOURCE: ANI

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

Scientists reveal patterns in Earth's rotational deceleration over millions of years

This research helps refine our understanding of the rate at which Earth's rotation has slowed due to tidal effects.



Diameter comparison of the Moon and Earth. **ILLUSTRATION PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

CHINESE researchers, in collaboration with counterparts from France, Germany and Ireland, have discovered that between 650 million and 280 million years ago, the Earth-Moon distance increased by approximately 20,000 kilometres, and the length of a day extended by roughly 2.2 hours,

the Science and Technology Daily reported Tuesday.

The Earth's rotation has been slowing over time due to tidal dissipation, but the rate of this deceleration has not been consistently established, according to a relevant research article published in the journal Proceedings of the National

Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

The researchers analyzed eight geological datasets to reconstruct the Earth's rotational history from 650 million to 240 million years ago. Their findings enabled them to test physical tidal models and identify a staircase pattern in the Earth's deceleration between 650 million and 280 million years ago.

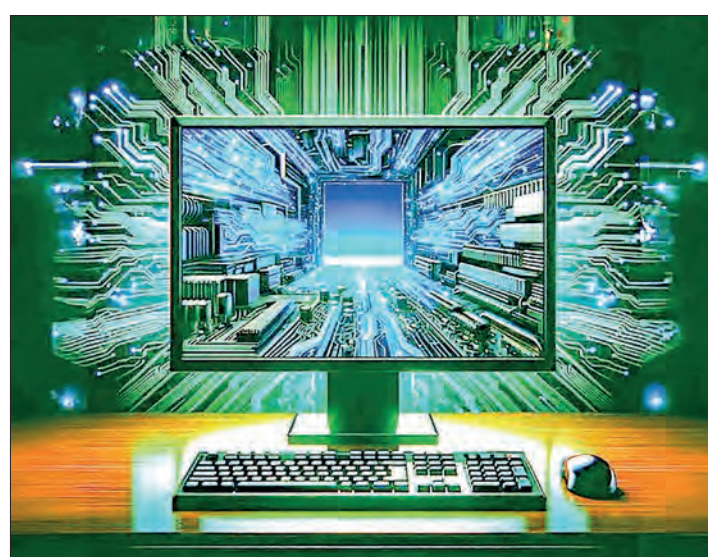
Specifically, there are two periods with high Earth rotation deceleration — from 650 to 500 million years ago and from 350 to 280 million years ago — separated by an interval of stalled deceleration from 500 million to 350 million years ago. These two periods roughly coincided with the Cambrian explosion and the largest mass extinction event in Earth's history, the article noted, adding that the two periods may have provided the necessary conditions for the evolution of early Marine ecosystems. — Xinhua

US considering breakup of Google: reports

A bid to break up Alphabet Inc's Google is being considered by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) after a landmark court ruling found that the company has monopolized the online search market, US media cited sources familiar with the deliberations as saying.

"The move would be Washington's first push to dismantle a company for illegal monopolization since unsuccessful efforts to break up Microsoft Corp two decades ago," said Bloomberg on Tuesday.

"Less severe options include forcing Google to share more data with competitors and measures to prevent it from gaining an unfair advantage in AI products, said the



people, who asked not to be identified discussing private conversations," the report said.

"Justice Department of

officials are considering what remedies to ask a federal judge to order against the search giant," said The New York Times. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNDP Innovation Lab for Sustainable Development Goals launched in south China

CHINA'S Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area launched its first United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Innovation Lab for Sustainable Development Goals on Tuesday, located in the southern Chinese metropolis of Shenzhen.

Known as HUA HUB, the innovation lab in the city's Longhua District will focus on the digital economy and the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). In cooperation with partners from the United Nations, local governments, businesses and academia, the lab is expected to build an international network for sustainable development among MSMEs and young entrepreneurs.

"The Longhua laboratory will act as a testing ground for cutting-edge solutions to advance sustainable development in a megacity context," Beate Trankmann, UNDP resident representative for China, said in a speech at the launch ceremony. "It will explore new ways of advancing the digital economy, managing natural resources for effective environmental protection, along with modernizing urban governance." — Xinhua

Iran hackers target Harris and Trump campaigns: Google

GOOGLE on Tuesday confirmed that hackers backed by Iran are targeting the campaigns of US presidential rivals Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.

