

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

NATIONAL PAGE-2



Myanmar acts moderator in ASEAN Women CEO Forum in Jakarta

CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-6



Plan to hold Computer-Based Test for legal Myanmar workers who worked in over three years in South Korea on 4 October

LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7



Export income of Myanmar watermelons reaches 28.697 mln Chinese yuan as of July 2023



Discovering the enchanting tranquility and reverent allure of the Buddha image at the Pahtothamya Temple. **PHOTOS: DIPA LIN**

Ancient Bagan temples to have **preservation for mural paintings**

Data collection and record keeping of mural paintings and inscriptions will contribute to Micro Level Archaeological Risk Map project

Data collection work of mural paintings at 416 temples in the Bagan Ancient Cultural region is being carried out to update data base of the pagodas before identifying the factors that damage the centuries old paintings, according to an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch), under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The current effort started on 11 August this year with the aim of stepping up the preservation work and the department will also enlist the inscriptions in the ancient buildings, U Kyaw Myo Win, the director from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch) told the Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday.

“We’ll assess how badly the mural-adorned pagodas have been damaged, and which factors for example termites, bats or human damage them. We will find out the root causes before arranging for the preservation measures,” U Kyaw Myo Win explained.



Exquisite mural paintings are seen adorning the interiors of Bagan’s temples as spectacular temple treasures.

He also said the temples that have mural paintings date back to more than 1,000 years and the paintings become fading or disappearing.

The data collection and record keeping works of mural paintings and inscription will also contribute to the Micro Level Archaeological Risk Map project being implemented for rural development in Bagan’s World Heritage Site. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Myanmar-Bangladesh Navy to Navy Staff Talks held in Yangon



Senior naval officers join 6th Myanmar-Bangladesh Navy to Navy Staff Talks in Yangon.

A Bangladeshi naval delegation led by Commodore Mustaque Ahmed, (G), NPP, pcs, BN arrived in Yangon by air on 30 August to attend the 6th Myanmar-Bangladesh Navy to Navy Staff Talks.

The Myanmar delegation, led by Commodore Kyaw Htoo, held the talks with the Bangladeshi delegation at

Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters on 1 September 2023.

During the talks, the two naval delegations discussed matters related to maritime security, joint naval patrols, exchange trips of naval officers and other ranks of the two countries, information exchange and protection of sea pollution.

On 2 September, the agreements reached during the talks were signed. The Bangladeshi delegation departed from Yangon by air yesterday and senior naval officers of Tatmadaw (Navy) saw off the Bangladeshi delegation at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar acts moderator in ASEAN Women CEO Forum in Jakarta

A Myanmar delegation from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) joined the ASEAN Women CEO Forum which was held at Hotel Ritz Carlton Pacific Place in Jakarta, Indonesia on 2 September 2023, according to the UMFCCI.

At the forum, General Secretary Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe of UMFCCI served as moderator for an event titled “Financing Opportunities: The Pathway to Women’s Empowerment.” The event of speakers included Ms Shinta Kamdani, CEO of Sintesa Group and Chairwoman of the Employers Association of Indonesia (APINDO), Ms Hafimi Abdul Haadii, Executive Director of LVK Group of Companies, Ms Christine Yu, Co-Founder of Sophia, and Ms Susli Lie, Partner at Monks Hills Ventures.

During the forum, speakers discussed several topics related to women’s representation in the financial sector. Their discussions was emphasized obstacles and biases that cause weakness of women’s representation in financial sector and ways of solving, promotion



General Secretary Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe of UMFCCI serves as moderator in ASEAN Women CEO Forum in Jakarta on 2 September 2023.

ways of economic abilities of women, cooperation pathway to create environment support for women’s entrepreneurship and financial capacities from government and financial organizations, investors and private sectors, policies and activities to increase financial support on gender-responsive and investment practices, and financial sector for women entrepreneurs in line with digital transformation and technology advancement.

Women entrepreneurs and experts from ASEAN and dialogue partners countries discussed digital transformation, education, finance and leadership sectors. Each discussion focused on importance role of women in every sector and participation of women in development of economy, strengthen of relations among regional and globalization while supporting the vision of ASEAN 2045 and pathways of solving gender equality. — ASH/KZL

Ministry of Education to inspect private shcools for compliance measures

THE Ministry of Education plans to inspect the private shcools operating in the country with its two teams, designated to upper and lower Myanmar, to find out whether the schools are complying with the relevant laws, standards, procedures, and regulation already set for them.

The ministry will collaborate with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in its effort, according to an order released by MoE on 13 July. The schools to be checked are private basic education and higher education schools as well as private schools teaching international curriculums.

The two teams involving officials from the MoE, universities and DICA will use checklists and data collection forms in data collection and field inspection works to check registration of schools, relevant permits, physical requirements of a school, teaching methods, student registration process, fees, tax payments in accordance with the laws and procedures. The inspection teams will also examine whether the procedures practiced in administration and salary payments of the schools

are in compliance with the laws. The ministry will use the data submitted by the two inspection teams in issuance of licences, extension of licence validity, termination and merging of schools.

The teams will check the compliance of schools with National Curriculum Committee’s guidelines and degrees held by the teachers and the subjects they are teaching. The team will also scrutinize whether the cultures, customs and religions practiced abroad are being taught or the students are convinced to practise them or not, group learning activities are politically and religiously motivated or not. The findings will be reported to the Ministry of Education by the teams.

The officials will also check the schools how they ensure teaching methods for Myanmar language, History and Geography subjects complying to the guidelines of the National Curriculum Committee while encouraging students to cultivating patriotic spirit (paying salute and singing national anthem).

The Private School Registration Law was enacted on 2 December 2011 and the National Education Law in September 2014 and amended in June 2015. — TC/TH

Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 3-9-2023)

ACCORDING to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at NyaungU is observed as about (1) foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at NyaungU Township to take precaution measure.

Flood Bulletin

(ISSUED at 13:00 hrs MST on 3-9-2023)

Flood Condition of Chindwin River

ACCORDING to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegates arrive back in Yangon from 5th China Quality Conference

MYANMAR representatives led by Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein returned to Yangon via airline yesterday after attending the Fifth China Quality Conference held on 1 and 2 September in Chengdu, Sichuan province, the People's Republic of China.

The delegates were welcomed back by Mr Zheng Zhihong, Minister-Counsellor of Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, and officials from the Ministry of Planning and Finance at the Yangon International Airport.

During the visit, the Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Wang Xi-ao-hui, the Party Secretary of Sichuan Province on the morning of 31 August held discussions on cooperation in infrastructure

construction, agriculture and cultural sectors, promotion of bilateral economic cooperation, assistance for modern agricultural technologies.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Prime Minister also talked with Sichuan Energy Investment Group Co., Ltd. about investment issues in Myanmar's power generation and energy sectors.

The Deputy Prime Minister attended the Fifth China Quality Conference and delivered a speech at the Chengdu Century City New International Convention Centre on 1 September.

While in Leshan, he visited the World Heritage-listed Leshan Pagoda in Leshan and Huaqian Pagoda in Ome Mountain.

He attended a dinner hosted



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein visits the Gaoqiao-li Rural Revitalization Project.

by Mr Mabao, Leshan Party Secretary, and the issues of cooperation in agriculture, technology exchange and tourism sectors

were discussed, including the designation of China's Leshan City and Myanmar's Bagan City as sister cities proposed by the

Leshan city government. He observed the Gaoqiao-li Rural Revitalization Project on 2 September. — MNA/KZL

UNION Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, stated that they are collaborating with the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre on Myanmar's legal issues and planning to open a legal advocacy centre.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs cooperates with foreign organizations in legal matters and is working to obtain technical and legal assistance. At present, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in legal affairs between the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Russian Prosecutor-General Office, the MoU with the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, and the MoU on legal cooperation and legislative research projects between the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre have been signed.

