

The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**



SAC Chair clearly outlines specific political, economic and social objectives

The Senior General pledged to restore enduring and perpetual peace in line with the agreements from the NCA

STATE service personnel have to conscientiously serve their duties for the interests of the State only, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Union-level officials and Union ministers at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Two political visions of the government are to cement a disciplined, genuine multipar-

ty democratic system and build a Union based on democratic and federal systems whereas prosperity of the nation and food security must be implemented as two national visions. **SEE PAGE-3**

Myanmar-Thailand border trade surpasses US\$2.1 bln in April-July



GNLM File Photo depicts loaded trucks ready to cross the border checkpoint at the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge 2 for export shipments.

MYANMAR'S border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand amounted to US\$2.127 billion in the past four months (April-July) of the current financial year 2023-2024. The figures surged from \$1.711 billion recorded in the year-ago period, showing a significant increase of \$416.691 million. Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung borders. Of them, the Hteekhee border performed the largest trade worth \$1.389 billion in the past four

months. The trade values stood at \$603.67 million at Myawady border post, \$63.295 million at Tachhilek, \$34.715 million at Myeik, \$32.979 million at Kawthoung and \$3.937 million at Mawtaung respectively. **SEE PAGE-7**

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NATIONAL

Five-Point Roadmap for State Administration Council

1. An emphasis will be placed on ensuring peace and stability of the whole Union to enjoy the full rule of law so that a free and fair multiparty democratic general election will be held successfully.
2. Continuous efforts will be poured out for the promotion of the State economy and enhancement of the socioeconomic life of the entire people by expediting manufacturing businesses rooted in agriculture and livestock farming inclusive of the entire ethnic people.
3. Priority will be given to stabilize the restoration of internal peace which is the primary essence of the State and the results of the internal peace process aligned with the agreements involved in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible.
4. Work momentum will be raised continuously to strengthen the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system and processes of building the Union based on democratic and federal principles.
5. Further stages of the roadmap will be undertaken to hand over the State duty to the elected government which will emerge from the free and fair multiparty democratic general elections upon completion of holding the general elections fairly and justly without losing the rights of all eligible voters and all the processes in full compliance with the provisions of the State of Emergency.

Exporters, importers face licence revocation over online trading non-compliance

EXPORTERS and importers will get their licences revoked unless they make transactions at the exchange rate determined on an official online trading platform by the Central Bank of Myanmar, according to the CBM's rule.

Starting from 22 June, the CBM led the online trading platform for the bank-customer transactions and transactions between clients.

The CBM will negotiate with the authorized dealers (banks) regarding the scrutiny of the transaction conditions, permitted companies, foreign exchange amount and exchange rate.

The permitted transaction conditions are as follows; transactions for important goods and payment after due date, one entity is allowed to make transactions at the designated bank with the presence of import licence and overdue invoice when it



The photo shows the front view of the Central Bank of Myanmar office in Nay Pyi Taw.

wants to buy the large amount from more than one bank, setting a certain amount for each company and valid foreign currency transactions amount even if one company submits the foreign

currency report about purchase invoice daily.

Transactions are not allowed for those holding expired import licence, ID without at least six months validity for

licensed goods or non-licence goods, overlaps in import licensing and IDs, import licence issued or renewed in 2022 and running business in free zone of the Thilawa Special Economic

Zone.

Scrutiny rules are verification the accessibility of the states to conduct the Advanced Payment Telegraphic Transfer for imports and permission on a case-by-case basis, ID requirement three months of receiving import licence, checking the HS Code of the Ministry of Commerce for non-licence goods for foreign currency transactions and repayment schedule set by the CBM for loan interest.

Therefore, the authorized dealers (banks) must forward the documents to the online trading platform only after verifying those rules. If the ADs fail to abide by those instructions, they will face legal actions under the Foreign Exchange Management Law. The CBM directed the ADs to notify the exporters and importers to comply with the guidelines not to get their licence cancelled. — NN/EM

Three new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 August, total figure registers 641,100

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **641,100** after **three** new cases were reported on 8 August 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **11,062,241** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **641,100**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,908** including **18** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 8-8-2023 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

Over 70 Bengalis adrift in Andaman Sea arrested

AUTHORITIES concerned discovered a motorboat in the Andaman Sea approximately four miles from Kaingthaung village in Labutta township, Ayeyawady Region, at 10:30 am on 4 August. The motorboat was carrying 72 Bengali individuals — 67 men and five women.

With the assistance of a local fishing boat, the motorboat was towed to Poelaung village.

Upon inspection, it was revealed that the individuals lacked official documents. Further investigation disclosed that their motorboat had experienced a breakdown at sea during their journey from Bangladesh to Malaysia, resulting in it drifting for approximately 58 days.

Subsequently, the authorities apprehended the individuals, seized the motorboat, and

are now in the process of taking appropriate actions in response to the situation. — TWA/MKKS



The photo shows the arrested Bengalis.

SAC Chair clearly outlines specific political, economic and social objectives



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Union-level personnel and officials from Union ministries yesterday.

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The Senior General highlighted his speech on better transport facilities and education promotion for all citizens. He also noted that as electricity requirement is one of the challenges for the government, electricity is being generated from solar energy, wind power and paddy husk fuel. He pledged to prioritize implementation of the food security, electric power generation, better transport, education promotion and longevity of people.

The Senior General unveiled nine new objectives adopted by the State Administration Council. The first point of three political objectives was adopted to strengthen a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system and to build a Union based on democratic and federal systems. In this regard, the Senior General stressed the need to strive to firmly exercise a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system. Federalism indicates the Union mandated by federal authority. Implementation of federalism should not be based on race but on region. Everybody can observe the Constitution which has given federal

rights.

The Senior General pledged to restore enduring and perpetual peace in line with the agreements from the NCA. Hence, the second point of the political objectives was adopted to prioritize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

The third point of the political objective was adopted to emphasize the full restoration of peace and stability, and the rule of law in the entire Union for the people to enjoy the safety of socioeconomic life of the people. Rule of law means the judicial estate which controls different levels of administrative bodies. In the term of the government, as weaknesses in administration can affect the work process of the government, it is necessary to address these weaknesses.

The Senior General also disclose three economic objectives which were adopted to enhance development based on agriculture and livestock-inclusive of entire ethnic people to ensure prosperity and food security of the nation using modern production techniques and

to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy. Moreover, the second point of the economic objective is to encourage Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for the promotion

Senior General pointed out that it is necessary to encourage the cultivation of oil crops to meet the target production in order to have local oil sufficiency and to strive for ensuring local sufficiency and export of the sur-

“The primary social objective we’ve embraced revolves around the implementation of a comprehensive education system, catering to all strata of society. This system aims to foster intellectual prowess across the entire populace, cultivating a substantial reservoir of skilled technicians essential for the growth of the manufacturing sectors.”

of the export sector, relying on the developed economic drive. Concerning the first point, the Senior General underscored that the country can reduce import volume, and spending on foreign exchange will decline. On the other hand, the country can encourage domestic manufacturing of products and create job opportunities. Additionally, the

plus oil crops abroad as the third point of the economic objective. The Senior General underlined that it is necessary to set an aim for the country to ensure oil sufficiency and export the surplus to foreign markets. As such, the Senior General urged regional and state authorities to arrange the cultivation of oil crops to meet the target and to

have a high yield in 2025. The first point of the social objectives was adopted to implement the multi-education system inclusive of all so as to enhance education and the intellectual level of the entire people and turn out a large number of skilled technicians contributing to the manufacturing sector in order to turn out educated persons. The second point of the objective aimed to enhance health and sports sectors inclusive of all the people to enhance the longevity and health of the entire nation with the plans to improve the standard of sports in Myanmar’s sports sector. The third point was mentioned to promote the youth sector for turning out the youths well-versed in all aspects as a primary force in the development undertakings of the country. Only when teachers are qualified to teach their students will the government turn out all-round youths.