A hacker group known as "APT42" linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps went after high-profile individuals and organizations in Israel and the United States, including government officials and political campaigns, according to a threat report released by Google.

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris's campaign said Tuesday it had been targeted by foreign hackers, days after rival Donald Trump's campaign suggested that it had been hacked by Iran.

"In July, the campaign legal and security teams were notified by the FBI that we were targeted by a foreign actor influence operation," a Harris campaign official told AFP. — AFP

Breakthrough in solving mystery of declining immune system function

AUSTRALIAN scientists have made a breakthrough in solving the mystery of why an organ responsible for human immune defence shrinks and weakens with age, according to a study published on Thursday.

In a world-first, researchers from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) in Melbourne discovered new cells that drive the ageing process in the thymus - a finding they say could unlock ways to prevent immunity waning with age.

Located in the upper chest under the breastbone, the thymus is the only organ in the body that can make T lymphocytes - also known as T cells - a type of white blood cell that helps fight against pathogens and eliminate infected or cancerous cells.

However, the thymus is also the first organ in the body to start shrinking with age, causing diminished T cell production and a weakened immune system. — Xinhua

N Korea may open to intl tourists in Dec after 4-yr COVID closure

Koryo Tours confirmed this plan and noted that official itineraries will be released soon.



Munsu Water Park is a state run water park located in the east of Pyongyang, North Korea, which opened to the public in November 2013. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

NORTH Korea may reopen its doors to international tourists in December after shutting itself off for more than four years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Beijing-based tour agency said.

Koryo Tours said on its website Wednesday that it has received confirmation from its

local partner that tourism to Samjiyon, located at the foot of Mount Paektu near the North Korean border with China and potentially the rest of the country, will officially resume in December. Pyongyang shut its borders in early 2020 due to the pandemic but has accepted a small number of Russian tour

groups since early this year. Koryo Tours said official itineraries and dates for its North Korean tours will be announced in the coming weeks.

Before the public health crisis, Chinese nationals had made up a large number of foreign tourists visiting North Korea. — Kyodo

‘Monsoon brides’: Extreme weather fuels Pakistan child marriages

AS monsoon rains were about to break over Pakistan, 14-year-old Shamila and her 13-year-old sister Amina were married off in exchange for money, a decision their parents made to help the family survive the threat of floods.

“I was happy to hear I was getting married... I thought my life would become easier,” Shamila told AFP after her wedding to a man twice her age in hope of a more prosperous life.

“But I have nothing more. And with the rain, I fear I will have even less, if that is possible.”

Pakistan’s high rate of marriages for underage girls had been inching lower in recent years, but after unprecedented floods in 2022, rights workers warn such weddings are now on



This photograph taken on 3 August 2024 newly married underage monsoon bride Amina (2L), with their husband Mohammad Usman (L) arrives at the Khan Muhammad Mallah village in Main Nara Valley, Dadu district, Sindh province. **PHOTO: AFP**

the rise due to climate-driven economic insecurity. The summer monsoon between July and September is vital for the livelihoods of millions of farmers and

food security, but scientists say climate change is making them heavier and longer, raising the risk of landslides, floods and long-term crop damage. — AFP

Taylor Swift returns to stage in London after Vienna concert plot

TAYLOR Swift will return to the stage in London on Thursday to end the European leg of her “Eras” tour, a week after her Vienna concerts were cancelled due to a suicide attack plot.

Around 90,000 fans will again pack London’s Wembley Stadium for the first date in the five-day run, with additional ticket checks and restrictions in place.

Last week, all three of the American mega-star’s shows in the Austrian capital were cancelled following the discovery of an Islamic State-inspired plan to launch an attack using explosives and knives.

Three alleged Islamic State sympathizers have been arrested on charges of plotting the atrocity, which was thwarted with the help of US intelligence.

London’s Metropolitan Police has said there was “nothing to indicate that the matters being investigated by the Austrian authorities will have an impact on upcoming events here in London”. The force was working “closely with venue security teams and other partners to ensure there are appropriate security and policing plans in place”, a police spokesperson said in a statement. — AFP

Mpox killed 548 people in DR Congo

AN mpox outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has killed 548 people since the start of the year, with all provinces affected by the virus, the health minister said on Thursday in a statement.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday declared the mpox surge in Africa a global public health emergency, worried by the rise in cases in DRC and the spread to nearby countries.

