

Housings for public and government staff to use more local materials



A two-storey modular house is seen at Myanma Construction, Real Estate and Renewable Energy Show.

Low-cost housings for public and staff housings will be constructed with a model called Modular House that will consume 80 per cent of local raw materials for each building, U Shein Win, President of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) told the Global New Light of Myanmar on 19 August.

In the project to be implemented in collaboration between the MCEF and the Ministry of Construction, use of the raw materials for modular houses can reduce construction materials import, he said.

“We visited a test site in Japan where a three-storey modular house is built within three days. They have conducted tests 5,000 times whether the building can withstand earthquakes of 8.5 to 9 magnitude. They produce such houses after many tests. We have already begun producing such modular houses applying our own technologies. In our products, 70 to 80 per cent of the raw materials are from local,” U Shein Win said.

The cost for a modular house is nearly K15 million for a one-storey building and about K30 million for a two-storey one, and the costs are not included expenses for the foundations. — ASH/TH

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CBM urges public not to keep foreign currencies without permission

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Sittway, Maungdaw posts reap trade value of US\$0.07878 mln as of August 2nd week

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Domestic palm oil prices reached above K10,000, becoming the highest in 2022 and 2023



A patient receives medical treatment by a specialist medical team in Sittway, Rakhine State.

Specialists on third medical tour of Rakhine State

Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Health, a specialist medical team comprising professors and specialist surgeons from Cardiology, gastrointestinal medicine, neurology, neurosurgery, diabetes and hormone medicine, hematology, thoracic medicine and orthopaedic medicine of Yangon General Hospital and the Specialist Hospital (500-bed) was dispatched to Mocha-hit Sittway of Rakhine State on 19 and 20 August. This effort addressed the super specialty medical needs of the affected population.

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NATIONAL



Nay Pyi Taw Development Bank is conducting foreign currency exchange service.

CBM urges public not to keep foreign currencies without permission

THE Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday issued a public notice saying those who keep foreign currencies without permissions or licences will be taken action under the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

The CBM issued a similar notice before in its effort to encourage the people not to keep foreign currencies.

The 20 August notice also referred to Paragraph 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Rules, issued as Order No 7/2014 by the Central Bank of Myanmar dated 30 September 2014 which states “A resident can possess, for up to six months from the date of receipt, US\$ 10,000, or other types of foreign currency in an equivalent amount, if obtained legally by this person.

“If the foreign currency is not used within six months, it shall be sold to, and exchanged by, foreign exchange dealing licence holders at the market price or deposited in a bank account.”

The notice also said under Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, purchases and sales of foreign exchange can be carried out only by foreign exchange dealing licence holders in terms of cash and traveller’s cheques. — GNLM/TH

Foreign currencies for petty cash available at YIA and banks

THE Central Bank of Myanmar recently notified the public of the places they can buy foreign currencies of nearly US\$300 to US\$500 or equivalent amount of other currencies by issuing a notice dated 20 August.

The notice reminds the fact that the service is being provided from 31 May 2023 at Yangon International Airport and money changer counters of the banks with the aim to facilitate citizens in buying seven foreign currencies — US dollar, Euro, Singapore dollar, Bath, Ringgit, Yuan and yen — to bring along with them other

than debit cards and credit cards on their journey to overseas. The authorities will also arrange three AD banks to sell foreign currencies every day and the banks will take turns to offer service at arrival and departure sections of the airport. The service is also aimed at curbing currency transactions at grey markets.

The notice also said that people going abroad to work, undergo medical treatment and to study are eligible to buy the currencies and the service will extend to pilgrims and those who go abroad by the invita-

tion of foreign government or private organizations.

The above services will be provided by Kanbawza Bank, Ayeyawady Bank PCL, Co-operative Bank (CB Bank) PCL, Myanmar Apex Bank, Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank, Yoma Bank, United Amara Bank, Asia Green Development Bank, Myanmar Oriental Bank, Myanmar Citizens Bank, Global Treasure Bank and Innwa Bank. These banks also inform the people about the service on their websites and Facebook pages. — GNLM/TH



Foreigners are pictured at currency exchange counters at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: KANU

MMPO to organize 103rd anniversary, 46th respect-paying ceremony in October

THE artistes make an advertisement for raising awareness of the 103rd Myanmar Motion Picture Day and 46th respect-paying ceremony that will be held on 13 October, according to U Aye Kyu Lay, vice-chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO).

The advertising for respect-paying event awareness is made by film director Zaw Myint Oo and co-director Aung Awba and cameraman Academy Tin San. It features many film stars such as Academy Award winners Yan Aung, May Than Nu and so on.

“Currently, most artistes are making movies in the countryside areas. We make such an advertisement with actors so those in the countryside will know about the respect-paying event and



Artistes donate cash to fund of respect-paying ceremony.

can make donations. This year’s event will include donation stalls. Now, we are compiling the exact lists of the elderly for the ceremony. Some pass away and new ones are on the list. There might be about 180 on the list. The Myanmar Motion Picture industry started on 13 October 1920 and it will mark 103rd anniversary. The 46th respect-paying ceremony will be held on the same day,” said the MMPO vice-chairman.

Currently, artistes make cash donations for respect-paying ceremonies, and the donation amounted to K4,150,000.

The 103rd Myanmar Motion Picture Day and 46th respect-paying ceremony will be held at MMPO (Central) Office in Bahan Township of Yangon Region on 13 October. — ASH/KTZH

NATIONAL

A memorial statue named “Allies of Myanmar Warriors” who fought during World War II was unveiled on 14 August in the Patriot Park of Kubinka, Moscow District, where the Main Cathedral of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation is located.

In his keynote speech, Army General Sergey Kuzhugetovich Shoigu, Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation said that the erection of a statue named “Allies of Myanmar Warriors” is a celebration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and Myanmar this year, as well as an expression of the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

He highlighted that it is an important political duty to preserve and protect the truths of the genuine history that will remind us that Russia-Myanmar cooperated in the revolution against the fascists, showing stronger friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

After that, State Administration Council member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San expressed his words of thanks.

Those who attended the ceremony laid wreaths in front of the memorial statue.

The main cathedral of the Russian Army was built on 9 May 2020 to commemorate the

Memorial statue named “Allies of Myanmar Warriors” unveiled in Patriot Park in Russia



State Administration Council member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San expresses words of thanks at Memorial statue named “Allies of Myanmar Warriors” unveiled in Patriot Park in Russia on 14 August.

75th Victory Day of Great Patriotic War, becoming the Centre of Military Glory of the Russian Army and commemorating the Russian soldiers who died in the bloodiest war in history.

Currently, monuments are being erected in honour of international warriors, including the Russian Red Army, who fought together with Russia against the fascists during the Second World War.

The monument was erected as the outdoor display of the Allied soldiers to honour the Myanmar military personnel who sacrificed their lives and fought in the fascist revolution during World War II. It was sculpted by MB Grekova art studio in Moscow.

During the Second World War, the role of Myanmar military personnel in fighting back against the imperialist invasion

and occupation of the enemy had a significant impact on the success of the world war.

The idea to erect the statue was first sought by the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, and according to the report of military historians from the Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), an agreement was sought from Chairman of the State Administration Council Command-

er-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The sculpture and the successful erection of the statue were personally supervised by the Russian Minister of Defence. In the statue, everyone will see two soldiers wearing Myanmar historical military uniforms and fighting bravely and marching forward towards the goal of success, ignoring the enemy.

One of the soldiers is holding a rifle captured from the enemy, and the other is holding a Mosin type rifle made by the Soviet Union in one hand, and the other hand is a sculpture of the national flag that was used at that time.

A lion statue is placed on the lower left leg of the statue. The statue is also a symbol of ancient Myanmar arts, and the shape of the lion is carved in the same way as statues of two big lions from the foot of Mandalay Hill.

The meaning is to depict the battle of Mandalay, where the enemy was successfully repulsed, and at the feet of the soldiers, the flags of the enemy’s army and the swords of the enemy are carved into the image of trampling.

The erection of the statue of “Allies of Myanmar Warriors” in the Russian Federation is a reflection of the brotherly and cooperative spirit of the two countries, which will not go astray. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar to beef up diplomatic relations with UAE, protect Myanmar workers under UAE labour law

MYANMAR will boost diplomatic relations with UAE and cooperate to protect Myanmar workers in accord with the law of UAE, said Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia U Tin Yu.