The Senior General urged all attendees to have the capacity of management for their relevant organizations to follow disciplines. Service personnel have to uplift their capacity of good management, dutifully serving their assignments and the inter-

ests of the people. The Senior General noted that only when the country successfully undertakes manufacturing industries at home can it overcome any difficulties and crises. He stressed that State service personnel have to conscientiously serve their duties for the interests of the State only. — MNA/TTA

PHOTO NEWS



Pilgrims throng Maravijaya Buddha Image

THE Maravijaya Buddha Image in the precinct of Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw is crowded with pilgrims.

It is open to the public free of charge from 8 and 16 August between 6 am and 8 pm. The monks, nuns and visitors flocked to the pagoda and made donations on 8 August.

There will be inspections under security measures for the safety of pilgrim people and

apart from the escalator, the officials arrange vehicles for monks, the elderly and the disabled.

The donors donate vegetable biryani to the pilgrims at the pagoda.

Moreover, there are spacious places for the pilgrims and religious organizations to recite Gathas and the people can view round the pagodas in 24 special chambers around the platform of the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

Similarly, the people can pay homage to the 720 stone plaque chamber pagodas on which Tri Pitaka treatises were carved in Pali and Romanized languages.

The Thudhamma public houses constructed with traditional architecture were also packed with the pilgrims and the water fountain square and other recreational sites in Buddha Park were also crowded with throngs of visitors. — ASH/KTZH



NATIONAL / ARTICLE

Nine Objectives of State Administration Council

Political Affairs

1. To strengthen a disciplined and authentic multiparty democratic system and to foster a Union founded upon democratic and federal systems.
2. To prioritize the attainment of enduring peace for the entire nation in alignment with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
3. To emphasize the complete restoration of peace and stability and the rule of law throughout the whole Union for the people to enjoy the safety of the socioeconomic life of the people.

Economic Affairs

4. To enhance development rooted in agriculture and livestock-inclusive of all ethnic people to ensure national prosperity and food security of the nation utilizing contemporary production methodologies and to promote all-round growth in other sectors of the economy.
5. To invigorate Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for the fortification of the export sector, leveraging the momentum of the thriving

economic landscape.

6. To spur the cultivation of oil crops to meet targeted production levels, thereby achieving self-sufficiency in local oil supply and striving towards both local adequacy and overseas export of surplus oil crops.

Social Affairs

7. To implement a multi-education system that addresses all segments of society, nurturing intellectual and intelligent capacities among the entire population and producing a significant pool of skilled technicians crucial for the manufacturing sector.
8. To elevate the health and sports sectors inclusive of all the people, improving the longevity and health of the nation.
9. To nurture the youth sector, bringing out versatile, physically strong, knowledgeable, morally upright, socially adept and economically empowered young individuals, poised to lead the nation's development efforts.

Promising Future Ahead for Myanmar's Coffee Industry

BY ASH

APPROXIMATELY half of Myanmar's coffee production is shipped to external markets. International trade partners are eyeing Myanmar's coffee and there are significant export potentials with the concerted efforts in the value chain including coffee businesspersons executing value-added production of coffee and farmers choosing pedigree coffee seeds to produce specialty coffee.

Myanmar's speciality coffee is primarily shipped to the UK, Belgium, the US, the Netherlands, Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, France, Germa-

ny, Switzerland, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and China. Myanmar's coffee will penetrate more foreign markets beyond the existing 14 foreign countries.

Myanmar annually exports about 400 tonnes of coffee to foreign countries. The export volume rose to 500 tonnes in 2019. Myanmar has exported a total of 120.6 tonnes of coffee to Belgium (40.2 tonnes per batch) so far.

Expanding coffee plantation acreage

As coffee is a commercially

valued crop which generates foreign income for Myanmar. There are over 49,000 acres of coffee plantations across the country. The Agriculture Department is endeavouring to add over 300,000 more acres after establishing coffee plantation zone areas.

Shan State is the main producer of Myanmar's coffee beans with 27,000 acres, followed by Kayin State (10,029 acres) and Mandalay (over 5,000 acres).

At present, Myanmar's coffee plantations have covered 60 per cent of the land areas



where coffee can be grown. The coffee farmers are entitled to seek land permits under the existing laws.

Coffee plantation and production targets

As Myanmar's coffee bean is a lucrative crop, the coffee industry will boost production in the coming years, aiming to add 200,000 more acres. Coffee production is expected to reach 60,000 tonnes in 2030.

Thailand buyers have a keen interest in Myanmar's speciality coffee produced from Ywangan, Pinlaung, Hopong, Mogok and PyinOoLwin this year.

Myanmar's coffee is harvested between December and March and distributed to the markets in late April. The coffee bean is mostly grown in Mandalay Region and Shan State and can be found in other regions and states as well.

Translated/EM



A farm worker handpicks coffee beans (top-right photo) while on the coffee farm, beans are sun-dried after being harvested (above photo).

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Biometric fingerprint system for Chinese visas exempted for nearly 5 months

FOR the convenience of foreigners applying for Chinese visas, the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar issued a notification on the evening of 8 August, allowing them to be exempted from the biometric fingerprint system for almost five months.

To facilitate the application of Chinese visas by foreigners, the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar stated that fingerprinting will be waived for business visas (M) that meet the requirements, tourist visas



The Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar. PHOTO: XINHUA

(L), visiting relatives visas (Q), transit visas (G); vehicle staff visas (C) from 9 August 2023 to 31 December 2023.

According to the laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China and international traffic regulations, visa application by biometric fingerprint system was implemented on 28 November 2022.

Those who wish to apply for a Chinese visa must fill out the online application form and make an appointment in ad-

vance, along with the necessary documents, and submit the application in person at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar (Yangon) on the appointed day.

For more information, enquiries can be made by calling the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar at 0095 1 8221281 ext. 677, 0095 9 894853188 and email: yangon@csm.mfa.gov.cn: (except for holidays, Monday to Friday from 1 pm to 5 pm). — TWA/KZL

Weekly update prices of Bayintnaung Commodity Market

Onion

On 8 August, the Yangon market received various regional onions weighing 200,000 visses. The wholesale price per viss of Seikphyu and Monywa onions ranged from K1,800 to K2,400, depending on their size and quality.

In addition, onion prices in regional markets have hit over K2,000 per viss. A total of 25,950 visses of onions entered the Pakokku depot on 8 August, with the highest price reaching K2,200 per viss. On the same day, at the Seikpyu commodity depot, 34,000 visses of onions were supplied with K2,075 per viss.

Garlic

On 8 August in the Yangon market, a viss of Shan garlic was valued at K7,500 for S2, K8,000 for S3, K8,500 for S4, and K9,000 for S5, while that of Kyaukok garlic was valued at K7,100.

Potato

The Yangon potato market only published the price of Chinese potatoes from 11 July to 8 August and did not include prices for potatoes from the Aungban area of Shan State. The wholesale price of Chinese potatoes was K2,550 per viss on 8 August.