“According to the latest ep-

idemiological report, our country has recorded 15,664 potential cases and 548 deaths since the beginning of the year,” Health Minister Samuel-Roger Kamba said in a separate video message seen by AFP on Thursday.

The DRC is made up of 26 provinces and has a population of around 100 million.

The most affected provinces are South Kivu, North Kivu, Tshopo, Equateur, North Ubangi, Tshuapa, Mongala and Sankuru, Kamba said. — AFP

Dubai Culture opens film competition

DUBAI Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) has launched the open call for the Al Marmoom Short-Film Competition, held as part of the fourth Al Marmoom: Film in the Desert festival.

The competition aims to enrich the local film scene, provide an innovative platform to support filmmakers and encourage them to share their experiences and knowledge, inspiring new talent to join this field.

Dubai Culture invites all emerging filmmakers and creatives locally, regionally, and

globally to participate and submit their works for the festival’s competition.

Applications are open from 14 August - 30 September, after which a specialized committee comprising a group of experts, directors, and filmmakers will screen the applications and evaluate the submitted films, in preparation for announcing the list of films competing for the festival awards, which will be held at Al Marmoom Desert Conservation Reserve on 3-12 January 2025. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Global oil demand growth slowing: IEA

The IEA forecasts a modest increase in demand of less than one million barrels per day (mbd) for both 2024 and 2025, a significant slowdown from last year's 2.1 mbd rise.



While global consumption is expected to grow to 103.06 mbd in 2024, Europe will see a decline, and growth will continue in the Asia-Pacific region. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ PIXABAY**

GLOBAL oil demand growth slowed in the second quarter of the year, primarily due to softer construction and industrial activity in China, the International Energy Agency said Tuesday.

“Demand is set to rise by less than one mbd (million barrels per day) in both 2024 and 2025,” said the IEA in its monthly oil report.

That growth rate is far slower than last year's 2.1 mbd increase and slower than pre-pandemic expansion.

The IEA expects global consumption to come in at

103.06 mbd in 2024, up from 102.09 mbd last year and 100.6 mbd in 2019.

Europe will be the only continent to see a drop in overall demand, with the Americas rising only marginally.

Demand will continue to expand apace in the Asia-Pacific region, including in China, according to the IEA.

Yet the IEA noted Chinese oil demand fell in June for the third consecutive month, primarily due to weaker demand for gasoil (diesel) and naphtha, products used by the construc-

tion and manufacturing industries.

The IEA noted that the rising number of trucks running on natural gas or batteries was also eroding demand for diesel.

“Chinese oil demand growth has gone into reverse due to a slowdown in construction and manufacturing, rapidly accelerating deployment of vehicles powered by alternative fuels and comparison to a stronger post-reopening baseline,” said the Paris-based IEA, which advises oil-consuming nations on energy policy. — AFP

Argentine monthly inflation reaches low of 4.0%

MONTHLY inflation in Argentina came in at 4.0 per cent in July, the lowest in 2.5 years even as the annual figure remained one of the highest in the world, the INDEC statistics agency said Wednesday.

It was the third consecutive month with inflation under 5.0 per cent, according to an INDEC report, but annual inflation remained high at 263.4 per cent.

The government of self-described “anarcho-capitalist”

President Javier Milei has applied a drastic austerity programme with the aim of achieving “zero budget deficit” by the end of 2024 to tame chronic inflation.

In December, when Milei took office, monthly inflation leapt by 25.5 per cent after he devalued the peso by more than 50 per cent.

The move, in addition to severe budget cuts, strangled purchasing power.

In January, the government reported its first monthly budget surplus in nearly 12 years.

But critics say Milei's few wins have come at the cost of the poor and working classes.

Economist Ricardo Delgado of the Analytica consultancy said Wednesday it was too soon to declare an end to rampant inflation. “Recession always produces a drop in inflation,” he told Radio Continental. — AFP

Japan's economy grows annualized 3.1% in April-June

JAPAN'S economy grew at an inflation-adjusted annual rate of 3.1 per cent in the April-June quarter, boosted by a recovery in private consumption and capital spending as the negative impact of a safety data scandal in the auto sector eased, government data showed Thursday.