Myanmar Ambassador U Yin Tu discussed as regards the protection for Myanmar workers in UAE under the law and plans to beef up diplomatic ties between two countries with Chargé d’ Affaires Ms Maryam Nasser Almheiri.

During the meeting, the two sides focused on progresses in current political situation of Myanmar, legal protection on Myanmar workers in UAE, enhancement of Myanmar-UAE diplomatic relations, cooperation in business and investment sectors, and ASEAN-GCC relations measures. — ASH/KTZH



Ambassador of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia U Tin Yu and Chargé d’ Affaires Ms Maryam Nasser Almheiri discuss the promotion of diplomatic relations with UAE and collaboration to protect Myanmar workers’ rights in UAE.

NATIONAL

Union Information Minister visits Yunnan Baiyao traditional medicine factory, China Tobacco Schweitzer



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn visits Yunnan Baiyao traditional medicine factory in Kunming on 20 August 2023.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn paid a visit to Yunnan Baiyao traditional medicine factory in Kunming yesterday morning. The factory established in 1971 transformed its operation from the conventional to the modern manufacturing system, continuously conducting the tests to enhance the

quality of medications and produce new medical products. The Union minister heard the brief history of the factory, production system and management measures by officials. Deputy Director Dr Myint Myat of Yangon Region Public Health Department who accompanied the Union

minister asked he wanted to know. Moreover, the Union minister visited China Tobacco Schweitzer plant established in 2011 and it launched operations in 2014. The plant manufactures products under the prescribed rules and regulations related to the health protocols. — MNA/TTA

Specialists on third medical tour...

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Those specialists provided healthcare services to 871 residents from urban and rural areas of Sittway, Pon-nagyun, Rathedaung, Pauktaw, MraukU, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Myebon, Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships. Among them, 31 individuals were undergone heart imaging using an echocardiography machine. Additionally, 14 patients received treatment of gastrointestinal endoscopy (OGDS), two patients colonoscopy procedures, five individuals knee injections, nine patients CT scans, 71 patients X-ray diagnoses, 168 patients laboratory tests, and 29 patients ultrasound examinations. Moreover, 124 patients undergone electrocardiogram (ECG) tests, and six patients further heart treatment were referred to Yangon General Hospital. Moreover, arrangements were made to transfer one patient in need of continued chest medical treatment to a specialist hospital-(500-bed) in Yangon. This trip marked the third planned visit to Rakhine State in 2023. Similar trips have been made to Patheingyi of Ayeyawady Region, Taunggyi of Shan State and Magway of Magway Region, with further plans to other regions and states. — MNA/KZW

COVID-19 report, 20 August 2023

NEW TESTS	3,485
NEW CASES	2
CASUALTIES	0

7th China-South Asia Expo, 27th China Kunming Export-Import Expo conclude with cooperation agreements

THE last day of the 7th China-South Asia Expo and the 27th China Kunming Export-Import Expo was held yesterday at Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kunming, China. Exhibitors introduced Myanmar food products to the visitors at the Myanmar exhibition booths. Visitors are also interested in the investment and Myanmar tourist spots displayed

in the gallery. Representing Myanmar: Kokang Entrepreneur Association, AJ Myanmar, Good Brother Group Co Ltd and Global Earth Agro and Aqua International Co Ltd signed cooperation agreements related to export and import business and distribution of goods, agricultural produce and aquatic products with four companies based in China at the Myanmar booths. — MNA/KZL



The last day of the 7th China-South Asia Expo and the 27th China Kunming Export-Import Expo is bustling with people at Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kunming yesterday.

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NATIONAL

Pilgrims, monks gather in high numbers to reverence Maravijaya Buddha Image

THE Maravijaya Buddha image, which is the tallest among sitting marble Buddha images in the world, was successfully erected in the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw. Monks who came from all over the country pay homage to the image. It is particularly crowded with pilgrims.

Even yesterday, the monks who undertake pilgrimage find solace in worshipping and studying the magnificent Maravijaya Buddha image and other religious structures within the Buddha Park. The growth of Dhamma is nurtured as they partake in ritual offerings in accordance with their association’s practices, deepening their reverence and zeal for charitable contributions.

The Maravijaya Buddha image is open for monks and the general public to visit for free from 6 am to 8 pm until 3 September. Reportedly, it is a large number of pilgrims coming to pay homage. — MNA/KZW



Devotees are seen gathering to pay homage to and worship the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Illegal timber, consumer goods, industrial equipment, vehicles confiscated



Smuggled goods seized at Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint and in Shan State on 17 and 18 August.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, illegal trade is effectively prevented and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

A combined team, under the management of the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force, conducted inspections in Setsan ward on Upper Pazundaung Road on 16 August. During this operation, the team seized 20 kinds of goods including 17 SAWA 12000 branch new generators (estimated value of K24.03 million). These gener-

ators lacked an import declaration form. Action was taken in accordance with customs procedures.

On 17 August, a combined team managed by the Mon State Illegal Eradication Trade Special Task Force carried out inspections in Mawlamyine Township. At Hintha Roundabout combined checkpoint, they seized eight kinds of products including 230 kilogrammes of used ceramic plates worth K6.69 million were seized, along with a JMC Carrying Plus 2800 Van

used to transport these items worth K15 million. Action is taken in accordance with customs procedures.

On 17 August, on-duty customs team, operating under the Customs Department, conducted inspections at the Yaypu checkpoint. During these inspections, smuggled items including 330 pairs of ring-stitched flip flops worth K22.325 million were piled up on the detour road from Nawngseng village to Namum village. Among these items were 12 different products, and 7,560

packages of Wai Wai instant rice vermicelli (with an estimated value of K2.31 million).

At the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, a vehicle travelling from Myawady to Yangon was raided. The vehicle was unable to show official documents for the transported goods. One Yutong Express Bus (estimated value of K35 million) carrying the mentioned items. Action was taken in accordance with customs procedures.

On 18 August, a combined team managed by the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections at Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse. It seized 12 items of goods worth K3.831 million. These seizures included smuggled goods like Solar Light (65W). Action was taken in accordance with customs procedures.

The same day, combined teams conducted inspections on the Mandalay-Hanmyintmo-Aungban-Taunggyi road

section. At Thanywa Police Station, three unlicensed 12-wheel Nissan Diesels worth K90 million were found in transporting bags of peanuts and sesame.

In addition, at the warehouse located on 114th (A) street between 73rdx74th streets in Pyigyidagun Township, two products worth K135 million were seized. These products included 5,400 kilogrammes of smuggled raw materials worth K225 million. Action was taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Furthermore, on 18 August, a total of 3.989 tonnes of illegal teak timber worth K2,632,740 were nabbed in Nyaunglebin district. Moreover, 1.494 tonnes of illegal timber worth K224,130 was seized in Toungoo District.

As a result, a total of 13 cases were arrested from 16 to 19 August, with an estimated value of K337,042,870, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZW

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sittway, Maungtaw posts reap trade value of US\$0.07878 mln as of August 2nd week



Exported items are seen at the Maungtaw trade post.

SITTWAY and Maungtaw trade posts performed a trade volume worth US\$0.07878 million with Bangladesh as of the second week of August, and the largest number of fishery products was exported through the Maungtaw border.

The Sittway trade post carried out \$0.0258 million of trade with Bangladesh from 12 to 15 August, as the actual export and import records of the Customs Department indicated. It is reported that there was no action in the import operations section.

Only 12-wheeler and six-wheeler trucks are able to travel the Yangon-Sittway Highway due to the limited road and bridge load capacity in the rainy season. Shipping boats are running back and forth on the My-

anmar-Bangladesh trade route depending on the sea weather conditions during the rainy season.

As for the Maungtaw trade post, agricultural produce, fishery products, and finished industrial products were mainly exported to Bangladesh until mid-August, with no record of imports.

Goods enter the Maungtaw trade post from the Sittway-Buthidaung-Maungtaw route and the Sittway-Agunmaw-Maungtaw route. Currently, goods are mainly coming in from the Sittway-Agunmaw-Maungtaw route and are being exported to Bangladesh through the Kanyinchaung economic zone, according to the Ministry of Commerce. — TWA/CT

Chinese potato prices drop in commodity market, while Kyukok garlic prices increase

ALTHOUGH the price of potatoes is falling in the Yangon commodity market, the price of Kyukok garlic is rising, according to the market.

The wholesale price of Chinese potatoes fell to K2,200 per viss on 19 August. Various sizes of Chinese potatoes were priced at K1,400 to K1,800 per viss.