Chilli pepper

In the Yangon chilli pepper market on 8 August, the prices of Eainme and Panye long chilli peppers were approximately

K10,000-K12,000 per viss, while Sinpyukyun and delta region bell peppers were valued at K15,000-K16,000 per viss.

Rice

Retail demand kicked up in the Yangon rice market on 8 August. The price per bag of rice grown under multiple cropping was K64,000, the 90-day rice variety was K74,000, and the Pawkywe rice variety was K88,000.

Pawsan rice varieties ranged from K96,000 to K135,000 per bag, depending on the rice-producing regions.

Palm oil

Despite the set rate of K4,150 per viss for the wholesale reference price of palm oil from 7 to 13 August, the wholesale price of palm oil was K8,500-K8,600 per viss on 8 August. In the Mandalay oil market, the wholesale price for a viss has increased to K8,800-K8,900.

Beans and pulses

On 8 July 2023, the price of black gram was K2,347,500 per tonne for RC and K2,557,500 per tonne for SQ/RC. Meanwhile, a tonne of pigeon peas was valued at K3,150,000. Additionally, the price of green gram (Kayan Shwewah variety) and Pakokku variety fetched K3,580 and K3,665-K3,750 per viss, respectively, while that of the half of chickpeas was K5,850-K6,150 per viss. — TWA/CT

Ceremonies commemorate renovation of Moji Pagoda, honour fallen soldiers

CEREMONIES were held on 5 August to commemorate the completion of the renovation of the Moji World Peace Pagoda in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, and to offer prayers for the Japanese soldiers who lost their lives in Myanmar during the war.

Present at the event were the Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandita of the Moji-Myanmar monastery, Sayadaw Agga

Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobana, Mrs Kazuko Yasaka representing the Board of Trustees of the Moji Pagoda and the family of the late Mr Yanagida, former mayor of Moji. Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Han, embassy officials, and relatives of the fallen Japanese soldiers were also in attendance.

The ceremonies concluded with monks reciting the Metta Sutta to honour the fallen

soldiers, and attendees joined in prayers for their remembrance.

The Moji World Peace Pagoda, designed in the likeness of Yangon's Kaba Aye Pagoda, is renowned as both the Moji World Peace Pagoda and the Myanmar Monastery. Notably, it was added to the "Kanmon Nostalgic Straits" list of cultural heritage on April 28, 2017. — TWA/CT

Persistent landslides plague Myawady-Kawkareik Asian Highway



Image capturing landslide at Natsin corner and Yinkwal mountain road collapse on 8 August.

A larger landslide, roughly three times the size of the previous day's, has been reported near the site of yesterday's landslide along the Myawady-Kawkareik Asian Highway. On 8 August, around 12:30 pm, another landslide occurred close to the spot where a truck trailer had been engulfed during the previous

day's slide on Asia Road.

According to an official from the Thingannyinaung Rescue Association, "There was another landslide on the Kawkareik side, near the location where the truck trailer was stuck." Fortunately, there have been no reports of injuries to people or animals during the landslide.

Recent days of persistent heavy rainfall have contributed to landslides on the Myawady-Kawkareik Highway in Kayin State. Similarly, a landslide occurred near the Tawnaw Waterfall on the Asia Trade Highway on the morning of 7 August, resulting in a section of the road being blocked. — TWA/MKKS



Snapshot of Asian Highway's damaged road near Tawnaw Waterfall on 7 August.

LOCAL BUSINESS

MAEX records high trading volume in bullish stock market

MYANMAR Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) was listed on 3 July 2023 and had the highest trading volume among the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange in July. The equity market showed an upward trajectory with a total trading value of K2.068 billion from 958,368 shares traded last month (July), as per the monthly report released by the exchange.

The base price of MAEX is K1,800 per unit. The share is traded between the upper limit (K2,050) and the lower limit (K1,550) based on supply and demand.

At present, shares of eight listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) and MAEX were traded in the security market.

The total trading volumes were recorded 11,678 shares of FMI worth K94.753 million, 68,043 shares of MTSH worth K193.304 million, 43,324 shares of MCB worth K311.93 million,



Share traders gather attentively in front of the trading index panel at the Yangon bourse.

121,267 shares of FPB worth over K182.5 million, 1,653 shares of TMH worth K4.07 million, 11,036 shares of EFR worth K25.99 million, 2,573 shares of AMATA worth K12.44 million and 698,794 shares worth \$1.24 billion respectively last month.

Mainboard trading (continuous and block trading) of 81,410 shares valued at K352.995 million were recorded on the exchange in January 2023 and the trading volume rose to 122,859 shares in

February, with an estimated value of K381.69 million. The equity market saw trading of 112,465 shares with an estimated value of K401.83 million traded on the exchange in March. The trading value touched a low of K175.956 million with 69,365 shares in April. The value reached a high of K746.414 million with 206,414 shares in May. A trading value of over K454.893 million from 201,701 shares was recorded in June.

The share prices per unit stood at K8,400 for FMI, K2,950 for MTSH, K7,100 for MCB, K1,450 for FPB, K2,350 for TMH, K2,400 for EFR and K4,900 for AMATA and K1,850 for MAEX on the last day of July 2023.

Furthermore, block trading of YSX can be done with the minimum order quantity (10,000 stocks) or with the stocks of trading value of K30 million starting from 1 September 2022.

The Securities and Ex-

change Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market since 20 March 2020. Foreign participation would entail better capital inflows, long-term and sustainable investment, encourage good corporate governance, and support market orientation, YSX stated.

Moreover, YSX stock investment virtual series 2022 launched in December through the YSX YouTube channel and other social media platforms every weekend of December 2022, including three sessions; Insights talk with listed companies, Investment presentations by securities companies and Panel discussion with market experts.

Additionally, YSX welcomes group tour programs from Universities and Private Educational Institutes across the country. For enquiries, please contact YSX Ph: 01 3371274.

The YSX was launched in 2016 to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment webinars and training courses. — KK

Myanmar-Thailand border trade surpasses US\$2.1 bln in April-July

FROM PAGE-1

The trade values stood at \$97.113 million at Myawady border post, \$12.986 million at Tachilek, \$7.189 million at Myeik, \$2.491 million at Kawthoung and \$0.088 million at Mawtaung respectively in the previous FY.

Myanmar carries out border trade with the neighbouring countries China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. It exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods, while it brings in capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer goods and raw materials by the CMP enterprises.

Thailand's demand for Myanmar's kitchen groceries (onion, rice powder, chilli pep-

per) has risen as it resumed the tourism businesses in the post-COVID period and the restaurants and food businesses widely used them. Fishery products are directly sent to Bangkok, Thailand through Maesot. The fast and fresh delivery service is the priority. There is a timely transport arrangement for perishable green items like onions, chilli pepper and cabbage at the border points.

The cloth roll, construction materials, industrial raw materials, pharmaceuticals, motorcycle parts, footwear, clothes, fruits, food products, cosmetics, gas, lubricants, household goods, feedstuff, bicycles, stationery, auto parts, tiles, feedstuff, fertilizer and electronic devices are imported. — NN/EM

Robust demand elevates peanut prices

MANDALAY market sees persistent rise in peanut prices on the back of strong foreign and domestic demand and the price soared to approximately K10,000 per viss, according to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre.