In addition, the Ministry is working to open a legal advocacy centre, and the standing order and the standard operating procedure for the legal advocacy centre have been drafted, she said at the third coordination meeting of

MoLA plans to open legal advocacy centre

Ministry of Legal Affairs cooperates with foreign organizations in legal matters and is working to obtain technical and legal assistance



The third coordination meeting of the Ministry of Legal Affairs in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 September.

The 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, entitled "Legal Service for Justice and Fairness", is being

implemented as a five-year plan. Currently, the mid-term evaluation work is being carried out to find out the development of the strategic plan, and if the report

is released, it will be distributed to the relevant departments and advocate-general offices in regions and states.

Furthermore, 63 laws have

been enacted in 2021, 40 in 2022 and 53 as of 30 June 2023, totaling 156 laws to date. As laws to be enacted in regions or states must be submitted to the State Administration Council Office, regional advocate-general offices will verify regional law drafts in accordance with six guidelines published by the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

The Legal Translation Commission discussed 10 laws at the commission's 13th coordination meeting and is giving advice to relevant ministries regarding issues related to ASEAN, international law matters, and conventions. It is said that the Commission is also involved in ICJ matters. In addition, the legal advocacy training for senior civil servants was successfully opened up to three times, and 98 senior civil servants from various ministries were awarded Certificates of Legal Advocacy.

Deputy Minister Deputy Attorney General Dr Htein Lin Oo and regional and state Advocates-General participated in the discussions. — ASH/CT

NATIONAL

Government to support enhancing coffee production in Ywangan



A coffee nursery in the Coffee Technology Development Farm (Ywangan) is being inspected by the officials.

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung invited discussions from those from coffee-based businesses to enhance coffee produc-

tion, reaffirming government's plan to support coffee growers and manufacturers in a meeting in Ywangan Township, Southern Shan State, on 31 August.

The Union minister said coffee produced in Myanmar wins market shares in overseas market as an organic product. Coffee is one of the prospectus

export commodities and the government is providing necessary supports that may benefit all involved in the production chain of coffee. The government plans to provide supports to boost production of coffee from Ywangan Township.

Chairman of the Danu Self-Administered Zone in Shan State (South) U Arkar Lin discussed measures to recruit quality strains of coffee, to obtain the permit to use land, to manufacture agricultural inputs locally, to obtain agricultural water, to transfer coffee growing and manufacturing techniques and explained the prospects of expanding coffee farming within the region.

Then the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture shared the knowledge about the factors that contribute to the production and quality of coffee and the Director-General of the De-

partment of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management presented about the exposing fresh water resources and agricultural water management. The director of the Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics discussed land utilization under the existing laws. The Union minister also visited Coffee Technological Development Farm (Ywangan) operated by the Department of Agriculture, private coffee farms, the shops selling coffee-based products and coffee nurseries.

In Aungban Township, the Union minister inspected functions of a research centre on distribution of quality strains of potatoes, production of healthy potato strains, research on highland paddy, wheat, soya bean, canola, niger and maize species and conducting research on propagation of potatoes based on tissue-culture techniques.—MNA/TH

THE Ministry of Industry organized a briefing session on loan grant to MSMEs, loan approvals and requirements for loan applications for the regional MSME development agencies in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 September.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister for Industry U Yin Maung Nyunt, in his capacity as Chairman of MSME Development Agency, said it has already drafted the financial regulation for fund management, and arrangements are being made to enact it. Only when the ministries concerned, organizations and agencies work together can they achieve the objectives of the country.

Then, MSME Development Fund Management Body Chairman Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win added that the

Disbursement rules for MSME loan clarified

Loans will be disbursed to prioritized groups that do not take any MSME loans from State-owned banks and private banks



A briefing session on loan grant to MSMEs, loan approvals and requirements for loan applications for the regional MSME development agencies in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 September 2023.

government set up the fund with K170 billion. A total of K150 billion of fund will be used to grant loans to the MSMEs and the remaining K20 billion will be spent on development programmes.

The loans will be disbursed to the prioritized groups that do not take any MSME loans from the State-owned banks and private banks. Moreover, the MSMEs that fully pay back the loans are also eligible for the loans.

He then briefed all on the loan application processes, duty of MSME agencies and the needs to entrepreneurs to pay back the loans within the fixed period.

Then, the relevant officials of agency, fund management body and other departments coordinated the discussion. —MNA/KTZH

www.gnlm.com.mm

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

ARTICLE



A crocodile seen at Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary in Bogale Township.

A plain sight of a tiny coffin made from hardwood resting on a boat, a ritual offering blue plastic bowl placed on the coffin, offering the dead a steel bowl of rice and curry and a cup of water, the condolence frame of the deceased loved one who is a young man wearing a blue plaid shirt and a coffin plate containing inscriptions like the name and the age of the deceased (29 years old) are showing grief and loss.

The deceased Ko Ye Naung is a fisherman dwelling in Bawgawati village in the Thayawchaung village-tract in Bogale Township. He was killed by a ferocious attack from a crocodile while removing the fishing net from the water on 27 July. He left his wife Ma Khin Pa Pa Hlaing and two children. The wife of the deceased sorrowfully stressed that no one gives us food so we are forced to battle with crocs while fishing. We make a living from fishing and there's no other option to choose. The poor will get poorer. We are making money by risking our lives from crocodile attacks. Now, my husband risked his life to feed the family. There were many fatal crocodile attacks in Bagawati village.

Unsettling human-crocs conflict

This is a spot of hunters and fishermen, expanding over 30 villagers. They are relying on hunting and fishing. Furthermore, there are other ambush predators hunting down in this area. The conflicts between human hunters and predators are left unresolved. The conflicts tend to fare worse during the mating season. It is the maximum tension whirling in the wild, leaving both the crocodiles

Heightened Risk of Crocodile Encounters During Mating Season at Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary

By ASH

and the humans dead. Therefore, we need to stay cautious during the breeding season," emphasized Sai Wunna Kyi, warden of Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary.

Additionally, risk awareness from crocodiles is being conducted in the crocodile-prone villages as the vulnerable villagers share the place with crocodiles and the mating season has started. The crocodiles are on the move in Mainmahlakyun (Island), Kadonkani Reserve, Pyindayel Reserve and the connecting mangrove forests.

"We set a thin line between the hunter-fishers and predators. Fishers are aware of the habitats of the crocs, their

The crocodiles are on the move in Mainmahlakyun (Island), Kadonkani Reserve, Pyindayel Reserve and the connecting mangrove forests.

characteristics and behaviours. Therefore, we intend to avoid the waterside and riverside. They also seem to stay away from humans. Yet the mating season is an exception and the human-crocodile conflict is inevitable as they cross the boundary during that season. Those sorrowful events happen every year," a fisherman U Arnt Kyi from Katonkalay village in Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary, elaborated.

Interesting and beautiful name for the Island

Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Bogale Township, Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region. It is the only

protected area for the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) which is native to both saltwater and freshwater rivers. Myanmar has been actively involved in wildlife conservation activities; the totally protected area for endangered species, the partially protected area for the wild animals on the verge of extinction and the protection of species in the specific season. Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary located at the mouth of the river in Bogale is also the protected area for the endangered saltwater and freshwater crocodiles.

The Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary extends an area of over 13,510 hectares (33,779 acres). That wildlife sanctuary covers 32 fishing villages and villagers are heavily relying on marine resources.

Be extra vigilant in the wake of crocodile breeding season

Sai Wunna Kyi, a warden of Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary said that officials have issued the crocodile warning: Be extra vigilant about crocodile attacks during the mating season in all the crocodile-prone villages.

The crocodiles usually breed during the wet season (July-August). They sneak up on their prey and ambush humans due to a wilder diet while the human approaches the waterside. As it is home to freshwater and saltwater crocodiles, humans are warned of potential crocodile attacks during the mating season. Last July, a crocodile claimed a life in the Bogale area," Sai Wunna Kyi talked about the deceased Ko Ye Naung from Bawgawati village.

