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Myanmar, China jointly prioritize restoration of regional peace, stability

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with the Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China at the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They frankly exchanged views on progress of friendly ties and cooperation between Myanmar and China, efforts of the State for restoration of internal peace and assistance of China, political progress of Myanmar and endeavours for ensuring peace and stability, and development of the country, emphasis being placed on peace and stability in border region and restoration of regional peace and stability, aid of China to Myanmar in loss and damage triggered by storm Mocha, preparations to accept the expatriates who left Rakhine State, and plans on cooperation between two countries in minimizing online gambling and cyber deception. — MNA/TTA

State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs Mr Deng Xijun share a friendly shakehand during the latter's courtesy call yesterday.

LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7



Ginger price dips as foreign demand falters

CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-10



Rice prices cross K100,000 per bag despite abundant domestic rice stocks



Myanmar has been exporting coffee beans through the Tachilek trade camp since the financial year 2014-2015. In the most recent financial year 2022-2023, the country generated \$0.220 million from the export of 161 tonnes. PHOTO: KANU

Myanmar's foreign income thrives on coffee beans, tobacco exports to Thailand

Myanmar's trade with Thailand has been bolstered by the export of coffee beans from hilly regions and tobacco from central zones, providing a significant source of foreign income, as reported by the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Taunggyi).

The majority of coffee beans come from picturesque townships such as PyinOoLwin, Ywangan, Kalaw, Kengtung, and Mongkoe, all located in Shan State. These beans find their way to Mae Sai in Thailand via

the Tachilek trade camp. The export process involves obtaining an export licence, employing QR codes, and adhering to the electronic data interchange (EDI) system.

Myanmar has been exporting coffee beans through the Tachilek trade camp since the financial year 2014-2015. In the most recent financial year 2022-2023, the country generated \$0.220 million from the export of 161 tonnes. The second week of July 2023-2024 witnessed

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NATIONAL



Union Minister U Than Swe receives Mr Deng Xijun, Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs yesterday.

Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs calls on MoFA Union Minister

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, yesterday in

Nay Pyi Taw. They cordially discussed matters pertaining to further consolidation of the existing Pauk-Phaw relations and co-operation, the maintenance of peace and stability along the

border between Myanmar and China, the latest developments on the peace and national reconciliation process of Myanmar, China's continuous constructive support towards Myanmar development endeavours. — MNA

Russian Supreme Court Chief Justice leaves for Russia

AFTER an official goodwill visit to Myanmar, Chief Justice Mr Vyacheslav Lebedev of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the delegation left for Russia via Yangon yesterday.

The chief justice and the delegation were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chief Justice Daw Sanda Thwe of the Yangon Region High Court and judges of the court. — MNA/TS



The Russian delegation is seen off at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

Registration open for Bodh Gaya pilgrimage service by travel companies for 2023-2024



The picture of a group of Myanmar pilgrims visiting Bodh Gaya

TRAVEL companies planning to offer the Bodh Gaya Pilgrimage Service must register during the 2023-2024 financial

year. Both existing and new companies need to apply for registration between 24 July and 25 August. The Bodh Gaya pilgrimage season runs from September to April each year, and approximately 100 companies currently operate Bodh Gaya pilgrimage services. After being temporarily suspended, airline companies have resumed charter flights since May of last year. The Bodh Gaya trip usually lasts from five to 15 days, with costs ranging from US\$600 to US\$850 per person. During the Thingyan (Myanmar New Year) period, the Bodh Gaya pilgrimage companies offer nine-day tours. — TWA/MKKS

Yangon circular rail section to get two new stations: Okkalapa and Thamine Myothit

AS part of the Yangon Circular Rail Upgrading Project, Yangon Region is set to witness the construction of two brand-new stations — Okkalapa Station and Thamine Myothit Station. The Yangon Station Chief Supretendent, U Thaung Htike, confirmed the news, stating that the construction of these stations will commence in the current financial year with the allocated budget. The Yangon Circular Rail Section is undergoing significant improvements, with seven stations — Aung-san, Kamayut, Okkyin, Phawkan, Thamine, Tamway, and Kyaukyaydwin set to undergo upgrades and renovations. The tender announcement for these upgrades has already been released.



Upgrading works are seen at the Yangon Circular Rail Section.

Upon completion of the renovation works, the circular railway is expected to be used for high-speed trains, providing improved transpor options for approximately 240,000 passengers on a daily basis.

The project's progress highlights the commitment to enhancing Yangon's railway infrastructure, promising a more efficient and convenient public transport system for residents and commuters. — ASH/KZL

14 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 July, total figure registers 641,039

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 641,039 after 14 new cases were reported on 28 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 11,015,128 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 641,039. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,803 including four new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 28-7-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

NATIONAL

Encouraging education for turning out qualified human resources

The government is responsible for the development of a region, and the socioeconomic life development of individuals is concerned with those persons only. Only when it encourages education will the human resources of the country improve. It is necessary to arrange systematic measures for private learning institutions.

(The excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with MSME businesspersons on 7 March 2023)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing joins religious activities in precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park

Ceremonies to unveil the bronze plaque of Agga-dipati Sasana Beikman, install Unnalon holy hair on faces of Buddha images and keep stone plaques in stone plaque chamber pagodas took place in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township separately in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

First, the Senior General pressed the button to unveil the bronze plaque of Aggadipati Sasana Beikman.

The Senior General placed the Unnalon holy hair on the face of the Naungdawgyi Buddha image and sprinkled scented water on it.

He also installed the Unnalon holy hair on the face of the Buddha image in the Mucalinda Nagayon Pagoda chamber and the Buddha image in the Maravijaya Chamber respectively.

The Senior General sprin-

kled scented water on the stone plaque on which Tri Pitaka treatises were carved in Pali and Romanized languages.

The consecration of the Maravijaya Buddha image, hoisting umbrellas atop the stone plaque chamber pagodas and merit-sharing ceremony will be held on a grand scale on the full moon of Second Waso 1385 ME (Dhammacakka Day), 1 August 2023.

The ceremony was also attended by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe and State dignitaries. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sprinkles scented water on the Naungdawgyi Buddha image in Maravijaya Buddha Park yesterday.



MoIC Union Minister receives Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Deng Xijun, Special Envoy of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially exchanged views on mat-

The Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing.

ters pertaining to further consolidation of the existing Pauk-Phaw friendship, accelerating the implementation of Myanmar-China bilateral projects on the basis of mutual benefit, closer coordination for the smooth flow of border trade, promotion of trade and commerce between Myanmar and China, the implementation of repatriation of verified displaced persons from Rakhine State as well as regional and international matters of mutual interest. — MNA

NATIONAL



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the second national-level monsoon tree-planting event at the surroundings of the Maravijaya Buddha image yesterday.



Forest plays key role in State development, food security of the people

The second national-level monsoon tree-growing ceremony for 2023 took place at the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha image which would be the world's tallest sitting marble image built in Dekkhinathiri Township of Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council

Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who planted a Linlun (*Buchanania latifolia*) sapling.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General noted that Maravijaya Buddha Image would be the world's tallest sitting marble Buddha image. At today's ceremony will arrange the cultivation of 2,181 plants from 17

species of trees including Linlun (*Buchanania latifolia*), Lumbini sal and Gangaw (*Mesua ferrea*) plants in the park where the Buddha Image honourable for Myanmar is located.

It is important to nurture and conserve the saplings for thriving. All need to grow trees and conserve forests for long-term existence. The Senior Gen-

eral stressed the need to strive for forming 30 per cent of the State area as forest reserves and protected public forests and 10 per cent of the areas as natural conservation areas under the long-term plans in 2030.