In the daily commodity price list of the Bayintnaung commodity market, the Shan potato price has not been mentioned for several days, but the Chinese potato price has.

Although the price of potatoes has fallen, the price of both types of garlic has risen. The wholesale price of Kyukok garlic rose to K8,000 per viss on 19 August, up from K7,000 per viss on 9 August.

The prices of Shan garlic on 19 August were K7,700 per viss for special grade-2, K8,200 per viss for S3, K8,700 per viss for S4, and K9,000 per viss for S5. It is reported that the price of both types of garlic on 19 August became the highest price in the records of the garlic market.

On 19 August 2022, the wholesale prices per viss of potatoes ranged between K1,450 and K2,350. At the same

time, the wholesale prices of Kyukok garlic and Shan garlic were K4,100 per viss and K2,400–K4,000 per viss, respectively, according to the old price lists.

Therefore, the price of potatoes this year is around the same as last year, but it is known that the price of both types of garlic on 19 August this year has doubled compared to the same period last year. — TWA/CT



Kyukok garlic seen in the market.

Pigeon pea price up by K1.7 mln per tonne on 19 Aug



A photo shows the sample of pigeon pea (red gram).

THE price of pigeon peas (also known as red gram, tur) increased by K1.7 million per tonne on 19 August compared to last year's price.

Only 25,000 tonnes of pigeon peas are in stock. Meanwhile, the demand from Indian buyers is increasingly high. Approximately 350,000-400,000 tonnes of black gram (urad) are expected to be available in Myanmar; India's pulses industry forecast.

The prices of pigeon peas hit K3.65 million per

tonne on 18 August and K3.675 million per tonne on 19 August. The prices stood at K1.96 million per tonne on 18-19 August 2022. The prevailing market price indicated a tremendous rise of K1.7 million per tonne from last year.

In the third week of August 2023, the pure gold price is gaining in the grey market. Kyat is also weakening against the US dollar in the unofficial market.

The pigeon pea is cultivated in May in the central Myanmar regions. Newly harvested pigeon

peas usually enter the market at the end of the year.

Before the growing season, the price touched a high of K2.4 million per tonne in the post-Thingyan period (late April). The growers expanded the plantation this year. The yield is estimated at 250,000 to 300,000 tonnes this season. Along with the rise in pigeon pea prices in the domestic market, the FOB price also increased to US\$1,180-1,200 per tonne on 19 August from \$1,160-1,180 per tonne. — TWA/EM

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shan State offers 7-year tax exemption for investments in agricultural sector

AS per the Shan State Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, investment activities conducted within Shan State may qualify for an income tax exemption spanning five to seven years, with a particular emphasis on fostering the agricultural sector as a primary priority.

Shweli-3 hydropower project invites open tender through IPP/BOT system

THE Ministry of Electric Power is currently extending invitation to open tenders for private investment in the Shweli-3 hydropower project on Shweli River near Momeik of northern Shan State. This endeavour will proceed under the IPP/BOT system. Tender proposals are available at K500,000 per copy at Department of Hydropower Implementation in Nay Pyi Taw during office hours from 21 August to 11 September.

Gold market, trading expected into normalcy by August 2023

THE domestic gold market, currently in dull trading, is anticipated to resume normal operations by the end of this month. U Myo Myint, Chairman of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association, told a local media that the price of gold might be instable due to spreading of rumours and improprieate information on Facebook pages.

Businesspersons to enjoy fee exemptions, including import licence fees, while Myawady road section under repairs

WHILE the Myawady road section is undergoing preparations, certain fees, such as the import licence fee, will be exempted. This exemption applies to export and import measures, according to the stipulated procedure. The Department of Trade recently announced the exemption of fees for new licence applications in the TradeNet 2.0 system in the amending, revoking and issuing export and import licences.

Slight earthquake centres in Salin

AT 2:12:45 pm on 20 August, a slight earthquake with a magnitude of 4.9 occurred approximately 12 miles west of epicenter in Salin, Magway Region. The earthquake centred at latitude 20.60° and longitude 94.46°, with a depth of 46 kilometres, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Exporters and importers seek a tool to curb skyrocketing exchange rate



A foreign currency seen in a photo, gaining high value at grey market. PHOTO: XINHUA

MYANMAR traders involved in export and import business

are not happy with skyrocketing exchange rates, said Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, the secretary-general of the UM-FCCI in a meeting held at the Central Bank of Myanmar on 19 August to discuss the dramatic decrease of Myanmar currency value against foreign

counterparts.

“The current exchange rate practising in grey market is unreasonable and is much more than it should be. Basically, changes in exchange rate may vary depending on the demand and supply, but we cannot accept the current situation of unreasonable rise in exchange rate,” she explained

in the meeting.

Meeting participants discussed the factors that contribute to skyrocketing exchange rate, measures to be taken to bring the exchange rate to normal and the opportunities to cooperate between organizations and traders in pursuit of stable exchange rate.

Some importers are taking a privilege to buy US dollars at the rate of K2,920 offered by the Central Bank of Myanmar, but they mark the commodity prices in reference with exchange rate of grey market, making consumers to suffer. The UM-FCCI and its partner organizations will collaborate to eradicate such unethical dealing practices, according to the presentations at the meeting. Illegal trading is gaining momentum, prompting exchange rate to rise uncontrollably and special investigation teams are cracking them down, said an official at the meeting. — TWA/TH

Domestic palm oil prices reached above K10,000, becoming the highest in 2022 and 2023

ON 19 August 2023, the wholesale price of palm oil skyrocketed to an unprecedented price of around K10,300 per viss throughout the external palm oil market, Daw Than, an oil dealer at the Nyaungpinlay market in Lanmadaw Township, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Similarly, the wholesale price of palm oil in various regions reached above K10,000 per viss, according to the daily price descriptions of regional markets, including the Mandalay market.

Although there is the entry of imported palm oil and the absence of high imported oil prices, palm oil prices have hiked based on the fact that foreign currency exchange rates are much higher than the reference rates.

A total of 9,200 tonnes of palm oil from abroad entered the country on 18 and 19 August at a rate of US\$870 per tonne, according to Yangon oil market reports.

In 2022 and 2023 of the kitchen goods market, rice, edible oil, onion, garlic, chilli pepper, sugar, jaggery, the half of chickpeas, black gram, and pigeon peas reached record highs, except tamarind and potato. The wholesale price of palm oil in external markets also became included in the list in the third week of August 2023. Despite the low demand, there is little chance for the wholesale price to drop further from K10,300 per viss.



Preparing palm oil for sale is seen at a domestic edible oil outlet.

In order to facilitate the demand for foreign currency in the market, US dollars are being sold to the fuel oil, edible oil, and import industries through private banks.

However, in relation to foreign exchange rates, authorities issued an announcement that action will be taken against those who manipulate the market to increase foreign exchange rates, such as by writing posts and taking illegal actions on online and social media that are not based on market needs or data information.

It is known that consumers who have to buy palm oil at high prices wish for the price to decrease from the record high of K10,300 per viss. — TWA/CT

OPINION

Fine arts in own perspective are no products

Fine arts transcend mere products, eschewing representation of specific entities, yet they inherently find dedication to something and someone. It is in this symbiotic devotion that artistic endeavours truly flourish, attaining timeless masterwork status.

Creating a nurturing environment is essential for fine arts to flourish. Much like expansive pastures for livestock, artists require ample room for creativity to thrive. Stifled within confined boundaries, true artistic brilliance falters. Hence, artistic works should resonate across all spheres of existence. Consider the engagement of art with the realm of politics. Politics embodies authentic dynamism, with politicians often lacking mental and behavioural constancy. While artistic works can depict the essence of political nature for the people, they should refrain from depicting transient political actions. The fluctuating nature of politicians precludes stable representation.

In the universe, art intersects with all that emerges, be it spontaneous or intended. However, fine arts must resist external influences and interferences. Artists must diligently compartmentalize their emotions from their creations.

Yet, artistes must avoid entwining personal emotions into their creations. This is the fine line that separates enduring authenticity from temporal relevance. The creation of colourless yet resonant artistic pieces is paramount, capturing universal essence while maintaining simplicity and harmlessness. Such works, echoing creators and humanity alike, stand as eternal masterpieces transcending time.

myriad interpretations. An authentic work resonates universally, bridging the chasm between creator and observer, transcending eras as a perennial masterpiece — a point of reference and unparalleled brilliance.