SEE PAGE-8

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEWS IN BRIEF

8th anniversary of NCA to be commemorated

DURING the State Administration Council meeting 3/2023 held on 1 September, SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unveiled that the 8th anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, which falls on 15 October, will be commemorated on a grand scale. He also emphasized Tatmadaw's firm stand for the NCA related to the peace process.

Myanmar's August exports witness some 60,000 tonnes of rice

IN August this year, Myanmar exported a total of 59,971 tonnes of rice and broken rice, resulting in earnings of US\$ 28 million, as reported by the Myanmar Rice Federation. The exports in August consisted of 33,755 metric tonnes of rice and 26,216 metric tonnes of broken rice, with the majority shipped via sea routes and only slightly more than 4,000 tonnes exported through border crossings.

Exploring possibility of allowing visit to Bagan Pagodas' upper terrace

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museums (Bagan Division), discussions are underway to allow pilgrims visiting the Bagan Ancient Cultural Region to once again access the upper terrace of stupas and temples, including the Htilo Minlo pagoda. Currently, pilgrims can ascend pagodas like Kadaw Palin and Culamani temples. Residents of Bagan express their desire to have the opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the Bagan area as they did in the past when they worshipped these temples.

Heavy rain, tidal waves expected in Rakhine, Mon states due to typhoon

At 5:30 am Myanmar Standard Time on 3 September, typhoon Haikui, developing in the Philippine Sea, is expected to move to westward to northward. The Myanmar Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued a warning for heavy rain and tidal waves from Yangon to Taninthayi and Rakhine coasts, within the next 24 hours starting from yesterday noon.

Typhoon Haikui made landfall in the eastern and southern regions of China (Taipei), prompting the evacuation of approximately 3,000 people and the cancellation of domestic flights.

Malaysian brokers peddling counterfeit job offer letters to Myanmar agencies

THE Department of Labour recently reported that illegal agency brokers in Malaysia are producing counterfeit quotas. They are also involved in fraudulent sales of job offer letters to some employment agencies in Myanmar, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

An official from Malaysia was asked to investigate because the population numbers stated in the job offer (Demand Letter) submitted by licensed foreign employment agencies was unusually high. The investigation revealed that the KSM Approval document was fake.

Heavy rain causes inundation infiltration at Ananda Temple, Shwezigon Pagoda



The photo shows inundated platform of Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan.

IN NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, heavy rainfall caused inundation at the platforms of Ananda Temple and Shwezigon Pagoda, according to the Myanmar Fire Brigade.

Yesterday, 2.87 inches of rainfall led to inundation at Shwezigon Pagoda and Ananda Temple platform, as reported by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

NyaungU district/Town-

ship fire station, firefighters from various Bagan area fire stations, along with personnel from relevant organizations and in cooperation with the members of the relevant pagoda board of trustees pumped out the water from the platform.

"Platforms of Shwezigon and Ananda pagodas were slightly inundated. So, water was drained out by pump. Some channels to the water

collection tanks were blocked. We will repair them", said an official of the Bagan branch of the department.

On 24 June, inundation happened at 15 ancient temples and pagodas. The Department of Archaeology and Ethnic Museum (Bagan Branch) is currently conducting research in the affected areas in cooperation with relevant departments. — TWA/KZW

Plan to hold Computer-Based Test for legal Myanmar workers who worked in over three years in South Korea on 4 October

ACCORDING to the Public Overseas Employment Agency Employment Permit System (POEA-EPS), the special CBT for Myanmar workers who have legally worked in South Korea

for more than three years will take place on 4 October.

As an original schedule for September, the special Computer-Based Test (CBT) has been earmarked but it will now run from 4 to 20 October.

In 2010, the Computer-Based Test (CBT) system was introduced to Myanmar workers who returned after January, with the aim of enabling them to rejoin the work.

The application for the examination must be submitted through the online system, and POEA-EPS has released the list of workers eligible to take the test. Currently, there are more

than 150,000 eligible candidates for the exam.

Applicants must be between the aged 18 and 39 and should have been deported from the Republic of Korea. However, individuals who have lived illegally, have been sentenced to prison, have been banned from leaving their home country, or have resided there for more than five years are not eligible.

The Korean Language Proficiency Test (CBT) will be held at Pinlon Hall and the winner candidates will be announced on the Government Overseas Employment Agency's Facebook page. — TWA/KZW



Some Myanmar workers bound for South Korea seen at the airport in 2022.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Export income of Myanmar watermelons reaches 28.697 mln Chinese yuan as of July 2023



Watermelons seen in cargo truck.

U Zaw Than Tun, CEC member of the Myanmar-China Business Association (MCBA) in Shan State (North), stated that the border trade of Myanmar watermelons to China was more than 40,000 tonnes, and the export income was 28.697 million Chinese yuan from January to July 2023.

Myanmar fruits are mainly exported to China through the Manman route of the China-Myanmar Wang Ding border crossing, and fruits such as watermelons, mangoes, and mangosteen are entering China daily.

“At present, the export of watermelons from Myanmar to China has decreased quite a bit. During the seven months from January to July this year, more than 40,000 tonnes of watermelons worth 28.697 million Chinese yuan were exported through the



Fleshy quality watermelon.

Wang Ding border. Due to the different seasons of watermelons in China and Myanmar, more than 80 per cent of the watermelons on the Chinese market when they are out of season in China were exported from Myanmar,” he continued.

Currently, watermelon crops are in season in Myanmar, and it is reported

that each watermelon is sold for K1,000 to K1,500 in the domestic market.

In Myanmar, the watermelon crop is mainly grown in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, and Sagaing regions, and these melons are a short-year crop that takes about two and a half months from the time of cultivation to the time of plunking. — ASH/CT

Sesame, peanut prices deflated in commodity market

SINCE the end of August, the prices of oil crops such as sesame and peanut have been falling in the Mandalay commodity market, according to the daily prices of the market and some sesame traders. Monsoon sesame is most traded in August and September.

Similarly, the prices of sesame hit the highest of K115,000 per 45-viss bag of Niger seed, K165,000 per bag of new brown sesame, and K208,000 per bag of white sesame and K245,000 per viss of black sesame (Samone variety) on 1 July. The price touched a high of K135,000 for Niger seed, K190,000 for brown sesame, K220,000 for white sesame and K235,000 for black sesame in early August. The price of various sesame seeds showed a significant rise of K10,000 to K25,000 per bag in early August.

On 28 July, the price of sesame was K300,000 per 45-viss bag of black sesame (Samone variety), K370,000–K380,000 per bag of white sesame JP, K345,000–K355,000 per bag of regular white sesame, and K290,000–K295,000 per bag of new brown sesame.

The prices of various sesame seeds rose by K50,000 or K90,000 per bag on 26 August. On 3 September, the prices dropped back to the range of K290,000 to K400,000 per



Peanut and sesame are on sale in the market.

bag. Among the types of sesame, white sesame has the highest price.

Sown acreage of sesame is just a half of oil crop plantations across the nation. Sesame strains are cultivated in monsoon, winter and summer, and winter sesame is the most cultivated.

Large sown acreage of sesame can be seen in the Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions. Cultivation cost in 2021 was around K300,000 per acre, and around K500,000 in 2022. Sesame will be harvested three months after planting, and one acre of sesame yields about 10 baskets.

It is said that winter sesame will be planted in September and October. The peanut price recently declined in the market, as did the

sesame price.

The prices per viss of the new white peanut S-1 were K6,800–K7,000 on 28 July, K8,000–K8,300 for the new variety, K7,400–K7,600 for the old variety, and K6,900–K7,000 on 2 September. Similarly, the prices per viss of new red peanut were K9,000–K9,500 on 27 July, K9,800–K10,400 on 26 August, and K8,500–K9,300 on 2 September.