The role of the forest is of importance for the long-term development of the State and food security of the people with

healthiness and happiness. Today's tree-growing ceremony must be a sample for greening all parts of the nation including urban and rural areas and ensuring peace and tranquility of their environments and the whole planet Earth as part of performing meritorious deeds.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla planted a Linlun plant at the designated place.

The Senior General and his wife viewed the participation of attendees in growing the saplings. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar's foreign income ...

FROM PAGE-1

a shipment of 17 tonnes, earning \$0.042 million, with coffee beans being sold at a price range of 140-160 baht per kilogramme.

Tobacco produced in the Pakokku region is also a thriving export commodity. This new category of tobacco exports through the Tachilek trading camp began in the fiscal year 2022-2023. During the last financial year, 139.154 tonnes of tobacco exports brought in \$0.070 million. In June, exports of 32.873 tonnes generated \$0.017 million, while the third week of July in the current financial year 2023-2024 saw exports of 31.2 tonnes, resulting in \$0.015 million in revenue.

The central zones of Myanmar, encompassing regions like Magway, Mandalay, and Sagaing, where the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers meet, are ideally suited for the abundant commercial cultivation of tobacco due to the alluvial lands.

Annually, two types of tobacco are grown: Virginia tobacco and Myanmar tobacco, with the latter being the predominant choice for farmers.

A tobacco farmer from Myinwin Village in Pakokku Township disclosed that the production cost for one acre of tobacco is approximately K900,000, which includes expenses for land preparation, machinery, agrochemicals, cow manure, pesticides, and labour. Last year's prices fetched K1,650 per viss, but this year, selling at K2,000 per viss for an estimated yield of 7,000 visses per acre could result in an income of about K1.4 million, yielding a profit of K500,000. Cultivating on alluvial land could produce nearly 900 visses per acre, potentially increasing profitability. Presently, Myanmar boasts about 500 acres of tobacco cultivation. However, the demand fluctuation and riverbank collapses have caused a reduction of 300 acres of tobacco cultivation for this year. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Myanmar businesspersons invited to invest in new capital Nusantara

MYANMAR businesspersons are invited to put investments in Nusantara, the new capital of Indonesia, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration stated. Indonesia is officially planning to shift its capital from Jakarta to Nusantara in 2024. Indonesia offers investment opportunities for Myanmar businesspersons and investors to invest in the new capital. Those enthusiastic can contact directly the project manager by calling up +62 21 27099100, and mailing investasi@ikn.go.id and secretariat@ikn.go.id, the DICA notified on 26 July. About 50 foreign countries bring in capital into Myanmar's power, oil and gas, manufacturing, transport and communications, real estate, hotels and tourism, mining, livestock and fisheries, industrial estate, agriculture, construction and services sectors so far. The power sector tops the investment line-up, followed by the oil and gas sector and manufacturing sector. Singapore is the top source of foreign direct investment in Myanmar, followed by China and Hong Kong SAR. Indonesia which calls for Myanmar investors is ranked 21st on the list, as per the DICA's investment statistics of the existing enterprises. — NN/EM

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NATIONAL

MoEP Union Minister returns from 5th APRC Ministerial Meeting

UNION Electric Power Minister U Thaung Han led a Myanmar delegation that recently visited the Masdar City Project on 25 July in the UAE, where they witnessed installation 10 MW of ground-mounted solar and 1 MW of rooftop solar panels. Masdar City aims to promote a greener and more sustainable urban lifestyle, showcasing innovations in long-term sustainability and research development. The project's success led to it being chosen as the host for the upcoming Conference of Parties-28 (COP-28) in late 2023.

During the fifth meeting of the Asian and Pacific Committee at the ministerial level on 26 July, the delegation engaged in crucial discussions. Firstly, they

explored the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Programmes and the Green Grid Initiative (One Sun One World One Grid-GGI-OSOWOG), focusing on the development of a global green power grid and Myanmar's efforts in solar energy. They also discussed collaborating with neighbouring ASEAN and BIMSTEC member countries to establish cross-country power lines.

The second part of the meeting delved into Solar Storage, including Energy Storage System (ESS) needs and management until 2030, as research in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Long Duration Energy Storage for power distribution from renewable energy and the benefits of Pump Storage Hydropower were examined. Additionally, they discussed a roadmap to achieve the carbon emissions balance.



Union Minister U Thaung Han attends the fifth ministerial meeting of the Asian and Pacific Committee in Abu Dhabi on 26 July 2023.

The delegation also explored Solar Pumps ranging from 1 HP to 100 HP, which operate using solar energy. After a productive trip, the Union minister and the team returned to Myanmar, departing from Abu Dhabi on 27 July. — MNA/KZW

MoI UM attends forum to enhance Mekong-Lancang MSME digital skills



The second-day forum on boosting Mekong-Lancang MSME digital skills in progress yesterday.

THE second day of the forum to enhance the digital skills of Mekong-Lancang MSMEs was held yesterday morning at the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw.

The discussed issues on the first day of the forum were

reviewed yesterday before discussing technology requirements in the transition to a digital business system and steps that Mekong-Lancang nations should take to prepare for the transition to a digital business

system. Experts from Cambodia and Laos discussed lessons taken in the transition to a digital business system.

The groups then discussed the good practices of MSMEs in Mekong-Lancang nations in the transition to the digital business system and innovations, the most required digital skills for MSMEs and challenges, and drafting action plans for the transition to a digital business system. They also discussed the results.

The forum ended after Union Minister Dr Charlie Than made his closing remarks. — MNA/TH

MoSWRR UM receives UNOCHA interim official

UNION Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement received interim official Ms Danielle Parry of the United Nations Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs-UNOCHA and a delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides discussed mat-

ters of signing a new letter of agreement between the ministry and UNOCHA, the serving duty of the UNOCHA Head in Myanmar. They also exchanged views on the detailed plan for the distribution of relief materials to those affected by Mocha in Rakhine State and transport issues. — MNA/TS



Confiscation of illegal items: Agricultural products, foodstuffs and vehicles

A combined team under Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated 11 kinds of goods worth K21.462 million including 600 bottles of palm oil (Two shrimps) and 200 jerycans of Ruby Prawn without official documents from a Nissan Vanette and a Nissan light truck (approximately K16 million) at the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on 25 July. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

An on-duty team under the

supervision of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force intercepted 90 bags of rice and 100 bags of sesame worth K14.5 million without official export documents from an Isuzu truck (estimated value of K25 million) heading to Kyaukme from Mandalay at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint and eight kinds of goods worth K21,914,784 including 1,995 sets of Brand new motorcycle spare part cylinder block that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Volvo

tractor head and a trailer (approximately K62 million) traveling from Muse to Mandalay at 24/5 Milepost on Mandalay-Lashio Road on 25 July. The operation was conducted in adherence to Customs procedures.

The on-duty teams impounded 380 bags of black sesame worth K41.8 million without official documents from a Nissan diesel and a Nissan Ud (estimated value of K40 million) at the junction of Shwenyaung and Nyaungshwe and two kinds

of goods worth K3.75 million including 3,600 bottles of Sponsor energy drink from a Mitsubishi Fuso (estimated value of K45 million) near Kengphaung village in Kengtung township on 26 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty teams seized a Sunlomb bus (approximately K30 million), heading to Yangon from Myawady, carrying 6,300 bags of Wai Wai instant rice vermicelli worth K1.925 million without official documents at the

Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint and 22,708 kilogrammes of FRP walkway worth K22,991,850 that exceeded the 61 days of VPA and did not have Import Licence Approval from a container at the MITT Port on 26 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

As a result, a total of 19 arrests were made on 25 and 26 July, with an estimated value of K346,343,634, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

LANCANG-MEKONG COOPERATION TRAVEL



A visit to Mohan Railway Station, the start of the China-Laos Railway

By TWA

A group of journalists from Myanmar, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand visited the Mohan railway station connecting the metropolitan Kunming city, Yunnan Province in the south of the People's Republic of China to Vientiane, the capital city of Laos.