Real gross domestic product marked the first increase in two quarters, rebounding from a sharp contraction in the first three months of 2024. On a nominal basis, Japan's GDP topped 600 trillion yen (\$4 trillion) for the first time, amid persisting inflation caused by a weakening yen.

The stronger-than-expected GDP data is seen as a boost to

the Liberal Democratic Party-led government, which under Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has devoted efforts to easing the pain of inflation felt by households. Kishida abruptly announced Wednesday he would not seek reelection as leader of the ruling party, ending his premiership in September.

GDP is the total value of goods and services produced in a country. Real GDP rose 0.8 per cent from the previous quarter.

The easing of the impacts of the auto scandal supported both domestic demand — private consumption and capital investment — and exports in the GDP data. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 29 May 2024, shows a sparsely populated Yanagase shopping arcade on a weekday in Gifu, Gifu Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

BRIEF: ECON

Australian unemployment rises to 4.2%

AUSTRALIA'S unemployment rate has risen to its highest level in over two years. According to official data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Thursday, the unemployment rate rose to 4.2 per cent in July - up from 4.1 per cent in June and the equal-highest figure since November 2021.

National broadcaster the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported that economists had broadly expected the unemployment rate to remain steady at 4.1 per cent in July.

The ABS said the total number of employed Australians increased by 58,200 between June and July to 14.46 million but that the number of unemployed people grew by 23,900 in the same period to 637,100 - the highest since November 2021. — Xinhua

Indian National coal index drops 3.48 per cent in June 2024 amid rising production and ample supply

The NCI, which tracks coal prices across various sales channels and grades, reflects market trends and price movements. The significant drop in auction premiums further suggests an ample coal supply.



Coal production increased by 14.58 per cent in June 2024, ensuring stable supply and contributing to energy security. **PHOTO: ANI**

THE Ministry of Coal announced that the National Coal Index (NCI) showed a decline of 3.48 per cent in June 2024, registering 142.13 points compared to

147.25 points in the same period last year, on Friday. According to the Ministry of Coal, this drop indicates a stable and sufficient coal supply in

the market, aligning with growing demands from key sectors.

The National Coal Index (NCI) is a composite price index that reflects

coal prices across various sales channels, including Notified Prices, Auction Prices, and Import Prices.

It tracks the prices of both coking and non-coking coal of different grades, catering to both regulated sectors like power and fertilizer and non-regulated industries. With FY 2017-18 as the base year, the NCI acts as a key indicator of market trends, offering valuable insights into price movements. The premium on coal auctions serves as a barometer for industry sentiment, and the recent sharp drop in auction premiums points to an ample coal supply in the market. — ANI

Big Pharma push back on first Medicare drug price cuts

MAJOR pharmaceutical companies lashed out following a landmark deal unveiled Thursday to cut the costs of 10 key medicines, with some saying the price-setting process was not transparent.

Their statements came after US President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris announced a deal to lower costs of the first 10 drugs picked for Medicare price talks.

The agreement with drugmakers — who said they came on board with negotiations as they had no choice — is set to save seniors in the United States \$1.5 billion in out-of-pocket costs.

It is the result of months of negotiations and is anticipated to save Medicare \$6 billion in the first year alone, said Biden, referring to the federal health insurance for seniors. — AFP



The White House announced a deal to lower costs of 10 key medicines selected for Medicare price negotiations, cutting their list prices by between 38 per cent and 79 per cent. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

China's first intercity housing trade-in scheme aims to revitalize real estate

OVER 100 cities across China are now encouraging homeowners to swap their old properties for brand-new ones with an additional payment. This scheme has been taken a bold step further in the Yangtze River Delta region, where, for the first time, intercity housing trade-ins are now available.

Liangxi urban development group, a state-owned enterprise (SOE) based in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province — a city with an annual GDP exceeding 1.5 trillion yuan (about US\$210 billion) in 2023 — unveiled the ground-

breaking housing trade-in scheme earlier this month.

Under the new scheme, homeowners can trade in pre-owned residential properties not just within Wuxi but also in the neighboring cities of Suzhou and Changzhou for new homes in the Liangxi District of Wuxi.