The wholesale price of peanut oil and sesame oil is K14,000–K15,000 per viss and K12,000–K13,000 per viss, respectively. Depending on the quality of peanuts, a viss of peanut produces 38 to 44 ticals of peanut oil and a viss of sesame, six-viss of sesame oil. — TWA/CT

Market witnesses decrease in onion prices

ALTHOUGH the onion prices were on the rise at K3,700 per viss in the Yangon market, it was only K3,450 per viss on 2 September.

On 29 August, the onions from Seikbyu and Monywa were priced at K3,100 per viss in the Yangon market while K3,500 for medium-sized onions, K3,600 for large-sized onions and K3,700 for premium. On 30 August, the prices dropped to K2,900–3,300–3,400–3,500 per viss.

On 31 August and 1 and 2 September, only 10,000 visses of onion entered the market but the prices remained unchanged and slightly dropped. On that day, the wholesale prices of Seikbyu and Monywa were K2,900–3,300–3,400–3,450 per viss while K2,700–3,100–3,200–3,300 for Pyawbwe onion.

In Pakokku wholesale centre, about 47,000 visses of onion entered the market on 30 August and the highest price was K3,200 per viss.

On 1 September, there was the entry of 140,000 visses of onion and the price was only K3,075 per viss.

About 98,320 visses of onions entered the Myingyan market on 29 August with the highest price of K2,900–3,400 per viss. On 1 September, there were only 26,640 visses entry to the market and the price was K2,800–3,300 per viss.

Similarly, about 8,500 visses of onion entered the Seikbyu market on 30 August and the highest price was K3,125 per viss.

On 1 September, the market hosted entry of 23,000 visses at the highest price of K3,100 per viss.

The authorities instructed to sell the commodities at fairer prices and also as per the palm oil reference prices. Therefore, the people can buy the rice and cooking oil at cheap prices. As the onion prices fall again, housewives can save their daily expenses, housewife Daw Win told The Global New Light of Myanmar. — TWA/KTZH

Revamp mindsets for effective public transport

In Yangon Region, a network of approximately 120 bus routes crisscrosses the landscape, centred in Yangon City. This intricate web of transportation aims to cater not only to the local populace but also to those residing in nearby regions. Its primary objective is to alleviate the daily commuting challenges faced by individuals, thereby enhancing their overall transport experience.

Over successive periods, various administrations have endeavoured to enhance transportation systems and services with the goal of ensuring passenger comfort. However, achieving a comprehensive breakthrough has remained elusive. This can be attributed to two critical factors: inadequate cooperation among bus workers and excessive self-interest on the part of bus owners, coupled with ineffective administrative oversight.

The age of the buses notwithstanding, superior services delivered by diligent bus workers can significantly contribute to the uplift of the public transport sector. Central to this endeavour is the imperative to revolutionize the mindsets of bus workers,

To revolutionize public transport implementation, altering existing mindsets is imperative. The intricate network of bus routes in the Yangon Region can truly fulfil its potential through collaborative efforts. By instilling a dedication to punctuality, upholding rules, and prioritizing the public's well-being, Myanmar's public transport can undoubtedly ascend to new heights of efficiency and reliability.

Bus operators must scrupulously observe traffic rules and regulations prescribed for their respective routes. By doing so, the foundation for the success of the public transport initiative is laid.

Simultaneously, administrative bodies and traffic police at various levels must enact stringent measures against violators of traffic regulations. Impartiality must underpin these actions, without favouring any particular party. Success rests upon a consistent supply of electricity and fuel, seamless functioning of traffic police, flawless operation of traffic signals, and adequate road infrastructure. Additionally, road users must conscientiously adhere to traffic rules and exhibit proper passenger etiquette.

These aspirations are within reach, provided all stakeholders undergo a mindset shift. If everyone commits to adhering to prescribed rules and standards, the public transport project can realize swift accomplishments. Nevertheless, the prerequisite is a change in mindset. The framework of road and traffic regulations exists to safeguard individuals from accidents and minimize casualties. In light of this, individuals must make their choices with prudence.

To revolutionize public transport implementation, altering existing mindsets is imperative. The intricate network of bus routes in the Yangon Region can truly fulfil its potential through collaborative efforts. By instilling a dedication to punctuality, upholding rules, and prioritizing the public's well-being, Myanmar's public transport can undoubtedly ascend to new heights of efficiency and reliability.

commuters, and traffic enforcement authorities alike. It becomes essential for relevant authorities to expose them to the well-organized public transport systems of developed nations such as South Korea, Japan, and China. Even a comparison with India's public transport underscores the scope for improvement in Myanmar's system.

The transformation hinges on both bus workers and administrative bodies meticulously adhering to the public transport protocols designed to cater to the public with efficiency. Adherence is paramount: buses must diligently follow predefined routes and schedules, making stops at designated bus stops.

As recent as two and half years ago, Myanmar's banking sector was in dire straits with the country's banks going through bank runs and depositors unable to take out their own savings. The economy was about to implode and the government was running out of foreign currencies fast.

Fast forward two years from then, no bank has collapsed so far. The economy is recovering, notwithstanding at a snail's pace. Terrorists are on retreat. We should acknowledge the competency of the CBM and Ministry of Finance, in taking control of the banking crisis and turning the financial services sector and economy around.

So is the worst over for the local banks? No, not for every bank.

At the macro level, structural issues still exist. First, there are just too many banks in an economy 1/6 the size of Singapore, which has just three domestic banks. The whole Myanmar economy can be serviced by 3-4 large banks. We do not need small little banks, each servicing a targeted segment of the economy. Most of these banks cannot even afford a basic core banking system.

Secondly, there is the issue of bad loans. The banking

sector is so embedded with bad loans that the government even envisaged setting up one asset management entity to take over these bad loans from the banks, probably at a discount and enhancing the sector liquidity at the same time. Even the Chairwoman of MBA (Myanmar Bankers Association), asked Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to get the government to ask the customers to pay back the loans, on her bank's behalf, during a recent UMFCCI meeting with some heads of government. What an irony, hearing from someone who herself, refused to appear on national TV to address the banking sector issues, yet asked privately for her own bank benefits, at a meeting held to benefit the country moving forward.

Thirdly, there is the issue of building confidence back. Savers and depositors have been stung by the banks' refusal to let them take out their own money, while these bank managers engage in skulduggery to take additional percentages as cuts/bribes from customers for allowing them to take their money out, before many others. Fool me once, shame on you; Fool me twice, shame on me!

Fourth, quite a number of banks are still restricting cus-

Banking Troubles Ahead?

By U AC



The stability of the banking sector is critical for the overall economic well-being of a nation. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

tomers' withdrawals of most kinds. Some only allow accrued interest to be withdrawn. Some

keep on renewing fixed deposits without the customer's consent. Some are limiting withdrawals

to a maximum of two million Kyats per week. All these banks are facing some form of liquidity

crisis. Imagine an elderly depositor with 200 million Kyats in deposit. It would take him

Heightened Risk of Crocodile Encounters During Mating Season at Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary

FROM PAGE-5

In order to prevent the species from crocodile risks in the wildlife sanctuary, the warnings against releasing ducks, pigs and dogs near the ponds and rivers, letting children swim in the ponds, washing clothes and taking a bath near the water-side and utilizing small boats for fishing have been issued. The authorities asked the villagers to be extra vigilant about crocodile attacks.

The crocodiles turn violent and attack humans and animals during the mating season when they are close to water. Sometimes, they even invade the village for hunting. During the mating season, about five people are killed every year. Also, those crocodiles are killed while



Myawady Daily

ambushing their prey near the village.

Saltwater crocodile in danger of extinction

"The Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary is the protected area for the near-extinct crocodile, in the balance of crocodile risk awareness campaigns for the fishers and vulnerable villagers to stop the human-crocodile confrontation. Moreover, the water pollution threatens the crocodile population. Some discard the plastic bottles in the ponds and rivers. Some crocodiles accidentally eat them to death. We are also raising awareness of the environmental impact of plastic bottles," Sai Wunna Kyi continued.