The prices jump to K7,400-9,900 per viss depending on different varieties presently. The local oil millers and Chinese buyers have been increasingly purchasing them in the competitive market.

Along with the rise in peanut prices, the peanut oil price hit K14,000 per viss accordingly.

Myanmar has been exporting oil seeds (sesame seeds and peanuts) to foreign countries. In April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export



Mandalay market sees persistent rise in peanut prices on the back of strong foreign and domestic demand and the price soared to approximately K10,000 per viss. The photo shows Myanmar's peanuts.

ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May 2022 to have oil self-sufficiency. Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters

returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. The country shipped more than 88,000 kilogrammes worth US\$13.619 million to foreign markets through seaborne and border trade channels in the past four months of the current financial year 2023-2024. — NN/EM

Addressing illegal trade for consumer protection

THE eradication of illegal trade is a crucial goal for the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, aiming to protect consumers and ensure fair pricing of essential goods for legitimate businesses. Despite efforts to combat it, recent reports reveal that illegal trade continues to thrive. In the period from May 2022 to April 2023, the export value mentioned in Thailand from May 2022 to April 2023 amounted to US\$2.932 billion compared to \$1.293 billion of Myanmar's statistics with \$1.639 billion of differences within one year, highlighting the persistent strength of illegal trade in Myanmar.

Various fundamental factors contribute to the thriving illegal trade, including government policies, supply and demand dynamics, trade transparency, and the customs environment.

Hence, eradicating illegal trade requires collaboration from all stakeholders. By working together, the government, businesses, and consumers can create an environment that ensures fair and ethical trade practices, benefiting society as a whole. A concerted effort will protect the State's economy and safeguard the rights and well-being of all consumers, promoting a thriving and sustainable future for the nation.

To ensure the State's prosperity and the well-being of citizens, all stakeholders must consider the consequences of their actions. A collective approach is essential, avoiding harm to one another and protecting vulnerable members of society who lack knowledge and empowerment in trade matters.

To achieve this, the Steering Committee must refine policies and coordination efforts, considering the multifaceted nature of the problem. Strengthening border security and enhancing monitoring mechanisms are crucial steps in curbing illegal trade. Additionally, investing in the training and capacity-building of law enforcement personnel will improve the effectiveness of eradication measures.

Public awareness campaigns can also play a pivotal role in educating citizens about the detrimental impacts of illegal trade and the importance of supporting legitimate businesses. Encouraging transparency and accountability in trade practices will create an environment where illegal trade finds no footing.

Hence, eradicating illegal trade requires collaboration from all stakeholders. By working together, the government, businesses, and consumers can create an environment that ensures fair and ethical trade practices, benefiting society as a whole. A concerted effort will protect the State's economy and safeguard the rights and well-being of all consumers, promoting a thriving and sustainable future for the nation.

Shenzhen-Zhongshan Suspension Sea Bridge – A Bridge to Realize the Future Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Vision

By KZL

THE nearly finished Shenzhen-Zhongshan Suspension Sea Bridge, connecting two major cities on the Pearl River Delta in China, is becoming a bigger combination of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.

Media personnel from Lancang-Mekong Cooperation countries led by officials from People's Daily, a host of the LMC Media Summit and Workshops had the opportunity to observe the construction of the bridge closely on 2 July 2023.

Myanmar journalists took the elevator to the highest part of the bridge and had the opportunity to study the stunning completed parts of the bridge.

The Bridge is connecting Shenzhen City on the eastern side and Zhongshan City on the western part of Guangdong Province. It is a world-class cluster project of "bridges, islands, tunnels and underwater connectivity", and a core transport hub in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

It consists of a series of bridges and tunnels, starting from Bao'an International Airport on the Shenzhen side. After completion, it will appear as a dynamic world-class city cluster; an important support for the construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative", a demonstration area for in-depth cooperation between the mainland and Hong Kong and Macao. The proposed 49.7 kilometres eight-lane link is scheduled to be completed in 2024 and is expected to cost around US\$4.83 billion, as stated by the officials concerned.

Lingdingyang Bridge, an important control project of Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, has a total length of 2,826 metres, a main span of 1,666 metres, which is the world's largest span full offshore Suspension bridge. The bridge has a deck height of 91 metres, making it the world's tallest mid-sea bridge. The main tower adopts a portal structure, with a height of 270 metres. The anchor weighs 1.7 million tonnes and is the world's largest anchor in the ocean.

The main cable of the bridge consists of 199 strands and each



The aerial view of the Shenzeng-Zhongshan Suspension Sea Bridge. PHOTO: PEOPLE'S DAILY

one is about 3,000 meters long and weighs about 85 tonnes. Constructors remotely predict the relative static height difference of cable strands through optical photography and intelligent analysis, which solves the problems of manpower consumption, low efficiency, and errors in cable force measurement.

Additionally, the constructors invent an unmanned traction robot based on image recognition technology, which realizes remote and real-time monitoring, greatly reducing manpower and labour intensity.

Based on the digital twin technology, the project team develops an intelligent construction control system for the upper structure of the suspension bridge to ensure more efficient and safer construction of the upper structure.

The idea of a separate link to connect Shenzhen with Zhongshan was originally proposed in 2008. The project will consist of a 6.7-kilometre tunnel starting on the Shenzhen side, and 19 bridges totalling 43 kilometres (aggregate length); the longest continuous section of the bridge is about 22.5 kilometres, from which about 15.5 kilometres stretch above the sea.

There will be four lanes in each direction, with a maximum speed of 100 kilometres per hour. The bridge will join the Guangshen Expressway to the south of Shenzhen airport and the Jihe Expressway to the east of the airport on the eastern side of the delta with the Zhongjiang Expressway on the western side. It will cut travel time from Shenzhen to Zhongshan to less than 30 minutes.

China Communications Construction Group Company Limited, with its brand name "CCCC", is mainly engaged in the construction of the model bridge. CCCC has a strong ability for independent innovation and has created several "world top" projects. It not only has the whole industry chain integration serviceability in the field of transport upgradation but also has unique advantages in internationalization, river lake sea governance and so on.

With over 30 years of experience in the Lancang-Mekong market, CCCC has been fully involved in the construction of the economic development belt in the area, especially after the introduction of the Lancang-Mekong cooperation mechanism. The organisation has implemented

over USD 13 billion of high-quality infrastructure projects with Chinese technology and solutions, creating a series of landmark projects that served as the 'Bridge linking hearts', 'Road to wealth', 'Port for development', 'City of happiness', and 'Clean power'. These projects have brought a better living experience to the local people.

Analysts from mainland

China and Hong Kong found the project might draw as much as 40 per cent of the potential traffic away from the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and reduce the regional dominance of Hong Kong's airport and harbour.

Myanmar has many river bridges, but sea bridges are still needed. The strength of a sea bridge is the power of transport, making the journey much shorter.

The workforce of professionals and engineers is especially necessary if Myanmar is going to build such modern and beautiful bridges.

With the help of China's world-famous construction company limited (CCCC), it is believed that Myanmar will soon be able to build world-class modern suspension sea bridges. Along with the scholarship programmes, local architects and construction experts should also be sent to study in China and acquire such kinds of construction technologies.

Until now, Bangladesh, a neighbouring country of Myanmar, and Malaysia, an ASEAN country, have jointly engaged in construction projects with CCCC. Myanmar's socioeconomic development is almost entirely dependent on good transportation. It is very important for the country's infrastructure to emerge stronger in the not-distant future.