This pioneering housing trade-in initiative is the first of its kind in China, standing out from other intra-city "old for new" property schemes already implemented in over 100 cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. — Xinhua

Ukraine's exports via Black Sea corridor reach 64.4 mln tonnes

UKRAINE has exported 64.4 million tonnes of goods via the Black Sea since establishing a temporary maritime corridor in August 2023, the Min-

istry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development said on Friday.

In the past year, about 43.5 million tonnes

of grain and other foodstuffs were transported through the Black Sea route, the ministry said in a statement.

Over the period,

2,379 vessels loaded with goods left the Ukrainian ports of Odesa, Chornomorsk and Pivdenny for 46 countries. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (880N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHANA BHUM VOY.NO. (880N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-8-2024** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL-4 VOY.NO. (02N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL-4 VOY. NO. (02N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-8-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Gaza ceasefire talks to resume for 2nd day in Qatar

The talks, which resumed without Hamas present, come amid ongoing disputes about terms and escalating casualties, with the death toll in Gaza exceeding 40,000.

NEGOTIATORS seeking a Gaza ceasefire were set to meet for a second day in Qatar on Friday, while top European diplomats were expected in Israel to stress the urgency of averting a wider war.

The on-and-off truce talks reconvened in Qatar's capital on Thursday without Hamas, which has accused Israel of obstructing a deal and insists on the imple-

mentation of previously agreed terms.

Months of talks have yet to secure the return of hostages held by militants in Gaza or staunch the spiralling death toll, which authorities in Hamas-ruled Gaza on Thursday said had topped 40,000 in the Palestinian territory after more than 10 months of war.

US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the



Relatives and supporters of Israelis held hostage in Gaza lift flags and placards as they demonstrate calling for their release in Tel Aviv on 15 August 2024. PHOTO: GIL COHEN-MAGEN / AFP

talks had “a promising start” but acknowledged “there remains a lot of work to do”.

Israel's main military sup-

plier the United States has been mediating the talks with Qatar and Egypt.

The United States and its al-

lies see the proposed Gaza truce as key to de-escalating soaring regional tensions, particularly with Iran. — AFP

Powerful typhoon veers east of Tokyo, disrupts holiday travel

JAPAN'S transport systems, including shinkansen bullet trains, faced widespread disruptions, and many tourist spots were deserted as a powerful typhoon

veered east of Tokyo on Friday, near the end of the Bon summer holidays.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of violent winds,



The international terminal at Tokyo's Haneda airport is crowded with travellers on 16 August 2024, as many flights are canceled due to an approaching typhoon. PHOTO: KYODO

mudslides, high waves and flooding, forecasting heavy rain in the eastern region around Tokyo and the northeast.

At 6 pm Friday, Typhoon Ampil was located some 160 kilometres south-southeast of Choshi in Chiba Prefecture. The typhoon is moving north-northeast at 15 kilometres per hour, according to the weather agency.

It has an atmospheric pressure of 950 hectopascals at its centre and is packing winds of up to 216 kph.

Central Japan Railway suspended all Tokaido Shinkansen bullet train services between Tokyo and Nagoya, central Japan, for the entire day, with the shutters closed at Tokyo Station ticket gates. — Kyodo

Indian protests over doctor's murder grow

THOUSANDS took to the streets of Kolkata early Thursday to condemn the rape and murder of a local doctor, demanding justice for the victim and an end to the chronic issue of violence against women in Indian society.

The discovery of the 31-year-old's brutalized body last week at a state-run hos-

pital has sparked nationwide protests, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding swift punishment for those who commit “monstrous” deeds against women.

Large crowds marched through the streets of Kolkata in West Bengal to condemn the killing, with a candlelight rally

at midnight coinciding with the start of India's independence day celebrations on Thursday.

The protesters in Kolkata, who marched under the slogan “reclaim the night”, called for a wider tackling of violence against women and held up handwritten signs demanding action. — AFP

BRIEFS: WORLD

Fears of water supply sabotage in Germany

AUTHORITIES in western Germany have warned some 10,000 residents not to drink the tap water after a hole was found in a fence around a water tank that also supplies a nearby military base, in the second such incident this week.