The saltier are the world's largest crocodile and they used to be found in other ponds across the country. Now, they can be found only in the Mainmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary and related areas.

100 weeks (~2 years), to withdraw all his savings, assuming he does not miss a single week. These banks need to be investigated and be forced to merge with larger stronger banks. The status quo simply should not be allowed to go on.

At the individual bank levels, most of them have bad loan issues. Some of them charge customers 3-15 per cent penalty fees for late or non-payment of loans, something unheard of at the international level, thereby compounding the NPLs. Some have potential fraud cases stemming from JAICA loans.

At the government level, there are still unpaid covid loans. Out of 200 billion Kyats of Covid loans issued, more than 166 billion Kyats are still left to be repaid. Some are trying hard to settle at least the interest component and what little they can afford for the principal. Some have run away or become uncontactable of some sort. The NNCP terrorists at the same time are encouraging borrowers not to repay these loans at all.

The government is grappling with issues ranging from security, development, EAOs, elections, etc., that focus on the banking issues may take a backseat. In a country short on competent and qualified civil

In addition to the conservation activities, research projects are sustainably undertaken to collect the crocodile habitat data.

For the ecotourism businesses, crocodile population data is also collected in October yearly. The surveys indicated 82 crocs in different sizes dwelling in the area in October 2022.

Wildlife Sanctuary enchanting tourists

There are a wide range of opportunities to carry out research and ways to relax your mind. Habitats and characteristics of 190 bird species and crocodiles, ecosystem, climate change impact on the mangrove forest, mangrove ecosystem benefiting humans and mitigating the natural disaster impacts, 18 types of mammals, 38 reptile species, 110 fish species, six types of crabs, 14 types of shrimp, 35 butterfly species, mangrove trees, six species of orchids, traditional fishing method of the villagers,

servants, and long on people just wanting to hang onto a position of power, the output and results may not materialize very soon! The government at this moment may not have the capacity to tackle all four or five issues listed above at the same time.

Adding fuel to the fire, there was a closure of bank accounts held by Myanmar citizens or those doing business in Myanmar by Singapore banks, especially UOB. Myanmar National Airlines, one long-time client of the bank, has been treated quite unfairly, getting its corporate accounts closed down all of a sudden (probably at the request of its government and/or the US). One Singapore businessman who has long been doing business in Myanmar for more than 20 years, also has his UOB account closed off. Some Myanmar nationals having savings or current accounts with UOB are experiencing unjust and discriminatory treatment, getting their accounts closed without cause. Knowing that UOB holds a foreign bank license in Myanmar, it would not be equitable for the bank to be able to take unilateral actions, without the Myanmar government taking any countermeasures to reciprocate that.

the habitats of the Ayeyawady dolphins and sea turtles can be observed in the sanctuary, along with the healing bicycle tour in mangrove forest.

The visitors can enjoy camping at camp stations and guesthouses with a capacity of 10 people at the sanctuary. The boat tour with local guides is also available at the sanctuary. That sanctuary was originally designated as Mainmahlakyun Forest Reserve and then recognized as a wildlife sanctuary in 1994. It was selected as an ASEAN Heritage Park and designated as a Ramsar site in 2017, according to the Forest Department.

There is road transport or maritime transport from Yangon to Mainmahla Kyun (Island), passing 135 nautical miles from Yangon to Bogale area and 16 NM from Bogale to Mainmahlakyun. It is 117 miles away from Yangon to Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon-Bogale by road transport.

Translated/EM

TECH/ENVIRON
WORLD

Green development in Tibet
brings tangible benefits



This aerial photo taken on 26 August 2023 shows scenery of a lake in Ngari Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. PHOTO: LIU WENBO/ XINHUA

AT the foot of a hill by the Lhasa River, Tibetan-style tents stand out against the backdrop of the remote Potala Palace, creating an idyllic setting where Konchok Tenzin is picnicking with his family.

Pointing to the verdant hills, Konchok Tenzin, who hails from Lhasa, capital city of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, said, "The once bare mountains are now cloaked in lush greenery, and the overall appearance of Lhasa has improved a lot."

Green development in Tibet has brought tangible

benefits to the locals, not just in terms of an improved environment but also through increased employment opportunities.

Furthermore, with the law on ecological conservation on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau coming into effect on Friday, efforts to protect Tibet's pristine environment will be both guided and guarded by legal measures.

At an afforestation site in the Palding Mountain of Lhasa, located at an altitude of about 4,200 metres, Dorje, hailing from Namling County in Xigaze City, is pausing to rest beside

the sea buckthorn plants he has recently planted.

The 39-year-old Dorje finds himself employed in Lhasa, thanks to the enduring collaborations forged by Namling County in 2022 with around a dozen research institutes and businesses in Tibet. Through these partnerships, over 600 farmers and herders from the county have gained access to paid employment opportunities, broadening their income streams beyond traditional activities such as cultivating highland barley and raising livestock. — Xinhua

Italy's clam farmers fear blue crab 'invasion'

IN the shallow waters of the Scardovari lagoon, fishermen catch clams for Italy's beloved spaghetti alle vongole, alongside mussels and oysters. But an invader risks putting them out of business.

The blue crab, native to the North American Atlantic coast, has been present across the Mediterranean for years but in recent months has become a serious problem on Italy's northeastern coast.

"The blue crabs are eating everything. This stretch of lagoon is becoming a desert," said Gianluca Travaglia, a 52-year-old farmer of mussels and clams.

He is the third generation of his family to have a boat on the "Sacca degli Scardovari",



The blue crab risks putting Italian clam and mussel farmers out of business. PHOTO: AFP

an economically important part of the delta where the Po River reaches the Adriatic Sea.

"Every day we fish more of them... I don't know what to do," Travaglia told AFP as he guided his motorboat across the water.

His fellow farmers had the same issue, he added.

"They can't even lower

their nets anymore because the crabs swim into the nets and break them."

Critical situation

Italy's government allocated 2.9 million euros (\$3.2 million) last month to address what Agriculture Minister Francesco Lollobrigida called a "critical situation". — AFP

Minnows blamed for algae-filled French, Spanish lakes

PERCHED 1,800 metres (about 6,000 feet) near France's border with Spain lies the emerald Areau lake – whose colour experts blame on minnows used by anglers as live bait.

"When one sees these fish in the mountain lakes, we see a disturbed ecosystem," said Adeline Loyau, a biologist and researcher at the National Polytechnic Institute (INP) in the southern French city of Toulouse.

These tiny fish, less than 10 centimetres long, are used as live bait.

But some managed to escape the hooks and have thrived, devouring amphibians, insects and zooplankton – "microscopic crustaceans whose role is to devour algae and keep the water crystal clear and very pure", Loyau told AFP.

When the lake became green "it meant the algae won",

said Dirk Schmeller, a professor specialising in mountain ecology at the INP.

But the abundance of algae in the once clear waters is not only due to this, and several other issues are being examined.

Cocktail of factors

"There are a cocktail of factors," said Didier Galop, head of research at the National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) who specialises in the history and geography of the environment.

The growing concentration of herds of cattle around these lakes means an increase of manure spewing nutrients into the water and make it a breeding ground for algae.

Others say higher temperatures due to global warming is exacerbating the problem.

But some say the greening of the lakes is not necessarily alarming. — AFP



Lake Areau in the French Pyrenees has taken on a strange green hue. PHOTO: AFP

Experts blame poor govt preparation for Greek fires' devastation

WHILE the Greek government has been quick to blame global warming for the summer's devastating wildfires, some experts argue that poor planning is at least as much to blame.

The European Commission has said that the blaze in the Dadia national park, which has been burning for two weeks now, is the largest on record in Europe.