In the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation projects, construction cooperation is key. CCCC's creativity with the help of the Chinese government will best support Myanmar's road and bridge construction. Therefore, the strengthening of this cooperation is a better move for the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, including Myanmar.



Journalists listen with interest to the explanations about the construction of the bridge. PHOTO:PEOPLE'S DAILY



The canal relies on rainwater to move cargo ships through a series of locks that function like water elevators, raising the vessels up and over the continent between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. PHOTO: AUTONOMOUS EXECUTIVE PORT COMMISSION OF EL SALVADOR/AFP/FILE

Drought-hit Panama Canal must 'adapt or die' as water levels drop

THE Panama Canal, an engineering wonder allowing ships to travel between two oceans, is seeking to adapt to climate change after a biting drought has seen traffic and income dry up.

The canal relies on rainwater to move ships through a series of locks that function like water elevators, raising the vessels up and over the continent between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

However, a water shortage due to low rainfall has forced operators to restrict the number of vessels passing through, which is likely to result in a \$200 million drop in earnings in 2024 compared to this year, canal administrator Ricuarte Vasquez said Thursday.

The Pacific warming phenomenon known as El Nino, which can cause drought in some nations and flooding in others, is making the situation worse, meteorologists say.

"The big disadvantage that the Panama Canal has as a maritime route, is that we operate with freshwater; while others use seawater," said Vasquez during a presentation to the media.

"We have to find other solutions to remain a relevant route for international trade. If we don't adapt, we are going to die."

The 50-mile (80-kilometre) byway moves some six per cent of all global maritime commerce, and 2023 revenue is forecast at \$4.9 billion, said Vasquez.

The canal opened in 1914 after a monumental construction project through dense jungles and mountains, with workers suffering tropical diseases, intense heat and rain.

Since then, more than a million vessels have transited through the canal, saving them a lengthy journey around the tip of South America.

'Unusually severe' crisis

Meteorologist Alcey Lau told AFP that the country has "observed considerable deficits" in rainfall this year, boosted by El Nino.

The drought has forced canal administrators to restrict the waterway to ships with a draft of 13,11 metres (43 feet) — which refers to how deep they sit in the water.

In 2022, an average of 40 ships crossed through the canal a day, a number which has now dropped to 32 to save water.

For each ship, 200 million liters of freshwater is used to move it through the locks before being dumped into the sea.

SOURCE: AFP

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Indigenous groups call for bold steps at Amazon summit

INDIGENOUS leaders from across South America called Monday for bold steps to protect the Amazon and their ancestral lands ahead of a summit on saving the world's biggest rainforest.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will host fellow regional leaders Tuesday and Wednesday for the first summit in 14 years of the eight-nation Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, seeking a roadmap to stop the destruction of one of Earth's crucial buffers against climate change.

Native leaders who took part in pre-summit talks last weekend in the host city, Belem, called on Lula and his counterparts to create new Indigenous reservations

— one of the best ways to protect nature, according to experts — and rethink the way the world views the rainforest.

"The forest isn't an oil well, it's not a gold mine. It's our temple," said one leader, Nemo Guiquita, head of Ecuadoran Indigenous confederation CONFENIAE, which represents 1,500 Amazon communities.

"We hope our views will be included in the (summit's) final statement," she told AFP, saying politicians should not be the only ones deciding the future of the Amazon.

"We're calling on world leaders to work hard to promote conservation. Our struggle isn't just for Indigenous peoples, it's for the



A vendor sells earrings and necklaces at a regional handicraft stall at the Ver o Peso market, the most popular tourist spot in Belem, Para State, Brazil, on 7 August 2023, ahead of the Amazon Summit in this city. **PHOTO: AFP**

entire world, so future generations can survive on this planet."

Brazilian Indigenous Affairs Minister Sonia Guajajara called

the summit a "historic moment" for Indigenous peoples.

"We're not just thinking about the next four years, we're thinking about the next 40," she told AFP. The participating countries — Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela — are due to discuss strategies to fight deforestation and organized crime in the Amazon, and seek sustainable development for the region. Colombian Indigenous leader Dario Mejia, a member of the Zenu people and representative on a United Nations panel on Indigenous issues, urged world leaders to fundamentally rethink the idea of "economic development." — AFP



In this handout image courtesy of NASA, Boeing and NASA teams work around Boeing's CST-100 Starliner spacecraft after it landed at White Sands Missile Range's Space Harbor, 25 May 2022, in New Mexico. **PHOTO: BILL INGALLS / NASA / AFP**

Boeing says troubled Starliner will be ready to fly crew by March

BOEING on Monday said its Starliner spaceship will now be ready to carry out its first crewed flight by March — though the actual launch date will depend on space calendar constraints. The troubled programme has experienced numerous postponements but was finally meant to send astronauts to the International Space Station on 21 July.

During testing, however, Boeing engineers identified

new issues relating to a faulty parachute system and wire harness tape used extensively through the capsule that was found to be flammable under some conditions. "Right now, based on the current plans, we're anticipating that we're going to be ready with the spacecraft in early March," said Mark Nappi, Boeing vice president and program manager of the Starliner program.

He added that the actual launch date would depend on constraints in the space calendar and would be decided together with NASA and the United Launch Alliance that provides the Atlas V rocket for Starliner. Nappi explained that a component of the parachute system called the "soft links" had been reinforced with Kevlar, and improvements were made to its stitching. — AFP

Plastic litter in oceans overestimated, study suggests

THERE is less plastic littering the ocean than scientists previously thought, but what is there could persist for a long time, a new study said Monday.

The modelling study estimated that pieces of plastic bigger than 25 millimetres (one inch) make up over 95 per cent of plastic floating on the ocean.

While most plastic particles in the ocean are very small, the total mass of these microplastics — defined as less than five millimetres (0.2 inches) — is relatively low.

The preponderance of larger floating pieces suggests that the total amount of plastic in the ocean is "much lower" than pre-

viously thought, according to the study published in the journal Nature Geoscience.

Plastic pollution in the ocean has been estimated at more than 25 million tonnes, with a quarter of a million tonnes floating on the surface. But the study said that the amount of plastic on the ocean surface is much higher, at about three million tonnes.

That the plastic is floating around in large pieces could with help clean-up efforts.

"Large, floating pieces on the surface are easier to clean up than microplastics," the study's co-author Erik van Sebille of Utrecht University in the Netherlands said in a statement. — AFP



Garbage, including plastic waste, is seen at Paparo Beach in Miranda State, Venezuela, on 6 June 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Scores of horses suffer sunstroke at Japan samurai event

ORGANIZERS of an annual horse festival in Japan where riders dressed as samurai re-enact battles said Tuesday they were considering changing dates for the gathering next year, after sunstroke affected 111 animals, killing two of them.

Japan has recorded its hottest average July temperatures in over 100 years, and on Tuesday heatstroke alerts were in place in 26 out of 47 prefectures, with the mercury forecast to hit 38 Celsius (100 Fahrenheit) in places.

At least 111 horses — and

dozens of people — needed treatment for sunstroke at the Soma Nomaio festival in Fukushima prefecture from 29 to 31 July, after temperatures touched 35 degrees, the hottest in five years, organizers said.