Local authorities in the town of Mechernich said the cut fence was discovered Thursday afternoon and that tests were currently being carried out to determine if the water had been contaminated. Germany – a key ally of Kyiv – has been on high alert for sabotage and attacks on military facilities in the country in the wake of Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

“Due to unauthorised access” to Mechernich's drinking water system, “there may have been a health-endangering contamination of the drinking water,” said a statement on the town's website late Thursday. — AFP

US VP nominees agree to debate hosted by CBS on 1 Oct

US Vice-Presidential nominees – Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Ohio Senator JD Vance – on Thursday agreed to participate in a debate hosted by CBS News, which is scheduled for 1 October.

The debate will be moderated by “CBS Evening News” anchor and managing editor Norah O'Donnell and “Face the Nation” moderator and CBS News chief foreign affairs correspondent Margaret Brennan, according to the network.

On Wednesday, the network announced that Walz agreed to the 1 October date, after proposing four dates for a debate between the two vice-presidential nominees. “See you on 1 October, JD,” Walz, the Democratic vice-presidential nominee, said Wednesday in a post on “X”, formerly known as Twitter.

Vance, the Republican vice-presidential nominee, said in a post on “X” Thursday that he has agreed to the debate.

“Not only do I accept the CBS debate on 1 October, I accept the CNN debate on 18 September as well. I look forward to seeing you at both!” said Vance. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Zubimendi 'decided not to come', says Liverpool manager Slot

LIVERPOOL manager Arne Slot said on Friday that key transfer target Martin Zubimendi had "decided not to come" to Anfield from Real Sociedad.

The Euro 2024 winner had been identified as the man best placed to fill a defensive midfield role for Liverpool in what would have

been their first major signing since Slot succeeded Jurgen Klopp as boss.

"I've said many times already that our squad is really strong and it's not so easy to find players who can help us or improve the squad," Dutchman Slot told reporters ahead of his team's Premier League opener at

Ipswich on Saturday.

"Zubimendi was one of them to be fair, but he decided not to come. We go forward with the ones we have. (Wataru) Endo did well in pre-season.

"We're in a good place. Richard (Hughes, Liverpool's sporting director) is trying to strengthen the squad. Zubimendi decided not to come, we did every effort. If a player decides not to come then it's obvious he's not coming." — AFP



Staying put: Real Sociedad and Spain midfielder Martin Zubimendi was a Liverpool transfer target. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Cincinnati rain halts Alcaraz as defending champ Gauff ousted

CARLOS Alcaraz was halted by rain on the brink of victory Thursday while defending women's champion Coco Gauff crashed out in her first match at the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Open.

Spaniard Alcaraz, the reigning Wimbledon and French Open champion, led France's Gael Monfils 6-4, 6-6 (1/3) when rain halted play at

the last major tuneup for the US Open, which starts on 26 August.

Top seed Alcaraz, who lost to Novak Djokovic in last year's Cincinnati final, took a silver medal at the Paris Olympics, also dropping that final to Djokovic. Alcaraz is back on hardcourt for the first time since winning at Miami. He skipped last week's ATP Montreal Mas-

ters.

Gauff was eliminated earlier in a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 upset loss to Kazakh spoiler Yulia Putintseva.

A disappointed Gauff will go back to the drawing board before defending her US Open crown. Putintseva, ranked 34th, has made a recent habit of upsets, knocking off top-ranked Iga Swiatek barely a month ago at Wimbledon.

"I'm really proud of myself," said Putintseva. "These courts are so fast, you have to just play on instinct. That's what I did."

Gauff became Cincinnati's youngest champion a year ago at age 19 and carried that success into her first Grand Slam triumph at the US Open.

"I have to work on consistency overall," Gauff said. "I'm making a lot of unforced errors, especially when I was up 4-2 (in the third set)," Gauff said. "Most of the points (Putintseva won) were off (my) errors." — AFP



Second-ranked defending champion Coco Gauff of the United States lost to Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan at the WTA and ATP Cincinnati Open. PHOTO: AFP



Erriyon Knighton of the United States reacts after the men's 200 metre semifinal of Athletics at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France, 7 August 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA/LUI SIU WAI

AIU launches appeal after doping-linked Knighton's presence at Paris 2024

THE Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced on Wednesday that it has filed an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in the case relating to American sprinter Erriyon Knighton who was allowed to compete at Paris 2024 after being cleared over a doping case.

Knighton tested positive for the banned steroid trenbolone during an out-of-competition test on 26 March. The United States Anti-Doping Agency

(USADA) opted not to impose a suspension, attributing the positive result to contaminated meat. This decision allowed Knighton to compete in the Paris Olympics qualifiers, a move that has sparked widespread concern.