That and other deadly fires across Greece were expected to consume more than 150,000 hectares (370,600 acres) of land,

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told parliament this week.

And the flames have so far claimed 26 lives. "Is the climate crisis the alibi for everything?" said Mitsotakis.

"No, it is not an alibi — but it is part of the interpretation," he insisted.

Climate change is a theme the government has touched on repeatedly in the context of the wildfires but, as Mitsotakis appeared to at least implicitly acknowledge, it is not the whole story. — AFP

Mohamed Al-Fayed: Egyptian tycoon who craved ‘Establishment’ approval

MOHAMED Al-Fayed, the polarising Egyptian billionaire known for his ownership of Harrods department store and who lost his son Dodi in the crash that killed Princess Diana, has died at the age of 94.

Few things were beyond the reach of billionaire Egyptian tycoon Mohamed Al-Fayed who has died at the age of 94.

Hotels, yachts and a football club were bought with ease but he never acquired the recognition he craved.

His son Dodi’s fateful relationship with princess Diana might have been the moment Fayed finally gained acceptance by the British “Establishment” elite.

Instead it marked his permanent estrangement after he insisted — without evidence — that Queen Elizabeth II’s husband Prince Philip had ordered the Paris car crash in which Diana and Dodi were killed to prevent her marrying a Muslim.

Fayed lived most of his life

in Britain, where for decades he was never far from the headlines.

But to his frustration he was never granted UK citizenship nor admitted into the upper echelons of British society.

Fayed will be remembered most for his outspoken and often foul-mouthed manner; his revenge on the Conservative party, his controversial purchase of the Harrods department store, and his ownership of Fulham football club and the Ritz hotel in Paris.

With a business empire encompassing shipping, property, banking, oil, retail and construction, Fayed was also a philanthropist, whose foundation helped children in the UK, Thailand and Mongolia.

His gift for self-invention — he added the “Al-” prefix to his surname and a 1988 UK government report described his claims of wealthy ancestry as “completely bogus” — led segments of the British press to dub him the “Phoney Pharaoh.” — AFP



Dodi’s death in the tragedy was largely eclipsed by Diana’s. PHOTO: AFP

Study reveals how overuse of social media, electronic gadgets becomes top parental concerns

AS children return to school, two issues are rising to the top of their parents’ concerns: the impact of social media and the internet on children’s lives.

According to the University of Michigan Health CS Mott Children’s Hospital National Poll on Children’s Health, more than half of parents identify mental health issues as their top health worry for their children and teens.

Overall, mental health and technology use topped this year’s top ten list of parent concerns about health-related issues for children in the United States, surpassing childhood obesity, which parents regarded as the top children’s health issue a decade ago. — ANI

German students experience traditional tea culture in China



A group of German students learn about Chinese tea culture in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, 27 August 2023. PHOTO: KONG LINGHANG/XINHUA

The tea ceremony in China has evolved over centuries, shaped by various dynasties and regions. The Song Dynasty’s tea ceremony stands out as a significant milestone in this evolution, playing a pivotal role in shaping the diverse and vibrant Chinese tea culture we appreciate today.

OVER 20 students from the Leibniz Confucius Institute in Hannover, Germany, recently embarked on a journey to Hangzhou, the capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, as part of a summer camp to deepen their understanding of the country.

Marked as one of the initial summer camps in China organized by the German Confucius Institute after the COVID-19 pandemic, this excursion scheduled from 20 August to 2 September will take the students to explore Shanghai and its neighboring city, Hangzhou.

During their stay last weekend in Hangzhou, reputed as the e-commerce capital of China, the students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the convenience facilitated by cutting-edge internet technologies such as mobile payments and shared bicycles. Also, their exploration led them to the China National Tea Museum, where they engaged in the ancient art of the tea ceremony from the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

The richness of China’s tea culture left an indelible impression on their minds.

Cai Lin, director of the Leibniz Confucius Institute, said the summer camp for German young people has occurred in China for many years. “This year, following the hiatus caused by the pandemic, the project has been reinitiated, with a majority of the students being newcomers to the country.”

“The core purpose is to enable these students to perceive a real China through their own eyes,” Cai said. — Xinhua

Deprived youth with poor learning skills most vulnerable to email scams: Research

ACCORDING to an international study published in the peer-reviewed British Journal of Educational Studies, disadvantaged youth are more vulnerable to email scams and require more protection.

Findings based on more than 170,000 students aged 15 show that one in five from low-income families or deprived areas could fall victim to phishing.

This is much higher than the probability for the age group overall. Email scams leave people vulnerable to identity theft, putting young people at risk of financial fraud and having their savings stripped.

The most vulnerable are those who also have poor learning skills according to the data from 38 countries including the UK, US and Japan. — ANI



Email scams expose individuals to identity theft, putting young people at risk of financial fraud and potential loss of savings. PHOTO: ANI

ECONOMY
WORLD

China Tourism Industry Expo kicks off in Tianjin



People visit the 13th China Tourism Industry Exposition in north China's Tianjin Municipality, 1 September 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE 13th China Tourism Industry Exposition kicked off in north China's Tianjin Municipality on Friday, highlighting international cooperation and industrial innovation in the culture and tourism sector.

The three-day expo, co-hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the municipal government of Tianjin, has seven exhibition areas, covering a total space of 120,000 square meters.

The event, featuring a wide range of activities, including exhibitions, specialized forums and business negotiations, has attracted more than 2,000 cultural and tourism enterprises.

Zhang Xu, Chair of the World Tourism Alliance, said

tourism plays an irreplaceable role in meeting people's needs for a better life and improving the quality of national economic development.

The expo also aims to present comprehensive achievements and cutting-edge technologies in the development of smart tourism by displaying the latest applications of digital services and intelligent tourism equipment.

Held in Tianjin since 2009, the expo has emerged as a platform for exhibitions, business negotiations and trade in the tourism industry, promoting exchanges and cooperation between the domestic and foreign tourism industry. — Xinhua

Orient ties up with banks on service to help purchases of empty houses

JAPANESE consumer credit company Orient Corp will tie up with more than a dozen regional banks nationwide in October to expand its new loan business aimed at helping people buy empty houses, company officials said.

The service, "Akikatsu Loan", is expected to help reduce the growing number of unoccupied houses in the country, driven by a falling population and a rapidly aging society.

Banks are usually reluctant to offer loans to people wanting to buy empty homes due to their low value as collateral, but part-

nering with Orient will make it easier for them to approve such loans as they can count on its know-how in the consumer credit business, such as car loans, to avoid nonperforming debts, they said.

According to government data, there were 3.49 million empty houses nationwide with no plans for their use as of 2018. The number is projected to rise to 4.7 million in 2030 if no measures are taken.

The loan can also be used for renovation, which lowers hurdles for potential homebuyers to purchase such houses, the company said. — Kyodo



Photo taken in September 2022 shows an empty house that was built about 70 years ago in Tsuno, Kochi Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Canada wildfires inflict brutal toll on tourism, other areas of economy



222 wineries in Canada's Okanagan Valley region are facing a "devastating season" as wildfires have kept tourists away. **PHOTO: LAURENT VU THE / AFP**

JOANNA Schlosser found refuge from advancing wildfires at a winery where she works, but is now dealing with a tourism downturn and other wide-ranging fallout on the business — and

Canada's economy.

An inferno jumped Okanagan Lake and was barreling down hills behind her Kelowna home when a knock on the door woke up the family of five, ordering them to leave immediately.

For two weeks, they stayed at a guest house at Quails' Gate winery with other evacuees, some of whom lost their homes. About 200 houses in the valley would be destroyed.

"Your home is your biggest investment and with only five minutes to get out you start to reel about things you left behind that you might not ever see again," Schlosser told AFP.

She also fretted about the grape harvest now underway.

None of the 222 wineries in the region reported any direct fire damage. But they suffered a big drop in revenues as tourists stayed away during the peak month of August.