In conclusion, fine arts defy being mere products, extending their allegiance to something greater than themselves. Nurtured expanses offer artists the canvas for genuine innovation. Political essence, sans transient actions, can be distilled into artistic expressions. Within the universe's tapestry, art intertwines seamlessly, though it must remain impervious to external influences. Despite being bereft of literal colour, art still embodies multifaceted representations.

Yet, artistes must avoid entwining personal emotions into their creations. This is the fine line that separates enduring authenticity from temporal relevance. The creation of colourless yet resonant artistic pieces is paramount, capturing universal essence while maintaining simplicity and harmlessness. Such works, echoing creators and humanity alike, stand as eternal masterpieces transcending time.

In the 21st century, the age of information and technology, powerful countries are using methods of influencing the emotions and feelings of the people in weak countries manipulating them with the aim of controlling the politics, economy, military and social environments of these countries. In other words, the method employed by powerful countries for their interests is to make a targeted country collapse and be under their control without intervening in the country with military means. The method is also said to be a new form of intervening in a country.

To make the method efficient, psychological warfare means are being employed with the effective use of AI technology on online social networks and media platforms so that people gradually have the emotional basics that can be easily manipulated to make them follow the way of masterminds.

The new form of psychological warfare is the repeated spreading of fake news, false stories, disinformation, and distorted news reports turning blind eyes to the truth through various so-called media outlets to the public.

In a bid to create a condition in which the people start to believe such fake news reports and disinformation are true, all possible methods are being applied to disseminate such news among the public as much as possible. In such a way, people will assume such news and stories are true.

Today in Myanmar, almost everyone is using the social media platform of Facebook. Using this fact, subversive media outlets surviving with external support, social organizations of external stooges and local and foreign Think Tank groups are intentionally waging psychological warfare so as to influence the emotions of the people to the way they want, and it is obvious.

Thus, the creation of authentic, creative, and colourless artistic works stands imperative. Such creations, simple and devoid of harm, can encompass the malign intents of such groups are to cause dissension between the people and the Tatmadaw, to insult the Buddha Sasana, the religion devoted by the majority of Myanmar people, to disrupt the peace and stability of the State after spreading extremism among the public, and to emerge a puppet government that can be easily manipulated by them.

In the past 10 years of peaceful democratization process led by the endeavours of the Tatmadaw, the 2008 Constitution came into force that delivered the rights of freedom. Taking opportunity of it,

Threats of Rapacious Subversives to be Aware of

rapacious organizations disguised as media agencies and social organizations on the pretext of philanthropy were taking footholds in Myanmar.

The acts of such organizations initially seemed to put forward the interests of Myanmar. However, after the Tatmadaw assumed the State's responsibilities in the wake of the NLD-led government's power abuse, breaching the State's Constitution and electoral frauds, the masks fell off and their true selves appeared. They then continued the activities of fanning the flame to spread extremism in Myanmar by continuously disseminating ideologies, propaganda and research data that please the Western bloc that has sponsored them.

In the past, although they stood as officially recognised organizations in accordance with the existing laws in surfing the new wave of Myanmar democracy, they then had to flee to foreign countries as they could no longer exist in the country in the wake of Myanmar's political change. But they palpably continue their efforts using the media networks they had established back in Myanmar to spread the ideologies and thoughts of extremism among the general public as per the scripts of powerful countries that are manipulating them.

Although the primary sources of such groups and organizations left Myanmar for other countries, the networks they established continue functioning in the country with momentum to a certain extent.

Some Think Tanks under the title of supporting Myanmar peace process, are studying the armed conflicts in particular and also analysing the critical facts relating to the power dominance of China over Myanmar after studying the former's policies and influences. They are also opening free courses that might indoctrinate the youths into extreme liberal ideologies that are also the principles and views of the Western bloc. Some are doing as the lobbies of ethnic armed organizations and NUG/PDF, and also training and sponsoring groups of deserters.

The aforementioned activities are not inadvertent but as if waging a war against Myanmar by deploying ideological means, a principle of multidimensional warfare, and their major weapons are the internet social media networks which become an integral part of people's daily lives. They are just waging the war against Myanmar causing the people to have wrong thoughts using propaganda means - letting the extremism in online social networks, blocking the impartial and fair thinking, writings

reports are true.

According to the data analyzing such fake news, fabrications and disinformation, in July 2023, media agencies of Khit Thit, Mizzima, DVB, RFA, Aye-yarwaddy Times, Myaylat Athan as well as other so-called media outlets on Facebook pages and accounts described 744 news reports within a month. After analyzing the reports, 281 were found to be fabrications (37.77 %) and 405 fake news (54.43%) accounting for 92.20% of fake

“Spreading fake news and disinformation intentionally intensified by the rapacious media groups is just fanning the flame of terrorism in the country with the aims of decreasing the public's trust in the Tatmadaw, demoralizing the security personnel, and uplifting the morality of PDF so that they commit more crimes of terrorism.”

and discussion by using the financial power, human resources and technology – with the help of official/unofficial aids and assistance from powerful countries.

The frontline fighters in deploying propaganda means are the rapacious media organizations receiving external aid and assistance. Such rapacious media agencies gradually have become far away from the ground truth by lobbying the protests as well as NUG/PDF using all possible means of one-sided propaganda after the first of February 2021. They are daily spreading a mass of fake news and fabrications, featuring what they want people to become, and see and think, without considering the rationality of such disinformation for their sole intention of propaganda. Since their fake news reports are vividly far from reality, the trust of the public in such media agencies gradually declines but repeated writing of such news manages to cloud a certain number of people causing them to think such news

news and disinformation in total. The figures are strong evidence showing how the rapacious media organizations are speeding up their propaganda campaign.

For an instance of fake news/misinformation and propaganda, various rapacious media outlets repeatedly described a news report claiming that quartermaster general's convoy encountered a remote mine attack near mile-post-169/4 on Yangon-Mandalay highway on 7 July. The news was primarily reported by media outlets of Mizzima and Khit Thit and further shared by other rapacious so-called media outlets, Facebook pages and fake social accounts later. Contrary to the report, in reality, they just created a fake news and disinformation after exploding improvised sound grenades. That is how they make news of propaganda.

Although the fake news and disinformation created by media outlets, depending on external supports and aids, are to depict and feature a revolution for

By Min Khant

propaganda purposes, in reality, they all are the acts of terrorism targeting the non-combatants of unarmed civilians inflicting severe damages to public interests. The initial intention of the violent acts committed by NUG/PDF terrorist groups of killing innocent civilians, civil servants, Buddhist Sanghas and teachers, the ordinary people who bear no weapon, not even a needle, is to spread fear among general public and to gain their support

ideology is my enemy', robbing and murdering people who did not support them. People were shocked, terrified and sorrowful to hear, know and witness the vicious murder case.

As a result, people today can no longer tolerate the gruesome acts of PDFs such as brutal killings, bombing attacks to frighten the general public, banditries and robberies, and accordingly, report to Government security forces. Conscientious people in every town and village are joining hands together with the Government in the efforts for community peace and stability, and promptly reporting about the PDFs. Therefore, we all can see that terrorists were arrested within hours and days in recent crimes.

Terrorist acts of NUG/PDFs who are leading the way of devastating the State under the title of revolution are getting worse. The PDFs are now even killing the NLD party members and supporters who do not support their acts of terrorism, and also fighting and killing each other for territory. Hence, many crime cases of self-destruction might appear like what had happened in Parjaung.

Despite how the situation of the terrorist organizations under the title of revolution is worsening at present, it is ridiculously found that the rapacious media agencies continue spreading stories of fabrications and the propaganda bawling out like 'we are going to win/ we are winning'.

Spreading fake news and disinformation intentionally intensified by the rapacious media groups is just fanning the flame of terrorism in the country with the aims of decreasing the public's trust in the Tatmadaw, demoralizing the security personnel, and uplifting the morality of PDF so that they commit more crimes of terrorism.

Therefore, the article highlights the need to take good heed of and consider carefully the fact that fake news and disinformation fabricated by rapacious media groups are to weaken the Sanga society and Buddha Sasana devoted by the majority of Myanmar people, to cause dissension between the people and the Tatmadaw and to spread extremism among the general public and also the research papers from and training courses opened by Think-Tanks only looking for money are merely the propaganda aiming towards the devastation of the country. ■

Japan firms reduce teleworking despite workers' strong demand: survey

During the pandemic's peak, Japan witnessed an increased adoption of teleworking, primarily driven by the government's efforts to minimize human movement and curb infection spread.