We arrived at Kunming South Railway Station at 6:30 pm China Standard Time on 17 June to leave for Mohan railway station. Kunming South Railway Station is 20 kilometres from the Yunnan Museum at the heart of Kunming City, 28 km from Kunming Railway Station, 48 km from Kunming Changshui International Airport and 80 km from the Stone Forest.

Kunming South Railway is the focal high-speed rail station, linking the Shanghai-Kunming line, Nanning-Kunming and Pan-Asian Railway network. It becomes a land-linked logistics hub under the One Belt and One Road strategy.

The station covers an area of 312,836 square metres. There is a tight security measures at stations like airports. Passports for foreigners and resident identity cards for citizens are mandatory to buy a train ticket.

We had to go the tube or take the escalator to reach the train platform. The station built on rugged terrain provides facilities and amenities including public transport connections such as other rails, buses, and taxis.

There are bridges and tunnels along the way to preserve the ecosystem. We passed Yunnan's Pu'er and Xishuangbanna en route to Mohan railway station from Kunming South Railway Station.

High-tech Mohan railway station is located in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture with a cross-border checkpoint.



The construction of the railway station began on 1 September 2015 and it was commissioned into service on 3 December 2021.

"This railway is a part of the passenger and freight rail corridor project linking

China, Laos and other Asian countries. The Kunming-Laos rail line is 1,035 km long, having 167 tunnels and 301 bridges," a railway officer told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The rail line traverses over the rugged mountain, with tunnels and bridges. Mohan railway station uses advanced technology for security checks, health surveys and arrival and departure records like the airport.

The electric locomotive from China's Kunming to Laos's Vientiane has coaches with 720 seats, with a designed speed of 160 km per hour and it takes about 10 and a half hours including boarding pass processing time.

China-Laos Railway handled 20,000 passenger trips as of 31 January 2023, transporting 10.3 million passengers.

The number of railway stations on the side of Laos increased to ten from seven. With railway facilities and amenities being upgraded, the number of passengers on China-Lao railway trips has grown. Consequently, the two countries expect to boost their tourism sector.

Mohan Rail serves three trains for cross-border passengers and eight coaches for domestic passengers.

A total of 417,400 passengers were transported between January and February this year, which indicates a tremendous growth rate of 256.2 per cent compared to the same period last year, a locomotive company stated.

Beyond the railway hub between the Southeast Asian nations and China (China-Laos railway project), China is implementing the Pan-Asia railway network covering Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Singapore.

Translated.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Green Gold co-operative ships over 40 tonnes of coffee beans to Belgium in third batch

THE Green Gold co-operative exported more than 40 tonnes of coffee beans to Belgium in the third batch.

The co-operative comprising member growers from Loilem and Hopong townships in southern Shan State conveyed 40.2 tonnes of coffee beans (60 kilogrammes per bag) to Belgium for the third time.

The Green Gold co-operative has shipped a total of 120.6 tonnes of coffee to foreign trade partners.

Myanmar's coffee is sent to the US, England, European countries and Asian countries. Myanmar delivers it to the US, Canada, EU, Japan and the Republic of Korea through maritime trade, while it is exported to neighbouring China and Thailand via the border.

Commercially valued coffee beans are mostly produced by Shan State. The coffee beans from PyinOoLwin, Ywangan, Kengtung and Kalaw areas are conveyed to Thailand via the Tachilek border after obtaining an export licence, QR code (transport permit), Export Declaration, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Myanmar has started to export coffee beans to Thailand via Tachilek from the 2014-2015 financial year. About 161 tonnes worth US\$0.22 million were delivered in the 2022-2023 FY.

Myanmar shipped 17 tonnes of coffee worth \$0.042 million in the second week of July in the 2023-2024 FY. The coffee bean fetches 140-160 Thai baht per kg.

The Thailand market accounts for 75 per cent of Myanmar's coffee production, earning K15-17 million per tonne.

Myanmar's coffee plantations are found in Mandalay Region, Shan State and Kayin State. It is harvested between December and March and exported to external markets during the April-May period.



Myanmar's coffee plantations are found in Mandalay Region, Shan State and Kayin State. It is harvested between December and March and exported to external markets during the April-May period. The picture shows Myanmar's coffee beans.

Myanmar's coffee production, earning K15-17 million per tonne. Myanmar's coffee plantations are found in Mandalay Region, Shan State and Kayin State. It is harvested between December and March and exported to external markets during the April-May period. There are over 50,000 acres of coffee plantations across the country. — NN/EM

Ginger price dips as foreign demand falters



The photo shows Myanmar's ginger. The ginger produced in September and October is of good quality and good appearance, therefore, it meets export standards.

THE price of ginger has slumped in the domestic market owing to weak foreign demand.

Myanmar exports ginger to Bangladesh, Thailand, China, India, Yemen, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore and the UAE. The ginger price declined as the demand from the main buyer Bangladesh tumbled.

The price jumped to K7,500 per viss in June 2023. The price plummeted to K4,200 per viss on 27 July, as per Mawlamyine commodity centre.

Bangladesh still relies on imports of ginger and onion as its output cannot meet the growing demand in the domestic market. The ginger produced by Bangladesh and Myanmar have a similar appearance so the price is not that different.

Bangladesh primarily imports Myanmar's ginger on account of smooth import and fair price.

Myanmar sent over

1,000 tonnes of fresh ginger worth US\$0.279 million to the neighbouring country Bangladesh through Maungtaw in June 2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

There are over 15,000 acres of ginger cultivation in Myanmar. Shan State is the main producer of ginger with over 12,000 acres, followed by Chin State (over 2,400 acres), according to the statistics provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

A training course to produce quality ginger organized by the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVPE) and a group of ginger producers in Shan State was conducted in early July this year.

Myanmar's ginger is harvested in June-July and September-October periods. The ginger produced in September and October is of good quality and good appearance, therefore, it meets export standards. — NN/EM

YGEA calls for gold shops to set fair-making charges on jewellery

YANGON Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) requested gold shops on 28 July to set fair-making charges on gold and jewellery products.

The making charges vary depending on the design and arts.

The YGEA asked the gold shops to set fair-making charges and not to add extra charges in order to stabilize the gold price.

The CBM announced on 23 July that it will issue the new K20,000 notes from 31 July 2023. Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association asked on 24 July the traders not to stimulate commodity price volatility with malicious rumours and requested the members and gold shop owners to cooperate in price stability.

In a bid to halt gold market manipulation arising from the issuance of the new K20,000 notes by the Central Bank of Myanmar, Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) temporarily stopped gold trading, said an official.

However, the prices of gold and dollar exchange rate are gaining, amid the issuance of the new currency notes. Pure gold was priced at K3.58 million per tical on 24 July, while a US dollar is exchanged at K3,420.

Spot gold price and US dollar exchange rate weighed on domestic gold prices. The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 pushed the gold price up to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

To lower the gold price, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim at reducing gold price, the YGEA and MGEA sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM

OPINION

Rehabilitate livelihoods and living standards after natural disasters

REHABILITATING communities devastated by natural disasters is crucial for improving the living standards of those who have suffered the most. To achieve this, identifying suitable livelihood options for each region and creating comprehensive plans for their reestablishment are imperative.