Two of the animals died, they said. The annual three-day event, which features more than 400 participants dressed as medieval samurai warriors fighting on horseback over flags that are shot overhead by fireworks, attracted more than 120,000 people, reports said. — AFP



(FILES) People wearing samurai armour race horses during the annual Soma Nomaio Festival in Minamisoma, Fukushima Prefecture on 29 July 2012. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japanese firm’s hiking app helps rescuers locate stranded climbers

A popular hiking app developed by a Japanese firm has become a useful tool for rescuers to locate stranded people on mountains, with the GPS technology enabling exact locations to be shared even when cell phone connections are cut.

Yamap Inc, a tech company based in Fukuoka in southwestern Japan, said it has been contacted by police, relief teams and others seeking the app data

on 200 cases in 2022, sharply up from 46 in 2020 and 89 in 2021.

A total of 16 prefectural police forces across Japan, including in Iwate, Miyagi, Shizuoka, Nagano and Kumamoto, have signed an agreement with the company in a bid to seek swift access to accurate information on mountaineers potentially caught in accidents.

Users of the app can find their location on a map down-

loaded to their phones. The data can be shared with families and friends even when users are in a location with no cell service.

When informed of a stranded mountaineer, police and rescuers ask Yamap if the missing person is a user of the app. If so, the company then directly tells the rescue team the latitude and longitude of the location of the person. — Kyodo



Photo taken in Fukushima Prefecture on 17 June 2023, shows a screen displaying the hiking app Yamap. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Australian state axes new law to protect Indigenous heritage

WESTERN Australia said Tuesday it is axing a five-week-old law to protect Indigenous sites, introduced after Rio Tinto blew up a 46,000-year-old sacred rock shelter in the state.

The decision to repeal the legislation was condemned by Indigenous groups, who complained of insufficient consultation and said their needs were being ignored.

The resource-rich state brought in the Aboriginal Heritage Act after the Anglo-Australian mining giant admitted in 2020 that it had destroyed the rock shelter to expand an iron ore mine in Juukan Gorge, Western Australia.

The site contained some of the oldest artefacts found in Australia and was considered sacred by the Indigenous Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura (PKKP) people of Western Australia.

Western Australia’s premier, Roger Cook, said the new law — which came into force on 1 July — would be scrapped because it was too complex. — AFP

Pioneering documentarian protects hip hop’s memory box



Historian, pioneering hip hop documentarian and historian Ralph McDaniels sits at his desk as he shows his archives of footage spanning 40 years in Elmont, New York on 28 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN the basement of a suburban home on Long Island lives thousands of tapes of footage documenting the origins of hip hop, the dominant music genre of our time.

Brooklyn native Ralph McDaniels was among the first figures to film the rap scene in New York, the city that gave birth to the genre, documenting its evolution on his show “Video Music Box”, where soon-to-be legends including Nas and Jay-Z made their early appearances.

“We were on this low-power TV station that everybody

had, there was only 10 of them,” McDaniels said of his show’s early days in New York. “We were the last one — channel 31... Kids got out (of school) at 3:00pm, they ran home and sat down and watched whatever the latest thing was — whatever was new, I played it.”

“Diddy, Jay-Z, all these guys would come to me and be like, can you get it on today?”

McDaniels also directed hundreds of music videos, including “C.R.E.A.M.” from the Wu-Tang Clan and “It Ain’t Hard to Tell” from Nas. — AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD

Malaysia's natural rubber production rises 23.8% in June

MALAYSIA'S natural rubber production increased by 23.8 per cent to 29,867 tonnes in June from 24,126 tonnes in May, official data showed Tuesday.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement that year-on-year comparison showed that the production of natural rubber decreased by 3.9 per cent from 31,083 tonnes in June last year.

Meanwhile, exports of Malaysia's natural rubber amounted to 48,857 tonnes in June, increased by 31.8 per cent as against 37,062 tonnes in May.

China remained the main destination for Malaysia's natural rubber exports which accounted for 50.6 per cent of total exports in June. This was followed by Germany (7.8 per cent), the United States (4.9 per cent), Pakistan (3.1 per cent) and Iran



Staff of Top Glove factory works in the research and development department lab in Shah Alam on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur on 26 August 2020. Top Glove, a Malaysian-based company is one of the world's largest rubber glove manufacturer **PHOTO: FILE/AFP**

(2.5 per cent).

The export performance was contributed by natural rubber-based products such as gloves, tires, tubes, rubber threads and condoms.

Gloves were the main exports of rubber-based products with a value of 900 million ringgit (196.73 million US dollars) in June, a decrease of five per cent as compared to one billion ringgit in May.

The performance of the second quarter showed natural rubber production decreased by 7.6 per cent to 77,453 tonnes, as compared to 83,848 tonnes in the first quarter of 2023. The annual performance of Malaysia's natural rubber production in the second quarter, however, recorded an increase of 3.8 per cent as compared to 74,635 tonnes a year ago. — Xinhua

Cambodia makes US\$2.63 bln from exports of agricultural products in 7 months

CAMBODIA exported 4.51 million tonnes of agricultural products in the first seven months of 2023, a year-on-year decrease of 19.2 per cent, said a Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) report on Tuesday. During the January-July period this year, the Southeast Asian nation earned a total revenue of nearly 2.63 billion US dollars from the agricultural products shipped to 68 countries and regions, the report said. Main agricultural items for exports included rice, rubber, cassava, mangoes, fresh bananas, pep-

per, cashew nuts, longan, corn, and palm oil, among others.

The report said the kingdom exported 362,708 tonnes of milled rice in the first seven months of this year, earning gross revenue of 313.7 million US dollars.

"As rice price on the international market is soaring, Cambodia is studying strategies that can benefit the economy from this event," said Im Rachna, undersecretary of state and spokeswoman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. — Xinhua



Workers prepares durian for sale at a shop in Phnom Penh on 17 June 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

European stock markets drop as banks hit

EUROPEAN stock markets slid Tuesday, with shares in Italian banks hit hard by the announcement of a windfall tax on lenders.

Banks elsewhere also took a knock on concerns over the health of the US sector, analysts said.

The dollar continued to benefit from talk of yet another US interest rate hike, while oil prices retreated following more weak Chinese data.

In Milan, share prices of Italian banks Intesa Sanpaolo to Unicredit and Monte dei Pas-

chi di Siena lost between six and eight per cent on news of the windfall tax, adopted by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's ministers late Monday.

Fallout spread to French and German banks, with Credit Agricole down 2.8 per cent around midday in Paris and Commerzbank losing 3.0 per cent in Frankfurt.

The Italian government was "using part of the banks' billion-dollar profits to help families and businesses affected by rising interest rates", Deputy

Prime Minister Matteo Salvini said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Banks were also "under pressure across Europe after Moody's cut its credit ratings on 10 small to mid-sized US banks", noted Victoria Scholar, head of investment at Interactive Investor.

And it "warned it may do the same for some of the larger lenders such as BNY Mellon and State Street which have been placed on review for a possible downgrade", she added. — AFP

New Zealand's residential property downturn continues to decelerate

NEW Zealand's residential property downturn continues to decelerate, with the country's three-month rolling rate of decline reducing for the fourth straight month, according to the government property market valuations company Quotable Value Limited (QV) on Tuesday.

The QV House Price Index for July 2023 shows the aver-

age home decreased in value by 1.5 per cent nationally this quarter, which is a smaller rate of decline than the 1.8 per cent change experienced back in June, and considerably lower than the 3.5 per cent and 3.4 per cent quarterly declines experienced back in April and May respectively.