Kelowna's airport and main highway closed temporarily. Tasting tours, weddings and other events at the wineries were cancelled. — AFP

S Koreans continue rally against Japan's radioactive wastewater dumping

THOUSANDS of South Korean people including fishermen, activists and politicians continued a weekend rally in central Seoul on Saturday to protest against Japan's dumping of nuclear-contaminated wastewater into the ocean.

The participants shouted slogans of "Immediately stop the marine dumping of radioactive wastewater" and "Prohibit import of all Japanese aquatic products", urging the South Korean government to file a lawsuit with the International Tribunal

for the Law of the Sea against the Japanese government.

According to the Research View survey of 1,000 adults for two days through 30 August, 72.4 per cent said they opposed Japan's marine dumping of the radioactive wastewater. — Xinhua

Spain welcomes record 10.1 mln tourists in July

FOR the first time ever, Spain welcomed over 10 million foreign tourists in July as the tourism sector completed its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spanish Statistical Office (INE) said on Friday.

The INE’s “Tourist Movements at Borders” (Fron-tur) study shows that 10.1 million foreign tourists visited Spain during the month, 11.4 per cent more than in July 2022 and 2.6 per cent more than in 2019, the year that saw the previous record for visitor numbers.

Tourist spending was also up, 16.4 per cent more than in 2022 and 16 per cent up on four years ago.

In the first seven months of 2023, 47.6 million for-eigners visited Spain, almost 21 per cent more than in 2022 but 0.8 per cent fewer than in 2019. Tourist spending between January and July was up 14.7 per cent.

The United Kingdom continues to be Spain’s big-gest source market, with 9.8 million Britons visiting the country in the first seven months of the year, followed



Tourists take pictures of the Sagrada Familia basilica in Barcelona, Spain, 27 June 2021. PHOTO: ZHANG CHENG/ XINHUA

by 6.4 million French citizens and six million Germans. The number of visitors increased by 28.9 per cent from the United States, 18.5 per cent from Portugal and 17.8 per cent from Italy.

The INE registered a 49.9 per cent increase in the number of tourists from the “rest of the world.” This latter figure includes Chinese travelers. — Xinhua

Some US shoppers fearful as organized retail theft rises

ANN McGee, a New York-er from the borough of Queens, doesn’t like the recent sensation she has when entering stores: fear.

“It’s not normal to be scared” when shopping, McGee told AFP.

She’s behind a recent petition denouncing the in-security caused by rising retail theft — sometimes by thieves operating in groups and threatening anyone near them with violence — in her neigh-borhood.

US retailers across the country have reported a sharp rise in theft in the last few months, alongside a worrying increase in violence.

“You cannot accept



Even toothpaste is kept locked up at some drugstores in New York City. PHOTO: ANGELA WEISS / AFP

the fact that these people can go into stores with-out fear and choose to rob these stores and get away with it,” she said.

McGee, a grand-mother and a resident of the borough for the last 41 years, said she is so concerned for her safety that she now leaves her purse and jewelry — in-cluding her wedding ring — at home when she goes shopping. — AFP

China’s automobile manufacturing sector logs steady growth in H1

CHINA’S automobile manufacturing industry reg-istered steady expansion in terms of production, revenue, and profit in the first half of this year (H1), industry data shows.

The industrial added value of this sector rose 13.1 per cent year on year in the period. The growth was 8.9 percentage points higher than that of the country’s whole manufacturing industry, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

The combined operating revenue of companies in this sector also surged 13.1 per cent year on year to 4.49 trillion yuan (about 625.45 billion US dollars), according to the association. — Xinhua



Staff members work at a production line of Yubei plant of Chongqing Changan Automobile Co., Ltd. in Chongqing, southwest China, 18 February 2020. PHOTO:XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (006W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (006W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-9-2023** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (098N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (098N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-9-2023** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (N160)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (N160)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-9-2023** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

CIA vet: US aiding Ukrainian drone attack on Russian nuclear power plants

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova suggested that the Ukrainian drones would not have been able to fly such a distance without information from Western satellites.

A Ukrainian drone attacked the town of Kurchatov, home to the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant, on 1 September. Kiev is using the Pentagon's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) systems to conduct the strikes, former CIA analyst Larry Johnson told Sputnik.

Ukraine's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was confirmed to have hit a non-residential build-

ing in Kurchatov, causing minor damage to the facade. There were no casualties.

Commenting on the attacks, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova stated: "The Ukrainian forces' drones that attacked objects on Russian territory would not have been able to fly such a distance without information from Western satellites".

"It's highly likely that", Larry Johnson, a veteran of the CIA and former analyst at the State Department's Office of Counterterrorism, told Sputnik.

"What it's called ISR, Western intelligence surveillance reconnaissance capabilities, are supplying Ukraine with that kind of information".

The Department of Defense's (DOD) intelligence, sur-



The Kursk Nuclear Power Plant is located in the Kurchatov, Kursk Oblast, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

veillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) systems typically include manned and unmanned airborne, space-borne, maritime, and terrestrial systems. These Pentagon platforms play a critical role in supporting military operations.

Prior to launching a drone

attack on Russia's facilities the Ukrainian military need geo-coordinates and other extensive data of the targets. Who could provide them with such details? Most certainly their NATO backers: the US and the UK, according to Johnson. — SPUTNIK

Channel migrants confront tighter French coast patrols

A chain of buoys blocks a river in northern France, the latest costly measure the authorities have deployed in their almost impossible mission to stop Britain-bound migrants crossing the Channel.

Set up on 10 August near the La Canche estuary, the floating barrier is designed to halt so-called "taxi boats" used by people smugglers in recent months.

The small vessels start their perilous journeys empty, away from the beaches, before picking up migrants from Africa, the Middle East and Asia on the coast.

After 27 people drowned in November 2021— the worst accident in the Channel since the narrow strait became a key irregular migration route — pa-

trols have been stepped up.

All along some 130 kilometres (81 miles) of coastline between the city of Dunkirk and the Somme Bay, the authorities scour the area day and night.

The silence of dawn is broken by the purring engine of a plane belonging to EU border agency Frontex, equipped with infrared and thermal cameras to rescue stricken migrants alongside drones.

Advancing on foot or buggies, an average of 800 security force personnel survey the beaches and dunes every day.

Surveillance cameras have been installed in 12 communes and four ports, with the scheme set to be widened in 2024, according to the local authorities. — AFP



Security has been tightened at the port of Calais and the Channel tunnel linking France with southeast England. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pre-Incan site for ancestor worship found in Peru



Peruvian and Japanese archaeologists discovered a pre-Hispanic site dedicated to ancestor worship in northern Peru. **PHOTO: PERUVIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE/AFP**

A team of Peruvian and Japanese archaeologists has unearthed a pre-Hispanic archaeological site in northern Peru dedicated to ancestor worship, with burial chambers, human remains and ceramic offerings.

"We have discovered an archaeological site of the Wari period with an antiquity of between 800 to 1000 years AD" in the Cajamarca region 900 kilometers (560 miles) north of Lima, Japanese archaeologist Shinya Watanabe told AFP on Saturday.

"Two burial chambers with pits for placing mummies and offerings to the ancestors

were found at the site," the expert said.

Each of the burial chambers contains two levels, and both have five niches in the walls that contain offerings such as mollusk shells, ceramic fragments and a tripod dish with three conical supports.

"It is a great find because the archaeologists were looking for evidence of the Wari culture," said Watanabe, who is a professor at Nanzan University in Japan.

A bundle containing a female character, a black Wari ceremonial vessel, two musical ceramic wind instruments,

and two copper fasteners were also found.

The discovery occurred in the Jequetepeque valley in the province of San Miguel in Cajamarca, a region that abuts Ecuador.

"Many people of multiple origins lived here. It was a ceremonial center dedicated to the cult of the ancestors," Watanabe said.