Guidelines should be provided to residents based on the likelihood of specific natural disasters occurring in their areas and the prevailing seasons. Technical assistance and training courses must be made available to help individuals operate suitable livelihoods, allowing them to choose options that best match their circumstances. For example, cultivating quality paddy strains should be done in wetlands or raising ducks instead of chickens in flood-prone regions.

To support agriculture and livestock farming tasks, and other

Maintaining records of natural disasters is crucial for devising effective disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation plans for affected victims. Systematic arrangements and implementation of rehabilitation initiatives will significantly contribute to improving the living standards of those impacted by disasters, ultimately allowing them to lead better lives.

suitable livelihoods, access to capital and technical assistance should be arranged by relevant authorities. It is essential to differentiate between initial and long-term rehabilitation efforts, considering the varying needs of disaster-affected populations.

Collaboration between relevant ministries, regional and state administration councils, expert teams, United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and businesses is crucial for effective rehabilitation in agriculture, livestock, education, health, and social sectors. Especially, as natural disasters may fall in monsoon and summer, it is necessary to take special care of the people who suffer the bitter impacts of disasters. Food, clothing and shelter as well as healthcare services are of great importance in the daily lifestyle of the people. As such, authorities need to arrange plans to provide healthcare services to disaster-affected victims with greater effort.

Addressing the emotional toll on families torn apart by natural disasters is equally important. Authorities must prioritize reuniting families and providing mental health support to those affected, enabling them to reintegrate into society. Furthermore, creating employment opportunities that contribute to the sustainable development of disaster-affected regions is essential, with a focus on providing assistance to those seeking jobs.

To ensure long-term success, the government should integrate disaster risk reduction measures with rehabilitation and development plans. Emphasizing the incorporation of resilient human resources and infrastructures into development initiatives will help mitigate the impact of future disasters and minimize loss and damage in addition to casualties of the affected.

Maintaining records of natural disasters is crucial for devising effective disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation plans for affected victims. Systematic arrangements and implementation of rehabilitation initiatives will significantly contribute to improving the living standards of those impacted by disasters, ultimately allowing them to lead better lives.

IN OUR quest for good health and weight management, it's no surprise that the combination of diet and exercise plays a crucial role. As we delve into the fascinating world of nutrition and physical activity, we discover how different diets and fasting regimens impact our bodies.

In our never-ending pursuit of a healthier and fitter life, the age-old question persists: what's the key to success – diet or exercise? Join us on a captivating journey as we delve into the secrets of intermittent fasting, the power of the keto diet, and the magic of balancing it all!

While exercise is vital, nutrition proves to be the real game-changer for weight regulation. While running a mile burns 100 calories, consuming a mere 100-calorie snack neutralizes the effort. Nutrition can significantly impact our weight and health, offering better control over our bodies. But fear or not, physical activity remains a crucial piece of the puzzle, contributing to overall well-being.

Our modern lifestyle and food choices have shifted drastically from the ancestral feast-and-famine patterns. With increased efficiency in food production, we face new health challenges related to reduced physical activity and a diet rich in processed carbohydrates. Hypokinetic diseases, stemming from inactivity, pose a significant threat to our muscles and overall body health.

Cracking the Code to Health: The Fascinating World of Fasting, Ketosis, and the Perfect Diet!

By Dots

Unlock the incredible power of “good food as good medicine” becomes evident when we explore the role of a protein called mTOR (mammalian Target Of Rapamycin), critical for muscle and immune system function. Chronic overconsumption of processed foods leads to heightened mTOR activity, causing insulin resistance and chronic inflammation. Diets like low protein, low carbohydrate, and time-restricted feeding effectively target mTOR, offering potential benefits for longevity and health by allowing the body to respond efficiently to stressors.

Delve into the allure of the balanced diet and how coupling it with strategic caloric restrictions or time-restricted feeding (intermittent fasting) can revitalize our body. These strategies help reset the body's baseline and improve overall health but can be challenging to sustain for some individuals. But that's not all – we'll take a daring leap into the exciting world of ketosis! Enter the realm of the keto

diet, where fats and proteins reign supreme, and carbs take a back seat. It offers unique advantages through ketosis. Discover the mind-blowing benefits observed in studies with mice, ranging from enhanced muscle strength, endurance, improved brain function, and increased lifespan on a ketogenic diet compared to a low-carb diet. However, it is essential to consider the risks, such as weaker bones and potential cholesterol increases.

But wait, there's a twist! We'll also uncover the wonders of intermittent fasting (the reset button) also exhibits remarkable health benefits, allowing the body to reset various processes, including mTOR activity. Towards the end of a fast, the body produces ketones, similar to a keto diet. Yet, the full benefits of a keto diet are not replicated with intermittent fasting alone.

The future of dieting holds exciting possibilities. Researchers aim to combine the best of both worlds – a mixed diet with cognitive and muscular benefits similar to the keto diet. The



During ketosis, the body shifts its primary energy source from glucose (derived from carbohydrates) to ketones (produced from fat breakdown). This can lead to weight loss as the body burns stored fat for energy.

challenge lies in discovering whether supplements like keto esters or keto salt drinks can offer the advantages of ketosis without associated drawbacks and whether they can be effective in improving muscle and brain function.

In our relentless pursuit of

good health, a balanced diet and regular exercise remain essential for our physical health and mental well-being. Exploring intermittent fasting and the benefits of ketosis can open new avenues for healthier living. Through a thorough comprehension of the diverse effects

of distinct diets, fasting regimens, and exercise approaches on our bodies, we can empower ourselves to make informed decisions, unveiling the hidden secrets to a healthier and more dynamic life.



The CSUN Assistive Technology Conference, where the “AI Suitcase” was introduced, is held in Anaheim, California, in March 2023. (L); Chieko Asakawa, inventor of the “AI Suitcase,” is pictured in Anaheim, California, in March 2023. (R). PHOTO: KYODO

Japanese AI travel bag for visually impaired sparks global interest

The primary purpose of the AI Suitcase is to provide guidance and support to visually impaired individuals while they move through various environments, such as airports, train stations, or public spaces.

JAPANESE researchers and companies have joined forces to develop an innovative guidance robot called the “AI Suitcase” to help visually impaired travellers navigate their surroundings with ease.

The groundbreaking assistive technology recently underwent its first overseas public trial, garnering significant interest and

sparking discussions about its future practical applications.

During the event in March at a hotel in Anaheim, California, the device's English voice from a smartphone declared, “System starts. Set destination.”

Trial participant Hector Elias, a blind employee of a major US financial institution, then grasped the handle of the small

four-wheeled suitcase that would serve as his guide as he set off from a room on a guest floor of the hotel.

For the test, the development team set the destination as a guest room a few dozen meters away. By the time the suitcase becomes commercially available, they hope users will be able to operate it from their own smart-

phone apps.

To make a right turn down a corridor, a button on the right of the handle vibrated to alert Elias to change directions, and when a cleaner appeared ahead, the system sensed a presence and paused. Elias seemed happy with how the test went, saying, “Next time I want to try it at Disneyland near here.”

The artificial intelligence suitcase was conceived by Chieko Asakawa, a top engineer at IBM Corp. and the current director of the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, or Miraikan, in Tokyo. Four companies, including Kyoto-based Omron Corp., are collaborating on development.