Japanese companies are continuing to reduce the use of teleworking after the government downgraded COVID-19 to a lower-risk disease category in May, despite workers' strong demand for remote working, a recent survey showed.

The ratio of workers using the telework system dropped to 22.2 per cent, the lowest level since the novel coronavirus outbreak in the country, according to the survey released earlier in the week by Persol Research and Consulting Co, a private think tank.

The think tank collected responses in mid-July from 24,644 workers at companies with 10 or more employees. In its initial survey conducted in April 2020, when Japan's first COVID state of emergency was declared, the ratio was 27.9 per cent, rising as high as 28.5 per cent in February 2022.

Despite the declining trend, 81.9 per cent of those who engage in telework said they want to continue working remotely. The survey stopped short of providing reasons for their desire to keep the work style.

Japan's accelerated shift to teleworking during the pandemic was largely due to the government-led drive to reduce the flow of people and



Photo taken on 30 September 2022, shows Central Japan Railway Co rental teleworking booths in a waiting room at Nagoya Station for shinkansen bullet train passengers. PHOTO: KYODO

slow the spread of infections.

Cautious Approach to Telework Lags Behind Global Trends

Although the country's downgrading of COVID-19's legal status on par with the seasonal flu accelerated the trend of employees returning to in-office work, Japanese companies have been reluctant to promote telework compared with companies of other major economies.

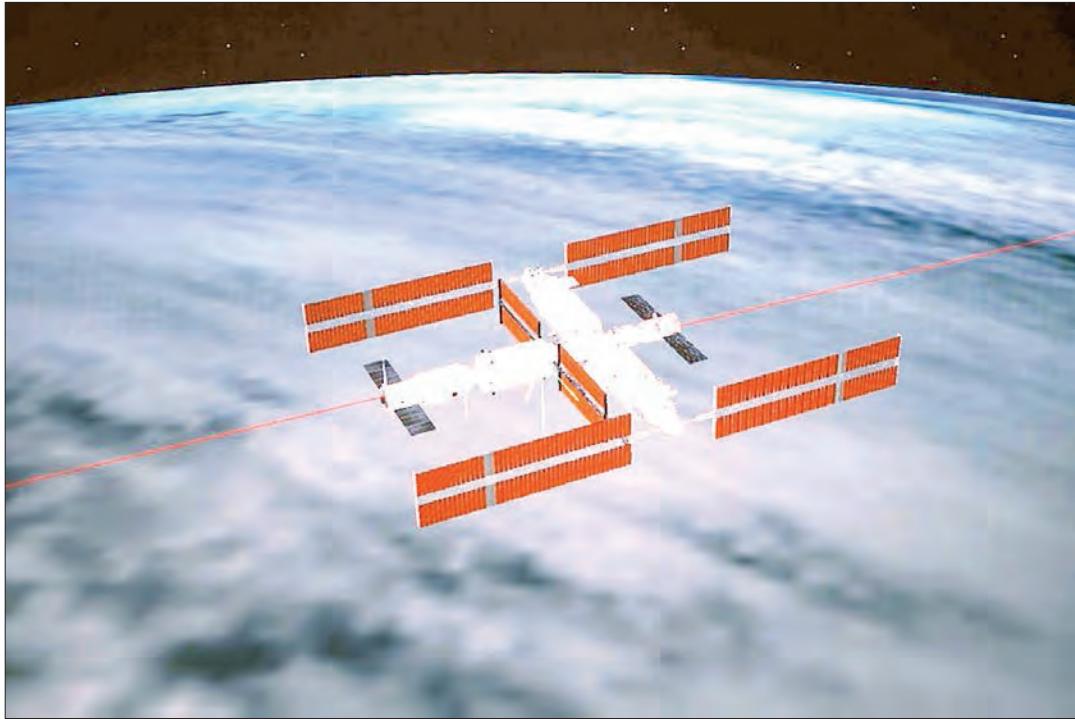
Labor market experts have pointed to various reasons for the limited spread of telework in Japan, including persistent concerns about a lack of face-to-face communication, the rigid and hierarchical work culture and slower digital transition in society.

The trend of having workers move away from working remotely is more apparent among companies that saw telework as a temporary measure to prevent coronavirus infection at the workplace rather than work-style reform, said Yuji Kobayashi, a researcher at Persol Research and Consulting.

“Considering workers’ demand for telework, what is needed now is offering a flexible work style, not returning completely to in-office work,” he said.

SOURCE: Kyodo

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD



This simulated image captured at Beijing Aerospace Control Centre on 30 May 2023 shows Shenzhou-16 crewed spaceship conducting a fast automated rendezvous and docking with the radial port of core module Tianhe of the space station. **PHOTO: LI JIE/XINHUA**

China's space station expected to make scientific discoveries

THE orbiting Tiangong space station is expected to obtain pivotal scientific discoveries and innovative achievements in the future, the China Manned Space Agency's spokesperson Lin Xiqiang said on Friday.

China's space station has entered a phase of application and development that will span more than 10 years after its construction was completed in 2022.

Lin said it could hopefully

produce groundbreaking scientific discoveries on cosmology, dark matter and dark energy, galaxies, active galactic nuclei, the Milky Way and its close galaxies, star formation and evolution, and exoplanets.

The space station's objectives in frontier research are "the origin and evolution of the universe, the nature of matter, and the long-term survival of human beings in space", said Lin.

The space lab's ultra-cold atomic physics experiment platform will prepare the quantum gas close to absolute zero, which cannot occur on the ground.

Also, the in-orbit research on stem cells, organ chips, protein crystallization, and synthetic biology manufacturing could bring new possibilities for regenerative medicine, precision medicine, and drug discovery, said Lin. — AFP

WHO, US health authorities tracking new Covid-19 variant

THE World Health Organization and US health authorities said Friday they are closely monitoring a new variant of Covid-19, although the potential impact of BA.2.86 is currently unknown.

The WHO classified the new variant as one under surveillance "due to the large number (more than 30) of spike gene mutations it carries", it wrote in a bulletin about the pandemic late Thursday.

So far, the variant has only been detected in Israel, Denmark and the United States. — AFP



A woman wears a face mask as she walks into a government hospital, since a rise in Covid-19 coronavirus cases, in Chennai on 1 April 2023. **PHOTO: R.SATISH BABU / AFP**

Greenpeace slams Poland's new river protection law

ENVIRONMENTALISTS on Friday slammed the passing of a controversial law in Poland on the revitalisation of the Oder river, which was hit by toxic algae growth last year that caused mass fish deaths.

A toxic algae bloom hit the river on the Polish border with Germany last summer, with at least 300 tonnes of dead fish pulled from the water as tensions spiked between the two countries.

In response to the environmental disaster, Warsaw passed a new law Thursday evening which includes provision for new water treatment plants, and is intended to put more

stringent requirements on industrial sites.

But Greenpeace said the government had "ignored the voice of the public and scientists" in passing the law, in a statement on the social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

They criticised what they said was a lack of consultation and said that the bill will "not protect the Oder" and will continue to be polluted.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) had previously criticised the bill for focusing on "further regulation of the Oder (and other rivers), which will further destroy the ecosystem and its ability to clean itself." — AFP



Polish firefighters set up a floating dam to catch dead fish from the river Oder in August 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Researcher: 2023 set to be another bad year for Swiss glaciers

A leading Swiss glaciologist warned Wednesday that 2023 was looking "not good" for the country's glaciers, a year after they suffered a record melt.

"Still more than a month to go in the melting season. How are Swiss glaciers doing at the moment? Not good!" glaciology professor Matthias Huss, head of Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland (GLAMOS), said on the platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

The warning comes after the Swiss glaciers faced a "disastrous year" in 2022, as "all ice melt records were smashed",

according to a study published by the Cryospheric Commission (CC) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences last September.

Huss said he was very curious to see the final measurements for the year in mid-September, stressing that the situation so far as "not as extreme as in 2022".

But, he cautioned, "we are still on track for the second-most negative year in history". "Despite a rather cool period in the last weeks, all glaciers are clearly below the average of the last 10 years," he said, "And a new heat wave is unfolding now." — AFP

Israel’s pioneering use of water ‘to the last drop’



Israel began recycling wastewater when it saw that its water sources were insufficient to meet the needs of a growing population. **PHOTO: MENAHEM KAHANA / AFP**

IN the scorching summer heat, an Israeli farmer tends to a dripline taking a mix of ground and recycled water to palm trees—an approach honed for decades in the arid country and now drawing wide interest abroad.