Judith Padilla, head of Cajamarca's culture office, said the findings allow for an understanding of "the lifestyle and ritual practices" of the ancient societies that inhabited the region.

The Wari culture survived between the 7th and 13th centuries over territory that is present-day Peru, but by 1100 AD the Wari were conquered by the rising Inca empire.

The discovery was made by the Project of Archaeological Investigation (PIA) Terlen-La Bomba and it occupies about 24 hectares (60 acres).

The Ministry of Culture indicated that the main objective of the research is to understand the socio-political system of the Cajamarca culture during the Middle Horizon (900 to 1000 years AD) and its relationship with the Wari culture. — AFP

SPORTS

Late birdie lifts Khang to LPGA Portland Classic lead

MEGAN Khang, chasing a second LPGA win in as many weeks, birdied the 18th on Saturday to seize a one-shot lead over hard-charging youngsters Jang Hyo-joon and Chanettee Wannasaen in the Portland Classic.

Khang, who broke through for a first career win after 190 starts in Canada on Sunday, carded seven birdies in her third-straight six-under par 66, five of them on the tough back nine at Columbia Edgewater in Portland Oregon.

Jang, a 20-year-old South Korean whose rookie LPGA season has been disrupted by injury, had 11 birdies in a remarkable 10-under par 62 that put her on 17-under 199.

She was joined by Monday qualifier Chanettee, a

19-year-old rookie from Thailand who had eight birdies in her seven-under par 65.

Khang said this week that she felt some residual fatigue after her playoff victory over South Korean star Ko Jin-young in Canada, but that was balanced by an increase in confidence “knowing I can win out here”.

“It’s not just if it was going to happen or when but it has happened, so it’s definitely a great feeling to have under the belt”.

After a pair of birdies and a bogey on the front nine, Khang caught fire coming in, rolling in three straight birdies at 11, 12 and 13 and draining another long birdie at the 15th to share the lead. She rattled in one more at 18 to put herself in front. — AFP



Team Myanmar arrives in South Korea for Asian U-23 Qualifiers

MYANMAR U-23 football team is currently taking special training in South Korea for the upcoming Asian Qualifiers, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar team left Yangon on 2 September and arrived in Changwon, South Korea on the morning of 3 September and started training in the evening.

The Group B Qualifiers in which Myanmar team will participate will take place from 6 to 12 September.

Myanmar is falling in the same group as host South Korea, Qatar and Kyrgyzstan. Team Myanmar, supervised by head coach U Aung Naing will play an opening match against Kyrgyzstan on 6 September (1:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time). — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar youth player is taking training in South Korea for the Asian U-23 Qualifiers. **PHOTO:MFF**



Two convictions arising from the FIFA corruption scandal have been quashed following a US Supreme Court ruling. **PHOTO:AFP**

TWO convictions in the FIFA corruption case have been overturned by a US federal judge citing a recent Supreme Court ruling.

Hernan Lopez, a former executive with 21st Century Fox and Argentine sports marketing firm Full Play were found guilty in March of paying bribes and kickbacks to South American football officials in various schemes related to television and marketing rights.

The case was one of several to emerge from the 2015 probe from the US Justice Department which rocked

Two convictions in FIFA corruption scandal overturned

world soccer’s governing body FIFA and continental confederations for South and North America. The US investigation, which included raids on FIFA officials in Zurich, led to a series of arrests and trails and subsequent charges, convictions and guilty pleas.

Lopez and Full Play were found

guilty on charges of wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy in the March ruling. Lopez faced up to 40 years in prison and millions of dollars in penalties. Full Play — whose owners Hugo and Mariano Jinkis remain fugitives — was expected to face millions of dollars in fines.

But US district Judge Pamela Chen, in a ruling issued late on Friday, said a May Supreme Court decision, meant that the convictions for wire fraud could not stand. The Supreme Court reversed in May a wire fraud conviction of Joseph Percoco, a former aide to former New York City governor Andrew Cuomo.

“The Supreme Court’s latest wire fraud decisions — especially Percoco — and the absence of precedent applying

Medvedev halts Baez to reach US Open last 16



Daniil Medvedev climbs into a backhand in his US Open third round match. **PHOTO:AFP**

DANIIL Medvedev progressed to the fourth round of the US Open with a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) victory over Sebastian Baez which snapped the Argentine’s 12-match winning streak. Third seed and 2021 champion Medvedev is through to the second week in New York for the fifth year in a row and will play Australian 13th seed Alex de Minaur for a spot in the quarter-finals. Medvedev closed out the victory with an ace on his fourth match point in the tie-break as he finished well past 1am for the second straight match. — AFP



Russia, for the first time ever, has become one of the top five sources of grain for Brazil. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Russia defies sanctions with historic spike in grain exports to Brazil

Russia's growing role as a grain supplier to Brazil, especially in the context of shifting trade dynamics and the impact of sanctions on Russia's trade relationships.

RUSSIA has been slapped with nearly 15,000 sanctions by the US and its allies over the past year-and-a-half, with restrictions targeting Russian energy, food and fertilizer exports, as well as imports of high technology products and various finished goods. Moscow has reacted by reorienting trade toward countries in the Global South.

Russia, for the first time ever, has become one of the top five sources of grain for Brazil.

That's according to a Russian media analysis released Saturday based on data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Brazil's official statistical agency.

Figures show that between January

and July 2023, Brazil imported 380,000 tons of wheat and meslin (a rye/wheat mixture) from Russia worth roughly \$108.5 million.

The purchases were enough to put Russia on the map as the fourth-largest source of grain for Brazil overall, behind only Argentina (about 2 million tons worth \$736.3 million), Paraguay (886,000 tons worth \$290 million), and Uruguay (544,000 tons for \$211 million). The United States rounded out the top five, selling roughly 80,000 tons of grain, worth \$20.85 million, to its Western Hemisphere neighbour.

Brazil turned to non-Mercosur Southern Common Market members for its

wheat needs last year following Argentina's unprecedented crop failures, which curtailed production and compromised exports, which ordinarily reach as much as 6 million tonnes per year.

As the second-largest beef producer in the world, Brazil is heavily dependent on grain imports, for both bread and feed grain, with consumption reaching as much as 12 million tonnes per year, short of the estimated 9-9.5 million tonnes the country is able to produce domestically. In the 2022/2023 crop season, major Brazilian grain producer Parana suffered major losses due to rain, further increasing the need for imports. — SPUTNIK

Ultra-large-capacity offshore wind turbine sets new world record

The impressive performance and capabilities of China's 16-megawatt offshore wind turbine, setting a new record in clean energy generation



This aerial photo taken on 28 June 2023, shows a 16-megawatt wind turbine installed at the Fujian offshore wind farm operated by the China Three Gorges Corporation off the coast of southeast China's Fujian Province. PHOTO: LIN SHANCHUAN/XINHUA

CHINA'S self-developed 16-megawatt offshore wind turbine off the coast of east China's Fujian Province set a new world record for single-day electricity generation per unit on Friday, said its operator.

The wind turbine, which the China Three Gorges Corporation operates, has worked at its maximum power capacity for a continuous 24-hour period and achieved a daily electricity output of 384,100 kilowatt-hours.

The turbine, known for its highest capacity, largest rotor size, and lightest weight per megawatt worldwide, is expected to generate over 66 million kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually, said the company. — Xinhua

Tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka cross 900,000-mark in first 8 months

TOURIST arrivals in Sri Lanka crossed the 900,000 mark this year on 30 August, according to the latest statistics released by Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA).

According to SLTDA, 900,708 tourists arrived in the country so far this year, which is an increase against 719,978 total arrivals reported for the entire year of 2022.

Sri Lanka's tourism industry is aiming to attract 2 million visitors in 2023.

Tourism, as one of Sri Lanka's leading foreign exchange earners, has suffered a setback due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and economic and political crises in the South Asian country. — Xinhua