SOURCE: Kyodo



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 28 July 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29 July 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway Region, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Southern Shan, Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Northern Shan, Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (8-11) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 July 2023: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 July 2023: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Condition of El Nino in August 2023

Issued at 28-7-2023

- (a) The sea surface temperature (SST) over the tropical pacific ocean near the equator and atmosphere phenomena is weak condition. According to the numerical weather prediction models of the international meteorological agency, it is forecast to reach moderate El Nino condition in August.
- (b) Although the El Nino condition occurs in the pacific ocean, the effect of El Nino may cause generally irregular rainfall patterns, rising temperature and irregular storm formation.
- (c) El Nino condition will be updated in time.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

YRG permits city taxis to use red light signal in emergency

THE Yangon Region Government Office has approved a permission to use the red light system for city taxis if they encounter any danger.

The Yangon City Taxi Association (YCTA) submitted a report to the relevant regional government that a red flashing light on the roof of the vehicle should be used to alert the environment when taxi drivers encounter any danger.

Taxi drivers encounter danger frequently, in addition to being robbed of money and mobile phones. Thus, the permission was granted to allow a red flashing light to be installed on the roof of the car as a request for help from the surrounding area in case of danger. According to the statistics for January 2023, there were 65,663 city taxis in Yangon Region. — TWA/CT

Rice prices cross K100,000 per bag despite abundant domestic rice stocks

AGRICULTURE in Myanmar is an important sector that produces rice for daily consumption. There is no win-win situation for the people related to rice and the consumers in the years 2022 and 2023.

Rice, like other commodities, has risen in price for two consecutive years, making most of those associated with the rice industry more profitable than in typical years. Consumers are switching to cheaper types of rice due to its high price.

The announcement was made in July 2023 that the domestic rice balance was 3.799 million tonnes according to the balance of rice exported by regions and states.

According to relevant statistical information, the amount of rice exported at the beginning of the 2023–2024 financial year, when prices are



Rice is organized for sale in the market.

high in the domestic rice market, has decreased compared to the same period last year.

Although the export of rice dropped in the first three months of this financial year, the tonnage of exported rice may increase after the new monsoon rice season in September. The remaining four million tonnes of domestic rice are more than enough for export and domestic consumption in September.

Especially a bag of the Pawsan rice variety, whose price is rising around K100,000, usually stays on the market for roughly four to five months after the new Pawsan rice variety emerges.

New low-grade summer rice from Upper Myanmar is entering the market, and new monsoon rice may start entering the market in September. The amount

of rice stock is also about four million tonnes. Therefore, it can be said that the rise in the price of rice does not mean that there is not enough rice.

A rice market analyst said that the high price of rice is the result of the high demand produced by the anxiety of some consumers, while some rice hoarders raised the price for their benefit. — TWA/CT

Myanmar Embassy in Seoul raises passport fine to US\$105

EFFECTIVE 24 July, the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, has announced a significant increase in the fine for lost or damaged Myanmar passports, raising it from US\$75 to US\$105.

Previously, when applying for a new passport book, individuals had to pay a fine of US\$75 and 48,000 Won for the passport book before a new one was issued.

However, with the new changes, the fine will now be US\$105, along with the same 48,000 Won fee for the passport book. An official from the Myanmar Embassy stated that Myanmar nationals seeking to renew their passports can contact the embassy's phone number at 02 7903 814 to schedule appointments. They must then visit the embassy between 9 am and 12:30 pm on their assigned dates to complete the necessary passport procedures. — TWA/MKKS



The front view of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul, S Korea.



The photo shows 15 Indian nationals being duped by fake job offers from crime syndicates in Myanmar.

15 Indian nationals duped by fake job offers in Myanmar rescued

A total of 15 Indian nationals duped by fake job offers from crime syndicates in Myanmar were repatriated, according to the India Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar.

The Embassy to Myanmar stated that these Indian nationals who were victims of job offers from transnational crime syndicates in Myanmar have left Yangon for Delhi by flight and they have to go to their respective native places in India.

A total of 379 Indian nationals have been rescued and another nine Indian nationals in February and eight in March have been repatriated, the Indian Embassy to Myanmar stated. — TWA/MKKS

288 Myanmar citizens return from Thailand via Myawady-Mae Sot Bridge II

A total of 288 Myanmar migrant workers who wish to return home for various reasons arrived on 26 July via the Myawady-Mae Sot Bridge II.

There were including 218 men and 70 women and were welcomed by relevant officials. It is reported that the data was collected on whether they are Myanmar citizens.

Out of them, those from the Bago region, Mon state and Taninthayi region will stay at the Sae-myonae quarantine centre in Mawlamyine of Mon state and those from other regions and states will be monitored at the Shwe Myawady quarantine centre in Myawady of Kayin state for 10 days. — TWA/MKKS



Officials conduct necessary checks on the re-entry of Myanmar citizens.

Glitzy Dubai hungry for culinary fame



Last year, 11 Dubai restaurants were awarded the Middle East's first Michelin stars, with more joining the prestigious club this year.
PHOTO: AFP

FRENCH chef Renaud Dutel never thought his career would take him to the United Arab Emirates' glam hub of Dubai, but has found there a culinary capital in the making.

Five years since he was offered a spot at a fancy restaurant in the Gulf financial and tourism hub — better known for its skyscrapers than its food scene — Dutel is delighted to have “taken the risk”.

“I believe Dubai is at the beginning,” he told AFP as lobster cuts were sizzling on a skillet beside him at STAY, a Michelin-starred restaurant specialized in French cuisine on the city's signature Palm Jumeirah man-

made island.
“But (Dubai) is on the way to becoming one of the best destinations in the world to come to dine.”

Boasting about 13,000 restaurants and cafes, some of the city's eateries are already making global waves.

Last year, 11 Dubai restaurants were awarded the Middle East's first Michelin stars, with more joining the prestigious club this year.

'100 percent Dubai'

The UAE, a five-decade federation of seven emirates along the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula, lacks the rich culinary

heritage of other Arab states.
The meat-heavy Emirati cuisine is strongly influenced by historic trade ties with present-day Iran and India.

But it did not see the “gastromization” that culinary traditions in much of the West did, according to Loic Bienassis of the European Institute for the History and Culture of Food.

Still, it “can be done”, he told AFP. “And political will can play a role”. Instead, with expats largely outnumbering the local Emirati population, the city's rich cultural mix has yielded a unique culinary identity.

Moonrise, a rooftop restaurant which offers a Middle Eastern-Japanese fusion and only seats 12 people at a time, is a prime example.

Solemann Haddad, Moonrise's head chef and co-owner, described the food as one-third European, one-third Japanese and one-third Arabic, “but it's 100 per cent Dubai”.

Haddad, born in the city to French and Syrian parents, won a coveted Michelin star last year at the ripe age of 27.

His dishes reflect the cosmopolitan spirit of Dubai, he told AFP, combining elements such as date syrup with a chutney of saffron and pineapple. — AFP

Norwegian woman, Nepali guide set record for summit of 14 'super peaks'

A Norwegian woman and her Nepali guide set the record Thursday for the fastest summit of all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre (26,000-foot) mountains, their team said in a statement.

Kristin Harila and Tenjin Sherpa completed the feat in three months and one day after summiting Pakistan's K2, the last peak on their quest.

The record reflects “their unwavering determination,

teamwork, and sheer tenacity throughout this monumental endeavour”, the team statement said.