At the plantation in a desert near Eilat, a coastal holiday resort on Israel’s southern tip, the mineral-rich water passes through a plastic tube, nourishing the dates high above.

“All of Eilat’s sewage is treated,” said Arik Ashkenazi, chief engineer of Ein Netafim, Eilat’s water and sewage utility, during a tour of the facility that sees wastewater cleared of solids and biological hazards.

“The treated wastewater is transferred, to the last drop, to farmers” who mix it with groundwater and use it on the trees, he said.

Eilat is hemmed in between the desert and Red Sea, isolated from the rest of Israel with no natural freshwater. Its drinking water is a combination of desalinated groundwater and seawater.

After domestic use turns it into sewage, it is treated and then allocated to farmers, enabling the parched region to support agriculture.

While Eilat used to be the exception in Israel’s water management, it is now more of a prototype for the country and perhaps the world. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cat cafe brings pawsitivity to war-scarred Gaza

A cat cafe in the Gaza Strip aims to “cheer up” Palestinian residents and offer them a respite from the trials of daily life in the blockaded territory, its owner said.

At the Meow Cat Cafe which opened this week in Gaza City, owner Nehma Maabad set out food for a clowder of kittens.

“Cats, for me, are a refuge that relieves me of psychological stress. So I thought of creating a project that combines serving people with something to cheer them up,” said the 50-year-old.

Part of the space is kitted out with wooden platforms covered in astroturf for the cats to clamber onto, while feline murals and portraits adorn the walls.

Meow is part of a growing global trend of cat cafes, but the circumstances in Gaza are unique.

The territory has been under a crippling Israeli blockade since 2007 and scars of repeated wars fought between Palestinian militants and Israel are visible across the city. — AFP

Belgian university enters new era with Taylor Swift course

FROM “Alice in Wonderland” to “The Great Gatsby”, “Rebecca” to “Jane Eyre”, the songs of singer-songwriter Taylor Swift are filled with clear and subtle literary references.

Now, a literature professor in Belgium has seized on the bookish qualities of Swift’s lyrics to launch a course using the US superstar’s songs to delve into the greats of English writing and the themes of their work. For Elly McCausland, an assistant professor at Ghent University, Swift’s songs offer an opportunity to explore feminism, for example through “The Man”, and the anti-hero trope through the aptly named song “Anti-Hero” from her 2022 album, “Midnights”.

McCausland decided earlier this year to mastermind a course to start in September inspired by Swift’s work after listening to “The Great War”, also from “Midnights”. — AFP

Guatemala: Cradle of Mayan civilization ravaged by poverty, graft

CENTRAL America’s most populous nation, and once torn by a long civil war, Guatemala is saddled with gang violence, corruption and poverty. Its people are among the streams of migrants that trek to the United States in search of a better life.

The country of more than 17 million holds a runoff election on Sunday, with two social democrats facing off, meaning the country will have its first leftist leader in over a decade.

Troubled past

Once a center of the Mayan civilization, Guatemala was ruled by Spain from 1524 until its independence in 1821. Spanish remains its official language, but there are also 24 native languages, all but two of Ma-



Both Guatemala and Mexico played significant roles in the development of the Mayan civilization. Kukulcan Pyramid at the Mayan archaeological site of Chichen Itza in Yucatan state, Mexico. **PHOTO: PIX FORVISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP**

yan origin. Indigenous people make up some 42 per cent of the population. In 1954, the leftist government of freely-elected President Jacobo Arbenz

Guzman was overthrown in a US-backed coup, leading to a string of pro-American, right-wing regimes and the outbreak of civil war. — AFP

Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr join Dolly Parton on ‘Let It Be’

PAUL McCartney and Ringo Starr have joined Dolly Parton in recording a version of the Beatles classic Let It Be on the country legend’s upcoming album.

The track was released on Friday and will feature on the

77-year-old Parton’s upcoming album Rockstar.

“Well, does it get any better than singing Let It Be with Paul McCartney who wrote the song?” Parton said on her website. “Not only that, he played pi-

ano! “Well, it did get even better when Ringo Starr joined in on drums, Peter Frampton on guitar and Mick Fleetwood playing percussion,” she said. “I mean, seriously, how much better does it get? Thanks guys!” — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

BRICS cooperation mutually beneficial, on equal footing, says expert

THE BRICS countries possess immense potential to create equal and mutually beneficial partnerships, appealing to other nations to join the group, according to a Russian expert.

The BRICS' economic, agricultural, and outer space achievements show that it has become a powerful instrument of cooperation among developing countries, said Irina Kokushkina, associate professor of the Department of World Economy at St. Petersburg State University, in a recent interview with Xinhua.

She emphasized how BRICS offers reliable economic and trade collaboration, independent of political pressure from individual nations.

In the current context, certain countries economically



Signboards of the 15th BRICS summit are seen in a street of Johannesburg, South Africa, 17 August 2023. The summit is to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 22-24 August. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

suppress nations who refuse to serve their interests, leading to "global crises and growing uncertainties in the global economic and political processes", said Kokushkina.

Nevertheless, she noted that the BRICS countries cooperate on a mutually beneficial and equal basis. She added that many other countries, who find such an approach appealing, have

expressed their willingness to join the bloc.

Kokushkina believes that the international influence of the BRICS countries has been "greatly enhanced," considering

them as a force that cannot be ignored in global affairs.

The collective voice of the BRICS resonates when addressing various global challenges such as climate change, trade and development issues, she added.

In addition, she noted that China, the world's second-largest economy and a crucial player on the international stage, is an exemplar of practising mutually beneficial and equal cooperation.

China also plays a vital role within the BRICS countries in balancing and stabilizing international relations, said the Russian scholar.

She expects a further expansion of BRICS influence at the upcoming 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. — Xinhua

Japan's 4-year spending on COVID, inflation relief hit 68.5 trillion yen



File photo taken on 13 January 2021, shows Japan's Finance Ministry in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S spending to help the economy mitigate the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and

accelerating inflation will likely total around 68.5 trillion yen (\$471 billion) in the four years

to fiscal 2023, a Kyodo News analysis showed Saturday.

With most of the funding coming from debt issuance and the government's goal of restoring fiscal health taking a backseat, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida faces the urgent task of carrying out spending reforms as the world's third-largest economy recovers from the economic slump.

Kyodo News used data submitted by the private-sector members of a key government panel on fiscal policy and official figures in measuring the size of spending. — Kyodo

US stocks mostly flat as investors buy up more 'attractive' bonds

US stocks finished largely flat on Friday as investors snapped up more attractive government bonds with higher yields amid signs interest rates could remain

higher for longer to tackle inflation.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished the trading day up 0.1 per cent at 34,500.66, while the broad-based S&P

500 was flat at 4,369.71.

The tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index notched its fourth consecutive decline, slipping 0.2 per cent to 13,290.78. — AFP

Critics of Tanzania port deal released on bail

TANZANIAN authorities on Friday released on bail three people, including a former legislator, who were arrested after criticising a deal with an Emirati company to manage the country's ports.

According to rights campaigners, Willibrod Slaa — a former parliamentarian and diplomat — and two activists were taken into custody at the weekend after speaking out publicly against the ports deal signed last October by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The agreement paves the way for DP World, a logistics

company controlled by the emirate of Dubai in the UAE, to manage all the ports in Tanzania in consultation with the government. It was ratified by parliament in June.

Critics say the deal poses a threat to Tanzanian sovereignty and security, but the government has defended the accord, arguing that it will improve efficiency, cut costs and increase revenues.