The 20-year-old eventually ranked fourth in the final of men's 200m in Paris, and he refused any interviews after the race, leaving reporters waiting in vain. — Xinhua

All set for new Premier League as Man City look to make it five in a row

THE new Premier League will kick off on Friday with Manchester City aiming for a fifth consecutive title in what may (or may not) be Pep Guardiola and Kevin de Bruyne's last season at the club, while Arsenal look to go one better than last season, when they pushed Manchester City to the last match of the season.

Manchester City have lost Julian Alvarez, but new arrival Savio impressed last season as he helped Girona finish third in Spain.

Arsenal have brought in defender, Riccardo Calafiori in another quiet summer in the transfer market, but are still pursuing Spain international midfielder, Mikel Merino from Real Sociedad.

The title race promises to be thrilling, but there is a lot more to watch out for as Erik ten Hag looks to improve on last season at Manchester United, where Sir Jim Radcliffe looks to be imposing some kind of coherent thinking on the club.

Leny Yoro, Joshua Zirkzee, Matthijs de Ligt and Noussair Mazraoui should give Ten Hag more all-round options, with De Ligt a long-term target for Ten Hag.

Liverpool contemplate life without the reassuring and inspiring figure of Jurgen Klopp in their dugout and Arne Slot knows that he has a big task ahead of him, especially without any major transfers so far over the summer. — Xinhua



WORLD

Paetongtarn Shinawatra elected as Thailand's new PM

As the leader of the Pheu Thai Party and daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Paetongtarn is set to become Thailand's second female and youngest prime minister at age 37, pending formal appointment by King Maha Vajiralongkorn.



Paetongtarn Shinawatra has been elected as Thailand's new prime minister, securing a simple majority of 319 votes from the 493 legislators in a parliamentary vote on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

PAETONGTARN Shinawatra, a candidate backed by Thailand's Pheu Thai-led coalition, was elected as the country's new prime minister on Friday after winning a simple majority in a parliamentary vote.

Paetongtarn was the only candidate nominated to be the new prime minister during the parliamentary vote, which came following a court-ruled dismissal of then Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin in an ethics violation case earlier this week.

After a roll call vote that lasted nearly two hours, President of the National Assembly Wan Muhamad Noor Matha announced that Paetongtarn received 319 votes of support out of the current 493 legislators, more than the simple majority required for approval.

She will be pending formal appointment by Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn to become the second female premier and the youngest one in the Southeast Asian country. The 37-year-old Pheu Thai Party leader, also the youngest daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, highlighted the ruling coalition's resolution in addressing the economic challenges on Thursday after the coalition confirmed her nomination. — Xinhua

First reported case of Mpox outside of Africa in Sweden, WHO declares a global emergency

MPOX, a virus that is closely related to chickenpox or smallpox, has been reported in Sweden as of Thursday. It is the first confirmed case of the virus outside of Africa. The report comes a day after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared mpox (or monkeypox) a global public health emergency for the second time in two years.

The new strain of mpox is believed to be wreaking havoc in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where more than 14,000 cases and more than

500 deaths have occurred. The disease, which has primarily affected children, has also been

detected in nearby countries that had not reported cases of mpox previously. — SPUTNIK



This photo taken on 31 January 2024 shows the headquarters of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PHOTO: MICHAEL TEWELDE/XINHUA

WARM SOUTHWEST AIR

Seoul breaks 118-year record with 26th 'tropical night'

SOUTH Korea broke a century-old weather record with the 26th so-called tropical night in a row – when the temperature stays above 25 degrees Celsius (77 Fahrenheit), according to official data released Friday.

"The cold air is not coming down from the north and as we are affected by the warmer side of the southwest, the temperature is continuously recording around 25 degrees Celsius or above," Youn Ki-han, director at Seoul's Meteorology Forecast Division, told AFP.

Much of the world is enduring a summer of extreme heat, with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warning last month of an "extreme heat epidemic", and calling for action to limit the impact of heatwaves intensified by climate change.

Overnight temperatures in the South Korean capital Seoul have sizzled above 25 degrees Celsius for 26 days in a row, officials said, marking the longest streak since modern weather observation began in 1907. — AFP