“Harila and Lama's collaboration has showcased the essence of mountaineering unity, transcending borders and cultures to achieve greatness together.” The pair surpassed Nepal-born British adventurer Nirmal Purja's record of six months and six days, set in 2019. — AFP



In this handout picture taken on 26 April 2023 by courtesy of Field Productions shows Norwegian climber Kristin Harila with her country flag at Shishapangma, 14th-highest mountain in the world, located in China. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / AFP**

Twitter to be renamed X, get new logo

TWITTER launched its new logo on Monday, replacing the blue bird with a white X on a black background.

Twitter revealed plans to abandon Twitter's iconic bird logo and undergo a complete rebranding process, adopting the new name “X”. Moreover, the company is set to venture into diverse sectors, including payments, banking, and commerce, aiming to rapidly expand its business horizons.

Founded in 2006, Twitter takes its name from the sound of birds chattering, and it has used avian branding since its early days, when the company bought a stock symbol of a light blue bird for \$15, according to the design website Creative Bloq.

Tweeting a picture of the company's new logo — a white X on a black background — late

Sunday night, Twitter chief executive Linda Yaccarino said, “X is here! Let's do this.”

Also late Sunday night, Musk changed his profile picture to the company's new logo, which he described as “minimal-

ist art deco”, and changed his Twitter bio to “X.com”, which now redirects to twitter.com.

Musk had earlier tweeted that “If a good enough X logo is posted tonight, we'll make (it) go live worldwide tomorrow.” — AFP



Twitter revealed plans to abandon Twitter's iconic bird logo and undergo a complete rebranding process, adopting the new name “X”.
PHOTO: TWITTER

Irish singer Sinead O'Connor dies aged 56

IRISH pop singer Sinead O'Connor, who converted to Islam and changed her name to Shuhada' Sadaqat in 2018, has died at the age of 56, Irish media reported on Wednesday.

Her family said it was with “great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Sinead. Her family and friends are devastated and have requested privacy at this very difficult time,” Irish national broadcaster RTE reported.

Born in County Dublin, O'Connor made 10 albums in her career from “I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got” to 2014's “I'm not Bossy, I'm the Boss,”

and was best known for her cover of Prince's “Nothing Compares 2 U,” released in 1990.

Ireland's President Michael Higgins said Ireland had lost “one of our greatest and most gifted composers, songwriters and performers of recent decades”.

He praised O'Connor's “fearless commitment to the important issues which she brought to public attention, no matter how uncomfortable those truths may have been”.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said O'Connor's “music was loved around the world and her talent was unmatched and beyond compare”. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Spanish unemployment rate falls to lowest level since 2008



Spain is a popular tourist destination known for its rich history, diverse culture, stunning landscapes, vibrant cities, and beautiful beaches. In this file photo taken on 15 July 2018 people wait to enter the basilica at the Valley of the Fallen in San Lorenzo del Escorial near Madrid. Francisco Franco is buried in the imposing basilica carved into a mountain-face. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPAIN'S unemployment rate fell in the second quarter of 2023 to its lowest level since 2008, official data showed Thursday, as the country's buoyant tourism sector boosted the labour market.

The jobless rate dipped to 11.6 per cent in the period from April to June from 13.3 per cent in the previous three-month period, national statistics institute INE said.

The unemployment rate had not been that low in Spain since the third quarter of 2008, when it was 11.2 per cent. The number of unemployed people dropped by 365,000 in the second quarter to a total of 2.76 million, with most jobs added in the services sector.

Spain is the world's second-most visited country after

France and unemployment typically falls in the summer months in the country as the tourists season picks up and hotels, bars and restaurants boost staff.

"These are extraordinary figures that demonstrate the strength of our economy," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Twitter, which is being rebranded as "X". Spain's economy has outperformed most of its European Union peers. It grew by 5.5 per cent last year and the government expects it will expand by 2.1 per cent in 2023.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday raised its growth forecast for Spain this year to 2.5 per cent from 1.5 citing the strong performance of the tourism sector. — AFP

Nigeria's end to petrol subsidies hits Niger black market

ON the road linking Niger's capital Niamey with the south of the country, illegal fuel warehouses have closed and intrepid black-market touts waving petrol canisters at passing cars have become an endangered species.

The reason?

Neighbouring Nigeria has scrapped its subsidies for petrol — a move that tripled domestic prices and ended the fat profits that smugglers could make by sneaking fuel into Niger.

In Niamey's suburbs, residents no longer witness the spectacular chases between customs officers and gasoline vendors.

Gone too are the streams of cars and motorcycles which under the noses of customs officers shuttled across the border, laden with loads of jerrycans.

The rampant trafficking

"has stopped", said Adamou Gueraou, mayor of Dan-Issa, the smugglers' gateway to southern Niger.

Before Nigeria ended its

subsidies, petrol exchanged hands on Niger's black market for between 250-275 CFA francs (42-46 US cents) a litre, or \$1.61-1.76 per US gallon.



The once endless shuttling of cars and motorcycles loaded with jerrycans of petrol across the Nigeria border into Niger 'has stopped', a local mayor says. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Today, the price varies between 550-700 CFA francs, which is more expensive than at regular petrol stations.

Since 2011, Niger has been producing 20,000 barrels of refined petrol and diesel per day, while the scourge of smuggling has cost it billions of CFA francs (millions of dollars) in lost revenue, according to the authorities.

The current shortage on the black market is causing a rush to the few filling stations, especially in areas close to Nigeria which used to rely heavily on smuggled petrol.

Jihadist groups to take a hit

"The petrol has stopped flowing, we're screwed!" complained Dari Amadou, one of many contraband hawkers striving to make a living on the back streets of Niamey. — Kyodo

BOJ to scrutinize inflation trends amid policy tweak speculation

THE dovish Bank of Japan faces a tough two-day policy-setting meeting from Thursday due to potentially changing inflation dynamics, with edgy financial markets seesawing over whether its controversial yield cap programme will be modified.

The BOJ is widely expected to revise upward its earlier inflation forecast for the current fiscal year to next March, given more evidence that price hikes, initially prompted by surging fuel and raw material costs, have been broadening in a notable change for the once deflation-mired nation. — Kyodo

US economy grows 2.4% in 2nd quarter as spending remains strong

THE US economy grew an annualized 2.4 per cent in real terms from April through June, registering the fourth straight quarter of expansion, as companies and consumers kept spending despite high inflation, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

The initial estimate of gross domestic product for the second

quarter grew far more than the market forecast of 1.8 per cent, with the rate upping from 2.0 per cent in the first three months of this year.

In the April-June period, the department said private consumption, which accounts for two-thirds of the economy, underpinned by wage gains, rose 1.6

percent. It compares with 4.2 per cent growth in the first quarter, but increases in nearly all other types of spending, particularly private inventory investment and nonresidential fixed investment, contributed to the acceleration, offsetting decreases in exports and housing investment, according to the department. — Kyodo



People walk past an Amazon Fresh store in Washington, DC, on 26 August 2021. **PHOTO: NICHOLAS KAMM /AFP**

EU opens antitrust probe into Microsoft over Teams

THE European Commission on Thursday announced an antitrust probe into Microsoft bundling its Teams communications app with its popular Office suite, on concerns the firm could be cutting out competitors.

The investigation, to see whether the US software giant is “abusing and defending its market position” through the practice, comes as computer users have widely adopted online meetings

since the coronavirus pandemic. “Remote communication and collaboration tools like Teams have become indispensable for many businesses in Europe,” said the commission’s antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager.