A lawyer for the activists said they were released on Friday, while former ambassador Slaa told reporters he was "now back home on bail". — AFP



Dar es Salaam is the largest city and economic hub of Tanzania, located on the eastern coast of Africa. The city is known for its busy port, which is one of the most important ports in the region. **PHOTO: DANIEL HAYDUK/ AFP**



This photo taken on 6 June 2023 shows China's first domestically built large cruise ship "Adora Magic City" in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: DING TING/XINHUA**

Shanghai cruise economy sees rapid recovery

THE cruise industry in Shanghai has achieved ticket sales of more than 300 million yuan (about 41.66 million US dollars) since the pilot resumption of the country's international cruise services in late March. Since the end of March, with Shanghai's active promotion of the pilot resumption of international cruise services, over 4,000 new jobs have been created, the municipal government said on Friday. Thanks to its pilot resumption, the cruise economy in Shanghai has exhibited a promising trend of swift recovery and increased resilience, said Zhu Min, director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce. Shanghai has recently unveiled an action plan to promote the high-quality development of the international cruise economy from 2023 to 2025. — Xinhua

From Furby to Grimace, brands cash in with nostalgic reboots



Polly Pocket toys like these seen in a Los Angeles department store on 17 August 2023 are among several nostalgic products making a comeback. **PHOTO: AFP**

FURBY and Polly Pocket are making a comeback -- and don't forget Surge soda and McDonald's Grimace -- as businesses deepen bets around consumers' nostalgia for decades-old brands.

In the most recent quarter, McDonald's pointed to the fuzzy purple blob Grimace as a particular source of better-than-expected profits.

A berry-flavored milkshake built around the character, who first appeared in the 1970s, lit up social media and boosted sales in the United States where the limited-edition drink was available.

"Grimace has been everywhere the past few months -- all over the news, and more than three billion views on TikTok," McDonald's Chief Executive Chris Kempczinski said last month. — AFP

Competition heats up in Japan's remote control claw game market

COMPETITION is heating up in the Japanese market for remote control claw machine games after playing the popular arcade game on smartphones quickly caught on during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the online form of the game was first introduced around 2011, game companies, including Sega Corp and Taito Corp, have expanded their offering of prizes to lure more players.

Players can control the claw on their smartphones and PCs while watching the machine, typically placed in warehouses, via cameras. Prizes they win are later delivered to their homes.

Major IT service firm



Photo taken in July 2023 shows a claw machine for DMM.com LLC's online crane game service, in which users remotely operate such machines through smartphones or personal computers, at the Japanese e-commerce company's warehouse in Kazo, Saitama Prefecture, near Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

DMM.com entered the online crane game market in 2022 and now operates around 500 machines placed in a warehouse in Saitama Prefecture near

Tokyo 24 hours a day, offering around 1,500 kinds of prizes such as popular anime figures. DMM.com, like some other competitors, offers "assistance"

if a player fails to win any prize after a certain number of attempts. A warehouse staff moves the position of a prize to make it easier to grab. — Kyodo

Boeing begins production of Apache helicopters for Army, 1st of these to be delivered in 2024

AMERICAN aviation major Boeing Wednesday began the production of the AH-64E Apache attack helicopters for the Indian Army, the first of which will be delivered early next year.

It was in 2020 that the Army went in for the procurement of the Apache helicopters, 22 of which are already in use with the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The fuselage of every single Apache helicopter sold in the world is manufactured in India by Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL) in Hyderabad.

Boeing issued a statement Wednesday, saying that the production of the helicopters for the Army has begun at its plant in Mesa, Arizona.

"We are pleased to reach yet another significant milestone, highlighting Boeing's unwavering commitment to support India's defence capabilities," said Boeing India president Salil Gupta.

The advanced technology and proven performance of the AH-64, it added, will enhance the Army's operational readiness. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV3EE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV3EE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-8-2023** 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0301-750N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0301-750N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-8-2023** 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

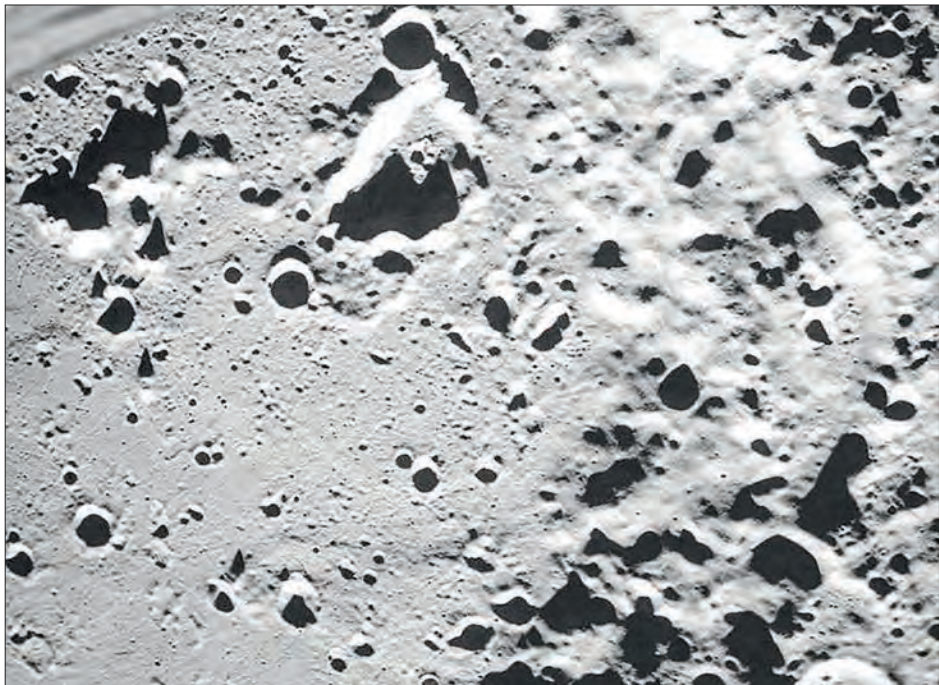
Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Luna-25 station collided with moon -
Russian Space Agency

The mission was part of the Russian lunar program for the exploration and practical use of the Moon and its orbit to establish a fully automated lunar base. Luna-25 was expected to become the first station to make a soft landing on the lunar south pole, which has difficult terrain, on 21 August.



A picture taken from the camera of the lunar landing spacecraft Luna-25 shows the Zeeman crater located on the far side of the moon, 17 August 2023. PHOTO: ROSCOSMOS/FILE

ACCORDING to the Russian Space Agency, on 19 August an impulse was provided to propel Luna-25 into an elliptical pre-landing orbit.

At about 11:57 GMT, communication with Luna-25 was lost.

The search for the lunar station was fruitless. According to the results of the preliminary analysis, due to the deviation of the actual parameters of the impulse from the calculated ones, the device switched to an off-design orbit and collided with the lunar surface.

On 11 August, the Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket lifted off from Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome and launched into orbit Luna-25, the first Russian lunar mission in almost 50 years and the first one in Russia's independent space history. Its predecessor, Luna-24, was launched by the Soviet Union in 1976. — SPUTNIK

Ecuador votes
in presidential
election dominated
by security woes

ECUADORANS head to the polls Sunday in a presidential election tarnished by the murder of a top candidate, which cast a spotlight on the violence ravaging a once-peaceful nation caught up in the global drug trade.

The eight presidential candidates have prioritized promises to crack down on organized crime, all while campaigning in bulletproof vests.

The small South American country has in recent years become a playground for foreign drug mafia seeking to export cocaine, stirring up a brutal war between local gangs.

Several political assassinations marked the run-up to the vote, with the murder of serious presidential contender Fernando Villavicencio just 11 days from the election underscoring the challenges facing the country.

"These are completely atypical elections, in a situation basically of horror that Ecuador is going through... due to the existing violence, but which manifested itself in a more acute and atrocious way" with Villavicencio's murder, political scientist Anamaria Correa Crespo told AFP. — AFP

Italian general fired for
homophobic, racist
book: media

AN Italian general who published a book espousing racist and homophobic opinions has been fired following widespread criticism, including from the defence minister, media reports said Friday.

General Roberto Vannacci, 54, a veteran of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, was dismissed as head of Italy's Military Geographical Institute, a post he took up in June, Italian news outlets reported.

Questioned by AFP, the defence ministry did not deny the information.

Military officials said "The World Backwards" had been self-published earlier in August on Amazon.com without the knowledge of the army.

Among various opinions expressed in the book, Vannacci



Italy's Defence Minister Guido Crosetto pictured at the European Air Defence Conference in Paris in June 2023. PHOTO: GEOFFROY VAN DER HASSELT / AFP / FILE

says homosexuals are not "normal" and rails against the "dictatorship of minorities", taking aim at feminists, environmentalists, people of colour, and immigrants.

On Thursday, Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said "the personal ramblings of a general" had discredited Italy's armed forces, and said disciplinary proceedings would be opened. — AFP

Trilateral meeting at Camp David
stokes embers of Cold War

THE leaders of the United States, Japan and South Korea convened at Camp David on Friday to unveil their plans for bolstering military ties while deliberately propagating rhetoric about the so-called "China threat".