New Zealand's national average of residential property

now sits at 888,999 New Zealand dollars (538,857.85 US dollars), said a QV statement. That figure is now 10.2 per cent less than the same time last year, but just 0.3 per cent lower than at the end of June, it said, adding four of the 16 main urban areas recorded small amounts of positive home value growth in the three months to the end of July nationwide. — Xinhua

PayPal debuts
US dollar-backed
stablecoin for payments

PAYPAL on Monday launched a stablecoin digital currency backed by US dollars to be used for transactions at its global online payments platform. PayPal USD is issued by Paxos Trust Company and backed by dollar deposits and similar cash holdings, the online payments giant said in a release.

It comes as the cryptocurrency industry is suffering hard times after the spectacular collapse of FTX and various legal cases against the sector's biggest players.

As the biggest cryptocurrencies are famously volatile, entrepreneurs invented a theoretically more reliable alternative known as stablecoins.

These coins are pegged to the US dollar or other fiat currencies, but still come with concerns their value can tank. "The shift toward digital currencies requires a stable instrument that is both digitally native and easily connected to fiat currency like the US dollar," said PayPal chief executive Dan Schulman.

— AFP

SoftBank Group net loss shrinks in
April-June as stocks bounce back



Pedestrians walk outside the headquarters for Japanese company SoftBank Group in Tokyo Portcity Takeshiba on 11 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

SOFTBANK Group Corp said Tuesday it registered a net loss of 477.62 billion yen (\$3.3 billion) for the three months ended June, shrinking from the record

loss it posted in the same period last year as the value of its stock investment portfolio recovered to some extent.

SoftBank Group reported a net loss of 3.16 trillion yen in the April-June quarter last year, the largest quarterly loss ever by a Japanese company as its Vision Fund was hit by a global market slump.

The tech giant said sales fell 0.9 per cent from a year earlier to 1.56 trillion yen for the three-month period. It did not release an earnings forecast for the business year through March 2024. — Kyodo

Italian government
allows more taxi
licences amid shortage

THE Italian government gave a boost to the troubled taxi sector Monday by increasing the number of licences, particularly in major cities where tourists have been hit by shortages.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's cabinet adopted a decree law which allows councils to issue extra licences to cope with high demand linked to peaks in tourist arrivals or major events.

Big cities and those which host international airports will be able to

increase licence numbers by up to 20 per cent, although applicants for the new permits must use electric or hybrid vehicles, the transport ministry said.

The new permits will last up to two years, it said.

Italy's competition watchdog said last week that it was looking into the taxi sector, which is run by a powerful lobby, amid reports of a severe shortage in major cities including Rome, Milan and Naples. — AFP



Taxi drivers wait for customers at a taxi rank on Piazza Venezia in downtown Rome on 10 March 2020. PHOTO: FILE/AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0300-749N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0300-749N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2023** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE(ASIA) PTE., LTD

MYANMA Port Authority
"NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 19.98 feet to 20.08 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 17th to August 19th, 2023. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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09 454 237 515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (331S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (331S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (329W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (329W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Ukraine nuclear plants fully operational for winter: operator

UKRAINIAN nuclear power plants located in territory held by Kyiv will be fully operational by winter to provide electricity for the country, Ukraine’s atomic energy operator said Monday.

“All the power at our disposal will be given to the electricity grid”, after the servicing of some reactors before winter, Energoatom chief Petro Kotin, told journalists.

He was speaking at the Yuzhnoukrainsk plant in southern Ukraine to mark the recommissioning of one of its three reactors -- each with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts. Ukraine currently has three power stations with a total of nine reactors in the territory under its control.

“We will enter winter with nine reactors at full capacity,” said Kotin, adding that four reactors currently under repair would be operational before November, with a total capacity of almost 7,600 megawatts.

The fourth nuclear power station, which is also the biggest in Europe, is the Zaporizhzhia plant which houses six reactors. It has been occupied by Russian forces since March 2022.

Kotin added that it was vital to regain control of the Zaporizhzhia plant, with a capacity of 6,000 megawatts, in order to supply electricity to Ukraine.

Since the start of June, Kyiv’s troops have led a counteroffensive in the area near Zaporizhzhia in the east and south of Ukraine, in an attempt to retake territory held by Russia since the start of the invasion in February 2022.

According to Kotin, Ukrainian nuclear power stations were not “directly affected” by the wave of Russian strikes on energy infrastructure in the autumn and winter of last year, which cut off power to millions of Ukrainian homes. — AFP



This photograph taken on 7 August 2023 shows a general view of the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant near the city of Yuzhnoukrainsk in Mykolaiv region on 7 August 2023 amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sudan at risk of disease as corpses litter streets: charity



A boy walks through a flooded area in al-Sagai north of Omdurman on 6 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

WAR-TORN Sudan is at risk of major disease outbreaks, with thousands of unburied corpses remaining out in the open and the country’s health and sanitation infrastructure destroyed, Save the Children warned Tuesday. Residents say Khartoum is littered with dead bodies from fighting between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Without a functioning public health laboratory for testing, the non-governmental organization said it was difficult to assess whether Sudan was experiencing a cholera outbreak.

The conflict which erupted on 15 April has prevented victims and families from reaching hospitals, 80 per cent of which the World Health Organization says are out of service. In addition, “prolonged power shortages have left the city’s morgues without refrigeration, leaving bodies to decompose in the heat”, said Save the Children. — AFP

capital and morgues overflowing four months into the conflict, the London-based charity raised the alarm about “the risk of major disease outbreaks in the city”.

Sudan has seen repeated cholera outbreaks in recent years, and doctors have warned of a renewed threat as a result of the war. “A horrifying combination of rising numbers of corpses, severe water shortages, non-functioning hygiene and sanitation services, and lack of water treatment options are also prompting fears of a cholera outbreak in the city,” Save the Children said.

Medical charity slams UN failure to renew Syria aid route

A medical charity on Tuesday deplored the UN’s failure to renew a cross-border mechanism that allowed international aid to reach rebel-held northwestern Syria from Türkiye and demanded an urgent solution. “The resolution expired a month ago and there is no solution currently in sight. This is simply deplorable,” said Sebastien Gay, head of mission for Doctors Without Border (MSF) in Syria. The UN Security Council’s inability to renew “a resolution safeguarding access to vital humanitarian aid for northwestern Syria is inexcusable”, the aid group said.

More than four million people live in rebel-held areas of northern and northwestern Syria, many of them in overcrowded camps, where they are in desperate need of aid.

Through an arrangement that began in 2014, the UN delivered relief to the areas directly through the Bab al-Hawa crossing from Türkiye.

But last month, the UN Security Council failed to reach consensus on extending the key aid route. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian diplomat applauds rising global influence of BRICS

A senior Iranian diplomat said on Tuesday that the collective capacities and capabilities of the BRICS countries have elevated the five-member bloc’s standing in the global community. Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs Mehdi Safari made the remarks at a conference titled “Iran and BRICS: Prospects for Partnership and Cooperation” in the capital Tehran, the Iranian Students’ News Agency (ISNA) reported.

Despite facing tough sanctions, Safari highlighted Iran’s strong potential to carry out cooperation with BRICS countries in the fields of transportation, energy, and technical and engineering services, adding Iran is willing to deepen its economic ties with the bloc that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.—Xinhua

SPORTS

One win, one loss for Myanmar in Continental Futsal Championship 2023



Myanmar futsal player (red) uses full strength to turn away the rival during the group match of the Continental Futsal Championship 2023 against Solomon Island on 8 August 2023. PHOTO:MFF

MYANMAR futsal team has recorded one win and one loss outcome in the Continental Futsal Championship 2023 which is being held in Thailand.