“We must therefore ensure that the markets for these products remain competitive, and companies are free to choose the products that best meet their needs,” she said.— AFP



Should the outcome of the EU investigation go against Microsoft, the firm could face a heavy fine or other ordered remedies. PHOTO: AFP

Ethiopian Airlines facing ‘real challenges’ despite Covid success

ETHIOPIAN Airlines successfully weathered the Covid pandemic by shifting its strategy, but Africa’s only profitable carrier still faces “real challenges” in sourcing parts and staying competitive at a time of inflation, its CEO told AFP.

The 2022-2023 financial year ending 30 June “was a very successful

year,” Mesfin Tasew said in an interview in Ethiopia’s capital Addis Ababa.

“We carried 13.7 million passengers, which is a 57-per-cent growth compared to the previous year and 10 per cent higher than pre-Covid. We also carried 740,000 tonnes of cargo, which is nearly double pre-Covid,” he said. — AFP



Ethiopian Airlines switched many of its passenger planes to transport cargo during the Covid pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

Toyota to be world’s top auto seller in Jan-June for 4th yr in row

TOYOTA Motor Corp. group is set to be the world’s top auto seller in the first half of 2023, outpacing Germany’s Volkswagen AG and other rivals in the January-June period for the fourth straight year, industry data showed Friday.

Toyota said it sold 5.42 million vehicles globally in the six months ended June, including those sold by the group’s minivEHICLE maker Daihatsu Motor Co and truck manufacturer Hino Motors Ltd., up 5.5 per cent from a year earlier.



Photo taken 13 January 2022 shows a fuel cell bus introduced by Toyota Motor group companies for commuting in Kariya in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

The Japanese car-maker said the solid sales came as it ramped up production capacity across the globe to keep up with rising demand amid an

easing chip shortage.

Volkswagen sold 4.37 million vehicles in the same period, up 12.8 per cent. The Toyota group’s global output increased 10.3 percent to a record 5.63 million units. Its production outside Japan also hit an all-time high of 3.53 million vehicles, up 4.9 per cent. Domestic sales at the group rose 26.9 percent to 1.21 million vehicles in the period, thanks to the ongoing recovery from the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic and a parts shortage. — Kyodo

L’Oreal boosts sales despite Asia disappointment

FRENCH beauty products giant L’Oreal said Thursday it managed double-digit revenue growth in the first half of the year although sales stagnated in Asia.

Overall, sales at the

company that owns the Maybelline New York and Garnier brands climbed by 12 per cent to 20.57 billion euros (\$22.6 billion), rising by both volume and value.

Meanwhile, net profit rose by four percent to 3.35 billion euros.

“Given the context, we’re very happy” with our performance, chief executive Nicolas Hieronimus told AFP. “The global

beauty market grew by 10 per cent, we’re above the market,” he added. Sales grew strongly in all regions except north Asia, where they only edged up by 0.6 per cent. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DONG THINH VOY.NO. (2308)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DONG THINH VOY.NO. (2308)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPLT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S’PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (278N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (278N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-7-2023** 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

Notice for change of manufacturer

Notice is hereby given that the official manufacturer—Arysta LifeScience North America, LLC (USA). To UPL Vietnam Co.,Ltd. has been changed for the following pesticide distributed by Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd.

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

No.	Brand Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Evito – T 480 SC	Fluoxastrobin 200.2 g/L + Tebuconazole 277.4 g/L SC	P 2018 - 2792

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd.
Suite #09–02, Crystal Tower, Kyun Taw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon.
01–933 93 59, 933 93 60

Ads

TradeMark

Call

09251022355

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

G20 environment ministers race to reach climate consensus

ENVIRONMENT ministers from G20 nations meeting in India on Friday raced against time to reach a last-minute consensus on the most contentious issues to redress the global climate crisis.

No major breakthrough is expected with delegates from the Group of 20 major economies stuck on climate change adaptation finance, mitigation and peaking emissions by 2025 in hectic negotiations.

The Chennai meeting comes days after the bloc was criticised for failing to agree on a roadmap to cut fossil fuels from the global energy mix.

All present at Friday’s conference understood “the severity of the crisis” facing the world, Adnan Amin, chief executive of this year’s COP28 climate talks, told AFP.

“But I think there’s a kind of political understanding that still needs to be achieved,” he added on the sidelines of the meeting.

Any agreements reached in Chennai will be signed by the leaders of G20 nations — constituting more than 80 per cent of global GDP and CO2 emissions — at a summit in New Delhi this September.

The lack of accord on fossil fuel cuts last week was seen as a blow to mitigation efforts even as climate experts blame record global temperatures for triggering floods, storms and heatwaves.

Some major oil producers — such as Russia and Saudi Arabia — were blamed for the lack of progress. — AFP



Environment ministers from G20 nations meeting in India on Friday raced against time to reach a last-minute consensus on the most contentious issues to redress the global climate crisis. **PHOTO: AFP**

Battle against Greece wildfires ‘improving’: fire service



Hundreds of firefighters are battling flames in Greece as a heatwave bakes large parts of the Mediterranean. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE fight against deadly wildfires raging in Greece for more than a week is improving, the fire service said on Friday, warning it remained on alert as fierce winds were forecast that could rekindle blazes.

Hundreds of firefighters are battling flames on the islands of Rhodes, Corfu and Evia as well as a new front that broke out in central Greece as a heatwave has baked large parts of the Mediterranean. Fires have also flared in Croatia, Italy and Portugal this week, and flames killed 34 in Al-

geria in extreme heat that has left landscapes tinder dry.

“For now we have no spreading fires, the situation is improving, but we remain on a war footing to contain the ongoing fires,” a Greek fire service spokeswoman told AFP. More than 130 people were evacuated by boat from a town in central Greece on Thursday after fires caused an explosion in an ammunition warehouse. Local media said the blaze had been contained and that residents of the town of Nea Anchialos had begun returning home, with the force of the explosion shattering windows.

Tens of thousands of residents and tourists at the height of the busy travel season have been evacuated, including the popular holiday destination Rhodes, where officials declared a state of emergency this week. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Viet Nam jails officials over rescue flight bribes during COVID-19 pandemic

A Vietnamese court on Friday gave lengthy sentences to high-ranking officials and businesspeople facing bribery and corruption charges over repatriation flights during the Covid-19 pandemic. The more than two-week trial in Hanoi was part of a major anti-graft drive that led to former president Nguyen Xuan Phuc’s sudden resignation earlier this year – an unprecedented move in a country where political changes are normally carefully orchestrated. A total of 54 officials and businesspeople were found guilty of receiving, offering or being the go-between for bribes, carrying out fraud and abusing positions of power, judges said in a verdict Friday. — AFP

Blinken, Austin visit Australia on last leg of Pacific blitz

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin met Australia’s prime minister Friday on the final leg of a Pacific tour designed to reinforce Washington’s standing in the region.

The United States has been ramping up efforts to re-engage in the South Pacific, where China has emerged as a rising diplomatic and military power. Blinken’s trip to Brisbane caps a diplomatic blitz in which he has also visited Tonga and New Zealand, while US Secretary of Defense Austin arrived from Papua New Guinea. — AFP

Singapore races to save ‘Garbage of Eden’

VISITORS to the island hosting Singapore’s only landfill might expect foul odours and swarms of flies, but instead they are greeted with stunning views of blue waters, lush greenery and wildlife.

Welcome to Pulau Semakau, the land-scarce city’s eco-friendly trash island, where ash from the incinerated garbage of its nearly six million people is dumped.

With just over a decade to go until the site is projected to be filled, the government is in a race against time to extend the lifespan of the island landfill, so serene it has earned the moniker “Garbage of Eden”.

“This is the only landfill in Singapore, and due to the small area and the competing land needs, it is difficult to find another location,” Desmond Lee, the landfill manager at the National Environment Agency (NEA),

which oversees the island, tells AFP.