Orchestrated under US guidance, the trio is endeavoring to forge a closed and exclusive geopolitical clique under the guise of "security cooperation".

Such a maneuver will inevitably fan the flames of antagonism, compromise the strategic security of other countries and jeopardize regional stability. By sowing seeds of division and intensifying opposition, the meeting represents a perilous gambit that might resurrect the specter of the Cold War.

The United States actively



Civic groups and local residents take to the streets to protest against the US biological labs near a US military base in Busan, South Korea, 5 April 2022. PHOTO: JAMES LEE/XINHUA/FILE

wooing Japan and South Korea is nothing but a wolf in sheep's clothing. Rather than considering the security interests of both countries, it is edging them toward a cliff.

If history is any guide, wherever the military tenta-

cles of the United States reach, peace will be elusive. Take a look at what the United States has done in the Middle East and Europe, as well as what it has been doing in the Asia-Pacific region. Washington's evil intent is self-evident. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Carmona hails ‘unstoppable’ Spain after World Cup triumph

SPAIN’S goalscoring hero Olga Carmona hailed her “unstoppable” side as they beat England 1-0 to win the Women’s World Cup for the first time on Sunday in Sydney. Carmona drilled home after 29 minutes to put La Roja ahead and they held onto their lead to triumph. “It was a really tough game, we knew it would be tricky, England have a great team, but I think it was our game,” Carmona told Spanish national broadcasters La 1. “We had the feeling we were going to do it, and this is unstoppable, the truth is I don’t know what to tell you.”

Carmona celebrated her goal by revealing a message on an undershirt, reading “Merchi”. The 23-year-old said it was a tribute for a friend whose mother had passed away. “I want to say this victory is for one of my best friend’s mother, who died recently, I celebrated the goal with that shirt,” added Carmona. Spain coach Jorge Vilda said he was extremely proud



Spain’s defender Olga Carmona celebrates her team’s Women’s World Cup victory over England on Sunday in Sydney. PHOTO: AFP

of his team. Vilda was heavily criticised in the build-up to and during the tournament for his tense relationship with a number of players who quit the national team in protest against the coach and the Spanish football federation. — AFP



Lionel Messi of Inter Miami hoists the trophy with his teammates after defeating Nashville SC to win the Leagues Cup. PHOTO: AFP

Messi leads Miami to first trophy with Leagues Cup win

LIONEL Messi scored a screamer and won his first trophy in North American soccer as Inter Miami beat Nashville on penalties (10-9) after their final ended 1-1 in 90 minutes.

The Argentine World Cup winner had put Miami ahead in the 24th minute with a wonder strike into the top corner but Fafa Picault levelled for Nashville in the second half.

After Messi hit the post and Leonardo Campana missed a last second chance to win the game in regulation for Miami, the game went to a shoot-out which ended in a duel between the two keepers and Elliot Panizzo’s shot being saved by Miami’s Drake Callender.

Messi and his team-mates rushed to celebrate with the American goalkeeper, who had made some key saves late in the game to keep his team alive.

Miami, in their third season of existence, were rock bottom of Major League Soccer when Messi joined them a month ago but Messi, along with Spanish pair Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, has utterly transformed the team leading them on a seven game unbeaten run to the League Cup title.

Co-owner David Beckham, who created the club, said he was stunned by the way the former Barcelona trio had been able to bring about change so quickly.

“It is like a movie, you watch these players play and it is, emotionally, everything about their play is beautiful,” he said.

Seven-times Ballon d’Or winner Messi has now scored 10 goals in seven games in the pink shirt of his new club and on Wednesday has the chance to reach another final when his team take on Cincinnati in the semi-final of the US Open Cup. — AFP

Tun Tun Min ties Thway Thit Win Hlaing in 8th Myanmar Lethwei World Championship



Tun Tun Min (right) cleverly clears Thway Thit Win Hlaing’s long kick during the 80-kg challenging bout of 8th Myanmar Lethwei World Championship in Yangon on 20 August. PHOTO: BALA SOE

TUN TUN MIN fought to a draw against Thway Thit Win Hlaing in the 8th Myanmar Lethwei World Championship held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon yesterday.

The Championship features eight bouts with thrilling actions.

The two star fighters met under the 80-kg event. Tun Tun Min showed his talent with powerful punches and low kicks while Thway Thit Win Hlaing relied on counter strikes.

Both of them competed with a full range of punches, showcasing a decent bout for the fans. The fight ended with draw as win or loss did not appear.

Thway Thit Win Hlaing has won over Tun Tun Min in the previous championship in January 2023. In this competition, no new champion appeared due to the draw.

In the 75-kg event, Tun Min Aung (Myanmar) tackled with Tokeshi (Japan). Tun Min Aung used series of kicks and knee strikes while Tokeshi responded with elbow strikes and head shots. Their fight concluded with a draw.

In the 63.5-kg event, Moe Htet Aung defeated Sein Lone Chaw in knock-out decision at 1:32 minutes of the fourth round. In the 65-kg event, Hanthwady took on Si Toe, and their bout ended as a tie. In the 54-kg event, Taing Kyaw beat Wu Thaw Do at 1:06 minutes of the third round. — Bala Soe/KZL



WORLD



Workers work at the Tesla Gigafactory in Shanghai, east China, 12 May 2023. PHOTO: MA NING/XINHUA

Chinese market allure won't diminish despite US smears

Washington's obsession with tarnishing China's reputation knows no bounds. US President Joe Biden's recent assertion that the Chinese economy is a "ticking time bomb" serves as the latest example.

Biden said the Chinese economy has a dire future. But if the second-largest economy is bound to explode like a bomb, which is "not good" as the president suggested, then why has his gov-

The first half of the current year saw a remarkable 35.7 per cent rise in the number of newly established foreign-invested enterprises in China, totalling 24,000. This growth occurred even in the face of challenges and constraints stemming from the United States.

ernment just imposed a new investment ban against China and is so desperate to restrain the Chinese economy? The contradictory words and deeds

have shown how America is paranoid about a greater China getting in the way of US hegemony.

But smears and containment policies will not in the least reduce the Chinese market's appeal to global investors, who know well where they can benefit. The figures speak for themselves.

The first half of this year saw the number of newly established foreign-invested enterprises in China increase by a notable 35.7 per cent to 24,000 despite slander and constraints from the United States, according to official data. Impressively, foreign investment in high-tech industries witnessed a 7.9 per cent growth. Investment in China from France, Britain, Japan and Germany recorded substantial growth rates of 173.3 per cent, 135.3 per cent, 53 per cent, and 14.2 per cent respectively.

Though hobbled by growing global protectionism and COVID-19 pandemic in the past few years, China's foreign investment return rate has been 9.1 per cent in the past five years, significantly higher than the approximately 3 per cent of the United States and other emerging economies.

These all boost foreign investors' confidence in China, and in a free and globalized market, China should not be shut out by the United States.

As the major trading partner of more than 140 countries and regions, China boasts the most comprehensive range of industries, the most complete industrial system, and also the largest middle-class cohort in the world.

— Xinhua

Nigerien military leader says Niger does not want war

THE leader of the mutineers who seized power in Niger, Gen Abdourahamane Tchiani, said on Saturday that his country does not want war, but will be ready to defend itself if necessary.

"Neither the army nor the people of Niger want war, but we will resist any manifestation of it," Tchiani was quoted as saying by the Al Jazeera broadcaster.

He noted that the member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) do not realize that Niger has become the key to containing the region from destabilization against the backdrop of increased terrorist activity. — SPUTNIK

US struggles to restock its own ammo arsenal after aiding Ukraine - Report

Russia has repeatedly warned the US and its allies that providing Kiev with arms will further prolong the Ukraine conflict.

WITH more than two million 155mm shells already sent to Ukraine, the US faces the problem of restocking its arsenal of artillery munitions and building new production lines, an American newspaper has quoted unnamed sources as saying.

The sources warned of "major challenges in sustaining an elevated output of arms and equipment needed not just to aid Ukraine but to ensure the US' own security". According to



The US has supplied over two million 155mm shells to Ukraine, a significant contribution to the country's defence efforts. PHOTO: SAMEER AL-DOUMY/AFP

the insiders, the problem is complicated by the fact that the US no longer produces TNT, which is needed to make shells. The Pentagon is now col-

laborating with its allies and partners to increase TNT supplies, "potentially including from Japan", according to the sources. — SPUTNIK