Falling in the Group A, team Myanmar suffered a 0-5 defeat to Thailand in their debut, played on 7 August.

Team Thailand scored one goal in the first half and four goals in the second half, and the Myanmar team had some chances but failed to capitalize on them.

Similarly, team Myanmar fly in the face of Solomon Island yesterday at the same venue, revealing the clear victory: 6-2.

Nyein Min Soe for team Myanmar crowned the Man of the Match Award after the match against Solomon Island. — TWA /KZL



France's goalkeeper 16 Pauline Peyraud-Magnin (C) makes a save during the Australia and New Zealand 2023 Women's World Cup round of 16 football match between France and Morocco at Hindmarsh Stadium in Adelaide on 8 August 2023. PHOTO: AFP

France ease past Morocco to set up Australia World Cup clash

EUGENIE Le Sommer scored twice as France eased to a 4-0 win over Morocco at the Women's World Cup on Tuesday and set up a quarter-final with co-hosts Australia.

Morocco had upset the odds to qualify for the last 16 at the expense of Germany in their debut appearance at the tournament but they never managed to lay a glove on Herve Renard's French side in Adelaide.

Kadidiatou Diani opened the scoring on the quarter-hour mark and it was 3-0 just after the midway point in the first half as Kenza Dali and Le Sommer added further goals. — AFP

Pliskova, Azarenka win WTA openers at rain-hit Montreal

FORMER world number ones Karolina Pliskova and Victoria Azarenka advanced after rain delays on Monday's first day of the WTA Montreal Open hardcourt tournament.

Czech standout Pliskova beat China's Zhu Lin to book a second-round berth against current world number one Iga Swiatek of Poland, the reigning US and French Open champion.

Pliskova, the runner-up at Montreal

in 2021, needed two hours and 22 minutes to eliminate Zhu 6-3, 6-7 (8/10), 6-2.

Rain hit with the tie-breaker level 8-8 after Pliskova had missed on two match-point chances. Zhu won the first two points once play resumed but Pliskova broke her three times in the final set for the victory.

"I was kind of ready for both situations because it's 8-8, so it can just be like two quick points, so you have to be

ready that you are going to lose them as well," Pliskova said.

"It's tough because you're so close to the win, and then you just start from zero going in the third set, but there's nothing you can do. You have to still be there and fight."

Swiatek is 2-0 against Pliskova, blanking her 6-0, 6-0 in the 2021 Rome final and prevailing in three sets four months ago in Stuttgart. — AFP

Man City aim to hold off big-spending pretenders to Premier League crown

MANCHESTER City begin the defence of their Premier League title away to newly-promoted Burnley on Friday as Pep Guardiola's men look to hold off an ambitious group of challengers to their crown as English champions.

Arsenal and Manchester United have spent big to try and end their long wait for a league title, while Liverpool and Chelsea are expected to bounce back from last season's disappointment.

But another transfer window of major investment by English clubs has been overshadowed by the lavish sums luring even some of the Premier League's best talent to Saudi Arabia. City still the benchmark

City not only won the Premier League for a fourth time in five years last season, but completed a treble

of FA Cup and the club's first ever Champions League.

Maintaining his side's hunger is the task awaiting Guardiola, but the Catalan coach is confident City will rise to the challenge of becoming the first side to ever win four consecutive English top-flight titles.

"We have done it in the past, why should we not do it now? What we did belongs in our hearts and minds but while we are here we cannot stop," said Guardiola.

City have lost captain Ilkay Gundogan to Barcelona and Riyad Mahrez to the exodus from Europe to Saudi.

The arrival of Croatian internationals Josko Gvardiol and Mateo Kovacic has softened that blow, but the champions have been quiet in the market compared to the chasing pack. — AFP



Manchester City's German midfielder Ilkay Gundogan lifts the trophy as Manchester City players celebrate winning the title at the presentation ceremony following the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 21 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP



WORLD



A display shows information on the suspension of ferry services in Kagoshima due to an approaching typhoon on 8 August 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

Flights cancelled as typhoon skirts southern Japan

FLIGHTS were cancelled, bullet trains partially suspended and factories shuttered on Tuesday as Typhoon Khanun headed past Japan's

southernmost main island of Kyushu, bringing heavy rain.

The typhoon last week reportedly killed at least two people, injured more

than 100 and cut off power for several hundred thousand people in the southern Okinawa region before barrelling towards China Taipei.

The weather system then swung back to the Okinawa area and on Wednesday was due to roar along the western coast of Kyushu towards South Korea, according to forecasters.

Japan Airlines on Tuesday cancelled 132 flights, which affected some 8,390 people, a spokeswoman told AFP.

ANA also scrapped flights between Kagoshima in southern Kyushu and Tokyo.

The country's "shinkansen" bullet train was suspended in part of its southern route, while many other local commuter and express trains were cancelled, Kyushu Railway said in a statement.

"Please be vigilant about landslides, floods in low lands, and increase and spillover of water in rivers, storms and high waves" at seas, Japan's weather agency warned local residents on its website.

Kagoshima prefecture issued non-compulsory evacuation orders to about 540,000 residents, setting up 314 shelters, officials said.

Other regions north of Kyushu were also bracing for the violent weather system, with carmaker Mazda announcing its factories in Hiroshima and Yamaguchi would suspend operations on Wednesday and Thursday.

The storm forced Nagasaki, one of the main cities on Kyushu, to move indoors and scale down its annual commemoration ceremony of the 1945 atomic bombing scheduled for Wednesday.

In South Korea, the approaching weather system prompted the evacuation of tens of thousands of people at the World Scout Jamboree. — AFP

Singaporean PM calls for trust in government, vows better livelihood

SINGAPORE'S Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Tuesday pledged to keep governing system free of corruption and called on citizens to strengthen trust in the authority while delivering his National Day message.

Noting that the city-state has seen disreputable cases involving political figures, Lee stressed that the government is determined to keep free of corruption and wrongdoing and will maintain high standards of honesty, integrity, and propriety.

The cases include allegations of preferential treatment in renting government

properties by two ministers, a corruption probe into the transport minister, and the resignations of former parliament speaker and parliament member, Lee noted in his speech.

Lee filmed his National Day message at a new public flat community built by the country's Housing and Development Board (HDB) and reiterated the promise to offer good and affordable government-funded estates to the Singaporean people.

Singapore will celebrate its 58th National Day on 9 August. — Xinhua

S Korean lawmaker criticizes US chip policies for damaging ties with allies

A South Korean lawmaker strongly criticized US semiconductor policies towards China as the legislations risked damaging relations with its Asian allies, including South Korea.

Yang Hyang-ja, a former member of the main opposition Democratic Party who launched her party "Hope of Korea" in June, said that the US measures to curb China's ability to access or produce advanced chips risked damaging relations with its Asian allies.

"If (Washington) continues to try

to punish other nations and to pass bills and implement 'America First' policies in an unpredictable manner, other countries could form an alliance against the US," She said in an interview with the Financial Times over the weekend.

Yang, a former chip engineer and executive of Samsung Electronics, said that the US appearing to use its strength as a weapon was not desirable, urging Washington to consider more of humanity's common values. — Xinhua