“It is imperative that we continue to use the Semakau landfill for as long as possible, and if possible extend its life beyond 2035,” he says.

Massive waste

Singapore generated 7.4 million tonnes of waste last year, of which about 4.2 million tonnes, or 57 percent, was recycled. — AFP



“It is imperative that we continue to use the Semakau landfill for as long as possible, and if possible extend its life beyond 2035,” the landfill’s manager told AFP. **PHOTO: AFP**

N Korea’s Kim attends military parade featuring new drones

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un attended a military parade Thursday night in Pyongyang featuring a display of the country’s latest drone technology, with Russian and Chinese delegations attending the event held to mark the 70th anniversary of the Korean War armistice, state-run media said.

Kim did not make a speech at the parade, which included flyovers of the new spy and attack drones and displays of Hwasong-17 and Hwasong-18 intercontinental ballistic missiles, the official Korean Central News Agency said Friday.

North Korean Defense Minister Kang Sun Nam criticized recent military activities by the United States and South Korea and pledged in his speech at the event that the country’s forces will “never



(Front from L) Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Li Hongzhong, a member of the Chinese Communist Party’s Political Bureau, attend a military parade in Pyongyang on 27 July 2023. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

tolerate any military acts of encroaching upon the sovereignty and security of the state,” KCNA said.

The North Korean military “will take more offensive armed countermeasure”, he warned.

Kang was referring to the dockings of US nuclear-powered submarines at South Korean ports earlier this month.

The minister had warned their deployment could “fall under the conditions of the use of nuclear weapons” under North Korean law.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Li Hongzhong, a member of the Chinese Communist Party’s Political Bureau, were among those attending the parade held at Pyongyang’s Kim Il Sung Square, named after the nation’s founder and the current leader’s grandfather. — Kyodo

Japan to expand Russia automobile export ban in line with G-7 peers



The automotive export market is crucial for the Japanese economy, as it contributes significantly to the country’s trade balance and generates substantial revenue for Japanese automakers and related industries. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/KYODO**

JAPAN decided Friday to expand a ban on vehicle exports to Russia from 9 August to encompass used cars in line with sanctions by the Group of Seven nations amid Moscow’s war against Ukraine.

Japan already prohibited shipments to Russia of premium vehicles worth more than six million yen (\$43,000) beginning in April last year, and the latest measure will additionally cover new and used gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles exceeding 1,900 cubic centimetres in engine capacity, electric and hybrid vehicles, as well as tires for large vehicles. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vatican, Viet Nam make step towards normalized ties

THE Vatican and the government of Viet Nam took a step forward Thursday in improving strained ties, agreeing to a “Resident Papal Representative” in the Communist nation. A joint announcement of an agreement finalizing the status and office of the resident envoy came following an official meeting Thursday between President Vo Van Thuong and Pope Francis. Thuong, named president in March by Vietnamese National Assembly, also held talks with the Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin. The Vatican and Viet Nam have not had regular diplomatic relations since the end of the Viet Nam war in 1975 when the Communist government expelled the apostolic delegate. But a joint working group has been meeting since 2009 to pave the way to normalise bilateral ties. The group met for the tenth time at the Vatican in March this year.

“The two sides expressed high appreciation for the noteworthy progress in the relations between Viet Nam and the Holy See, and the positive contributions by the Catholic community of Vietnam so far,” read the joint statement published by the Vatican. — AFP

Pakistan fires missiles at TTP hideouts in Afghanistan, claims ex-Afghan President

THE Taliban is yet to officially confirm the alleged missile strikes against banned terrorism group Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) hideouts in Paktia province.

Former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai has claimed that Pakistan’s forces launched

missile attacks against hideouts of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) last week.

The former Afghan leader urged Pakistan to take the “path of brotherhood” toward Kabul.

The missile strikes come amid ongoing friction between the two countries over activi-

ties of the TTP, which Islamabad claims is based out of Afghanistan.

According to the interim Afghan Foreign Ministry, Pakistan’s Special Representative for Afghanistan Asif Durrani paid a visit to Kabul this week. — SPUTNIK



Pakistani soldiers patrol in Sararogha town in South Waziristan. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

N Korea's Kim attends military parade featuring new drones

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SPORT

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Twelve Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To prioritize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active, and non-aligned foreign policy.
- (d) To ensure peace, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.



The lots-drawing ceremony for the men's and women's football events is being convened. PHOTO: ASIAN GAMES

Lots-drawing event held for Myanmar teams in Asian Games

LOTS-DRAWING ceremony for men's and women's Myanmar football teams was held in China on 27 July ahead of the 19th Asian Games.

The men's football tourney will convene from 19 September to 7 October, with 23 teams divided into six groups. The 12 first- and second-placed teams and the best four third-placed teams from each group totalling 16 will qualify for the next round.

Myanmar is placed in Group A with China, Bangladesh and India while ASEAN powerhouse Viet Nam is falling in Group

B with Saudi Arabia, Iran and Mongolia.

Group C sees Uzbekistan, Syria, Hong Kong and Afghanistan and Group E comprises Thailand, South Korea, Bahrain and Kuwait.

North Korea, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Chinese Taipei will compete in Group F.

Only 10 teams have won the gold medal in men's football events at the Asian Games, with South Korea leading the way with five golds. Team Iran has won the gold medal four times, and India, Myanmar and China Taipei have won the gold medal twice each.

Japan, North Korea, Iraq, Qatar and Uzbekistan have won the championship once each.

The Myanmar team is the only South-east Asian team to ever win a gold medal in the Asian Games.

Besides, a total of 17 teams will compete in the women's football tournament, which will be held from 25 September to 6 October. According to the fixtures, Myanmar is placed in Group E with South Korea, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Host China is in Group A with Uzbekistan and Mongolia and Thailand is falling in Group C with Chinese Taipei and India.

Group C sees North Korea, Singapore and Cambodia while Viet Nam is in Group D with Japan and Nepal. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

England close on World Cup last 16 but suffer Walsh injury blow

ENGLAND closed in on a place in the last 16 of the Women's World Cup with a 1-0 win over Denmark on Friday but their victory was overshadowed by a potentially serious injury to key midfielder Keira Walsh.

Lauren James scored the only goal of the game in Sydney in the sixth minute for the reigning European champions, bending in a superb strike from outside the box.

Sarina Wiegman's side had more of the possession and more of the chances,

but they found themselves hanging on at the end as Amalie Vangsgaard hit the post with a header for Denmark.

England's second win in as many games in Group D means they will secure a place in the knockout rounds with a match to spare later on Friday if China fail to beat debutants Haiti in Adelaide.

However, they are now waiting nervously to discover the extent of the injury suffered by Barcelona midfielder Walsh, who was stretchered off late in the first half. — AFP



Keira Walsh walks with crutches after being stretchered off during England's win over Denmark at the Women's World Cup on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

Man City's Mahrez joins Saudi club Al-Ahli



Riyad Mahrez poses with the Champions League trophy. PHOTO: AFP

MANCHESTER City forward Riyad Mahrez has joined Saudi side Al-Ahli, the two clubs announced on Friday, becoming the latest big-name player to be lured to the cash-rich league in the Gulf state.

The 32-year-old Algerian winger joined Pep Guardiola's team in 2018 from Leicester, winning 11 major trophies at the club.

"The wait is over: Riyad is real," the Saudi Pro League club said in a social media post.

City agreed a fee understood to be worth up to £30 million (\$38.6 million) with Al-Ahli last week. — AFP